

# YAHWEH'S VINEYARD OF REFUGE

FOR THOSE WHO KEEP THE 7TH DAY HOLY

## PRISONER NEWS

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### Special points of interest:

- YVR is looking for Law Clerks on the "inside" or outside to help with legal issues that arise.
- Unity Conference to held at Rocheport in July.
- Please pray for our Ministry!



## INTRODUCTION TO "Y.V.R"

### Greetings to everyone in the Mighty Name of Yahweh!

As a lot of you already know, it has been a goal of Yahweh's Vineyard of Refuge to publish a newsletter. Well here it is! Before I go further, I would like to say that we are operating on the belief that Father Yahweh will open doors and show us the things He wants done, and how to do them. We are keeping our eyes and ears wide open and learning that patience makes all the difference. To sit back and watch Yahweh build this ministry has been an awesome experience so far, nothing short of a miracle. To think that this all started as an idea planted into a couple of convicts minds as we walked around the track in prison. Yahweh is opening the eyes to the prisoner for a reason. He is calling you to step up and take charge of whatever task He has for you. You are blessed that He has revealed truth to you. With blessings come responsibility. Let me warn



you... I have several friends who I did time with who were blessed with truth who got out of prison and didn't accept responsibility for their knowledge. They are either miserable or back in prison. So the choice is yours. My suggestion is that now that you have received the knowledge, accept the responsibility that goes with it. Also I would like to thank everyone for their

part in answering Yah's call to make this happen those inside and outside the prison.

It is our vision at Y.V.R that this newsletter will be an information source and a bridge of unity between prisoners, prisons and the outside world. To let the outside world know that their love and dedication to the prisoner is not in vain, and to let the prisoner know that he or she is not alone in their trials.

Any information concerning Yahweh's people behind bars is important to us and depending on timing and space we would encourage you to let us know about it so we can possibly print it. This is your newsletter so lets answer the call of Yahweh and make it happen.

May Yahweh bless you as he is blessing me.

Barrie Wittrock Y.V.R

## GOALS FOR THE MINISTRY

YVR, after careful consideration, is taking steps to pursue its 501 (c) (3) status. After becoming a verified non-profit organization we will be able to give tithe statements to all those who donate to our ministry.

This status will also help us towards our eventual goal of setting up a Men's Halfway House. It will be exclusively for those serving Yahweh and Yahshua through the Sacred Names. The program will focus on keeping Yahweh's Laws, Sabbath, and Feasts. It

will be registered with the State of Missouri so those incarcerated statewide could attempt to attend. Only those sincerely seeking Yahweh would qualify for this program.

Please pray for our success!

## ON THE INSIDE

The first week of June Elder Pete Vacca from the Rochepoint assembly visited the Putnamville Corr. Ctr. where he baptized 12 men. He was warmly received by Chaplain Newberry. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, after being invited to the St. Joseph



Corr. Ctr. by Chaplain Martin Sykes, Elder Vacca met with four men there and will return the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. in July to baptize them.

The Tipton Corr. Ctr. has opened its' doors to allow Yahweh's people to cater a meal into the assembly there. This will take place on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>. With the menu as follows; Beef brisket, corn on the cob, and apple cobbler for dessert. Is Yahweh opening doors or what? The last Sabbath in May, Elder Frank Brown met with 10 men at Little Tucker Corr. Ctr. in Arkansas and baptized 2 men. Later the same day, they went to Tucker Max. and met with 6 men and 2 of them were baptized.

A special thanks to Elder Vacca and Elder Brown for their hard work and dedication to the prison ministry. I would also like to thank Mr. Darryl Whitfield ,whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, for his help and dedication. If you would like your minister mentioned in our newsletter or have other news to share, please write us.

Also, please pray for us as we give a presentation at the Annual Sacred Name Unity Conference , which will be held at Rochepoint (Yahweh's Assembly in Messiah) from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year. THANKS!

## KOSHER CONFLICT IN MISSOURI PRISON

St. Louis — Missouri (2008) prison inmate Norman Lee Toler was once labeled as a white supremacist, after, authorities say, he was caught in an Illinois penitentiary with seven photos of Adolf Hitler and a fresh "SS" tattoo.

This week, however, Toler was in federal court in St. Louis, saying he is Jewish and that his soul will be in jeopardy if he is forced to eat nonkosher food.

Lawyers and prison officials say the case is a first for Missouri.

"It's probably going to be a historic ruling," Missouri Department of Corrections spokesman Brian Hauswirth said.

And although the number of Jewish prisoners in Missouri may be small — only 60 or 70 of the almost 30,000 Missouri inmates have told prison officials that they're Jewish — the issue could have wide-ranging effects.

A prison official testified Thursday that if the state is ordered to provide kosher meals, officials may change the policy of accepting a prisoner's religion without verification.

And in court filings and testimony, they seemed wary of prisoners converting for the purpose of a special meal.

Toler's food saga began two years ago, with his filing of a federal lawsuit that said prison officials repeatedly denied his requests for kosher food, violating both federal law and his constitutional right of religious expression.

As a result, Toler wrote, he was suffering "extreme malnutrition, weight loss, migraines, extreme anxiety, and feelings of worthlessness, dehumanization, persecution and the terror of eternal doom from the guilt of violating the fundamental tenets of his religion."

Hauswirth said that prison officials design the menu to address as many medical and religious needs as possible and provide at least one meat-free option for every meal.

In Illinois, where kosher, nonpork and vegetarian and vegan meals are available, prisoners request religious meals through the institution's chaplain, Department of Corrections spokesman Derek Schnapp said.

Inmates in federal prisons follow a similar procedure.

Missouri prison officials and staff, represented by the state attorney general's office, have challenged the sincerity of Toler's religious beliefs. They've also argued that their policies are constitutional under a 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision that sprang from a different dispute over Missouri prison rules.

In that case, which overturned a ban on prisoners marrying but upheld a ban on letters between prisoners, the court said judges must balance a prisoner's constitutional rights against compelling government interests, such as safety and cost. Missouri's lawyers say that providing Toler or others with special food might slow meal lines and encourage pushing and shoving.

They also say that they have granted Toler alternative ways of worshipping, including twice-weekly chapel time, kosher food in the prison canteen and the availability of ritual items on holy days.

"Inmates need not be afforded their preferred means of practicing their religion," lawyers wrote. They say Toler's special meals could cost two or more times the \$2 or so it costs to feed an inmate for a day.

Patricia Cornell, assistant corrections director for adult institutions, testified Thursday that she rejected the idea of providing kosher and vegan meals several years ago, because of the higher cost. Cornell said that if Toler wins, she would "almost assuredly" re-examine the process by which inmates self-select their religion by checking a box.

Toler may not be the best standard-bearer

for religious rights. In 1999, he was sentenced to eight years and four months in prison for robbery in Illinois, and released on parole in 2003.

He is currently serving a 10-year sentence for statutory rape in Pettis County. The victim was under age 14, court documents state.

While in prison in Illinois, guards caught him with pictures of Hitler and white supremacist literature, which is against the rules, according to disciplinary reports. He also got a jailhouse tattoo that reads "SS" and has other white supremacist tattoos, according to the reports, which Missouri Department of Corrections lawyers filed in the food case. The SS was a Nazi police organization in Hitler's Germany.

"We have serious factual doubts about both his request and his sincerity," said John Fougere, spokesman for the Missouri attorney general.

Toler didn't notify anyone of his need for kosher food until 10 months after his arrival in the state prison, Fougere said. Toler's court-appointed lawyers, Nathan Plumb and Heidi Durr, said his past behavior has no bearing on the sincerity of his current beliefs.

Durr said that Toler testified in court this week that he had been holding the white supremacist materials for another inmate. He said the "white supremacist" tattoos are actually just an eagle.

Plumb said Toler initially hesitated to demand kosher meals because he didn't know he could.

Durr said Toler is only asking for separate, pre-packaged kosher meals, and that prison officials haven't even figured out how much that would cost.

U.S. District Judge Jean C. Hamilton gave lawyers until Feb. 11 to file briefs, and may rule by the end of February, Durr said. *-Update from news sources say he won the case in Sept. 2008 ~Editor*



## SCRIPTURE IN FOCUS—SOWING SEEDS...

Yahweh's Vineyard of Refuge is founded on the belief and in the hope of Yahweh that He can and will change hearts and lives and He will use these changed souls to further His holy name and His laws through good works in the communities that they serve.

The field of prison ministry is a strenuous and difficult ministry for the individual and for the different assemblies who labor in it. Not only does it require hours of personal devotion, it requires money. Anyone involved in prison ministry can see the increase or explosion of the knowledge of Yahweh's truth, simply by the amount of mail that comes from behind prison walls. There are questions and requests from prisons across America with small assemblies being started everywhere.

So, through the efforts of people everywhere, dedicated to furthering the word of Yahweh, the prison ministries are sowing seeds that are producing much fruit.

Now I know that in the parable of the sown seeds in Mark 4, the sower doesn't come back to water the seeds or to pull the weeds. Lets be practical about our thinking: anyone who grows

a garden tends to that garden with hard work by watering it, tilling it, pulling weeds, to protect it and nurture it so that it will yield the best possible produce.

This is where Yahweh's Vineyard of Refuge comes in; we see the need to protect and nurture the seed that has been planted so that it will produce the best possible fruit. Why go to all the trouble of sowing the seed if you are not going to go back and tend to it? Why waste money and time on seed when there is so much to be done with the resources Yahweh gives us to use?

In reality, Yahweh is sowing the seeds. He is the one opening the minds of these people and as He chooses the seed to be planted, He expects us to work the fields tilling the soil and pulling the weeds and watering his crop and protecting His investment until He returns for the harvest. So, planting the garden is the first step, now, we must tackle the next step, growing the garden.

The seed that we want to nurture is different. It comes to us sprouted but very young and feeble. There is a problem scientists can never figure out. A problem that only with the

guidance of Yahweh and Yahshua can we overcome. The seed of all man is born of flesh and requires a different type of water and type of soil. This type of water and soil cannot be found of this world. The carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh for it is not subject to the law of Yahweh not can it be. Romans 8:7.

Almost all people coming out of prison lived prior lives of the world. The word of Yahweh was new to them in prison and will be even more so out here in the world. Before going to the prison these people lived for other Elohim and whether they knew it or not, for Satan. That is quite a contrast to living for Yahweh. Living in prison is quite different than living in the free world in so many ways. Most prisoners return to their old communities and their old pagan friends and relatives and soon back to their old pagan ways thus destroying that precious seed that was faithfully planted.

Yahweh's Vineyard of Refuge wants to take these young sprouts and nurture them through encouragement, example and sound biblical doctrine through the word of Yahweh.



*Luk 20:13 Then said the master of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.*

## LETTERS FROM THE INSIDE

Shalom Barrie,  
I am very joyful about the upcoming Feast of weeks. I trust that one day soon, we can all enjoy it at Y.V.R. in Rolla MO.  
I am sending you 55 stamps as my offering to Yahweh on His feast day. Hopefully, in the future, it can be more. I believe they can help with your

mailings.  
May Yahweh bless you and your bride and provide funding for Y.V.R.

SHALOM, C.M. Arizona State prison

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible Society of the United Kingdom calculates that the number of Bibles printed between 1816 and 1975 was 2,458,000,000. By 1992 the estimated number rose to nearly six billion. Furthermore, worldwide sales of the Bible number more than a staggering 100 million each year, far outpacing any other book in history. Without a doubt, the Bible is the best selling book of all time.

This means that as of the

year 2007, approximately 7.5 billion Bibles have been distributed throughout world—with the vast majority still available for use! Currently, the complete Bible has been published in over 450 languages. The New Testament alone has been published in nearly 1,400 languages, with the Gospel of Mark in over 2,370 languages. Consider what this means. With the world's population

approaching six billion, **there is approximately one Bible for every living person on Earth!**

The Harper San Francisco book catalog recently published some interesting statistics. It states that the annual expenditure for Bibles in America is currently \$425 million and that the average American household contains four Bibles. (Excerpt from biblestudy.org)



## Brain Exercises

T H R E E Q R O T C S J K  
 Z X Q V B H Y W A N A L F  
 B E L L Y D F W R I C E A  
 H Y U F Q D S P S J K R S  
 S D H J A K N M H X C Z E  
 W Q Q Y G S B V I K L P A  
 A F F V C X T T S K O B V  
 L O G O U R D J H R T N H  
 L X C N I G H T E K H O O  
 O D T R J J O N A H K O P  
 W I K H W T R J K S S P U  
 P N I N E V A H N U Y I P  
 F D S E W O R M O I K J F

Jonah  
 Ninevah  
 Tarshish  
 Sea  
 Fish  
 Belly  
 Worm

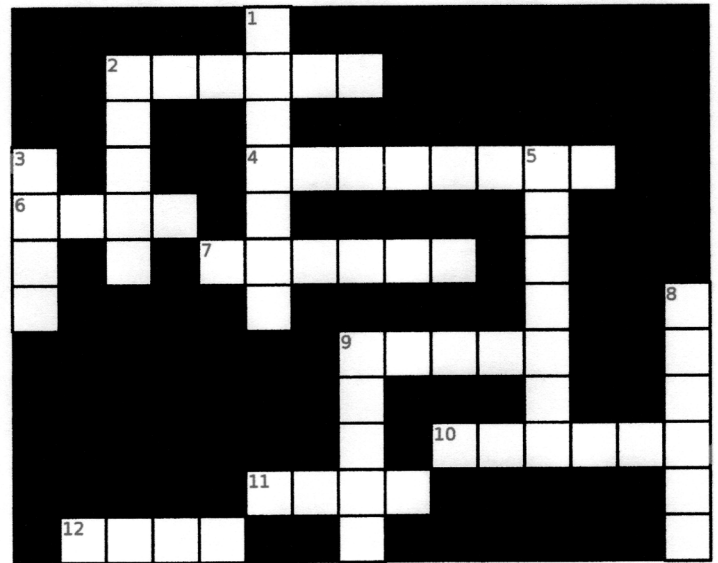
Swallow  
 Three  
 Day  
 Night  
 Fast  
 Sackcloth  
 Gourd

Can you guess the correct Biblical references?  
 Unscramble the letters.

rgaHa  
 ebunRe  
 Jahdu  
 heJpos  
 amAd  
 Cina  
 bleA

vEe  
 onhEc  
 aoJcb  
 ealslr  
 Abmhara  
 arrhooGm  
 odmSo  
 naraH  
 aalcs  
 deEn  
 lemhtheeB

roaJdn  
 reHbon  
 eJaemrlsu  
 aaannC  
 tyEpg  
 oGhni  
 CsuH  
 hosPin  
 vailHha



### Across

- 2 Who said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me"?
- 4 What nationality was Hagar, Sarai's maidservant?
- 6 In what country did Esau settle?
- 7 Who was Rachel's maidservant?
- 9 Which of Joseph's brothers promised Jacob that he would bear the blame if anything happened to Benjamin in Egypt?
- 10 Who was called a "mighty hunder before Yahweh"?
- 11 Who was the Father of Seth?
- 12 What did Isaac tell Jacob to do at Paddan Aram? "Get himself a \_\_\_\_\_"

### Down

- 1 Which book records the sons of Yah marrying the daughters of men?
- 2 To whom did Yahweh say, "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there"?
- 3 Which of Jacob's wives was the mother of Reuben?
- 5 Who said, "what if the number of righteous is less than 50, will you destroy the whole city because of 5 people?"
- 8 Where did Isaac send Jacob when he met his uncle Laban? \_\_\_\_\_ Aram
- 9 Which of Joseph's brothers suggested they sell him to the Ishmaelites?

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