

Monday, 1 August 2011

Psalm 87:1-3

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song. On the holy mount stands the city he founded; the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob. Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. Selah

Lord, I pray for those whom you have placed in my charge within the prison system, to nurture and equip, then to send into the cells, living units and yards to carry the message of Hope into dark places. Guide Betty and I in our teaching and equipping; give them strength and courage to live Your Word within the system; fill them with Your Word as the occasions arise to speak love, grace and mercy to those who have never known or experienced.

Tuesday, 2 August 2011

Psalm 87:4-7

Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon; behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush-- "This one was born there," they say. And of Zion it shall be said, "This one and that one were born in her"; for the Most High himself will establish her. The LORD records as he registers the peoples, "This one was born there." Selah Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you."

Lord, the vision that You have given me for the prisons of Vermont is that there will be a wave of revival sweeping through them beginning with Springfield. I know that You are planting seeds and nourishing the tender shoots through Betty and me; grant us the blessing of seeing some of the fruit of our labors. And thank You for showing us

Wednesday, 3 August 2011

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Lord, we are faced each day in the prison with another inmate who is suffering grievously from despondency, dejection and depression; much of this stemming from the uncertainties in their lives. Help us, Lord, to bring Your joy to them, to help them see that You are the answer that provides.

Psalm 88:1-2

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite. O LORD, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before you. Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!

Lord, the list of those who are in bondage goes on and on. The call last night from an anguished father whose son continues a years long substance abuse addiction. I lift that family up to You, that Your healing and reparative love would pour over them, releasing all from the grip of the Evil One.

Psalm 88:3-5

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. (4) I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, (5) like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

Now, Lord, it is a mother and father in anguish over their son, a son who is in bondage to substance abuse and who is bringing the entire family down and into financial ruin. Where are You leading? How are You asking us to counsel and comfort? How are we to point to Your glory and tell these distraught parents, "Thus sayeth the Lord, ..."

Psalm 88:6-9a

You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. (7) Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah (8) You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; (9a) my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Lord, the very most I can ask for my friends is that You fill them with Your peace and with the knowledge that You are in control, managing their son's destiny bring glory to Your name. Help them to see and understand that their son must cry out to You, seeking Your grace and that he will be healed. Help them to see and understand that without You there is no permanent solution to his addictions, that with You is freedom and life forevermore.

Lord's Day, 7 August 2011

Psalm 119:112

I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

I incline my heart, I direct it towards You; it is something that I need to be intentional about, I cannot expect it to happen without participation from me. "I have decided to follow Jesus/ no turning back, no turning back"

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms

August 1-7, 2011

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hopes that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

John Nunnikhoven