

# Mighty to Save ministries

*Offering hope and new beginnings to young adults who want to be free from addictions by providing mentoring, discipling and transition assistance.*

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## Terminal Illness Visit

In late July, I received a telephone call from an inmate at Mission Creek Correctional Facility. This young lady, Nicole, had been given my number by a fellow inmate.

Nicole's mother, Cynthia, was very sick, under hospice care; and Nicole was asking for help in trying to get a Death Bed visit with her. Nicole wanted one last chance to see her mother face to face. These situations always touch our hearts here at MtSM. Losing a loved one is always difficult; but losing someone while you are incarcerated, I believe, intensifies the loss.

In order to do a Death Bed or Funeral Outing, there are things that need to be confirmed. First, relationship. Nicole had to prove that Cynthia is her mom. Thankfully, Washington state is an open state, meaning anyone can order a Birth Certificate, even if it is not their own. Supplied with the necessary information, I was able to order Nicole's Birth Certificate online.

Of course, one of the biggest hurdles in an outing is the cost. The inmate is completely responsible for this expense. Included in this charge, is the salary for

two DOC officers to accompany the inmate, along with paying for mileage. Our first quote from DOC was about \$450.00.

After ordering Nicole's Birth Certificate, I sent out an email to our prayer support team asking if anyone was willing to contribute to Nicole's outing. Because we have the BEST supporters, EVER, we received pledges for Nicole to attend, totally \$425.00. WOW, we were very excited, but the story does not end there. No, that would be entirely too easy.

Before Nicole could be allowed to go, her counselor had to verify her mother's illness. Due to the privacy laws, this took time, weeks, to confirm. Finally, it was confirmed and we were making progress.

Birth Certificate - check  
Mother's sickness verified - check  
Money - we were working on it, but by this time the price had changed from \$450 to \$699.20. God is so faithful and good! During this time frame, we received a random check in the mail for \$500.00! Yay, God!

Nicole's counselor sent everything to the superintendent's desk for its final

approval. As you can imagine, Nicole was on pins and needles, waiting. She'd been in contact with family and her mom has been in the hospital and out of the hospital and back in the hospital. It was an emotional roller-coaster.

With bated breath, we waited; and then the call. Her visit was denied. The powers that be thought it would be too emotionally hard for Nicole to make this trip. Nicole refused to give up though; and she made an appeal. She did a mental health evaluation with her counselor and continued to pray and to hope and trust in God.

Finally it came, six-weeks after the initial call, they had reconsidered; and Nicole was approved to go.

When this call came through, I was on vacation with my hubby up near Mt Baker with very limited cell coverage or internet. As Van and I drove up to Mt Baker, we were able to get cell coverage. I called Nicole's counselor, confirmed the cost, and then called our Board Treasurer, asking if she could please go to the Bank to get the money order and then drive it to the local DOC office to pay for Nicole to go.

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She graciously agreed and with that, hubby and I continued on our drive to Baker intending to do a little hiking about.

Of course, I am sure you realize, there is again, more to the story.

As we were hiking up this beautiful trail, my phone began to buzz. I had a voice mail message. We were back to spotty cell coverage, so it didn't ring, but went straight to voice mail. I was able to listen to the message, it was from Nicole's counselor, letting me know the cost had had been miscalculated and was now \$885.71! What? Are you kidding me? How could that be? What do we do now? Nicole was counting on us. How do we tell her no? Could we really let \$186.51 keep her from seeing her mother?

Immediately, I tried calling our treasurer, knowing she was on her way to make the payment to DOC. With phone to ear, I am trying to call—nothing--no coverage. I am walking in circles, "hello?", "hello?", "Can you hear me now?", lifting the cell towards the sun, somehow hoping that would help, getting weird stares from other hikers that said, "What are you doing on your phone up here?" "Crazy lady." Eventually I was able to reach our treasurer, she was literally sitting in the parking lot of DOC when I called. In spite of the erratic cell coverage, we made the decision to spend the extra money so Nicole could go. We had after all been blessed with the extra gift of \$500. God knew all along that we were going to need it.

The following day, the full payment was made. Now it was up to DOC to make sure she would make her visit.

Two weeks later, Nicole was able to visit her mom. Here is what Nicole wrote upon her return from the visit...

*I finally got to go, it was so amazing. Even though she looked so frail, she looked so beautiful to me. I got to spend 2 hrs. with her and it was the best 2 hrs. I've ever spent in my life. My son, by chance showed up there, crazy how the Lord works, my two best friends, I*

*couldn't have asked for more. He only stayed for a few minutes.*



Nicole (center) with her Mother (L) and Son (R)

*I am so forever grateful for you and your ministries for allowing me the best memory in my life. Of course I have learned to give all glory to our FOREVER WONDERFUL LOVING GOD, because without HIM, none of this would of happened. Thank you so very much and thank you for your act of humanity to me (who is just another inmate or convict to a lot of people) but to you a friend in CHRIST; and I will always continue your kindness in every way I can by giving myself back when someone needs help. Don't get me wrong I have always tried to be a kind person, it just feels different now since someone outside of my family, a complete stranger, has shown me kindness. Please continue to pray for my mom, Cynthia, and son, Vincent, healing in their own special way.*

*Forever grateful,*

*Nicole ...friend in CHRIST*

At the time of this writing, Nicole's mother is still with us. Praise the Lord! Thank you for your continued prayers for this family and for this ministry.

It is because of your generosity, your kindness and your prayers that we are able to continue to love and support inmates like Nicole.

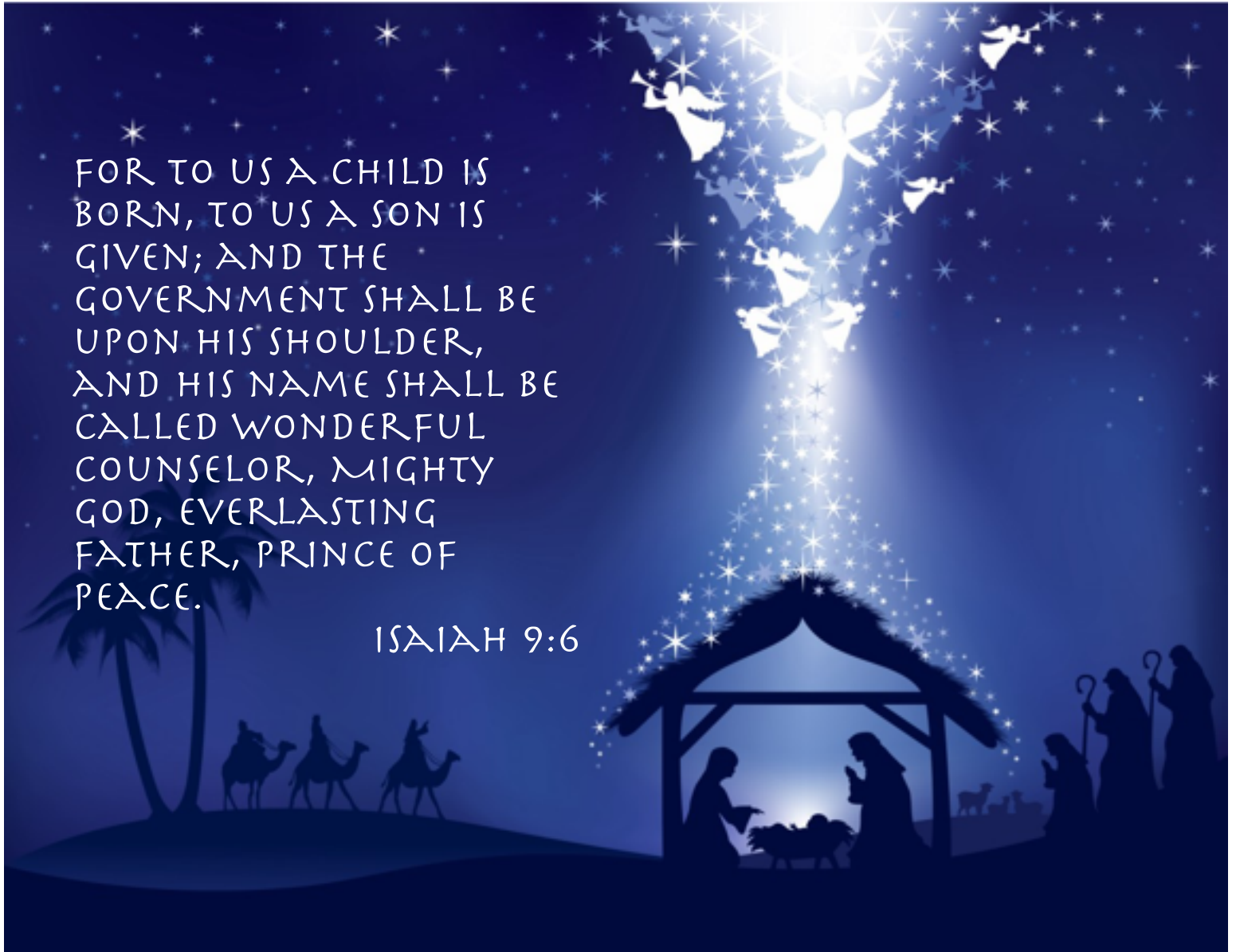
*Matthew 9:12-13*

*12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.'"*



FOR TO US A CHILD IS  
BORN, TO US A SON IS  
GIVEN; AND THE  
GOVERNMENT SHALL BE  
UPON HIS SHOULDER,  
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE  
CALLED WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR, MIGHTY  
GOD, EVERLASTING  
FATHER, PRINCE OF  
PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6



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### To Donate

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### Contact Us

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## Join the Team

**Prayer:** Your prayers are powerful and effective! If you would like to join

our team of Mighty to Save Ministries Prayer Warriors, please send an

email to: [prayer@mightytosaveministries.org](mailto:prayer@mightytosaveministries.org)

**Financial Support:** Please consider MtSM in your monthly giving. You can

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