

July 2016

→ **MINISTRY UPDATE** ←

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UPDATE

We still do not have a loan because the bank wants to see a profit. So we're having to cut back on labor which means less increase in new beds. But my credit score is straightened out and we are on the verge of being where we need to be.

We had our lawyers appeal them taxing HUM II, our married and women's mobile home park. At the appeals court, we found out they had all our mobile homes as owned by our creditor. This week we will provide proof we are a charity. We will see if our enemies have any other tricks up their sleeve. Someone really tampered with the official records, so it has cost us over \$60,000.00 in taxes over the last 5 years. Maybe that will change now. Within six months, we'll get the loan and save another ten thousand a month. God always makes a way where there seems to be no way.—
David Nichols

SURPRISE

We had a very pleasant surprise last Friday. I received a call

from Gospel Echo Team based out of Goshen, Indiana. They are a Mennonite Missions Group consisting of members from several states in the mid-USA lead by Glendon Bender. They came to Oklahoma to share in one of the prisons, when the Warden suddenly cancelled their scheduled appointment. They had a lot of food, so they scrambled to find some place to share it. They found us on the internet. Late Friday I got a call. Saturday morning there was a crowd of Mennonite men and women cleaning out trailers, roofing, building decks and steps, and cleaning and servicing air conditioning units. Then there was teaching, food, singing and more teaching. They preached mostly with their actions which is more than just talk. ***“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26, KJV)*** We deeply appreciate what they did and definitely welcome them back. They seemed to really to want to come back. —*David Nichols*

We appreciate all our partners and donors. It is your support that enables us to assist individuals back into society as new brothers and sisters in Christ.



What **HE** Has Done Not What **WE** Have Done

The longer I walk with God, the more incredibly amazed I am at how easy it is for Satan to distract a Christian from amazing grace into religious works and law. God tells us that love covers a multitude of sins. That's how a mother can live through all a son or daughter can do and still love them and be there for them. Every other mother looks at the same person and says they should die for their sin, that they can't change, and God can't save them. Yet Christ paid for our forgiveness before we sinned. He loves us unconditionally.

After we become Christians, Satan desires to deceive us into thinking that somehow we changed so God would receive us and that everyone else can too. In reality, we played no part in our salvation. He draws us by His Spirit unto repentance so He can change us inside. We can only agree with this act of grace by sealing it with the act of baptism (our only part in the covenant). That is saying to the world, "I accept the covenant He made for me." Works has no part in salvation. Good works is a result of His Spirit in our lives. And remember, only Jesus

was given the Spirit in fullness. It takes a little longer for the rest of us.

With Pharisees and religion, it is always about law and works. Jesus rebuked them about being so technical as to tithe on the smallest things, such as mint anise and cumin, but totally ignore weightier matters of His law, such as Mercy, Judgement and faith. (*Matthew 3:23*) God cares about all of us alike and all His efforts finding and bringing us home. For some of us that's a lot. There is blessing in the fold, but His greater concern is those outside. Are we helping Him?

I helped a young man one time who grew up on the streets. He went to work one day and left his water on in the tub. When I asked him why, he (with all sincerity and honesty) asked me, "Do you really have to pay for water?". Most of us know that. But to him, it was a revelation. He meant no harm. Let's remember we will be judged in the same measure we judge. And remember love covers a multitude of sin. Thank you God for your mercy and grace.—*David Nichols*

CAMPUS 2

We are staying full and are very slow on turnover. This means few people are leaving which is good, but the waiting list to get here is ever growing. The need is so great for females and married couples that the current waiting list is over 12 applicants long. We are busting at the seams and really need to get a few more trailers up and running to help these homeless Christian brothers and sisters. Please give prayerful consideration on how you can help.—*Jeff Wendel*



