

APRIL 2022



The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Some time back, an inmate wrote to us for literature because he was “struggling to find freedom on the *inside*.” He at last had come to realize that the greater snares of life are not the enticements of the *outside world*; nor were they the prison walls or iron bars that kept him locked away from its allurements. But they were “*on the inside*” of his heart.

If our hearts do not beat for Christ, then every beat is simply a silent echo of its emptiness.

Although life in prison is sometimes “brutal,” it is not the physical body whose suffering knows no relief. It is the emptiness of the *spirit within* anyone who is separated from God.

It was because of his inner pain which knew no relief that the inmate asked for literature to help him “*find peace within*” — *the peace that comes only from knowing, personally, the Son of God.*

The beloved disciple John could not have said it more clearly:

“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12,13

The Son has come; the promise has been given; the power is available to all who believe in His name.

Today, we live in a world that has little, if any, true knowledge of the Prince of Peace. And what will tomorrow be like?

The emptiness of hearts today is as vast as the mighty oceans. And the waves which once were stayed by the hand of God now threaten to overcome even the shores as He withdraws His hand of power and leaves the world alone.

Only the righteous will live by faith (Heb. 10:38); and only they—you and I—are a beacon in the darkness to the lost.

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For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Psalm 22:24

How do you answer someone who asks you how they can come to know Jesus? Truly, Jesus has answered it for you. Here's what He said to tell these inmates *in His own Words* (right boxes)—

"I'm in jail for a real bad choice. Being here inside of this place has made me learn about how simple and beautiful life is. . . . If you can, please send me a copy of I'm Gonna Bury You. I really enjoy reading stories of people in this world when it's about Jesus. I know God made me turn myself in to jail because He's trying to save my life. I don't know when I'm gonna be back in the free world. But I will keep learning how to live in a good way, to me, to God and to anyone else too. Thank you for sending literature to people who really need it!!"

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

Another inmate writes because he, too, has a great need; and he read about us on one of our calendars. And Christ, as always, is the answer to all his needs—

"I'm writing because I received your calendar and read the invitation to inquire about free books and Bibles. . . . I would like to receive these as well as any Bible studies you may offer. . . . Thank you for your time. I am patiently awaiting your reply."

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. . . . Whoever believes in me, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' This he said about the Spirit whom those who believed in him were to receive." John 7:37-39

There's no place like prison for God to get your attention. Ask Gene when you see him; he'll be happy to tell you again! Smile. . . .

"I have just started reading the Bible to become closer to God and to learn more about Him. If I could receive a copy of your book

I would appreciate it. Please and thank you."

It's interesting how often people say they would "like to get closer to God." (See letter below.) Yet the Bible (Acts 17:27) tells us that though we should seek Him, in the hope that we might find him, "he is actually not far from each one of us." We do our best to make sure each prisoner comes to know that. Their lives depend upon it. . . .

"To whom it may concern. I would like to receive the book I'm going to bury you. And anything else that will bring me closer to God. Please and thank you. . . ."

Two women, both in the same jail, wrote together asking for books and bibles, saving a much-needed stamp—

"Hi, I am writing for myself and another inmate. We are both incarcerated at the East Jail. We would love to receive books and bibles please. My cellmate would like a Spanish translation if possible. We truly appreciate what you do."

“... . Oh God, be gracious to me. My soul takes refuge in you; And in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by.”
Psalm 57:1

I loved the way this next convict began his letter to us—

“I am so thankful God sat me down and stopped me from the life I was living and put me back under His wing. I dream of being a laborer for Him. I’ve been born again to a New Life by accepting Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I am growing with God every day as well as being obedient and getting to know my Savior through His Word, and I want to learn more. To help myself and others come to know just how great God is, and how much He can and will do for them as He did for me. I have written to ask you for a bible, a concordance, a dictionary and a commentary to further my studies. This means so much to me. Thank you for all your help.”

He is concerned for his cellmate as well as himself. A good “sign” —

“. . . I would like to ask for a Spanish study bible, if that could be possible. I am a Christian, but in here in this jail there is nothing to follow the Word of God. Thank you very much for listening to what I need. God bless you and your ministries and please pray for my cell partner.”

There’s been no need for Gene’s book (I’m Gonna Bury You) in Spanish these last few years. Requests for it (Te Voy A Enterrar) stopped coming in about the time we moved. But they’ve suddenly started again. How the inmates know about Te Voy A Enterrar (I’m Gonna Bury You) I do not know. There must be a few old copies floating around the prisons and jails. In any event, we’re now

substituting Spanish/English dictionaries, New Testaments and bibles in Spanish and a few of the other Spanish language materials we’ve been able to find (including articles on getting baptized for one chaplain who says his inmates know nothing about it)! But this inmate writes:

“Hello. . . I wrote you asking for Te Voy A Enterrar but you sent it in English and I was trying to get it in Spanish. You also sent the N.T. in Spanish. Thank you so much for that. It’s a different version from one I have, but this one is easier to read. I’m grateful for that. . . .”

“When the Holy Spirit wrote the epistles through Peter and Paul and the rest, . . . He made them so universally applicable that every Christian who reads them today in any part of the world, in any language. . . says, “This was addressed to me. The Holy Spirit had me in mind. This is not antiquated and dated. This is the living Truth for me—now! It is just as though God had just heard of my trouble and is speaking to me to help me in the time of my distress.”
A. W. Tozer

In some areas there seem to be plenty of Bibles. In others, like this next Texas prison, none are available. Wherever there are gaps, we’re happy to fill them!—

“I am writing to you to ask if you can help me with a Bible. . . . I’m trying to get closer to our Father God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. But I don’t have anything to read. If you can help me, I’ll appreciate it a lot. . . .”

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. . . . For Christ did not please himself, but it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.’” Rom. 15:1-3

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

It’s been a wonderful month! Even more chap-

lains than usual have asked for and received Bibles and miscellaneous Christian literature for their Chapel libraries and the inmates. This chaplain—whose prison has over a thousand inmates AND a hospice center within the facility—writes:

“I’ll take everything you have. We have nothing on hand except some New Testaments. . . .”

The Chaplain at an even bigger institution didn’t want us to leave out anything:

“Send us a little of everything! New Testaments, Christian books. We have 1400 inmates here. We have a use for all you can send.”

But then, there’s one of the largest western prisons in America, which I mentioned in last month’s newsletter. It took almost two months to win approval to send in materials. But all the paperwork was finally submitted and approved, and the books went out and were just received. I know, because when I called to see if they had arrived, “a little bird” told me he had seen some of our large print Bibles (the favorite of all the books we send) on the chaplain’s desk today.

But there’s good news from the chaplain at this “east south central” state, too—

“We’ve gotten all the things you sent and everything is great!”



And the Chaplain at another eastern prison sends this message:

“This email is just to let you know that the books have been received. Thank you so very much!”

Not to be overlooked is this deep South prison. The chaplain here had been retired for several years. But he was brought back to replace the current chaplain who retired without notice. The new chaplain almost seemed to expect my call because he had no trouble providing me with the most detailed list of prisoners’ needs I’ve ever been given. I packed up some of everything we had on hand and got them off to him:

“. . . We are in need of Spanish New Testaments—and hardback books, if they are reference books. And the men could really use commentaries, diaries, journals, softback books and booklets, and even notebook paper if you have any. . . .”

Remember the first words God spoke to Adam in the Bible: “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden of Eden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” Gen. 2:15-17. Short and simple. But though forbidden to even touch the fruit, Eve not only ate, but gave some to Adam “who was with her, and he ate.” Immediately they realized what they had done and attempted to hide their sin and themselves from God by sewing fig leaves together for

loincloths. Such was the moral weakness inherent in every human being from the beginning! Yet even then, God gave a “hint” of the way forgiveness would come. For He took away Adam and Eve’s loincloths of fig leaves, and in their place He personally “. . . made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them” (Gen. 3:21). Garments of skin that required the death of an animal - a shadow of Jesus, who would one day give His own life on the Cross to secure our forgiveness and clothe us in His righteousness.

Now we await the day a new heaven and a new earth will appear. We know it’s coming, for John says, “I saw the holy city new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God . . . and I heard a loud voice saying ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man’ (Rev. 21). And so it shall be – Forever.

But our work on Earth is not finished until we hear the sound of the trumpet and see the Savior descending in all His glory!

For now, we are blessed to be among those whom He has called to be a part of this last great end-time harvest!

“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS AND JAILS INTO WHICH YOU HELPED US
TAKE THE LORD’S GREAT LOVE**

**Saguaro Correctional Facility, Elon, ARIZONA
S.C.I. Greene, Waynesburg, PENNSYLVANIA
Federal Correctional Institution, Ashland, KENTUCKY
North Control Unit, Calico Rock, ARKANSAS
Ouachita River Unit, Malvern, ARKANSAS
Denton County Jail, Denton, TEXAS
Mesa County Sheriff’s Office, Grand Junction, COLORADO
Jefferson County Jail, Pine Bluff, ARKANSAS
Graceville Correctional Facility, Graceville, FLORIDA
Ocean City Jail, Toms River, NEW JERSEY
Ohio Correctional Reception Center, Orient, OHIO
Vandalia Correctional Center, Vandalia, ILLINOIS
West Tennessee State Penitentiary, Henning, TENNESSEE
Central Florida Reception Center, Orlando, FLORIDA
Doral Correctional Facility, Doral, FLORIDA
Zephyrhills Correctional Institute, Zephyrhills, FLORIDA
Michael Unit, Tennessee Colony, TEXAS
Ocala Women’s Facility, Ocala, FLORIDA
Apalachee West Unit, Sneads, FLORIDA
Calhoun Correctional Facility, Blountstown, FLORIDA
Marana Correctional & Treatment Facility, Marana, ARIZONA
U.S.P. Thompson, Thompson, ILLINOIS
Bradley County Jail, Cleveland, TENNESSEE
Knox County Detention Center, Knoxville, TENNESSEE**



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

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- DATED MATERIAL -
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PARAPHRASED OFFERINGS FROM SOME 40 AUTHORS IN *THE SYSTEM STUDY BIBLE*, ORIGINALLY PRINTED 100 YEARS AGO AND NOW OUT OF PRINT:

It is what is in a thing that determines its value. Yet often the invisible is of more worth than the tangible. *“What is it worth?”* generally refers to the estimate of an item’s value in dollars. Money is monarch over a multitude of men. But such an outward appearance of value is delusive, not conclusive. *It is the hidden realm within each man or woman that determines their ultimate value.* A diamond ring does not afford the owner the strength and stability needed to determine his real worth. As beneath the waves or hidden in the mountains, or more recently among the stars, may be found life’s richest treasuries, so also strength and stability are secured by seeking below the surface. Beneath each man’s outer surface lies the true treasury of his life. Bravery, stability, nobility of character are all determined only by time and the battles which life brings to each of us.

“Real glory springs from the silent conquest of ourselves, And without this the conqueror is naught but a slave.”

There is a divine meaning in the existence of all that is. To doubt this is to doubt the wisdom of He by whom all things exist. And there are no duplicates in the work of the Creator, just as there are no two snowflakes which are alike. To each has been assigned a degree of importance distinct from that of any other. Those who having lived and died, whose *“footballs are heard no more,”* may be sure that, having lived in Christ, *“their voices still speak louder than thunder and as unceasingly as the flow of tides or air.”*

Though even the prophets of God were often ignored in their lifetime, they have since become guiding lights to those of us who walk among the perils of this age. ***LIVE SO THAT YOUR LIFE QUIETLY DEMONSTRATES THE POWER OF HE WHO LIVES IN YOU AND TRANSMITS TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER YOU THE LOVE THAT KNOWS NEITHER AGE NOR END.***