

# CHIEF

## MINISTRIES

August 2011

As you read this, you are probably, like myself, in prison somewhere in this world. Most of us are in a prison because we have broken a law of the land, yet I realize, some are unjustly incarcerated. I'm not interested in what you seem to be to those around you, but what you really are within your heart.

Prisons around the world are evil places, where human beings prey on each other in order to gain some sort of advantage or pleasure. I've been approached by every type myself. This can be a hard and unforgiving place. A lot of the time its 'survival by the hardest' and all others are used and abused whether physically or mentally. If you show any weakness, the evil in those around you will become either physically, mentally or verbally violent.

I've felt like David sometimes, hiding from King Saul in a cave – *“When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then you knew my path. In the path where I walk, they have hidden a trap for me (Psalms 142:3).* How many times have you felt overwhelmed within because of continually having to be on your guard where you're at? We try and keep the hard exterior in place, but inside we are sick and tired of the continual watching; so that we don't fall into the trap of those around us just waiting for this to happen. In verse 4 David goes on to say: *“Look to the right and see: there is no one who takes notice of me; no one to care for my soul.”* Where are you seeking refuge from the reality of your life right now? Who acknowledges you as a human being and cares for your soul? The vast majority of prisoners couldn't care less about you, and will use and abuse you as much as they can! Have we not all experienced this? The guards? Most of them see you as a number and treat you as one. To them, you are sub-human, and they let you know that's how they see you. Others couldn't care less one way or the other. And the ones that do treat you as a human being are rare. Maybe you've found a true friend who does this, hold on to that person or better yet be that kind of person.

So where is our refuge? What is our refuge? Is it escaping through books or magazines? Music? Drugs? Working out? Pornography? Through unnatural sexual practices with those around you? In violent TV or sports? In education, college or bible studies, or the latest religious fad or belief? If you've sought “refuge” in any of these (or many others), have you come to the point where you know within your heart that your “refuge” has failed you?

David sought refuge in a cave because he thought hiding would save him from Saul. David learned that his refuge was in reality a prison for his soul and that he couldn't escape by himself. *“Bring me out of prison”* is what he begged! (Psalms 142:7) Paul tells, *he hopes those that are*

*unsaved would come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil having been taken captive by him to do his will (II Timothy 2:26).*

Our refuge is in Jesus Christ! *“I cry to you, O Lord, I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors for they are too strong for me! Bring me out of prison that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal with me bountifully (Psalms 142:5-7). “And there is salvation in no one else. For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).* The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous man runs into it and is safe. If our refuge is not in the Lord Jesus Christ we are not safe!

Recently, I've been bombarded by physical ailments beyond my control. This, after a smear campaign by those calling themselves “Christians”. Well there's a bunch of them around right? Then I was physically attacked and an attempt was made to do me harm. Of course, thankfully, I'm in that place where I know I have to call on the name of the Lord to be safe. And I do, and He's there! I've told several I feel like Paul sometimes, Job at others, but in the end I want my heart to stay like David's. Soft, pliable, caring, full of compassion, a worshiper, a man with a heart like his Father's in heaven! Not just head knowledge, but heart belief and living. I've had to abandon confidence in my own ability to save me or anyone else! Having faith in the only one who can save. Is my refuge in something other than Him? Not anymore! It's why He came! *To preach deliverance to the captives, to set at liberty those that are oppressed (Luke 4:18).* And this is why we can say with David to the Lord – “Bring my soul out of prison!”

Amen and Amen.

To those who have found and will find a refuge!

Peace,

**Chief**

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) coming soon [www.chiefshouse.org](http://www.chiefshouse.org)*

*Christ's*

*Heart*

*In*

*Every*

*Felon*