

ROCK OF AGES MINISTRIES

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord." II Corinthians 4:5

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April News Report

Today I ran across this story of brave men that fought for Nero. As I read the words I thought about the faithful men and women that go weekly into the battle for Jesus Christ here in our prisons and jails in Michigan. Thank you all for what you do. Here is that story. I hope that it will encourage each of us to keep on keeping on for the cause of Christ and not let the bathroom controversy slow us down.

"40 Wrestlers for Thee o Christ"

In the days of the Roman Emperor Nero, there was a band of soldiers known as the "Emperor's Wrestlers". These were fine men, picked from the best and bravest of the land. They upheld the Emperors name against all challengers. Before each contest in the Amphitheater, they would stand before the Emperor and sing. "We the wrestlers, wrestle for thee, O Emperor, to win for thee the victory, and from thee, the Victor's Crown".

When the Roman army was sent to fight in a far away land, there were no finer than these. They were lead by a man named; Vespasian. One day news reached Nero that many of his men had accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour so he sent word to Vespasian which said; "If there are any among your men that admit to faith in Jesus Christ, they must die".

The decree was received in the dead of Winter while they were all camped on the shore of a frozen lake. Vespasian called the men to order and read the decree and asked; "Are there any among you that claim to be Christians, if so, let them step forward". These 40 wrestlers instantly stepped forward, saluted and stood at attention. Vespasian was shocked. He had not expected so many, nor such a select group of his men. He then decided to give them until sundown to reconsider.

At sundown the question was asked again and again the 40 men stepped forward. He pleaded with them to reconsider their position but to no avail. So the decree had to be carried out. Not willing that his own men should shed their blood, he commanded that they march out to the center of the lake and be left there to the elements.

So, the 40 men were stripped and falling into columns of four, they marched out on the lake. As they marched they sang the chant that they had sung in the arena but with these words; "40 Wrestlers for Thee o Christ, to win from thee the Victor's Crown"

Through the long hours of the night Vespasian stood by his campfire and watched and listened. While he waited, the chant became weaker and weaker. As morning drew near, one of the 40 men crept to the campfire at Vespasian's feet and renounced the Lord. Faintly but clean, you could hear the men as they sang; "39 Wrestlers for thee O Christ, to win from thee the Victor's Crown. Vespasian looked at the man at his feet and then all at once, he removed his clothing and began to march to the center of the lake singing; "40 Wrestlers for thee O Christ, to win from thee the Victor's Crown.

The results for the month of April were as follows; Inmates in Attendance-__ 782 __

Inmates receiving Christ-__126 __

Thank you all for your faithfulness, prayers and support, enabling us to continue the work of the Lord. God bless.

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