

August 16, 2011

## The Power of Unity

Hello, Soldiers,

I am very excited to write this message to you. It is hard to believe that 30 days have passed since I joined you. Each day has been incredible and richly rewarding, and has affirmed my feelings that God ordained my journey to Prison Fellowship.

In His awesome providence, God also has assembled a great team in me and Jim. One of the many elements that secures my confidence about the greatness of our team is **our shared commitment for unity— unity in God's Body and unity among us, at Prison Fellowship.**

Unity is one of the most critical factors that will keep us as we travel along this new, but exciting path. **We are called by God to walk in unity of our vision and purposes.**

*"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"- Psalm 133:1*

I hope you share my passion and fervor for the spirit of unity to flood the Ministry, in the field and in Lansdowne. We are called to work and walk together. We all have unique responsibilities, strengths and giftings, yet none of us are sufficient without the whole—we cannot do this great work alone. **It is important that as we co-labor alongside one another that we celebrate one another, encourage one another and respect one another.** That is God's will for all of us.

I want to thank you for welcoming me so warmly. I have enjoyed sitting with you in Lansdowne and in the field learning about your individual, and very valuable, contributions. You have shared myriad great ideas and feedback, all which I have taken note of, but I can say that a common theme has permeated nearly all of my conversations: **you count it a tremendous privilege to work for this great Ministry and bring glory to God as you daily give of yourself.**

During the last 30 days, I traveled to Mississippi, Florida, and Massachusetts to enlist church support for our Angel Tree program, assist our efforts to take the Gospel inside the walls, and to meet our wonderful field staff.

Yes, I have done quite a bit of traveling and I will be traveling a lot during the coming weeks, too. I will be in Fort Worth for an Angel Tree fundraising dinner; Sacramento for an Angel Tree volunteer rally; Los Angeles for a prison event; and NYC for a reentry conference.

I believe there are **exceeding great armies** in America's local

churches (*Ezekiel 37:10*). So, I'm also heading to Memphis to speak to a large group of churches about the **fundamental calling of the local church to transform prisoners' lives, groom evangelists inside the walls and serve their children through Angel Tree**. The local church is the cornerstone of our mission — I covet your prayers as I court churches, and other partners, to help us convert prisoners' hearts and serve their children.

The eyes are a window to the soul. **I see hope in your eyes for what lies ahead for us**. I see that you are looking to the future with great hope and expectation. So am I.

I will tell you more about my travels and updates from the field soon. I will be blogging about my experiences on the PF blog, so please visit me there. Also, I will be hosting a series of department meet-and-greets to get to know you better...I'm very excited about that. You will get information about that soon.

In the meantime, let's continue in our service to impact the states, and the nation, rallying the great work that God has called us to do.

But for the Grace of God,

Garland