The Good News

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The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace. In a world where difficult issues remain, UBC is committed to its core values of being inclusive, inquisitive, and community minded.

In Christ's Love

I lost a father today. My heart is breaking, my eyes are raining tears, and my spirit is full of joy. I am praying for all of us who know Dick Allison because there is little doubt that he touched your life and you are better for knowing him.

When I sat down to write I was going to share how much this great man means to me. There isn't enough space here to even begin to do something like that because, well, his influence on my life is so far reaching. Most of you probably know the big milestones he carried me through such as baptizing me, being with me when I received the news of my grandfather's death, testifying for me in my death penalty trial, sticking with me through Death Row, and being my partner in ministry for fifteen years! What you can't possibly know is that he and Jane prayed for me every single day, that we exchanged well over a thousand letters or that he taught me how to cry, and be a man of God.

I will never forget that day we were visiting and as I was speaking tears were pouring down his face. He wasn't embarrassed at all. He told me that it was okay to cry because God gave us tear ducts for that very purpose. He knew what I needed and through example, gave me permission to let it out. I took a step closer toward being whole that day and as I wept without shame in front of this man of God I began the long journey toward healing and forgiveness.

It would be easy to share page after page of ways Dick influenced my life, and through me influenced the lives of countless others. My heart is guiding me in a different direction even though I have tons of stories like above . . .

I want to talk briefly about love. We are loved by God and as the life of Christ is made manifest in our mortal flesh God becomes the very source and motivation of the love we have to share. Do you share your love?

One of the things that Dick made sure I knew without question was that he loved me. He told me in every letter, in every phone call, and during every visit. His actions told me how much he

loved me and reflected the words he spoke. There has never been a doubt in my mind regarding his love for me. I take comfort in knowing that he knew how much I loved him as well.

In this, Dick was my living example of Jesus and God's love. He took it to heart to love others as Christ loved us. I now make sure that the people I love know that I love them. I take every opportunity to tell them and to show them. Is it rocky sometimes? Of course it is, but even during those tough times I still make it a point to tell others how I feel.

Life is so short and so precious that we would do great things if we make sure others know we love them, care for them, and are honestly praying for them. Don't allow another hour to pass. Sit down and write a note, pick up the phone and make the call, and just tell someone that you love them. Please do it right now, because you may not have tomorrow. Today is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it as we share the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ who is the very definition of love.

God bless you all in His love.

Roger Gillett

DOGPEN CHURCH PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

As we acknowledge and celebrate your presence in our life, we thank you for your grace, peace, forgiveness and freedom as we enjoy a loving family relationship with You.

Help us each day to rely on your spirit to be our Helper, Teacher, Guide, Comforter, and Protector.

We trust Your faithful and unfailing love as we humbly give ourselves to You as living sacrifices and as vessels to share Your light and Your love with others.

Blessed is the man Thou chastenest and teacheth him out of Thy law.

For the Lord will not cast off His people, nether will He forsake their inheritance.

When we said, "our foot slippeth;" They mercy held us up.

In the multitude of our thoughts within us, Thy comforts delight our soul.

We thank you for the promises in Your word that assure us You've planned our path and that you will remain with us through the roughest waters and through the steady waves.

We thank you for the path You have tread before us and we thank You for the footprints You have left for us to follow.

We thank of all things through Christ Jesus, A'men!

Watch Your Heart Justin U.

"And though shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength..." - Mark 12:30

Throughout the bible we are commanded to love the Lord with all of our hearts. Only in God will we find the true satisfaction and fulfillment that our heart desires.

One of the profound tragedies in life occurs when someone gives away their heart to a person who hurts them. When love goes sour, lives are often damaged permanently. Christians too can ruin their lives by loving the wrong things.

The problem is that we live in a world system that opposes God. The world is attractive because it seems to offer us what we want without the accompanying demands of obedience and commitment to God..

The world tries to tempt us to shift our allegiance and our devotion away from God. Christians at every stage of spiritual development need to recognize and resist temptation. Obedience to God's word gives us power to overcome the efforts of the wicked one, who is trying to drag us down. - 1 Peter 1: 6-9; John 10: 9-10

Disobedience will lead to disappointment because what the world offers will pass away – 1 John 2:17 and only what God gives is permanent.

Living for God in the world is hard, but we have no alternative. When Jesus prayed for His disciples in John Chapter 17, He recognized that they would have to live in the world (v. 11) and so He went to ask that the Father would protect them from the evil one v. 15)

Our spiritual vitality and victory are really matters of the heart. If we give our hearts to the delights of the world, we will stumble in spiritual darkness. If we love God through our obedient lives, we will walk in the light with Him.

Watch your hearts, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Although we have to live in enemy territory in this world, we must choose to love the lord, not the world. - Thess: 5:15-10

God Bless!

Watch Your Heart

Feelings come and feelings go, and feelings are deceiving Watch your heart that the power of Satan no longer has any meaning As the Holy Spirit works in you to show you your heart in illumination He will give you a detestation for yourself and sin as you're brought before Him in humiliation Love heals the broken-hearted, delivers those that are captive, and recovers the sight of the blind Love is long suffering and love is kind-By all His love gifts to my soul He has won my heart; He has won my heart with His divine affection With His dying love He has won my heart; He had won my heart with the power of His Resurrection Let us draw near with a true heart and full assurance of faith Let us fall into the hands of the Lord that we may be exalted by His truly amazing grace What gold of His amazing grace has been poured out upon us Watch your heart oh children of God that that the Holy Spirit may give you the glory of Christ Jesus

My Work is Your Walk ...

In 2019 the Christian man is bombarded with so much social-media, the Christian woman is often labeled wrongly because social media has taken over the world and look how America is relishing a president who claims it's everyone else fault in social media on twitter every day. Don't get me wrong, the job market is up & car sales are improving, he had a tough job. If he had Christ in his life, I see endless possibilities. I for one, had to lose everything. I at one time ran a new car dealership and my family on both sides had car dealerships. The great recession 2005 to 2009 & the fall out from that caused a lot of loss for a lot of Americans. I was

driving a roll back wrecker and saw first hand a whole neighborhood blocked off by Sheriff's Dept. All foreclosures. All high dollar homes. I lost also, I couldn't get work either and then I did wrong, not anyone else, the great part, my brother got saved, my sister got save & died recently, right after Christmas. My family was like so many others successful and enjoying spoils of life, no cares for others & then, the fall. My part was over 18 years. God banged on my door, He calls, we have to answer. I hope that if you are not saved that you sincerely look at what is going on all over the world. The courts are now saying no one has any choice in anything anymore, the big companies now tell people, "here is what we decided.." Don't believe me, check out Healthcare and the battle going on. I feel for people, I care now and I went though an ordeal to get skin cancer treatment. I had to go in debt \$1,102.41 on my account at MDOC to get skin cancer biopsy and medication. Federal judge had to order it. To this day still have difficulty to get care from 50 million dollar a year contractor. Kind of like HMO's that tout great service, yet as they used to say, "You know what you really get when the rubber meets the road." I hope everyone got what this is about. Each day we have a choice. Sure I could complain, guess what God gave me wisdom to find solutions—Jesus Christ said you will be despised, people will detest you. Heck, look at TV. They teach kids how to hate, unless you concur. My hat is off to those parents who have their kids in church. The vision of Jesus Christ centered in their life creates a strong foundation. I stated before the ground work today is the foundation of tomorrow. The Hebrew translation is, "beyond your shoulder," meaning many tomorrows. I am no scholar yet I am learning that as Christians we must rise above the learning to accept standard quota, as Paul told all who would accept Jesus, as he did on the road to Damascus. What a testament and great show of how God will get your attention no matter who you are. Are you hearing God today? If not, you're not alone. So much distraction. Hey, the easy road is not what built your church in Hattiesburg, Ms. I used to stat at motel on 49. Beautiful landscaping. Take time to smell the roses today. Tomorrow comes so fast. I can remember how fast time will go in school. I couldn't wait to graduate, so I did easily. I missed everyone. Went to two proms too. Each day remember what Paul set out to do. Show how Jesus can and will change your life. Romans 6,7,8 are the problem, solution, and the very application is no. 8, so together as we face this onslaught of evil quick solutions remember, no matter where you are in life, let God in so he can show others through your love for Jesus. Sine thru, that is a vision. If you can't see where God can use you, just ask Him. Sit down, pray, look around. God will use you. Remember he didn't start with regulars. Moses had a speech impediment, no problem. I am on Death Row and I'm now committed to write pieces plus to create new avenues for men to write of the change. To think; the worst, the least and lonely men come to Jesus and what a change. You recently heard from Roger G. What a testimony about Jesus working in a man's life.

In His Way, Timothy E.

Golden Nuggets

Knowing God makes us strong and there is nothing better than having a personal relationship with the Lord. (Psalm 139:1-10)

The way we learn about God is by continually reading the Bible as the written word unveils the living word and God in one with his word. (Josh. 1:7-9; John 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1-4; Rev, 1:1-3)

Walking in intimate fellowship with our heavenly father fortifies us when tests come and strengthens us to overcome adversity. (2Chron. 33:12-13; Prov. 2:1-12; Jer. 29: 11-14)

The Word has the power to transform our lives, and when we receive the gift of eternal life, God imports his life, nature, and substance into our spirits. (John 14;15-21; Phil. 1: 20-21; 2Pet. 1: 2-8)

As we apply ourselves to the Word, it sets us free and through the Word our minds are renewed. We become new creatures in Christ, and we are made the righteousness of God. (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 5; 17-21; Eph. 4: 21-24)

Meditating on Scripture keeps us from being conformed to the world. The more we renew our minds with the truth, the greater our lives will be transformed int to the image of Christ and the more we will express the life and nature of God in us. (Psalm 119:25-32; Rom. 8: 31-39; Gal. 2:20) God Bless!

Because of man's fall in Adam (Gen. 3), man is in an awful spiritual ruin and the depths of the human heart is in its depravity in sin and, therefore, is separated from God. (Jer.17,9; 1Cor 2;14--) and destitute of any goodness or righteousness to commend man to God.

Man by nature has become a fool in spiritual things even though he professes himself to be wise. (Rom. 1:22-25)

For his own depraved reasonings man's nature worships and serve the creature more than the Creator, the God of truth.

So what is the truth of God? I'm so very glad that you have asked that question. (Smiley Face) The truth of God is that all good things are in God the Father, given to us by God the Son, and applied by God the Holy Spirit of Truth. (Eph. 1:3; Heb. 1:1-3; John 14: 16-17,26; James 1:17-18)

Now that we know the Truth, that means that there is a lie floating somewhere around trying to rob people of the Truth.

What is the lie? The lie is that there is something good in man that will some way or somehow commend him with God and give him entrance int the eternal heaven. (Rom. 3: 10-12)

The Scriptures tell us that all men are dead in trespasses and sins. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

Since we are now all awake of the truth and the lie, what is the remedy for the depravity of man?

The answer is Christ. All men need Christ, who is the way to heaven, the embodiment of Truth, and the spiritual and external source of life, and no man comes unto the Father but by him. (John 1: 4-14; John 14:6)

Therefore, everyone, if you desire and delight to have a blessed life for an eternity, bow down and give praise and worship to the Creator and kick the creature to the curb. (Psalm 9:1-2; Psalm 95: 1-6; Psalm 150; John 4: 23-24)

God Bless!

Dog Pen Church

The Devil's Schemes

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war on the world does." (2 Cor 10:3)

I hope this finds you well today, prayed up and knowing me and God love you! The last few weeks I have found myself in a state of confusion as if I am no longer sure of anything that Scripture teaches us. I went from the happiest man in the world here in an 8x10 cell studying the word of God, praising Him for all He has done for us to staring at my Bible confused feeling lost and alone as I have ever felt in life. I know something was not right but I just could not seem to pull myself together. But by the grace of God I stood firm in faith, in study and prayer and the Lord is leading me out of my state of confusion one day at a time. Praise God!

So what happened? What did I do to cause myself such pain and confusion? Nothing! For the first time in my life I feel that I can honestly say that I have been facing hardships because I am doing right. What? Hardships for doing right? That is correct, and I am praising God for it. You see, I finally made the decision to turn my life over to Jesus Christ and since that day close to a year ago, I have been seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. I want Jesus Christ to be the Lord of my life. The problem is the devil is not happy about it. I have turned my back on him and turned to the Lord and that has made him attack me with his demonic forces (2 Cor 2:11) in hopes of me giving up and turning back to him. But in the name of Jesus I command the devil to get behind me!

In Ephesians Paul warns us of a spiritual war where the devil uses many tactics in his attempts to defeat Christians (Eph 6:12). We gain knowledge of the devil's tactics by pondering upon some of the descriptions of him in Scripture: he leads the world "astray" (Rev12:9) he is a "murderer" and a "liar" (Jn 8:44) the "tempter" (Mt4:3), the "accuser" of our brothers and sisters" (Rev 12:10), and the "evil one" (1 John 5:9). With this in mind we should always "be alert and of a sober mind" (1 Pet 5:8) because the devil is out to destroy our faith. We should always remember to test all things to see if they align with the Word of God (1Thess 5:21; 1 John 4:1).

We should consider it pure joy when we face trials of many kinds and know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance and perseverance produces character (James 1:2-4). Without trials Christians cannot develop to maturity or wholeness. We are told to delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions and in difficulties. For when we are weak, then we will be made strong, the Lord's power is made perfecct in weakness – Praise God (2 Cor 12:5-10)! God's grace for personal trials is ever and always able to meet our needs. It's our job to endure difficulties and submit ourselves to God and resist the devil so that he will flee from us (James 4:7).

When we face trials that we don't understand we should ask God for wisdom (James 1:5). He is the only one who can provide the wisdom needed to know what to do in the midst of confusing circumstances (James 3:17). He will generously provide for all believers who ask in faith (Mt 7:7; Pr 2:1-13) and believe when you ask and do not doubt (James 1:6). True faith produces people who are stable, looking only to God for the wisdom needed, knowing that He will respond (James 4:8).

With this said, brothers and sisters when you find yourself lost for understanding during a trial, remember all true Christians are engaged in a very real spiritual battle between two opposing kingdoms. The good news is if you stand firm in faith and clothe yourself with Jesus Christ (Rom 13:14; Gal 3:27) then you are protected by the only person the devil has never defeated. All we have to do is put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17) and rest assured that He will fight the devil on your behalf. If you do so, I here and now promise you victory in due time because "we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us" (Rom 8:37)!

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world . . ." (2 Cor 10:4)

In Christ's love,

- Blake Dempsey

Hello Church,

I pray you are all growing in your walk of faith with Christ this month. This article is written to glorify God and to express to any unforgiving hearts true forgiveness is only possible through Jesus Christ who gives you hope, just yield your heart to the Holy Spirit. I am a christian prisoner in a tough environment where respect is highly demanded and being humble is an almost unheard of virtue of character and His love of Christ is hardly expressed. I want to give a little background on this situation so as you read the letter I wrote you'll understand better of my unlearned writing skills what I was trying to accomplish. Express true heartfelt forgiveness even though being deliberately wronged. This guy I'll call John met me at another prison so we kinda knew each other I'd lent him money but he left without paying so I ran into him at our new place and I'd given my life to Jesus and shared my new life with him even trying to share the joy I'd begun to have. We at current are in a single cell 23 and I so our interaction is limited. I told him I forgive that old debt and shared how I'ld lost my family due to my addiction and was down to my last penny when I made this current canteen order you know just shooting the breeze. I was raised an evil tough guy so I don't look or fit in easily as christian but John noticed the change.

In my past I would inflict violence on anyone disrespecting me. I've always been an un-forgiver till I gave my life to Christ and asked Jesus to control every area of my life to instill love within me. I was a hater and if you wronged me I as out for blood. I didn't forgive or love no one, but myself. I was uncaring never gave my family any time or concern always me and drugs. However, when I gave my life to Jesus things began to change. I've written one testimony thus far of how I came to Christ this being my first real test to love above all else and humbly forgive John. You all know the Bible is our instruction manual and we are to love God and obey His words, showing us how to live. In my new life I am taught to help and give or even loan to someone that it may help them. We are also taught to love our neighbor even to trust their words not to be negative or assuming, discerning yes. So we received our canteen and yes it's kinda a celebration day because it's special food, "sweets" yeah. This being my last money it was special to me also in that way. Well, John soon began asking for a small loan which I agreed too, now remember this simple story is about the glory of Jesus being shown through a formerly insolent man full of pride and violence. So over a four hour period I was asked for small loans equaling just six noodle soups but the key is these are now my last for my order was small. I trusted his word in love of Jesus and felt I was helping him out. Now when the next day to begin payment he refused and deliberately avoided me making it known among our small group that he was blatantly disrespecting me by going against his word.

I initially started to make a negative remark toward him but I was held back by the Spirit. This then lapsed into a week and I noticed he was making other deals paying his debts. Then I never said any other words for I felt he was deliberately denying me because I was known as a christian, but since we spend 23+1 in our cells I wrote him a kind letter expressing my

forgiveness in earnest and said I'd let him decide how to handle our situation. Later on he was out of his cell and walking back and forth through my area not saying a word, ignoring me so I finally called him to my door and expressed my life in Christ and I truly forgave him at that time he said when we make store again I'm gonna pay you and it was left at that. I said thank you. On store day I casually observed him paying others debts owed but not a word of payment. Since others knew I was owed and not getting it I was further feeling slighted my old self feeling disrespected like weak, Apostle Paul says forgive just as God in Christ forgave you (Eph 4:32) I considered love and harmony among my fellow men worth more than the \$2.50 in items however I was being tested what was gonna show old self or new spirit led self. So, I had a lot of emotional thought's and words to share in the love of Jesus this I felt was a learning experience to show God's love. I felt many times before this letter I wrote him am I learning from all my reading and study was I listening while my mentor and I talked and shared the word as we sleep diagonally across from each other a bonus when it's very loud and he's always handy with an answer to a question. During all this I was applying scripture that I could call to mind and I honestly felt my heart at peace. I felt humbled over this issue my pride was not flared up feeling disrespected for this was about the love of God and even being wronged I knew I must love him regardless in order to win him, war solves nothing on the salvation side. Love is pure, Love is trusting, love protects, love perseveres (1 Cor 13:6-7) It continued to humble me and I was led to write again to witness and share my feelings of honest forgiveness, but I did have a few things to express especially that he must consider me weak because I was christian.

The Lord says do unto others as you'd have them do unto you (Luke 6:31) The Apostle James says count it all joy when your faith is tested for it produces perseverance maturing and completing you. (James 2:17) I am so excited today to have come out victorious on this in my heart, and glorified God and His word. The life Jesus lived qualified Him to die the death He died and the death He died qualifies me to receive the life He lived. In all things it's about obeying the word of God literally trusting it to be the best possible way and walking in the spirit so that you do not satisfy the flesh. (Gal 5:16) It's also about love keeping no account of wrongs (1 Cor 13:5) Apostle Paul really turned it up when he wrote 1 Cor Chapter 13 on love. I believe that's my favorite passage of scripture. I pray sharing this simple story and experience will show how the love of God can transform even the vilest mean, uncaring, unloving proud man. Apostle James says don't merely listen to the word, but do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Lord but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at their face in a mirror and after looking at himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like (James 1:21) So after much thought I began writing him a letter of testimony asking him to look to scripture for a better way.

My letter to John, my fellow inmate;

John,

May God bring you peace in your heart I wrote you before and told you I forgive you for deliberately using me to obtain noodles. It seems to me you feel because I've given my life to Christ and won't act in any negative way about it you will just forget your word. You told me you had extra and I believed you. It's like at Marshall Co. you left owing me and gave me a fake

green dot and I forgave that. My point is you can pay everyone else but not me I don't have money anymore and I gave you my last and because I thought you were honest. I trusted you. I won't act out about it but you should look at what's righteous. I never got out on you only showed you realness. I see you pay people everyday but it's like I'm nobody. I gave you my last six noodles so that shows how I think of you. I pray for your peace. I say look into scripture and see what is righteous. I love God and I'm not gonna give you nothing but love in Christ. If you choose to pay me back I'll let your heart decided. Like I said, I forgive you because God in Christ forgave me (Matt. 6:14) Jesus said pray for those who get over on you purposefully (Luke 6:27-36) Read these verses this is not about demanding my due this is truly about what is righteous. You know it'd be different if you didn't pay no one but you've got a moral conscience because you do so it shows. It seems like because I'm Christian you'd of paid me since I see you pay everyone else. I wrote you and told you about (1 Cor 13) that love is everything it covers a multitude of sins. I used to be evil, mean, wicked and nasty doing what ever. People know you owe me and see you disrespect me by not paying me even G.F. Squared up with me. I am witnessing to you outta the word of God to show you the better way. I don't say any of this in a negative way this is just talking about what is righteous. The Bible speaks totally against wickedness saying it is ears are away from the wicked. (Prov 15:29) I write to further express how I've changed to give God the glory, exalting the Lord Jesus Christ by exhibiting love and forgiveness. You see His Spirit dwells within me and I'm being renewed day by day.(1 Cor 6:19) Jesus rewards righteousness and heaps up over flowing His blessings to those who love their neighbor and His law is within their heart. I've always been like do unto thers as you'd have them do unto you, even in my old sinful days of evil and doing drugs. I've always felt even in my sin God looked upon me for loving my neighbor granted I did not show it at all times but I've always tried to be righteous. I just wanted you to know I send forgiveness your way and just ask that you look up thse verses that shows a better way. I'm being disrespected but God says to humble myself. So I must and I admit I am very humble in this situation. This situation has enabled me to be tested and show my devotion to God for He says forgive and love all mankind. I try to show love to all people and do not want to have negative feelings toward anyone. I try more so now to treat others right. I hope this letter means something to you cause it's about being righteous and to live in harmony with all men if at all possible (Romans 12:16) Not repay evil for evil. (Romans 12:17) I wish nothing but good for you and know I got nothing but the love of God for you, because that's who's living within me. May this letter enlighten your eves of understanding to feel to do right to all people and look to the Bible as a guide to a better way. I witness to you about my life how I've changed not talking about being a tough guy to show morality. And sure, I could say I'll do this or that or I would adone this or that. I say the encouraging things of God's love and be the encourager that I am in Christ Jesus showing you God's way. Peace I leave with you and tell you God loves you and waits for you to yield your heart to Him in living upright.

Have a great day and know God is the best way even if you start small and make some of His laws your laws. Be kool and know God's eyes are upon the righteous. I encourage you to praise God and give just a little of yourself to Him in obeying His word, Roger.

Through all this I truly felt the love of Jesus pouring from within my heart. He responded in a positive manner and did express sorrow and gave his only noodle to me. I felt that alone was victory in Jesus especially how I was able to walk through it all in harmony of scripture and the Holy Spirit leading my way. I, before Christ, was never capable of this. Thirty eight years, of hatred, selfishness and drug abuse which eventually crushed my families heart's to abandon me. My prayer is that God will continue to be glorified in all areas of my life and that this simple story will reveal to my readers the power of our mighty King, we graciously serve, who transforms even the most evil of men. Love knocks down all walls of stone around an obedient heart such as the desperately wicked cold heart of un-forgiveness. I once possessed. Jesus said seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all else will be added to you. (Matt 6:33-34). Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly nor stands in the path of sinners nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night, he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water that brings forth fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so they are like chaff that is driven away by the wind therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment nor sinners seated in the congregation for the Lord knows the way of the righteous but the way of the ungodly shall perish (Psalms 1:1-6) Thank you for allowing me to exalt and honor Jesus Christ the only righteous one that ever walked this earth.

> In Christ Jesus whom I dearly love, Roger White