

John Douglas Grange  
Religious Journal

Nov. 17, 2007

This morning I was in Christian Faith Center and Brother Larry called me to preach to the group twice in two weeks. I figure that this would probably be a good time to step into the place I believe God has called me.

I have been moving to this point quite rapidly in recent days, even though I have been looking in the direction of teaching for a couple of years now. When people give me an ear God has always shown me what to say. Now I must get myself under His authority so I can speak from an honest stance.

I am in SDA service right now. I started reading *The Desire of Ages* last night. I just finished up *Patriarch's and Prophets*. I plan to speak on *Brotherly Love* because I'm focusing on the Life of Christ right now and I wholeheartedly believe that is what he attempted to show throughout His earthly life.

I plan to use this religious journal for notes and references as well. I will attempt to put them into context and understanding.

I feel I have been bashed over the head today with some wrongs I have been living, mostly my choice of TV watching. I need to leave TV all together and focus on my studies when I'm in the cell.

Nov. 18, 2007

I finished "The God I Love" today while watching football. I enjoyed the book and it pertained to me even though it was from 1975 and the author was even old for then. He none-the-less was a good man of God.

I am struggling in my prayer life and need to find a solution to it. I think I'm going to switch off between *The Desire of Ages* and my book *Transforming Prayer* and urge myself to try harder and more often with prayer to bring myself into submission to what God wants.

Nov 20, 2007

I am feeling so great! I have been so blessed the last couple of days. Mom is going to make it up for the Thanksgiving dinner in the visiting room. She got better just in time. Aunt Dee Dee and Carol want to send me something for Christmas. I told them no once but God put it on their hearts to send me a gift anyway. It is the best to feel so thought about and cared for.

Tonight Nick and Tyler prayed over me. It put so much conviction in my heart to keep things out of my intake, like the Tudors. Why would I want to sit there for an hour to see sex and murder? I skipped it tonight. I'm done with all these programs that lead me away from where I am going. How could I spend my time with that when there is always more to learn from The Bible and about God? Wasted years. How long have I been saved and I make this decision now? It releases much from me to cast these demons aside. All I can say is thank you God!

Nov 24, 2007

I have been going through it the last few days. If I don't stay in and study, man I tell you the battle begins to wage against me. I want to slip right back into my old cycles. I spent the last two evenings watching TV instead of studying and it has displayed in my attitude and thoughts. What a great object lesson to see the simplest of things drive a wedge between my goals and myself. They were "harmless" shows, but took my time up doing other than what I should have been and I need to be mindful of that all the more now.

Mom and Donna were here today and I need to pray right now for the healing of her leg. Lord I know that she has constant health issues and I just ask that you give her a rest for a time Lord and I will show her the grace that you can place on her in her life. Lord I pray that you help her find the papers that she has misplaced. Lord give her good health so she may find the desire to do the things to get her life in order Lord. Please remove those mental issues that are blocking her from achieving the goals she has set for herself. Lord these things spoken and the silent ones on my heart. Lord may you bless and may they be in your will Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

Nov 28, 2007

I have struggled a lot with my cellie these past few days. I don't know how to control my anger. He is such an ill-mannered person, I just have so much pent up anger and exercise is not enough to relieve it. How can I as a Christian have

so much frustration in this? I know it is my worst sin and yet God has not given me the power for it. I pray right now to let this animosity pass me from and leave my life for good. I pray for love and understanding to overwhelm me in all circumstances that may arise in my life. Please Lord I beg for you to enter my life and take control of my thoughts towards others. This I pray to you in Christ's name, Amen.

Talk for Sabbath Morning: Dec 1, 2007

Luke 10:25-37 go and do likewise

Isaiah 61:1 proclaim liberty to captives

Exodus 23:4-5 23:9 oppress a stranger

Romans 12:9-21 repay, sight of all man overcome good with evil

Essence of Law Deuteronomy 10:12-19 He loves the stranger, therefore love the stranger.

John 15:16-17 I command you that you love one another.

Matthew 22:37-39 You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Christ has shown that our neighbor does not merely mean one of our church or faith to which we belong. Our neighbor is every person who needs our help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by our adversary. Our neighbor is the property of God.

Nov 30, 2007

I am done putting together my talk for tomorrow and am trying not to be mad at my cellie. He is mad because I don't want to talk to him right now. I don't want to constantly be upset with him and don't want to know how to change the circumstances I have with him. He just doesn't understand that senseless talk is worthless to me. Lord help me to be patient with Doug and work some kind of peaceful atmosphere in our lives, so we can both be more comfortable with our surroundings here in prison. You know that peace comes from an easy home life and this cell is the home we have. This I pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Dec 1, 2007

I am not speaking today and fell deep into a service that many ideas against God's word are spoken. Chaplain Wilson from the St. John Baptist Church is here speaking on the eternal soul and all that talk. I have attempted to find for

myself the necessary scripture on this and have fallen short again. Today is the Sabbath, so I will try to get pointing in the right direction at our Adventist service this afternoon. It is a discouragement to me but Minister White, a new man, seems to have a good word and I will try to come to see him.

Dec 2, 2007

I haven't studied much today but I did read a little on my pot. I plan on reading to Peter tonight during lockdown. My cellie wants to watch the same movie he watched last night which for me is actually a great time to get into what I should be concentrating on. Things have been peaceful for me today and I pray it continues through the coming week; II Peter Fruitful Growth in the Faith. 5-11 But also for this reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound then you will be neither barren, nor unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dec 9, 2007

Wayne moved into our pod from H-3 this week and some interesting things happened that I think should defiantly be recorded in this journal. I have really been trying to allow a change of heart to take over so I can stop spending so much time angry and doing and acting the exact opposite of how I want to treat others. Wayne, Drew and I were sitting around fellowshiping and I felt drawn to speak with Wayne about my struggles with anger because he has had a hard time overcoming those feelings himself. I have defiantly turned the corner on my attitude and God is changing my heart and thoughts. I have been banishing my angry thoughts when they arise and have been feeding off thoughts of God's love. I pray this will help me release some or all of the habitual sins I struggle with. After I had a good release with Wayne someone came up and told me he is a S.O. and quite frankly I didn't care. I saw and felt God in his message and the way he is trying to live his life and it is enough for me. It comes down to whether or not someone has the Spirit of God in them or not. The crazy thing was as I explained this to the person that brought me the information he actually understood and didn't hold it against me. I think I set an example that some S.O.'s can change and deserve some credit for overcoming their problems and becoming productive members of God's family. Amen. Let many more experiences come my way that will allow me to grow as much as I have this week.

Dec 14, 2007

So I have made a commitment to be more kind to Doug and to change my attitude in our cell. He needs positive energy in his direction and I should be setting an example. I have been having an easier time lately and I pray it continues. I need to seriously overhaul my life and only God can cause that to happen so I have found myself leaning more and more on Him like I should always be doing. I have the knowledge of faith and I need to apply it to my life. When I let the Spirit guide me and I do or follow what He impresses me to do, my attitude is lightened and I know I am doing right. Why can't I see this in all things and remember what is right? I pray that I cease being blinded by Satan and see things through righteous eyes.