

AUGUST 2023



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DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,
THE TRUE MEASURE of a man or woman is directly equal to the extent to which that person glorifies God.

The more the people around us can *see and hear God* in what we say or do, the "greater" our spiritual value.

In anger at the stubbornness of the people around him, Moses struck a rock that God had told him to simply speak to in order to bring water from it. And because of Moses' momentary disobedience he was not allowed to enter the promised land for which he had labored across mountains and deserts and enemy territory for some forty years. But why was that brief moment of disobedience in the life of God's beloved servant so vitally important?

Why? Because if Moses had simply spoken to the rock, the power which caused it to pour forth water would obviously have been God's. Instead, the people thought it was by Moses' power that the rock brought forth water.

AND GOD WAS DENIED THE GLORY HE ALONE WAS DUE BEFORE AN ENTIRE NATION. Numbers 20:5,7-12

If we do what we do by the power of God within us, then we must live in such a way that others see and understand that the power is His - not ours. By this, He is glorified, and not we ourselves.

And this is the purpose of our life. To so live that others see Him through us.

If they do not, it may be that they will miss Him altogether. For who is to say how long it may be (if ever) before someone else comes along in whom the Holy Spirit abides.

GOD does not bestow His gifts on, nor show His power through, the self-important man or woman. EITHER HE WILL BE GLORIFIED IN US, or He will not be there at all.

How important is this? Important enough to keep Moses out of the promised land.

THE ROCK

"YOU keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

"TRUST in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."

Isaiah 26:3,4

THE TIME WILL COME WHEN GOD *“will swallow up death forever; the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth. . . .”* Isaiah 25:8,9 **AMEN! Come Lord Jesus!**

THIS IS THE WAY we would be happy to have all the letters we receive begin—*smile—*

“Voice of Triumph, I would like to have a bible—and all literature possible because I study and faithfully read my bible when I have one. But I’ve been transferred from CCDC as of 5 days ago to here at Smiley. So in the transfer they lost my bible and studies etc. . . . I love God, and anything I can get my hands on to become closer to and learn more about our Lord I welcome into my life. So if you could help me I would so deeply appreciate it. I’m don’t have any money, but if there’s free literature and a bible I’ll be more than glad to take it and thank you so much. . . .”

SHE’s new to the Bible but searching. So were Gene and I once upon a time! —

“Hello, Can you please send me a large print Bible? Also, I’m sort of new to this, and if you have anything else that might help, like a study guide or other literature, I would appreciate it. God bless you. . . .”

There’s “good news and bad news,” as the saying goes. The bad news is that more and more women are being incarcerated. The good news is that more and more women are writing to your VOT for help. Four of the letters on this page are from women.

“Hello, my name is Monique, and I’m at the Women’s Correctional Center. I would love a New King James Bible and books of my Lord and Savior. God bless you all so much. Thank you.”

Someone who is in “Ad Seg” means he’s in Administrative Segregation. Lockdown. Solitary confinement. Sometimes they’re “in the hole,” as it’s also called, because of something they’ve done—or even to protect them from another prisoner. It’s where they put Gene when he entered Springfield Federal Penitentiary. The solitude offers a rare opportunity to get alone with the Lord:

“. . . My name is John. I am in Ad Seg. I found your address and wanted to see if y’all send out any free books to inmates? Or do I have to buy them from you? Please write me back to let me know. Thank you. God Bless. I love reading all Christian books I can get.”

There’s always something new or unexpected in our mailbox. Here’s one of the best examples ever! And yes, we sent her two books and were more than happy to include a lovely colored copy of the Sinner’s Prayer, along with our own prayers for her:

*“I would like to receive I’m Gonna Bury You. I’m new to Christianity, and I’m trying to learn all I can. **If you know the Sinner’s Prayer, can you send it?** Also I truly would like to give myself to Jesus. Thank you.”*

For whatever the reason, personal items such as bibles are often mislaid when a prisoner is transferred:

“I got your address out of a book I was reading. It says you gift books and bibles. As for a bible, I am looking for the NLT Every Man’s Bible. I had it in County (jail) and loved it. It was taken from me during the prison intake process and I have not been able to get another. Thank you for your time. . . .”

▶ **Bibles and books are particularly difficult to come by in jails. Possibly because many jails don't have a full-time chaplain. And no one else on staff is able or perhaps willing to go to the trouble (and expense) of helping provide them. This letter is from yet another woman behind bars:**

"Can I please have a Christian book (from the list below) and a Life Recovery Bible? If not that one, then an easy to understand Bible? God bless you! If none of these books are available, then any other Christian book will be fine."

The most recent of many books we've sent this inmate was returned to us. But he's been in prison so long he knows "the ropes" well enough to get things done. And obviously he doesn't mind undertaking whatever is necessary to accomplish the needed result:

"Dear Voice of Triumph, On 7-17-23 our mailroom rejected the book you mailed to me and stated The Voice of Triumph was not on our approved vendors list. [Note, this in spite of the fact that we've been sending books there for years.] So I not only wrote our deputy warden but included the book you mailed me last month, "Life on the Family Farm." On 7-19-23 the Deputy Warden put The Voice of Triumph on our approved Vendor List. So there will

not be any issues in the future. Only issue now is getting the last book y'all mailed me resent. Thank you for all you do for the inmates."

"Level 4" is maximum security designed for prisoners serving long sentences, or who committed violent crimes or crimes that were gang related. Oddly, this inmate didn't fit into any of these categories:

". . . This is my 1st time being incarcerated. I have 3 years left, and I am in a level 4 prison. Mostly everyone [is doing] life. All of my religious readings got taken from me when I left County Jail. Can I please get a New Living Transition [i.e. Translation] Study Bible. Also can I please get I'm Gonna Bury You . Also, if you have any other reading material please send any and everything you can so I have more educational material. Now also please pray for my family and I, so that everything works out. Thank you and God bless."

He's new in prison and got off "on the wrong foot." But he's trying to get back on track:

"I am in prison at a R.M.C. [reception and

medical center]. I'm sitting in confinement for not following the rules. I was reading a book and out fell a bookmark of yours. And as I read it I saw the books of the bible on one side and a passage from Psalms 118:5,6,21. And at the bottom it says, 'Are you a prisoner? Write to us for free Bibles and Books.' That's why I'm writing. I need a Bible. And any kind of book or Bible Study would be great if possible. I want to thank you for all that you can do."

Yes, the following man and woman are prisoners. But to the heart of God, their words represent what He is hoping to hear from all of us:

"I am interested in a free Bible and books and Bible studies or any resources that will help me study the Word of God and help me grow in my walk with God. . . ."

"My name is Katherine. I would like to receive a NKJ Bible and any study books you may have. I am asking to keep my relationship with our Lord strong. . . ."

“BEHOLD, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trumpet*. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” I Cor. 15:51-52 NKJV

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

FROM ONE END OF AMERICA TO THE OTHER, THE “GOOD NEWS” IS GOING OUT, THANKS TO YOU:

From Middle America, a chaplain writes:

“Thank you so much for the bibles and books that you sent us here at the Regional Unit. God bless. . . .”

And another from nearby:

“We have received the books and they were very much appreciated. . . .”

And from the Southeast --

“Greetings, I would love to receive some Bibles and any of the I’m Gonna Bury You books! Blessings. . . .”

To the Deep South--

“Greetings Ms. Neill, I’m writing to you regarding the Revised Standard Version bibles, requesting a donation to our inmate population. . . .”

And up and over to the Mid-Atlantic Region....

“Dorothy, I wanted to let you know that we did receive the books you sent. Thank you so much for helping us in our ministry this way, and may God keep guiding your important ministry in the lives of those looking to turn their lives around. Thank you!”

We recently sent this facility (one of the state’s largest) a shipment of bibles and books. The Chaplain graciously replied,

“I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the donation of books. . . . This has allowed us to significantly increase the number of religious materials available to the inmates.”

This chaplain is relatively new but his email was a particular blessing. . .

“Dear Dorothy, It was a pleasure talking to you the other day. . . . I appreciate your willingness and time and expense that you went through to send the giant package to me!! I received them yesterday afternoon. What a blessing! I look forward to having the inmates use this material! I pray God’s continual blessings on you and your family!! God’s love and peace to you. Thanks so much for your love and care!”

“AS IT IS WRITTEN --

‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

Romans 9:33

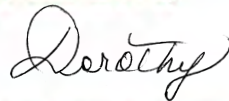
PRISONERS DON’T WANT to live in a purposeless void between birth and death. As often as not, they simply do not know there truly is some place – Someone – to whom they can go to fill that void. They fail to realize - as we out here in the so-called free world too often do - that there is a single Rock they can pick up and throw at the "giants" in their life that have imprisoned them. And be forever free.

REMEMBER GOLIATH, the Philistine giant who fought against the armies of Israel? He came covered in bronze, armed with a javelin, a spear, a sword, a swaggering stance, and a mouthful of boastful words. And doubtless a bunch of notches in his belt. Notches earned not solely by his great might, but because of *the fear* the sight of him injected into his opponents (I Sam. 17).

Then came a single teenage boy named David, with nothing but the realization of *the power of the Name of the Lord*. David didn't "strategize;" he simply picked up a stone for his sling, ran "quickly" toward the battle line to meet the Philistine, and slung the stone at the giant. And because the blow from the stone was delivered by the power of the WORD of God, the giant fell.

This is what we strive every day to do with your help. Provide the prisoners bound by Satan with Bibles and books - the "weapons" of our war they need to victoriously wage the same battles God's children in ages before us have waged and run by faith in His Name. *Thank you and God bless you!*

In His Love,



The Neill Family

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS TO WHICH YOU HELPED SEND BIBLES AND BOOKS AND OTHER CHRISTIAN MATERIALS THIS MONTH

**David Wade Correctional Center, Homer, LOUISIANA
Lopez State Jail, Edinburg, TEXAS
Holmes Correctional Center, Bonifay, FLORIDA
Delta Regional Unit, Dermott, ARKANSAS
Crossroads Correctional Center, Shelby, MONTANA
Stillwater Correctional Center, Bayport, MINNESOTA
Lynchburg Adult Detention Center, Lynchburg, VIRGINIA
Northwest Correctional Complex, Tiptonville, TENNESSEE
McPherson Unit, Newport, ARKANSAS
Ellis Unit, Huntsville, TEXAS
Cullman County Detention Center, Cullman, ALABAMA
Florida State Prison, Raiford, FLORIDA
Suffolk Correctional Center, Riverhead, NEW YORK
Bledsoe Correctional Center, Pikeville, TENNESSEE
Michael Unit, Tennessee Colony, TEXAS
Florence McClure Women's Correctional Facility, Las Vegas, NEVADA
Yell County Jail, Danville, ARKANSAS
Middleton Unit, Abilene, TEXAS
Morgan County Correctional Center, Wartburg, TENNESSEE
Women's Diagnostic and Correctional Center, Vandalia, MISSOURI**



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

Post Office Box 177
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~ DATED MATERIAL ~
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DON'T LOOK AT THE STORM

AHAB was the 7th king of the northern kingdom of Israel (874 - 853 B.C.). It was his wife Jezebel who instituted Baal worship and at one point sought Elijah's life. But this is about the time Ben-ha-dad, king of Syria, besieged Samaria, Israel's capital, and sent word to Ahab: *"Your silver and gold are mine; your fairest wives and children are also mine."* Now I'd like to tell you Ahab said, *"Over my dead body; the Lord He is God!"* But that's not what Ahab said. Instead, he answered, *"As you say, my lord . . . I am yours and all that I have."*

AHAB looked at circumstances instead of to the Lord. Ever do that? *Me, too.* But God eagerly waits to show His might on our behalf. *The Bible says so over and over.* Yet too often we capitulate to circumstances, denying our Father His desire to pull us up out of whatever body of miry clay is pulling us down at the moment. *We sink, just like Peter did, instead of walking on water.*

GENE was in circumstances of his own making and facing a likely life-long prison sentence. With no place else to go, he called out to God. And God answered. *Boy, did He answer!* And two years later He opened the prison doors.

WHATEVER your own unfortunate circumstances, trust God. He will go with you and open the doors to whatever "prison" holds you bound and lift you up in joy and victory.

Isaiah 41:13