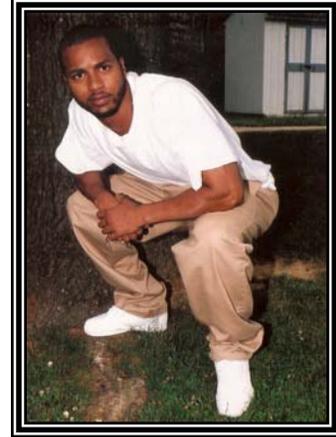




What Carmen Ministries has done for me!

Like many others, I used to go to church on Sundays but, to be honest, I didn't understand what being a true Christian was really about. Most of us get the impression that because we go to church we are saved. Most of the people going to church today are there to make themselves look holy. Others are being misled by their pastors and many read the Bible but just don't understand what is being said in the passages. Matthew 13:14-15 says



“You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”

Most of us are living in the world and for the world at the same time and trying to live a holy life. We can't live for the world and for God at the same time. It's either giving 100% to God or 100% to the world.

When I was reading the Bible and going to church, I thought I knew it all. Then one day I met Tony Wood in Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility. The things he was talking about started to make a lot of sense. The first thing I noticed was that the people at Carmen Ministries were not like those I used to go to church with. Many of those church people didn't have a clue as to what was being talked about. With the weekly Bible Study with Carmen Ministries, it wasn't boring and nobody was falling asleep. Most importantly, the minute I walked into the room, I felt God's presence. Everybody was laughing and everybody got to talk and ask questions. Every week someone would get a chance to talk about a topic - about what they felt or what they had learned. Once you start to teach, you become aware of how much you've grown spiritually. I felt that we were all brothers and Tony Wood was our father. Tony Wood took us on his journey. He explained that everybody has a journey and that it is not easy. He told us that this journey that we are currently on will last until we are in Heaven. I learned that we must test the spirit to distinguish if it's of God or of Satan. I also learned that Satan doesn't want us to



know the truth and that he has no power over us. He can only do to us what we allow him to do.

Today I walk and live amongst many people that believe they are doing the right thing and have good intentions. The reality is that they have been deceived, misled and are confused. This is Satan's plan. When I try to help or guide some people, they say that I think I am better than them. Some listen because I not only speak words of wisdom and knowledge, but I also show them passages to confirm that what I am saying is true. We can't be afraid of what life has in store for us for God did not give us a heart to fear. We are not alone and when we are going through the storm, we have to ask ourselves what God is trying to tell us. My journey is a battle and I'm always walking uphill. Many times I fall, but I always get back up and keep walking. I have God's armor on at all times and am always ready for whatever may present itself. I can honestly say that I have been enlightened by God through Carmen Ministries. The moral to this letter is for you to understand what Carmen Ministries has done for me.

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Love them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will sometimes win false friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Be good anyway. Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway. People need help but many attack you if you try to help. Help anyway. In the final analysis, everything is between you and God. It is never between you and them anyway.

Sincerely,

Erickson Sarita