**Second Quarter Newsletter**

**What We Do at Not Alone Blind Internet Ministry:**

* Provide a weekly devotional podcast message called “You’re Not Alone”
* Provide a Bible study podcast called “Room 4216”
* Serve the 52 Outreach Centers with a newsletter and leadership support
* Provide pastoral care and counseling that comes about from hearing the podcasts
* Raise financial support and awareness for Not Alone Blind Internet Ministry

**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Dave:**

My wife and I have liked antiques since my time at the seminary, when walking through antiques stores gave a break from studies and the busyness of life. As we walked, we talked about the old items and what life was like years ago. Also, being poor students, we appreciated that some antiques were inexpensive.

Our enjoyment of walking, talking and looking at antiques has continued even to today. With a bit of money in pocket, the quest continues. Once we found a Singer treadle sewing machine. We brought it home, rather pleased with our find. Debb’s Grandma was living with us then. She saw it and said, “That old thing. I had one like it, and I threw it away.” What we valued, and paid money for, Grandma had thrown away?!?

We live in a culture of mass-produced toys, cars, beauty products, and they all promise great power and prestige if purchased. How much value do we place on these things? on our houses? our jobs? our material possessions?

Jesus looked around and saw many people rushing about for this or that. He noticed they valued material possessions more than God. This troubled Jesus, and so he spoke these words:

 *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* Matthew 6:26, 33

Did the world value the words of its creator? No. The world did not value Jesus. It discarded him, nailing him to a cross and tossing him in a grave. By this, Jesus paid for our lives, with his innocent suffering and death. We were broken by sin, but Jesus paid the price so he might take us home—home to heaven.

Value is not found in earthly things but in the one who values us and purchased us at great price. This ministry shares that value with people who are blind: Jesus is the one who helps, blesses, forgives, and saves.

**The Ministry Continues to Grow:**

We are able to track how many times our podcasts are downloaded and listened to. It is exciting to know that actual people are listening—and they keep coming back every week! 110+ people listen to the Room 4216 Bible Study every week. 210+ people listen to the “You’re Not Alone” Devotional every week.

**Are You on Facebook?**

If you go to the Facebook website and type in “Dave Andrus” you will find podcasts of “You’re Not Alone” and “Room 4216.” If you ask to be a “friend” you can receive the information and listen or share with others.

**“Room 4216” Bible Study Comments from Listeners:**

“Excellent program and excellent editing. Loved the contrast between Jesus’ serving of His disciples on Thursday evening and the loving service to all mankind on Friday. Love whoever played the penny whistle!”

“Really enjoyed your podcast. I like the new inbox segment. I personally think that James is a really loaded little book. Every line or two holds a new idea, and I think that each deserves some time. I really appreciate that you actually discuss the time and culture in which these words were written. For me, personally, this discussion helps me in applying these words to life in the present tense.”

**“You’re Not Alone” Devotional Podcast** **Comments from Listeners:**

“Hi, Pastor Dave. I really can relate to this message! I feel alone a lot. I’ve been left standing many times. What if this person dies or gets hurt or just forgets or just gets tired of me—how will I get home? I’ve had sighted friends walk away from me for no reason, and that hurts. I am so glad to know Jesus will never leave me or forsake me! I honestly don’t know what I’d do without Him! He’s my best friend! I love Him so much, and I love your messages! You really do help me a lot! May God bless and keep you!”

**Blind Outreach Center Update:**

From the Cary, North Carolina Outreach Center sighted leader:

“I just would like to let you know that I enjoy reading your monthly newsletters and loved your devotion for Lent. We used it last night at our meal, and I also just now read it to one of our members who is homebound due to illness. Thank you so much! Blessings on your Holy Week and Easter!

**Pastoral Care:**

Last month, I mentioned that as the ministry grows, so will the need for pastoral care. This is true in any local congregation. When God’s Word is shared, it touches hearts and changes lives. I also shared that I was serving a blind person who was dying of cancer, who did not have a church, who connected with me because of the “You’re Not Alone” podcast. In that she lived in St. Louis, I was able to visit her weekly. At the beginning of my visits, she didn’t know Jesus very well. But after four months of visits, she came to know the Lord. She lost her battle with cancer, but she won the battle of faith and went home to heaven, to Jesus’ waiting arms.

Please consider partnering with “Not Alone” Blind Internet Ministry to provide hope and restore comfort to those who are blind. If you would like to support this ministry, please donate via PayPal at the website link below or send a check to this address:

Blind Ministry

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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<http://not-alone.net>