large illegal landing fields and several drug laboratories were destroyed, and more than \$280,000 was confiscated and returned to the National Bank. But a high official was not happy. With fabricated charges, he was able to get the courts to sentence David to sixteen years in prison, ending November 19, 2011. (Later, David discovered that this official had some arrangements with the drug lords.)

An international coalition spearheaded by Open Doors International interceded on David's behalf. It was to no avail. Many prayers were offered on David's behalf. As difficult as his ordeal was, though, David found good in his prison experience: "Prison is where I really searched for God, because He is the Master of my life, and it was there where I came to know Him in His true dimension. I learned to pray for real."

Then, in 2000, President Fujimori fled from Peru. With the new government, David's sentence was commuted, and he was finally released from prison on November 19, 2003.

Today, David serves the Lord in Peru. His desire is to reach others for Christ, especially those in the armed forces. And through David's military friends, he has now been given an opportunity to place God's Word, .. in the hands of all the soldiers in the Peruvian army.

Father, give us strength to make righteous choices, even when it would be easier and more profitable—in the world's eyes—to do the wrong thing. Remind us that when we suffer loss that you have a good plan for our lives.



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Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

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Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, <u>relax</u>, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a <u>cuppa</u> after church.

* <u>a Kid's Church and creche</u> is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket.** Please ask for details.

Because of Righteousness

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

Peru, South America's third largest country, is besieged by political upheaval. Though touted to have the second most powerful armed forces in South America, the last several years have seen its army struggling to return to its right objectives, corrupted by the lure of easy money from drug traffickers.

David de Vinatea, selected as one of the ten best infantry Special Forces officers, was

sent into the jungle to fight against guerrillas and drug dealers in 1994. The first thing he did on arrival at his command post was to put a sign on his office door that read "God rules this base." When the brigade general later visited, he told David to take it down, saying, "In this army, I rule!"

Seven months into David's tour of duty, forty drug dealers were arrested, six



Never a Victim



In the Scriptures we find four life-sustaining truths that will transform my experience from victim to victor:

1. God's ______ for me is unchanging, Romans 8:31-32, 35-39

(1 John 4:10) "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (John 15:13) ""Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

(Jeremiah 31:3) "The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."



2. God's purpose for me is _____, Romans 8:28-29

(Jeremiah 29:11) "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

(Colossians 1:28) "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." (*Ephesians 4:13*) "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"

(2 Corinthians 3:18) "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

3. God's word to me is the _____ I ____

(Deuteronomy 30:11) ""For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for vou. nor is it far off."

(Deuteronomy 30:14-16) ""But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. [15] "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, [16] "in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess."

(2 Peter 1:3-4) "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, *{4} by which have been given to us* exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."



(2 Timothy 3:16-17) "All Scripture is

given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."



4. God's for me is sufficient,

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10) "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. {10} Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." (Hebrews 4:15-16) "For we do not have a High Priest who

cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

