

By Anthony LAUGA, slm reporter

he husband and wife duo of Randy and Elizabeth Davenport with *Red Life Ministries* came to Dixon Correctional Institute on January 24, to worship with offenders in the *Nancy Ree Foreman Freedom Chapel*. The morning church service started with Randy, a gospel singer and songwriter, strumming his guitar and singing original Christian songs. Between tunes, Randy offered personal insight into his own life with Christ and voiced positive reinforcement to the large number of offenders in attendance.

"Jesus is good news!" exclaimed Randy Davenport and then asked, "He came to give us life, didn't he? The old devil wants to kill us. Wants to destroy us. And, wants to ruin our lives." After a couple of more songs, he described an accident where he fell off a roof and suffered major injuries when he hit the ground thirty-feet below. "When God is with you, even in spite of the troubles, it's no big deal. If I would have left at that point I would have been alright with going to Heaven," professed Randy Davenport. "But then again, I'm kind of glad we put that off because I wouldn't have been able to come and see you guys."

He continued, "It's wonderful to know that you are ready to go in case something like that happens. We don't want to go without knowing we are ready to go." He closed with one last word of advice, "Life is like a coin, you can spend it anyway you want to, but you can only spend it once."

Randy then introduced his wife, Elizabeth, and the crowd reacted to Mrs. Davenport's lively energy as she shouted, "Is anybody loving Jesus in the house? Let's give it up for King Jesus!"

Elizabeth began her sermon asking, "Isn't it awesome to be in the family of God? There is no family, like the family of God. I've got a lot of wonderful brothers that I'm looking at. I'm proud to be with you all." She recited *John 4:1*, and told the congregation of medium and minimum-custody offenders, "God is looking for people who get real with him and when you get real with God, God will get real with you." Her message was strong - not just in her words - but in her manner as well. She kept the crowd's attention throughout the service. She continued by reading *John 8:12* and proclaimed, "God says, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. I am so glad that Jesus brought me out of darkness into this marvelous light!" She gave praise for having her faith and gave God all the credit for things in her life. It was a strong and profound message that left the offenders more resound in their Christian faith.

The Davenports said they hope to return to Dixon Correctional Institute with the Richard Coss Ministry in April 2016.



Randy and Elizabeth Davenport Founders of Red Life Ministries