

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH

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MAY 2009 “I am leaving tomorrow” said Juan. “I am returning to Guatemala City and then will go into the mountains where my parents live.

Juan had been arrested over six years ago for trafficking drugs in Panama near the border of Costa Rica. Although he had made a decision for Christ in his home town church as a teenager, he had drifted away from the Lord, following the ways of the world. It took over five years in prison before he rededicated his life to Christ. For the next seven months he grew in faith.

Now he was asking for our financial help. When he would land in Guatemala, his old gang members would be waiting for him. His only hope was to travel the six hours by bus to live with his parents until he got resettled away from those who would drag him back to his old ways. But he had no money. The government would get him back to his home country, but from there he was on his own.

The swine flu had closed the prison to visitors for the past two weeks so we had been unable to go to have our meetings. So on this Thursday, May 21, we were able to get in just in time to give him the sixty dollars he would need to travel. We had a great meeting and a time of prayer with him.

As I was reflecting on the situation as we left the prison that day.... I said to one of our team, “If we had not gotten in today to give him the money to help him, he would have lost hope in the Christian community.” Our words would have meant nothing and we were like everyone else in his life who had let him down. He might have even turned his back on the Lord again and gone back to the gang.

I felt the Lord gave me a good verse and message for him and the men that day. It was simply called “REMEMBER.” Deuteronomy 15:15 says “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you: therefore I command you this thing today.”

They were to remember 1.) Where they came from 2.) How they got out of there 3) And who they are now. Remembering our history gives us identity. In this case they were given a new identity. They were no longer slaves, but children of the Lord their God. God gave them memorials of places, monuments and holidays to help them remember and to pass it on to the next generation.

And it is important for us as believers today. Remember... 1.) Where you came from ... the slavery to sin with its guilt, condemnation and hopelessness 2.) How you got out of there ... thru the suffering and death of Christ for our sins 3.) And who you are now.. a new creation in Christ (see II Cor. 5:17). You have a new identity. Not a temporal one like this world gives you, but an eternal one.

You can handle the stress of this financial and social meltdown in our society right now by remembering your true identity which is in Christ... it is eternal and was here long before the dollar.

RADIO... I got a very encouraging letter recently from a local listener who responded thru our web site (which is at the top of this page. You can now listen to programs anytime and anywhere in the world.) He had made a commitment to Christ five years ago but found himself drifting away from God. Then he found the radio program at 6 a.m. each morning and listens while getting ready for work. He said that the programs have inspired him and encouraged him so that he is back on course and sensing the Lord’s direction for his life. That is truly exciting for me to hear and keeps me going.

Thank you so much for praying and for your support. For His cause...Bill