



## IF YOU COULD CHANGE THE WORLD. . . .



**If you could change the world with one million dollars, would you do it? And, what would you do to change the world if you had a million dollars to do it?**

As I ponder these questions, I think of times I or someone else (after having witnessed the senseless misuse of money given to those who waste it on things that have only short term value or for selfish gain) utter the thought "If I had a million dollars, I would .....*you fill in the blank.*"

There is more money spent for selfish gain than any other use in the world; and because of that, we have such an enormous poor and homeless population here in this great U.S. of A. But, Jesus did say that "*you will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me – John 12:8.*" Amen, Lord! However, I believe that if we have more of Christ in the world, we will have substantially less poor and homeless. Yet, as the world does its best to exclude and remove Christ from the very fibers of society, poverty is on the rise and our tendency is to "turn a blind eye" and dismiss our responsibility to the poor. There are many promises to those who will remember the poor;

**Proverbs 19:17** says, "*If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord – and He will repay you!*" **Deuteronomy 15:10** says, "*Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.*"

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The words poor and poverty appear 446 times in 384 separate verses in the bible. In several appearances, the Lord speaks a blessing over the poor and a promise of prosperity over those who minister to the poor. Jesus Himself said, "Blessed are the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." God's love and compassion for the poor is expressed in almost every appearance of the word. Consequently, we who are children in Christ should like-mindedly share God's compassion and do whatever we can to prove our love by our deeds.

**1 John 3:18** "My little children let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

As I meditate on the question; **"What would you do to change the world if you had a million dollars to do it?"**

One thing comes to my mind, E321!

Entrepreneur 3\*2\*1 (E321) – a solution for former inmates who cannot find employment due to their criminal background, lack of education and/or work experience.

Since 2011 more prisoners are being released than being admitted. They are coming out to a society that excludes them from the work force and consequently from the process of the betterment of our country. They are excluded from the work force many times because

of their felony record alone and not because of their qualifications. These men and women have paid their debt but are still sentenced to life without equal citizenship, a life of poverty and despair. And the cycle goes on.... Society pays for their incarceration, one way or another! And, we wonder, "How can we stop the misuse of our welfare system?"

Our latest research revealed that the national recidivism rate (return to prison) is over 80 %. *Further research reveals that some states are spending more money on incarceration than on education.* The cost "per day" of operating Michigan prisons is 4.2 million. The average cost to incarcerate one inmate for a year is \$35,000.00+ dollars. When we compare the overall cost across the nation to incarcerate one inmate per year, we spend just as much on incarceration as we do on welfare. Consequently, *we need to provide an innovative job plan that puts the felon and the welfare recipient to work, earning a sustainable income that boosts the economy - "E321."*



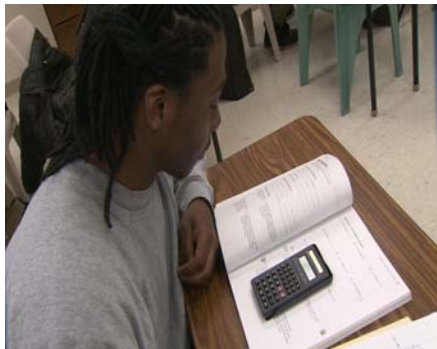
Additionally, as an alternative to incarceration, we could (based on certain criterion) offer "first" offenders a \$35k+ salary to work in society for the first year of their sentence with the possibility of the remainder of their sentence being commuted upon successful completion of the program. If they fail to meet the criteria of the program after a year, then they would go to prison to finish their sentence. Not all felons would qualify for a program such as this, but many of them would. Consequently, if we implemented this program with only 60% of felons we would deposit into the economy "billions" of tax dollars that would have been spent on incarceration and welfare; over time, *the welfare system would become obsolete and the prison population would be reduced substantially, and, crime would decrease proportionally across the nation!*

So, back to the question, **"What would you do to change the world if you had a million dollars to do it?"**

Well, I'd implement E321 immediately and thus create an aggressive job plan/program that provides "job skills" and opportunities for prisoner release, "first time" offenders, welfare candidates, homeless veterans and others.

E321 would provide specialized training during the last three years of the inmates sentencing and the first three

... states are spending more money on incarceration than on education."



years of their release. Additionally, former inmates, welfare candidates, homeless veterans and others who meet the criterion for E321 who are released before the induction of E321 into the prison system will be able to enter into a six year commitment and training.

E321 will produce entrepreneur professionals who will be given financial assistance and support in establishing a business under the management of a board of successful entrepreneur business owners.

With E321 no one would be left behind; after six years of structured training, mentoring, financial planning and assistance and successful completion of the E321 program, the entrepreneur will be ready for future business growth and begin hiring felons and others who did not qualify for E321.

Now, the question I ask is ***“Will you join me in praying “daily” that E321 be funded and implemented?”***

Everything is ready;

The program plan is well documented.

We have a leadership team that is in the prayer closet waiting for the door to open so that they can come out and begin working.

We have “first time” offenders, welfare candidates, homeless veterans and others wanting to get started.

And, above all, we have the blessings, anointing and favor of God.

*To whom can the poor turn when they are persecuted? They lack the money to get professional help; they may be unable to defend themselves. But, there is always someone on their side—the Lord will stand by them and ultimately bring about justice. This should be a comfort for us all. No matter what our situation may be, the Lord is with us. But this truth should also call us to responsibility. As God’s people, we are required to defend the rights of the powerless.*

*Psalms 140:12 – But I know the Lord will help those they persecute; He will give justice to the poor.*



In closing, I took my van into the auto repair shop and bumped into a friend. He told me that he wasn’t in church on Sunday because he was out of town visiting another church with friends. He went on to say that the Church took up an offering to make some repairs of the building. That day, they raised \$50 million in pledges and offerings. Wow! That’s awesome! My first thought was, if God can give \$50 million to repair a building, please Lord give us \$1 million to change the U.S. penal system, repair broken lives & families that come through the system and above all, give us \$1 million in answer to the prayers of the incarcerated Saints who can change our world for the good of the Gospel!

Amen Lord Jesus,

Art

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IF you would like to receive future letters via email, please forward your email address to gburns@eeworks.org.



AUG—OCT 2015	
Aug 14-17	Taping for Spanish EEPM dvd's— Islamorada, FL
Aug 28	Music Ministry at New Hope Baptist Church, -
Sept 5-6	Ministry at Morningside Church Main & West Campuses - Port St. Lucy, FL
Sept 8-14	Prison & church ministry in Florida panhandle
Sept 20	Pulpit service & EE graduation at FCCC - Arcadia, FL
Sept 21-28	EE Headquarters—Arden, NC
Sept 28	Pulpit ministry at Tyger River Prison—Enoree, SC
Oct 10-19	NY Chaplains Conference & NY prison ministry
Nov 3	EE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING