



HOUSE OF HOPE

Unchained for Christ Ministry



Pastor Michael Sgobba

P.O. Box 707

Odessa, WA 99159

Phone: 360-471-2551

www.houseofhopeministry.net

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

HOUSE OF HOPE EAST

PENPAL MINISTRY

A lot has happened since Michael and Margie moved to Odessa, WA. The Lord has opened up new opportunities in the jails in Spokane and Chelan Counties, and He has provided more people to assist in this important ministry.

However, Satan does not like what House of Hope Ministry is doing in the jails in Eastern Washington (as well as Western Washington), and he has unabashedly let Michael and Margie know his displeasure.

Margie has had a number of health issues requiring surgeries. Michael has also been subject to several health issues. Because Odessa is such a small town, most of their medical appointments require them to travel the 75 miles to Spokane.

In September, Michael was crossing the street in Odessa. Even though he was clearly in the crosswalk, a car came around the corner and ran over his foot. He was also knocked to the ground, injuring his shoulder and his knee. Fortunately there appears to be no head trauma, but he is scheduled for shoulder surgery in November. The doctors are waiting to see whether he will also need knee surgery.

Also, since their move to Odessa, even though the HoH ministry has experienced growth, donations to the ministry have dropped down.

Please take a few moments each day to pray for Michael, Margie, and House of Hope Ministry. If you would like to donate to help this ministry continue, please go to our website to see how you can help!

Sincerely,
House of Hope Board of Directors.

Our prayer and Vision is that every Inmate will come to know the love of Jesus, and that they are not alone or forgotten. By sharing God's love to the inmate, and encouraging them to build a strong relationship with Jesus, we give hope, through our letters, which can be read over and over during their incarceration. Our goal is to encourage the Inmate to develop good Bible study habits, to reach out to Jesus with heart rendering prayers and realize how repenting of past sins can drastically change their lives and lead them to the liberty that is found in Christ alone, and that God will be with them in their "midnight hour."

By the power of God, working through our letters, we know that we will see a decrease in repeat incarcerations, and an increase in their experiencing the life changing power of the grace of Jesus Christ as they learn to walk closer with Him. Our hope is to infuse a desire to turn to God for the healing of their heart and life issues, through being at peace with God. Our desire is to minister the hope and joy we have come to know in our own relationship with the Lord, through our letters of compassion *"for the least of these my brothers."*

For someone who is incarcerated, receiving a letter from anyone, even someone they have never met before, can be life-changing. Many inmates get no visitations from family or friends, so the next best thing is receiving a letter. A penpal may be the only contact an inmate has with the outside.

Go to that one that is turned out, lest they become so bitter and discouraged that he won't be able to recover. Therefore, I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.

Hebrews 13:2-3

LETTERS FROM THE INSIDE

In this environment it is sometimes very difficult to be a Christian.

Mike and Margie,

To my brother and sister in Christ. I have not written in quite some time. I apologize for my negligence. It's very easy to get caught up just living each day to its fullest.

First off, I must continue to thank you for all your continued correspondence. Morning meditations through "The Word for You Today" and the various study guides is well received. Thank you.

Things are going very well with the church here in Walla Walla. I am still very active and have been involved in leading some of the studies, and very well may do another sermon in the upcoming months. However, I have kind of stepped aside to allow others, mostly newcomers, to actively participate in the program and feel more a part of it, rather than apart from it.

I attend the Sunday service on a regular basis, and of course weekly Bible studies as well, which all really helps me to stay focused on Christ and The Word.

In this environment it is sometimes very difficult to be a Christian. I've seen more men get smashed out for among other things, being Christian. We are the minority, and without a doubt ostracized.

Well, I just wanted to send a quick message to say thank you for all you do for all of us.

Your brother in Christ,

Jim M.

Washington State Penitentiary

I'm a serious follower of Christ, and desire fellowship in the Lord with other Christians .

Mr. Sgobba,

My name is Matthew, and I am a Christian. I re-dedicated my life to Christ in 2015 and have been committed since then. I first received Christ when I was age seventeen and I'm now thirty-nine.

I'm writing to you because of a man we know in common. He gave me your information and encouraged me to reach out to you.

So I'm reaching out in hope that you will take the time to respond, or even pray about the direction that Father God wants you to take concerning me.

I'm a serious follower of Christ, and desire fellowship in the Lord with other Christians who seek Him with their whole heart.

Well, any questions you may have, please speak freely and I'll be as transparent as I know how to be.

That's all for now.

In Christ,

Matthew

Clallam Bay Correctional Center

Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

1 Samuel 12:24

The above scripture is a treasured verse of mine, which I have written on the tablet of my heart.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Hebrews 13:2-3