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The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

The much talked about total eclipse is passing overhead as I write. I peeked out the living room window minutes ago, but for the most part sporadic clouds are hiding the event and intermittent clouds combined with the eclipse have brought about a peculiar dark eeriness.

Then all of a sudden I remembered it was about this same time of day some 2,000 years ago of which Luke said, "It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. . . ." And as the darkness descended, Jesus was heard crying out with a loud voice, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"

I felt that same unnatural darkness today as I realized we are rushing into a spiritual "darkness," heedless of the warnings that are all around us. For most, today's eclipse is merely an excuse for millions to join the holiday throngs to view a brief celestial event.

Yet only days before He was crucified, in speaking to His

disciples about "the end of the age," Jesus spent the entire 21st chapter of Luke warning them of the signs that would precede His return—including great earthquakes, famines and pestilences, and great signs from heaven, including in sun and moon and stars.

And He warned them—and us—to be watchful and not let earthly snares catch us unawares. Pray for strength to get through these things, He said, so that you can "stand before the Son of Man" - not having to sneak off and hide in some corner when He returns. Because by then, it will be too late. Luke 22:34-36

And then, listen to this: "This will be a time for you to bear testimony." Luke 21:13

We are in the world, but we don't have to be of the world. We can still be "about our Father's business" without allowing ourselves to become "stained" by the world. Nothing puts it better than the book of JUDE—doubtless intentionally placed just before the book of Revelation!

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SOME OF SCRIPTURES BEST ENDTIME PROPHECIES AND YOU HAVEN'T READTHEM IN A WHILE, JESUS NO WHERE TELLS US MORE THAN IN LUKE 21.

Letters like this do my heart good!—

"All glory and praise be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I wrote you the other day requesting a Bible and any books you may have on the Holy Spirit. In response I was sent a book by Jack Hayford. This letter is to give thanks for that wonderful book! I've been sharing it with others also. . . . There are about 50 men in the pod in which I'm housed. Of those, about 30 know Jesus Christ as their Savior. . . . The book I was sent has been a tool I use to help others. Thank you again for the book and your important ministry!"

The devil knows how to set traps for all of us—even grandmothers:

"... I got your address out of the chapel to write and ask you to bless me and my soul with books and a bible, anything to keep me close to Lord Jesus and give me a happy spirit as I know soon this will be over. It's horrible being away from my children and husband and grandchildren and my sweet mother. I pray always for them for God to bless them and keep them safe till I return. It's lonely in prison, not really trusting or wanting to get close to no one except Jesus.... Thank you for letting me send some words your way. I pray for you..."

We're always happy to hear from the same person twice. Or more! It may mean we're "getting through" to someone. Or, more accurately, that God is! And there is no greater blessing—

"Thank you once again for the books you send. They have all been great. I would like to request whatever you can send next. Thank you in advance for whatever you send. I will continue to read, then share them with my fellow inmates."

Praise the Lord! I guess you could say this next man is a bilingual "evangelist!" —

"I would like to receive some books to learn how to get closer to God. If you have any in Spanish it will help, too. That way I can pass them on when I'm done to the inmates that don't know how to speak or read English. Thanks and God bless you!"

We don't just include bookmarks, but we also stamp the books and bibles we send out with a notation that says to write us for more:

"I came across a book with your address and a message that said to write you for books and a Bible. I currently have a Bible but I am interested in the books you may offer as long as they're not hardback. If you are willing to ship a few, I would love to read them and pass them along to my fellow inmates and brothers in Christ. Thank you for your services and God bless The Voice of Triumph."

It's difficult—and often dangerous—for staff and inmates alike who are working or incarcerated in one of their state's newer facilities, yet it is on the verge of closing because the staff is too small for the number of inmates housed there (1700). This prisoner is living in just such a place. With your help, perhaps his fear will be turned to faith:

"... as you can see I am currently incarcerated ... I am in desperate need of your help to know JESUS and His Word more..."

If at first you don't succeed, try again, as they say. This inmate wrote us from one prison, but then was moved, and his first bible went astray. We sent another:

"I know men; and I tell you Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and other religions the distance of infinity."

Napoleon Bonaparte

"I am writing to again request a large print bible. When I was in Florida SFRC the chaplain gave me a card which I sent to you in hopes of receiving the above. I am again sending a request. Please send it to the following, if possible. Thanks in advance...."

The weather map shows the temperatures in Alaska this week range from 26 to 52. I very clearly remember experiencing lows in the *minus* 60's when Gene and our family spent a year and a half there. This inmate is doubtless looking forward to spring:

"Hello brothers and sisters: I am writing from Alaska and I would like to receive a free KJV Holy Bible and free religious books. At our facility we are allowed five softcover books. I would greatly appreciate it! Thank you and God bless!"

While that Alaskan prisoner was writing us, this next inmate was writing us from Florida some 4,600 miles away:

"Hello...I'm doing a 10 year sentence. A friend of mine gave me your address so I can write y'all for a Bible. Will you please send me a Bible and some books...I'm a black male and I'm 40 years old. Please keep me and my family in your prayers and the rest of the world. God bless."

(INDEED THE WORLD NEEDS OUR PRAYERS!)

This prisoner has a grand (but seldom used) Old Testament name. Hoping that

someone in his family knew the Bible well, and perhaps had a meaningful relationship with the Lord, and hoped their son one day would, we sent him a second set of books. He responded:

"Thanks for the books you sent me by Gene Neill, Merlin Carothers and David Wilkerson. They serve as powerful tools to strengthen us in our faith and give us hope that our release is not based on what we were sentenced to serve, but rather, according to the will of God and His purpose. . . . During my first days as the only inmate in the entire Nevada jail I committed my life to serving God 100%. . . . I am absolutely guilty (but) my God holds the keys. He will open the doors when He is ready and has fully prepared me for the work He has for me to do. [Your books] are being passed around a large and growing group of Christians. Great books don't collect dust around here. You have blessed many. . . . "

Everyone I know—including me—has experienced this problem. Putting everything in God's hands and leaving them there. . . .

"Can I please get a copy of I'm Gonna Bury You and a free Bible. Also please pray for me. I'm currently in segregation. Also my EPRD [earliest possible release date] is 8/20/26. I currently have no idea where I'm going to be going. I'm from MI and incarcerated in IN. So the stress this is putting on me is great. I'm letting go and letting God. Which is different for me. Usually I try to be in control of everything. So just please pray for me that my journey ends well. Thank you. God bless. . . . "

**From the wisdom of the world to the wisdom of the ages with the help of the Word: "Strength and honor are her clothing; and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:25,26

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Three large boxes of books

(the post master came out to help me carry them in) went out to this prison. While I was talking to the chaplain after their arrival, he said the boxes were in his office and inmates were coming in taking out books while we were talking. There's "quite a bit of stuff in there." He noted.

I received an early morning call today from a chaplain in Florida. Restrictions on incoming materials have gotten very strict. He needs NKJV bibles, Christian books and blank "composition" books so the inmates can take notes in the various classes he holds for them. But the Administration now requires a Donation Form, which I was happy to prepare and email him to be signed off by the Warden returned to me to attach to the boxes. "Whatever it takes!"

This next chaplain emailed (we've sent him materials before) requesting more bibles and books. I asked if he could also use some notebooks. And he responded, "Ms. Neill, I would love to receive some notebooks as well!" And so off they all went. He didn't waste any time emailing me back a few days later: "Ms. Neill, Items received! The notebooks are exactly what we need!..."

NUGGETS OF GOLD: Remember God told Moses to tell Pharoah "I AM" had sent him? It has taken me years to notice how Jesus similarly responded when Saul asked Him who He was....

IAM JESUS

This chaplain is one of those who makes a real difference. He's a truly busy man, with two prisons under his watch-care. He'll happily take whatever we can send. And thanks to you, approximately 110 pounds of bibles and books are being packed up and ready to go out in tomorrow's mail.

The US detention system is probably the largest in the world. We house more than 2.3 million people in some 6,000 state and federal prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, military prisons, immigration detention facilities, and more. But instead of giving them the food of life, a dozen states are now providing inmates with "free" ipads and tablets. The catch?? The company that is giving them away charges the inmates rental fees for the books, music, games and movies available on iPad. And the prison systems get a part of what the company takes in.

It was 5:30 in the afternoon, and I was surprised to have caught this chaplain still in the office. Some folks aren't happy to be caught at that particular moment. But I quickly told him the purpose of my call and he couldn't have been more cordial....

"Oh, yes ma'm! We need bibles and books. You just caught me going out the door... but we're all the time looking for bibles and good books. This is the Women's Unit.*** We need softbacks." I asked if he might have a little place in the chapel or his desk where he could keep some especially good hardback teaching books to loan out to some of the inmates. I'd already told him we'd been in prison ministry for 50 years, and that's probably why he just chuckled and said, "I believe we might be able to make use of a few of those."

This scripture gives me goose bumps! To think we are actually children of God and joint heirs with His own Son—provided we suffer with Him. (Yes, the promise is provisional. But there is no one born of earthly sod who does not suffer.) We are of poor frame and often lacking in holiness; but it is our suffering and the keeping of our faith in Him through it all by which our eternal destiny is guaranteed to us.

Romans 8:15-17 says, "When we cry, "Abba! Father! It is the Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Remember, even Jesus needed help once in a while. And when He did, He called out "Abba" - the Aramaic word for "Father." Those words are dear to God's heart! And when you and I need help from time to time, and He hears, "Abba! Father!", He remembers Jesus.

Only Believe. . . .

Dorothy and Family

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS TO WHICH YOU HELPED US SEND BIBLES AND BOOKS AGAIN THIS MONTH:

Fishkill Correctional Facility, Beacon, NEW YORK Emanuel Women's Facility, Swainsboro, GEORGIA Cross City Correctional East, Tampa, FLORIDA Potter County Detention Center, Amarillo, TEXAS Lower Buckeye Jail, Buckeye, ARIZONA South Central Corr. Facility, Clifton, TENNESSEE Federal Correctional Facility, Pekin, ILLINOIS Rockville Correctional Facility, Rockville, INDIANA McPherson Women's Unit, Newport, ARKANSAS Saginaw Correctional Facility, Freeland, MICHIGAN Bergen County Jail, Cresskill, NEW JERSEY Oregon Dept. of Corrections, Wilsonville, OREGON Johnson County Jail, Mountain City, TENNESSEE Jefferson County Jail, Rigby, IDAHO Hamilton County Jail, Chattanooga, TENNESSEE Garza East Unit, Beeville, TEXAS Colorado Dept. of Corrections, Denver, COLORADO James River Correctional Facility, NORTH DAKOTA Lew Sterrett Justice Center, Dallas, TEXAS Escambia County Jail, Brewton, ARKANSAS Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA Federal Correctional Complex, Petersburg, VIRGINIA Columbia River Corr. Center, Portland, OREGON Joe Corley Detention Facility, Conroe, TEXAS North Control Unit, Calico Rock, ARKANSAS



A SPECIAL LETTER FROM A CHAPLAIN BEHIND THE WALLS

Dear Dorothy Neill,

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of His love. The Church Behind the Walls here at our Correctional Facility is so thankful and grateful for the bibles and books your ministry has so generously donated. We are so sorry to hear about your desktop computer getting lost in an awful storm . . . And we pray that God will bless you with a new desktop. It's amazing to see God moving through different ministries to serve those who are incarcerated. . . . Matthew 24:36 states, 'Then the king will say to those on his right, 'come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

How wonderful and great is our God that he would take a filthy rag like us, and take us to inherit the kingdom that was prepared for us from the creation of the world. May the LORD continue to richly bless your ministry and all your endeavors.

PEACE & BLESSINGS TO YOU!