

ROCK OF AGES MINISTRIES

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"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

Justification by faith is the only source of true peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are offered forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God. The quality of our Christian life is a by-product of how well we comprehend biblical justification – ***"Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow."***

Bitter Waters Made Sweet

D_ was one of the bitterest people I have ever encountered. If you could only say one good thing about her, it would be that she was consistent. She was the same every time I was around her – bitter and complaining about everything and everybody. When I would try to give her some biblical advice or counseling, she would become upset because I did not want to hear every little detail of her latest altercation. I am sure D_ did not understand how negative and one-sided she was in her view of life.

A few weeks ago, I was visiting on her unit and noticed that she was unusually calm. Her tone of voice was softer and her face reflected a peace that I had never seen in her before. She wanted to talk with me. Before, this would have been a tirade of bitterness including complaining and contempt. Instead, she began by saying, *"I got saved [a few days ago]...in my room."* She added that she now understands that everything is not *"against her"* and there are better ways to deal with problems. I saw and heard a different person! It reminded me of Moses at the bitter waters of Marah. He cast a tree into the waters that made them sweet. The tree represents the cross. For D_, the cross

turned her bitterness into sweet salvation! Thank God for the Cross!

Brother Jeff

The bi-weekly prayer service I do with the staff at the prison hospital continues to be very popular. We actually need a bigger space! Jeff was one of my "regulars" and a member of our nursing staff. He was a great encouragement to me and supported me in every way he could. Often, after our Staff Prayer Services, Jeff would stay behind and talk with me. During one of those conversations, he gave me his salvation testimony.

Only a few months later, Debbie and I were in Tennessee for our annual Rock of Ages Chaplain's Retreat when we received a message that Jeff had died suddenly at home. He was only forty-nine years old with a wife and two children. Our staff was devastated.

When we visited the family, I was made aware that Jeff was a wonderful husband, son, father and friend. Due to unusual circumstances, Jeff's family asked me if I would do his funeral service. I gladly agreed.

God has given us an unusual ministry with great opportunities. Thank you for your much-needed prayers and support.

Your Missionaries to Prison,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve and Debbie Greene'.

Steve and Debbie Greene

(Isa. 1:18; 61:1)

II Cor. 4:5 "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord;"