

The KGB's Most Wanted

Part 2: Wage Love on Everyone Always

Discuss your “mission for this week.”

This week's mission:

Perform a “random act of kindness” for someone in law-enforcement.

- **Bake cookies, cakes, other treats and drop them off at their local headquarters.**
- **Give them notes or cards of appreciation. If you have kids, have them draw a picture and/or write a note that you can mail or hand to an officer you see (who is not actively engaged in a law enforcement activity.)**
- **Local law enforcement agencies include local municipal police departments (Santa Barbara, Goleta, Montecito), County Sheriff, and State Patrol.**
- **IMPORTANT: Avoid approaching an officer while they are engaged in a law enforcement activity.**

Who has completed their mission for this week? What happened?

What most impressed you about Joseph Bondarenko? ...about his testimony? ...about his life and experiences?

Joseph Bondarenko could have been let out of prison and reunited with his family at any time provided he was willing to renounce his faith. Why didn't he?

Have you ever been criticized, mocked or otherwise persecuted for your faith?

If you were arrested for being a Christian, what evidence would there be to convict you?

Read Romans 12:9-21, which could be considered a partial list of evidences of a Christian life. As you read it make note of what phrase most *inspires* you, and what phrase most *challenges* you.

“Your love must be real. Hate what is evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves. Do not be lazy but work hard, serving the Lord with all your heart. Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times. Share with God's people who need help. Bring strangers in need into your homes. Wish good for those who harm you; wish them well and do not curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and be sad with those who are sad. Live in peace with each other. Do not be proud, but make friends with those who seem unimportant. Do

not think how smart you are. If someone does wrong to you, do not pay him back by doing wrong to him. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. Do your best to live in peace with everyone. My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you, but wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: "I will punish those who do wrong; I will repay them," says the Lord. But you should do this: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. Doing this will be like pouring burning coals on his head." Do not let evil defeat you, but defeat evil by doing good." Romans 12:9–21 (NCV)

Which phrase(s) most *inspires* you, and which phrase(s) most *challenges* you?

Have you ever "*wished good for someone who harmed you?*"

In what ways can you live out the instruction "*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink*" besides (or in addition to) buying them lunch and a beer?

READ Luke 6:27-37

"To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously. "Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that. "I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind. "Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier." Luke 6:27–37 (The Message)

How can your enemy "*bring out the best in you?*"

Has someone ever considered you their enemy? How did they treat you? How did you respond?

Why does Jesus *really* want us to love people who treat us poorly, take advantage of us, or hurt us in some way?