

# *From the King's Table*

So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table.  
2 Kings 25:29



## From the Director

### DR. BRUCE PERKINS

Our orientation semester has drawn to a close. I asked students to write reflection essays on their experiences. This is a good opportunity for me to pause and reflect as well.

I am proud. These men have worked diligently in their studies. They are demonstrating steady progress in their writing and exams. They are asking thoughtful questions in the classroom. They have been faithful in the spiritual practices of daily Bible readings, Scripture memorization, and writing in their journals.

I am humbled. Our PDP students have contributed over \$3,700 to the program to personally invest in their education. Their journal entries challenge and encourage my walk with Christ. They inspire me on a daily basis.

I am satisfied. I believe we have accomplished what we set out to do in this orientation semester. A solid foundation has been laid regarding an understanding of and commitment to a Christian Liberal Arts education, good study habits, and expectations.

I am excited. One of our assignments this spring was to begin developing a strategy for impacting the prison culture with the Gospel. Students worked in groups and submitted their strategies. Their passion for others, ministry ideas, and commitment to be God's warriors in the cultural battle is remarkable.

I cannot wait for tomorrow! Each day brings new blessings.

*The Prison Divinity Program transforms the lives of incarcerated individuals to redeem both the self and the system through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ by providing a learning environment and program of study that leads to a reformed perspective on life which results in a redirected purpose for life.*



## *Penned from Prison*

This section of our newsletter features comments written by our students shared with their permission from their journals and writing assignments.

Keeping a spiritual journal has impacted my intimacy with God. Deepening my devotional life has become a high priority for me. Now that God has revealed His presence in my life, I want to make certain to save the record of my relationship with Him. - Blaine

*This is my beautiful struggle. I feel like Joseph, the son of Jacob. He went through so much to become the man God always meant him to be. I know how it is to be left for dead. I know how it is to flourish and prosper like a rose that grew from the concrete.* - Keyvon

Heavenly Father, here I am once again. I enjoy these times when I am alone with You in the cell. I look out my window and see Your beauty. I see the clouds that You placed in the pretty, blue sky. I see the cattle up on the hill and it makes me think of Your Word and the scripture where it says My father owns cattle on a thousand hills. I look at the wind blow over the water. I smell the freshly cut grass. I am so grateful to be here today. I recall the times when death faced me as if looking in a mirror, but You chose to keep me alive. Now, I'm beginning to see life and purpose. This is beyond anything I could ever ask. - Jered

*We all want to go home, but we all need to find our way "home." Without God, we'll never truly be home. We will never truly be free. We could get out of prison, but without knowing Christ, we'll still be prisoners to ourselves. In order to obtain complete freedom, we must find our way home to the Father who is ready to run to us with open arms.* - Chris W.

Father, help me to wake up earlier than Your enemies. Help me hear Your call to battle and valiantly run to the ready mark. Help me be an encouraging voice and an uplifting presence to all men. My Lord, my hope is to bring other battle ready men to Your army. - Chris E.

*I had stopped reading other books because I told myself all I needed to read is the Bible. Truth can be found in places other than the Bible. God places truth all around us. Not until we start having a Christian worldview, do we recognize it as God's truth. . . If I am not thinking Christianly, I will miss God's revelation of Himself to me.* - Joe

The more I chisel away at this cemented heart of mine, the more my eyes are open to the beautiful life that God wants me to have. - Sonny



The Class of 2025

***Remember the prisoners, as though you were in prison with them . . .Hebrews 13:3***

**Rejoice with us!**

- Members of the Oklahoma Board of Corrections visited our classroom this month to encourage our students!
- COVID restrictions have been lifted! The yard is open, chapel attendance is not limited by physical distancing, and volunteers are returning!
- Classroom furniture arrived!

**Petition the Lord with us . . .**

- for God to move mightily in student-initiated prayer and discipleship groups.
- for the Lord to equip and sustain our students who are leading out in an end of life ministry to their fellow inmates.
- for the Holy Spirit to equip and strengthen our students for daily battles with the adversary and that God will show Himself mighty!

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in His love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

What a great promise, that You are mighty in the midst of us! It is so good to know You are here with me, that You take joy in me, that You sing over me, like a daddy holding his baby. I remember when my sons were born. I had never felt anything like that before. To think that You hold me in your loving arms, rocking me, singing to me. Help me to hear. Give me ears to hear Your song of joy over me. - Tracey



New Bison!



Books out, minds open, hearts ready!

***Thank You!***

- Immanuel Baptist Church (Shawnee) for underwriting the cost of our summer reading program.
- Avant Baptist Church (Avant) for your monthly support.
- College Heights Baptist Church (Chickasha) for your monthly support.

Visit [www.okbu.edu/pdp](http://www.okbu.edu/pdp) to learn about giving opportunities.