

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

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church:

I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

Likewise, the students and I give thanks to the Lord for you, our readers. We thank you for your prayers and financial support. We thank you for sharing this newsletter with your family members and friends and, in doing so, expanding our network of partners in the gospel.

Normally, in the *Penned from Prison* section, I provide you with the opportunity to "listen in" on the thoughts of our students as they write in their spiritual journals or submit papers. In this way, their ministry extends beyond the fences as their thoughts touch your hearts and, prayerfully, challenge and encourage your own walk with Christ.

In this issue, the students write directly to you in the *Penned from Prison* section. They wrote heartfelt notes of thanksgiving to you. It is my joy to pass excerpts on to you. I pray you hear their gratitude as you read their words.

May our great God continue to answer your prayers for us!

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.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Through the prayers of God's faithful, we have been granted the opportunity to embark on a journey that will lead us to become successful men of God. We are also praying for you, our brothers and sisters. We pray you are blessed and strengthened in the Spirit. As the body of Christ, the church, we are in this together. - Joe S.

I would like to thank everyone who has lifted us, our professors, Department of Corrections staff, and everyone else that has been instrumental to the Prison Divinity Program up in prayer. May God continue to show favor to the program and keep moving in our lives, and may He bless everyone who supports us. - Brett J.

It has been a wonderful joy hearing and knowing that there are truly brothers and sisters obeying God. Thank you so much for the prayers for all of us in the PDP. The prayers you are sending up are bringing forth fruit for the kingdom of God. Let us continue praying for one another and obeying what is pleasing and acceptable to God.- Roscoe M.

Thank you for all the prayers and support for the PDP. OBU has given us a chance to prove God is not done with us! - Chris W.

Thank you for your support and believing in us. We hope to make you all proud. God bless you. - Jordan M.

I want to thank all of you out there who are mighty prayer warriors from the senators who came to see us, to my fellow brothers and sisters at OBU in Shawnee, to all who have donated money and prayers, to all the families who keep us in their prayers. I want to thank the administration at LCC for their patience and prayers as well. God bless you all. - Jim K.

I want to thank each and every one of you who are a part of the Prison Divinity Program. Thanks for your time, efforts, funding and the love and care you continue to extend to each student involved. You are a part of my soul family. Thank you for illuminating my steps with your light of love. - Charles S.

I want to thank everyone who is supporting the PDP. All your prayers are felt. Thank you for believing in us. We won't let you down! - Delma S.

Thank you for answering the Lord's call and answering our prayers. Please continue to make contributions to the program and keep sharing our stories that appear in *The King's Table*. - Chris R. E.

Thank you so much for believing in us, for showing us we are not alone, and reminding us there are still people who love us and really care about us. - Miguel C.



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

Rejoice with us!

- Our students are engaging in gospel conversations with gang members that now also reside in Unit 3 where our students live!
- Five gang members have been attending chapel services!
- Some of our students have been prayerwalking the yard!
- Total gifts to the Prison Divinity Program are approaching \$600,000!

Petition the Lord with us . . .

- for at least one gang leader in LARC to give his life to Christ this summer. Keep praying. God is moving!
- for the prison population, policies, or procedures to not be negatively impacted by the rise in COVID cases so we may begin fall classes as planned.
- for the four new students who have joined the cohort and will begin classes this fall. Pray they will adjust quickly and smoothly to academic life!
- for the four students they replaced whom we lost due to various reasons. Pray God will continue to work mightily in their lives!

The prison society I have lived in the past 21 years can be a place of darkness and hopelessness. The men in prison and the people who work in prison are in desperate need of the redeeming message of the cross of Christ and the restoration of hope found only in the gospel.

As a Christian living in prison, I am called by God to be an ambassador for Christ, representing Him in everything I do. PDP is teaching me how to rightly divide the word of truth so I can more effectively tell the biblical narrative of God's story of redemption, restoration, and reconciliation in a manner that will connect and resonate to the men in the prison culture.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support of the OBU Prison Divinity Program. By doing so, God is using you to give men like me in prison who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, the tools and resources needed to stand tall and solid for Jesus in a place called prison.
- Vince O.



Do you know someone who wants to be on the newsletter mailing list?

Send an email to bruce.perkins@okbu.edu and give us their name and email address. We also mail paper copies to those who do not use email. Let us know their mailing address.

You can view previous issues of *The King's Table* by visiting www.okbu.edu/pdp