

G I V E
T H A N K S



“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story – those He redeemed from the hand of the foe, those He gathered from the lands...Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle...Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains, because they rebelled against God’s commands and despised the plans of the Most High.”

– Psalm 107:1-5, 10-11

The men pictured above are those brought to Dunklin by the Lord and are currently in the regeneration program. These few verses accentuate the reality of not only what has transpired in these men’s lives, but some of ours as well. If we have been redeemed, then we have plenty to be grateful for. It is always a good time to give thanks to Him. Stop for a moment and remember where you were before the Lord’s redemption. What transpired? What were the events that led up to you being gathered by Him? When was the last time you took the opportunity to tell your story and to proclaim the Lord’s goodness?

We were lost, wandering in wastelands. This may not have been through alcoholism or addiction, but all of us have a story of straying away and being adrift. Some of us did find ourselves in utter darkness, suffering in self-imposed chains of bondage. True freedom evaded us as we recklessly divulged in the ‘things of the world.’ Our hearts hardened and we rebelled against Him and His commands. We despised the things of the Lord and the nose of hopelessness tightened. The breath of life diminished and as David highlights, ‘our lives ebbed away.’ Let us not forget where we were and the amazing rescue that occurred by His grace.

Ps 107: 6-7 says, “Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.” Something powerful happens when we

get to a place where there seems like there is no hope and no way out. We cry out! The most heartfelt, sincere prayers come out of us in these moments. Whenever we find ourselves in the “pit” we put our eyes and our hope on the One who can deliver us. He loves to intervene at this moment. After we have tried other “fixes” and have come up empty, He rescues us. When all seems lost, He has a heart to deliver and reveal the deep love He has for His chosen people. Let me be quick to note how quickly He responds when He hears that sincere appeal. As the ‘Parable of the Prodigal’ notes, the Father runs to us as we turn towards Him. His heart is to embrace, forgive, and love us recklessly.

David goes even further in this chapter to specify the attributes of God and a few outcomes of being gathered, delivered, and brought to a place of refuge:

- “...for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” (v.9)
- “...He broke away their chains...for He breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.” (v14,16)
- “He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave.” (v.20)
- “He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs.” (v.35)
- “...He blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased...” (v.38)

Thanksgiving is upon us. A time to acknowledge the fruits of the harvest and to ‘give thanks’ for all that He has done for us personally, in our families, and within our ministries. The last verse in Psalm 107 reads, “Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.” This is my encouragement to all of us. Despite the adversity and the trials that some of us may be facing, our God is loving and gracious. Contemplate the ‘His wonderful deeds for mankind and His unfailing love.’

We at Dunklin would like to thank Him for all He has done for us. This year has not been without challenges, but He has proven Himself to be more than faithful. Above, you can see that we have close to 60 men in the program. There are another 20 men in training whom are embracing the call to ministry. We believe that each of these men has been redeemed, gathered, and brought here to Dunklin. Jesus Christ has rescued them from the grave, freed them from their chains, and is in the process of healing them.

We are extremely grateful that He has chosen Dunklin to be a city of refuge and that He chooses this place to bring the ‘afflicted’ to. We also want to thank each of you for your faithful, loving support and committed prayers. In this same Psalm, He mentions, “...He increased their families like flocks.” The Dunklin family is widespread and the love that we receive from you is overwhelming. May all of you be blessed this season as you ponder the goodness of God.

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Nick



the CURRENT
NEEDS OF DUNKLIN

- Prayer, prayer, and more prayer!
- Scholarships for men in the program and SLT
- Scholarships for families in Family Development and SLT
- Hotel Room Renovations
- Donations of cars for camp vehicles