



# Compassion

2022 - Third Quarter

## When the Son Sets You Free

For the better part of two decades, *Jake* has been longing to be free – free from the “demons” and guilt that he has been carrying around with him since his last tour of duty. Whether *Jake* is suffering from clinical PTSD or not, I cannot say. What I can tell you, however, is that his attempts to find peace in a bottle proved unsuccessful. Not only was his quest for peace unsuccessful, it also ended up costing him his family, his business and ultimately his physical freedom. At one point, *Jake* became so desperate, he put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger –

the gun misfired. The LORD had other plans for *Jake*.

I first met *Jake* in a Bible class at the county jail when his life was just beginning to spin out of control. For most of the decade that followed, his life continued its downward spiral, and his drinking eventually landed him in prison. We met again a few years back when he showed up at one of my Bible classes in prison. Since that time, I’ve had the privilege of watching the Holy Spirit set this troubled man free through the study of God’s Word.

When I returned each week for Bible study, *Jake* was typically the first to arrive. As we talked prior to class, he began to confide in me about his struggles: coping with his incarceration, losing contact with his daughter, almost losing sight in one eye and fearing he might eventually become blind. There were also repeated setbacks before the prison’s *Program Review Committee* (PRC determines when an inmate gets reduced to minimum security and moved to another facility).

As *Jake* poured out his heart, I sat and listened, offering words of comfort and encouragement (often from the very section of Scripture we would study that day), reassuring him of God’s love and compassion. As the months passed (and our time together in God’s Word

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## IN THIS ISSUE



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God’s Sight



The Evil I Do Not  
Want to Do



Special Gifts  
& Memorials



**Save the Date:  
2022 Annual  
Meeting is  
Nov. 5**

**If you received  
a pink-colored  
giving envelope,  
it is due to  
supply chain  
shortages.**

# Precious In God's Sight

As a hospital chaplain, I have visited people from numerous Christian denominations and non-Christian belief systems. I have ministered to people of different races, of different cultures, of various sexual preferences, and even several transgender people. As a hospital chaplain, I strive to accept each individual as a fellow human being deserving of dignity, equality, and respect. My faith in Jesus guides me to love them as creations of God, loved by God and redeemed by Jesus. Moreover, Jesus directs us to love these individuals with an unconditional love. Jesus' example is to love them *where they are*, and as *who they are*. Jesus doesn't demand change, he inspires change. Zacchaeus and the woman at the well come to mind as prime examples of how Jesus changed lives by interacting with

people right where they are.

Which brings me to *Ellen*. *Ellen* was in the hospital, and she requested to see a chaplain. I came to her room and sat down to have a conversation with her to see what she needed. She proceeded to spill out all the emotions she had been harboring in her heart for most of her life. She shared deep childhood challenges that continued through her adolescence into adulthood. I sat there for an hour listening to her, holding her hand, and offering up prayers on her behalf. The next day when she was getting discharged, she saw me and said, "There's my friend Chaplain Mark."

There's something you need to know about *Ellen*. *Ellen* is a transgender woman. I tell you that because there is

lot of talk these days about transgenderism. Much of that talk dismisses people like *Ellen* and her lived experience. Some would say that she is just pretending while others would say that she has abandoned her God-given gender. I don't know anything about *Ellen's* physical makeup or anything about her chromosomes. All I know is that there was a person in front of me that day who needed comfort and care. If you ever encounter someone like *Ellen* (or others like her), please don't dismiss them out of hand. Every one of them is a precious soul, created by God, loved by God, and redeemed by Jesus.



by Chaplain  
Mark Wenzel



# The Evil I Do Not Want to Do

*John* is a WELS Member who has been incarcerated for most of his adult life. I first met *John* when he joined our Bible study at the prison to which he had been transferred. While he has been at several prisons at which I do not serve, I now meet with him regularly to study God's Word.

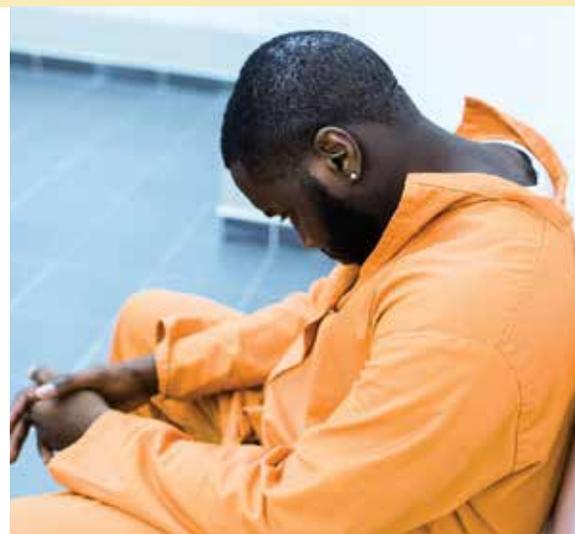
When we met one day, *John* seemed distressed. When I asked if something was bothering him, he answered, "Yes," and asked me, "Pastor, why do I keep on committing the same sins over and over again?" And then he added, "It's like I'm addicted!"

For a few moments, I thought about what *John* had said and then answered his question. I agreed with *John* that sin often seems to be very much like an addiction in a Christian's life. I told *John* that in a spiritual sense he is "addicted" to sin. So am I. The Apostle Paul also confessed the same truth about his life in his letter to the Christian's in Rome, "So I fail to do

the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep on doing" (Romans 7:19 - EHV).

It's sad, but true, for every Christian. All too often, the sin that I don't want to be part of my life is exactly what I do. And even worse, the good that I want to do, I don't do! It's like an addiction. I just go on sinning day after day after day. I can't help myself, but Jesus can (and did). Jesus helped me overcome my "addiction to sin."

I reminded *John* that our loving Father forgives all of our sins for Jesus' sake and gave thanks with him. Because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we stand *not guilty* before our Father in heaven through faith in his Son. With his suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus defeated Satan and shattered sin's hold on us. Now, one day we will be in heaven with our Savior, where we will be forever



by Chaplain  
Charles Ilse

continued), the peace, which God's Spirit had been working all along in *Jake's* heart, began to overflow into more and more aspects of his life.

One week when I visited the prison, *Jake* was the only one to show up for Bible class. We spent much of our time talking (quite candidly) about his spiritual journey, especially over the past several months with all the challenges he's faced in prison. I cannot begin to tell you the joy that was mine as *Jake* began expressing his gratitude towards God for the peace and contentment that he has now found.

What an awesome God we have! Even while *Jake's* physical imprisonment continues, "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, is guarding his heart and his mind in Christ Jesus" (Php. 4:7). It's just as Jesus promised: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36).

Partner with us in this ministry, and together, we will continue sharing God's transcendent peace with the walled-in souls of our communities. Together, we will share the love of Jesus Christ so that *the Son can set them free!*



by Chaplain  
Joseph Radsek





Shining the light of Jesus' love  
on the walled-in souls of our communities!

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Institutional Ministries, Inc.

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## OUR MISSION

*To provide  
direction, comfort,  
and hope by shining  
the light of Jesus'  
love on the walled-in  
souls of our  
communities.*



## Special Gifts & Memorials 4/19/2022 to 7/26/2022

### IN CELEBRATION OF

**Earl Ewert**  
Mrs. Lori Collenburg  
**Lois Seeger's 90th Birthday**  
Ms. Susan Seeger

### IN HONOR OF

**Our 63rd Wedding Anniversary**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bruss  
**Nina & Jerry Glaze**  
Ms. Janet Radue

### IN MEMORY OF

**Allen Krause**  
Mrs. Marilyn Krause  
**Allen Krause**  
Prof. & Mrs. Steven Westphal  
**Arlene Ohland**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rzepka  
**Elaine Kirst**  
**Rev. Arnold Schroeder (Grandpa)**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ric Stuebs  
**Rev. Arthur W Schupmann**  
Ms. Deborah Bradford  
**Barbara Stoegbauer**  
Mr. Duane Stoegbauer  
**Benjamin & Lydia Harbach**  
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**Carol Davidson**  
Mr. Daniel Davidson  
**Charlotte Beaver**  
Rev. & Mrs. Philip Henselin  
**Chloe Gessner**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Jackson  
**Daniel Wolfgramm**  
Rev. & Mrs. Arno Wolfgramm  
**Donald Zuelsdorf**  
Mrs. Gloria Zuelsdorf  
**Rick Schumacher**  
Mrs. Donna Ohrmundt  
**Doris Palubecki**  
Mr. Lawrence Palubecki

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**Gary Berg**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Gary F Campbell**  
**Henry Herrian**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell  
**Ida May Pfaff**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gebert  
**Ida May Pfaff**  
Mr. Duane Pfaff  
**Buzz**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Boisen  
**John Peters**  
Mrs. Janelle Peters  
**Jean Villwock**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Mathwig  
**Rev. Kenneth Lenz**  
Ms. Stephanie Windle  
**Our Parents**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Maas  
**Rev. Leonard Pankow**  
Mrs. Donna Tetzlaff  
**Marilyn Paschen**  
Mr. James Paschen  
**Mark Weber**  
Mrs. Lois Weber  
**Marty Rase**  
**Pastor Roland Welch**  
Mrs. Barbara Welch  
**Murten Hess**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rzepka  
**Betty Stellick**  
Mr. Norman A. Stellick  
**Pastor Norman Madson**  
Mr. Andrew Madson  
**Rev. Orville Maasch**  
Rev. & Mrs. Philip Henselin  
**Otto E Wolff**  
Mrs. Norene Wolff  
**Fredrick Pippo**  
Mrs. Patricia Pippo  
**Phyllis Stall**  
Ms. Patricia Hill

### Ralph Gerner

Mrs. Elaine Gerner  
**Our Daughter, Renee Maas**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Maas  
**Richard Hanamann**  
Mrs. Carole Hanamann  
**Robert F. Maas**  
Ms. Julie DeNicola  
**Rolf Reineck**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Reineck  
**Ronald Suprise**  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Liebrecht  
**Rev. Russel Kobs**  
Mrs. Ruth Kobs  
**Sarah M Suhr**  
Mrs. Maryls Stueber  
**Gilbert Rote**  
Ms. Shirley Rote  
**Sue Ann Hubanks**  
Mr. David Beyer, Sr.  
**Rev. Theodore & Althea Sauer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sauer  
**Pastor Thomas Trapp**  
Mrs. Carol Trapp  
**Wayne Krueger**  
Ms. Kristin Krueger  
**Judi K Buchholz**  
Mr. Willis Buchholz

### IN THANKSGIVING FOR

**Our Family**  
Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Koepsell  
**51 Years of Marriage**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Daubers  
**75 Years of Marriage**  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Fisher  
**Pastor Charlie Iles**  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Iles  
**GOD!**  
Mr. Charles Walbert  
**Our Grandchildren**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blauvelt

### Six Little Great Grandchildren

**& a Little Boy Coming Soon**  
Mrs. Darlene Scheuer  
**God's Many Blessings**  
Mr. & Mrs. Garry Sydow  
**Blessings Received**  
Mrs. Gloria Pellmann  
**65 Years of Marriage**  
Rev. & Mrs. Nathan Retzlaff  
**My Grandchildren**  
Mrs. Sharon Zinke  
**Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ**  
Mr. Steven Nelson  
**Countless Blessings**  
Ms. Sue Miller  
**God's Care**  
Ms. Theora Utke