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DEAR FRIENDS,

Many times you have heard me say something about Jesus being the light of the world. As you all know, it's one of the most common "themes" of the Bible. Genesis begins with the fact that there was no light in the world. Darkness and chaos ruled the fathomless depths; the earth was without form and void. And though the sun and the moon were not created until Genesis 1:14, God's first recorded words were, "Let there be light, and there was light" (Gen. 1:3).

How could this be? The "secret" of course was Jesus, existing long before He walked among us. Listen to what John says, not once, but twice, "In the beginning was the Word. . . He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him. . . . In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

And while He walked among us, Jesus also declared, "I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 12:35-37

But as once the light illuminated the hearts of men, so now the light is preparing to leave our world. Before Jesus left His disciples, He warned, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light . . ." John 12:35-37

Following His ascension, His disciples went about spreading the Good News of the Light that had come into the world. This was the period of time when the light was with them for "just a little while longer."

Today sin has begun to hide the Light. (Or perhaps Light has hidden itself from sin.) Even now the horizon is darkening. The world is returning to its first state. While there is still time, it is up to us to continue telling others, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, . . . and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

THE NEXT TIME one of you Christian brothers thinks about arguing with your wife, first remember this: *the only person to ever win an argument with Jesus was a woman!*

Mark 7:24-30

SMILE!

I have learned over the years that it is fruitless to argue with anyone about God. Those who “won’t” believe will simply turn a deaf ear no matter what you say. As one Christian professor put it, “Arguing about God is as useless as pointing a flashlight toward the sky to see if the sun is shining.” But for the willing, like this prisoner, your help offers them an open door to heaven:

“My name is Holly. I am currently serving two years. I was writing to see if you could send me any bible studies, books, bibles, anything you may offer. I love to read the Word and do studies. Looking forward to hearing from you. Bless you! And do you have any addresses to other places I can write for books? Thank you.”

This was a “first.” He requested a book I’m not familiar with. But we made up for it by sending him three others:

“Hello, Do you have the book Habits of a Loving Heart by Willard Tate? If you do can you send it to me please. If you want to send other helpful things I’d be grateful. I’m in jail. Thank you!”

God sent His son to reach His wayward people Israel. But they crucified and buried Him. And even though He rose again, He only stuck around for a short time. But it was long enough for a single book to be written (we call it the Bible). And it changed the world:

“I received your address on a bookmark from my chaplain’s office. I wanted to see what you all offer, do, or can you get inmates a Messianic Jewish Bible, and what books do you send to inmates? Thank you and God bless.”

He’s serious about his studies! This should take him a long way:

“I found out about your ministry from a fellow inmate here. I’d like to obtain a copy of the 3-in-1 Bible Guide: Dictionary, Concordance and Atlas, please. Thank you for your ministry!”

We had what he asked for, and more—thanks to you. I picked out an easy-to-read study bible and sent it on:

“To whom it may concern. Please send me a Bible. If you have a study bible or an easy read that would be amazing. God bless. Love. . . .”

I chuckled at this letter. At least it was the Bible that won out over Gene’s and Merlin’s books. No shame there! Smile:

“I got the books you sent me, the book on the bible was the best. I read Prison to Praise & Power in Praise, both good books. I read another called I’m Gonna Bury you. It was good as well. I was wondering if you had any more books. If so may I get some please and thank you.”

Nations want to rule the world. So they send out armies and aircraft and tanks and ballistic missiles. God sent out 12 men armed with nothing except the Good News and changed the world:

“I am an inmate. . . . I received your contact information in our Chapel Library. I would be interested in receiving Christian books. My interests are Biblical Interpretation, Theology, End Times, Church History. Thank you for all that you do.”

“It is the image of God reflected in you that so enrages hell. It is at this demons hurl their mightiest weapons.” Gurnall

“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Behold, we did not know this,’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?” Proverbs 24:10-12

As we’ve mentioned in the past, we have had several chaplains request school type composition books for inmates to take notes in their bible classes. Apparently, this chaplain ran out of them because we had two inmates request them personally this month. Here’s one:

“I’m an inmate in Florida. I would like to ask for a free bible and Christian books. Also I don’t know if you can or not, but I’m allowed one free composition book. But if not, God bless you for what you do give. I’m allowed four items altogether....”

This was a very honest, straight-forward letter of request. We were very happy to be of help with his participation in the Faith Based program. . . .

“I am currently serving a 5 year sentence. My charge is family violence. I was recently selected to participate in the faith based dorm program. I’m learning a lot in here. I have found myself with a lot of questions due to not knowing the Bible or God. I have a very deep conviction about that. I’m just really getting to know the God that created me. I am requesting a pocket dictionary or whatever resources you can assist me with to better help me in my journey getting to know Jesus and God. Thank you so much and God bless. . . .”

Gene had to go to prison to learn the value of this single book. How happy it makes us to be able to provide the one book in all the world that’s needed most:

“I heard that if I write you and ask you for a nice Holy Bible that you would send me

one for free. I would love to have a really nice Bible that is really easy to read because I can’t read all that well. So if you could help me out with this I would be so happy. I thank you so much. P.S. If you got other things you can send me, I would love that. I need all the reading things I can get so I can learn more about my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . . .”

Of course, we sent him what he asked for, plus another of our favorite books:

“I was writing to see if you could send me a copy of that I’m Gonna Bury You book you publish. Another inmate told me about the book. I welcome whatever you can send. Thank you so much!”

I’ve seen the inside of many prisons. Chaplains were usually careful to steer us to the chapel by an outside route, but once in a while our course took us indoors, past rooms filled with dozens of inmates milling around, with nothing to do—and nothing that is theirs except their bunks. *And maybe what bibles and books you provide. . . .*

“Will you all send me some Christian material, books and studies that’s available to inmates please. Thanks and God bless.”

This woman’s request arrived on a post card. Young and immature; she had pasted tiny sticker flowers and a smiley face on it, and signed her name beside a hand drawn heart. Her crime: fentanyl—

. . . “Hello, May I please get your free book I’m Gonna Bury You. I would greatly appreciate having some Christian reading material to strengthen my relationship with Christ....”

Proverbs 30:5 says, “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” “True” in this verse is “tsaruf” in Hebrew, and it means “flawless. Free from error or imperfections. Proven true.” Believers who put their trust in Him are assured that God—His Word—is utterly trustworthy. Think about that.

CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

Man cannot, with brick and mortar and his own wisdom, create stairsteps to heaven. The builders of Babel gave it a go and failed – forcing them to disperse over the face of the earth, as God intended (Gen. 11:8). Out of godly wisdom this next chaplain is using the bibles and books you sent to try and “*enamor the spiritual enlightenment of God’s Great Son within the inmates.*”

“On behalf of the Chaplaincy Staff and residents, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of Bibles and Books that you so graciously gave to our prison system. It is because of contributions like yours that enable us to make Christ a tangible presence to the men here. Certainly all of us are the embodiment of Christ’s Church regardless of where we are in this world. Your support goes a long way in the Chaplaincy program here which otherwise would not be as effective or all encompassing. We are trying to enamor the Units spiritual enlightenment of our God’s Great Son who also was a divine giver to the world. . . .”

None of us is the same. But the Bibles and books we send all carry within them the spirit of Almighty God, and He never changes:

“I have received your last shipment of books. Thank you very much! The inmates will appreciate them.”

We’ve not only been able to send Bibles and general Christian literature to the

inmates through this next chaplain; but we’ve also worked with her to provide materials for minors in a special section:

“Good morning, we received your box on Saturday. Thank you so much for your donations. God bless. . . .”

This chaplain is one of the busiest—and best—in America. The last time we heard from him, he was preparing to take 20 inmates to a local church! The Warden has to really trust a chaplain to let him walk out the door with a bunch of convicts! Here’s his email comments on our recent donation:

“You betcha {we received your donation}. Would love to receive more. Thanks so much. I started reading your husband’s book.”

It takes a certain kind of person to be able to do what some of these chaplains do. This next chaplain watches over a constant turnover of 1,000 men. Most are pre-trial. Some are in the Medical Unit. Many are in lockdowns. Issues flare up. There are more fights than in most prisons. So some inmates have to be kept separate from others. There’s a half way house for a few. And the chaplain who is responsible for all this is 80 years old! Boy, are we happy to send him bibles and books to occupy the prisoners’ minds and souls!!

Yet another very special chaplain called us yesterday. His prison is also a receiving center. New prisoners enter here, are classified, and shipped on, usually within a month. When I asked what they could use, he said, “We could definitely take bibles. And if you are ever looking for a place to deposit other books, then send them our way.” They’ll be on their way tomorrow, thanks to you!

There are some very good reports in the news media across America this month. Maybe you've heard some of it. The New York Times says, "*Sales of Bibles are booming, fueled by first time buyers. . . .*" Another news media reported that Bible sales rose 22 per cent in October 2024! Did that have something to do with the November election???? And the CEO of "Hallow," a Catholic Christian app said, "*It feels like a real revival is happening. I felt it in my own life. I had fallen away from my faith and came back to it, which is why we started Hallow. . . .*"

And Lee Greenwood, famous for the very special song, "*God Bless the USA,*" commented earlier this month, "*The pendulum has swung, I sense a revival in America.*"

Only God knows the times and the seasons that are still ahead. But I thank Him for the positive things I am hearing. *I truly pray they are an opportunity we use wisely and for His glory. May God in His great mercy grant us the wisdom to use well this brief respite in the inevitable march toward Armageddon.*

GOD BLESS YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE,

DOROTHY & FAMILY

***"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psalms 23:5***

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN REACHING INTO PRISONS AND JAILS
AROUND AMERICA WITH THE GOSPEL IN THIS NEW YEAR**

**Lerdo Maximum Correctional Center, Bakersfield, CALIFORNIA
Rockview Correctional Center, Bellefonte, PENNSYLVANIA
Northwest Correctional Complex, Tiptonville, TENNESSEE
Arkansas Department of Corrections, Dermott, ARKANSAS
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville, OREGON
New Castle Correctional Center, New Castle, INDIANA
Chester Correctional Center, St. Petersburg, FLORIDA
East Arkansas Regional Unit, Marianna, ARKANSAS
Jackson Correctional Institution, Malone, FLORIDA
Beaufort Correctional Center, SOUTH CAROLINA
Anchorage Correctional Center, ALASKA
Wallace Unit, Colorado City, TEXAS
Desoto Annex, Arcadia, FLORIDA
Varner Unit, Grady, ARKANSAS
Ely State Prison, Ely, NEVADA
Bibb Correctional, Brent, ALABAMA
Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA
Federal Correctional Institution, Milan, MICHIGAN
Macomb Correctional Facility, Lenox Township., MICHIGAN
James River Correctional Center, Jamestown, NORTH DAKOTA
Clinton County Correctional Facility, McElhattan, PENNSYLVANIA**

PROPHECY: BIBLE SCHOLARS estimate 300 to 350 Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus Christ's birth, *life*, death, and resurrection. Here's one possibility

THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF AMOS, likely written between 760-750 B.C., is one of the first prophetic books of the Bible. Amos—who came from a town *south of Jerusalem*—wasn't happy about his being called to warn northern Israel: “*But the Lord . . . said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’*” And so Amos went.

ON THE SURFACE, it was a time of political prosperity in Israel. But there was widespread moral decay and little more than ritualistic worship of God. And so along came AMOS to convict Israel of failing to worship the Lord with all their hearts. Their rituals meant nothing to God, the prophet warned. *And severe punishment for their apostasy—clearly set out in four verses—was coming through Assyria. Flight, strength, might, weapons, horses would all be to no avail!* (Amos 2:13-16)

CONSIDER the somewhat odd verse 16. Could God have snuck in a bit of prophecy about Jesus' disciple Mark here?? For Amos says: “*‘And he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day,’ declares the Lord.*”

NOW remember, Mark is the only gospel to record the following event (Mark 14:51-52) Jesus is in the garden on the Mount of Olives with His disciples. He has been betrayed by Judas. Now He is being arrested and taken away by a crowd with swords and clubs. And Mark reports: “*And a young man followed Jesus with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.*”