

The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

"I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK...." Rev. 3:20

Do you hear Him knocking? If so, answer the door! You are being invited on the journey of a lifetime. Say, "Yes, Lord! Wherever you lead I WILL follow!"

And He will pour out a thousand lifetimes of opportunity and peace—and purpose—you never dreamed of before. One author I read recently called it "the journey of discipleship." A better way of living than we have found on our own.

We are no longer "in step" with the world when we determine to follow—truly follow—where He leads. "No turning back; no turning back."

We are giving up nothing when we place Him where He belongs—exalted above us and all our worldly desires.

Let our flesh complain, the child in us whine to return to

some non-existent easy-way-to Heaven.

We are instead opening the door to a wondrous, worshipful, joy-filled life in the Spirit. A place we never knew existed until we submitted ourselves to an eternal, face-to-face relationship with Almighty God.

Our submission to Him—which is our right and proper station in life—does not put us on some "auto pilot" way to Heaven. But it sets us on a course which will never fail us.

This "course" is only for the hungry, but it satisfies as no other craving on earth can.

On the other side of the Cross to which we submit ourselves is a well spring of glory and a place of peace that nothing on earth can take from us. Dying with Christ opens the door to the joy of resurrection...

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." Philippians 3:12

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"YOU
CAN NEVER LEARN
THAT
CHRIST IS
ALL YOU NEED
UNTIL
CHRIST IS ALL
YOU HAVE."

Corrie ten Boom

A prominent Texas pastor recently observed that busyness today left "no time in life to stop and contemplate anything spiritual." I didn't see the whole article so I don't know if that was an explanation or an excuse. Either way, I think we might have trouble explaining it to the Lord. ("No time in life. . . .?" Weren't some folks just complaining about being stuck at home during Covid-19 with nothing to do?) Convicts have an advantage: they don't need Covid to get their attention. Concrete walls and steel doors do that. And some are listening—and eagerly reading—what you help us send them:

"I received 'I'm Gonna Bury You.' I read it and thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you. I was told I could request more books and to specifically request 'Prison to Praise.' But I am very eager to read any books you can send. Thank you for what you do!"

"I want to turn my life over to God. Is there any materials you would be able to send me to help me out? If so, then please do. Thank you for your time. . . . "

Sometimes what they're reading includes a personal letter from us—

"Dorothy, Thank you so much for your response. I am fighting a fed case and will be here for probably a year or 2. I just got done reading 'I'm Gonna Bury You.' It was a blessing for me to read about Gene's story. I was a meth user. But I just want to get back to my kids and never use again. But it's a blessing I'm here in a way because I'm clean [of meth] now and even less depressed, even considering the situation I was in before I came. Thank you so much...."

Praise the Lord, our bookmarks and calendars are getting around:

"... I went to our Chapel Library today and got your address off of one of your bookmarks. And I am requesting the following items if they are available: a Study Bible, a Daily Devotional and a book. God bless vou for all that you do."

Word of mouth is still the best "news carrier" in prison —

"I am a 50+ year old inmate incarcerated in Arkansas. I have a friend here who received

one of your bible dictionaries, and he gave me your address so I could write and ask for one for myself. I am enrolled in a Faith Based Program and am in constant need of a Bible dictionary. I can assure you it will be put to great use if you send me one. Also, any books you can send will be greatly appreciated. . . . Thank you for getting God's Word to inmates. It is a wonderful blessing you provide. Romans 8:28."

Gene once commented—after a man in his cell block committed suicide—that some people find out too late that they iust can't "do" time—

"I'm an inmate in a Federal prison. Today marks 159 days of my incarceration. . . . And every night I pray and beg for my life not to be thrown away. I'm in intense pain, physically and emotionally. Every waking moment feels like being slowly torn apart. My only form of relief is to seek spiritual guidance. Please if you can send any and all literature to my address. I'm so desperate. . . . Thank you for taking the time to read this. I appreciate it!"

"As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." *John 9:4,5*



This inmate keeps us posted on his efforts to "fight" his court cases, while at the same time he stays even busier reading and studying and sharing what we provide:

"Thank you so much for sending me I'm Gonna Bury You! It has given me hope . . . Also thank you for sending it so fast. I need some more Christian literature if vou have more. A pocket testament with Proverbs and Psalms and any Daily Devotional or tracts or testimonials if they are available. A Study Bible would be great for my Bible studies I'm enrolled in. Any Christian literature whatsoever I will pass on to other inmates in my prayer circle I lead. Your help is much appreciated and uplifting to those who don't have the means but only the desire to draw nearer to our Lord Jesus. Thank you for all you do. Please keep me in your prayers...."

For unclear reasons, the prison system is changing its mail system. Some letters and books must be sent to a different address—even a different state—from where the convict is in prison. In other cases, regular letters can go directly to the prisoner, but books must go to a different address and then be forwarded from there on to the inmate. We're trying to keep it all straight:

"I'm writing to see if you can help me with some Bible Studies and any other materials to read. I'm learning about God. I have a Bible. . . . I lost my Mom going on 8 years and my Dad about 5 years ago. My brothers and sisters don't write. . . . And told me don't call. . . . That is okay

because I got God in my life and He keeps me walking the line and tries to keep me out of trouble. Hope to hear back from you. Here is the address...."

It's always our hope that each inmate will pass on the books we send—and so far as we can tell, most do:

"Thank you for the book I'm Gonna Bury You. I donated it to the prison library after I read it. The other one is still going around the Zone. We were wondering if you have any other books or book markers. We are avid readers and appreciate all and any help. I helped start a prayer group Bible study after breakfast every morning, and it is doing well. I have a Know your Bible by Paul Kent. Do you have anything like it. I read from it and we also use the Daily Bread Devotional. As always, pray for us prisoners..."

It's a blessing to see how eager prisoners are for our materials. Books and bibles readily available in stores across America must come from us to the men and women behind bars:

"I was wondering because I seen on a bookmark that you send inmates free bibles and Christian books. If it's possible can you send me one of the books you give. Your recommendation. Whatever you send I will read. Thank you for your time. God bless!"

Even a full sheet of paper can be hard to find in a jail or prison. This inmate had neatly torn a piece of paper in half to write to us:

"I'm indigent of any funds. So can you send me one of your Bibles please from The Voice of Triumph. Thank you. Glory to God!" At His second coming, Christ Jesus returns with power: "Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." Isaiah 40:10

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This state prison—located on some 70 acres—holds over 1500 male inmates in low to high security levels. One of their religious activities coordinators responded to our donations with the following email:

"Hello Dorothy, We received your shipment today! Thank you so much! Perfect and very much appreciated." (2)

The woman who called last month and whom we mentioned in our newsletter (she works at the town jail and pastors a small church) called to "report":

"Your books arrived Saturday. We went into the jail Sunday, so they arrived just in time. God bless you and your ministry!"

Two different states. Two different institutions. But both are prisons for women. Together they house some 1700 prisoners.

Compare that with 1975—47 years ago-about the time Gene got out of prison, when there were only roughly 8,600 women in ALL the state and federal prisons in America combined.

A. Gene personally ministered in the first prison mentioned above during his time here on earth. This week they

will be receiving copies of his autobiography, together with bibles and other books.

B. The second prison is a newer one, built after Gene took his rest in a far better place. But at their request we were happy to be able to also send them books, bibles and New Testaments.

Try talking (simultaneously) to an equally zealous husband/wife prison team on a telephone call! Actually, he's chaplain in a jail with 700 beds, but his similarly enthusiastic wife commented during our three-way conversation, "WE'RE full stride!!" And indeed they are. They love to tell the story of how, early in their ministry, they hosted a young newly-released prisoner and his wife in their home on his first night out of jail. He soon started his own business; and with hard work he eventually became a millionaire. Today he's retired! (Must be nice—ha!)

I remember when the average jail housed 100 or so prisoners. But this next jail, to which we sent books and bibles last weekthanks to you—houses an average of 1,500 a day!! The chaplain (a woman) was more than glad to accept our offer of any and everything we could send. With a turnover such as they have, the need is never-ending.



"The Bible," some say, "isn't relevant for today. That time was long ago; the world was different then. Things have changed. People have changed, and we must change with them. Besides, the things written long ago are just fairy tales, fables and myths about 'gods' and pumpkins, giants and giant slayers. Hardly the things a thinking man or woman would fall for today."

REALLY? Are they? "Fairy tales," I mean. Or are they apples of gold in a world filled with dross. Not myths, but the greatest of truths cloaked in the stories of long ago. The Bible is, in fact, the only triumphant truth there is in this world of today—the only thing that will be left when all else is gone. This world will crumble and pass away, disappearing back into the cosmic dust from whence it came. But God's WORD stands forever!

Thank YOU for standing with us so others may know that HE LIVES!!

Love,

Dorothy and Family

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

Montana State Prison, Deer Lodge, MONTANA Cook County Jail, Adel, GEORGIA Central Mississippi Correctional, Pearl, MISSISSIPPI Varner Unit, Grady, ARKANSAS Missouri Digital Mail Center, Tampa, FLORIDA Jasper County Jail, Carthage, MISSOURI Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Rigby, IDAHO Charlotte Correctional Institution, Punta Gorda, FLORIDA Coastal State Prison, Garden City, GEORGIA Beaumont Federal Prison, Beaumont, TEXAS West Tennessee State Penitentiary, Henning, TENNESSEE Indiana Women's Prison, Plainfield, INDIANA Green Haven Correctional Facility, Stormville, NEW YORK Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center, Devore, CALIFORNIA GRCC, Central City, KENTUCKY Panama City Jail, Panama City, FLORIDA Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center, Mauston, WISCONSIN Phelps County Jail, Holdrege, NEBRASKA Bradford County Jail, Troy, PENNSYLVANIA David Wade correctional Center, Homer, LOUSIANA Lynchburg Adult Detention Center, Lynchburg, VIRGINIA North Control Unit, Calico Rock, ARKANSAS Connally Unit, Kenedy, TEXAS Eyman State Prison, Florence, ARIZONA



Founder

OUR DEFINING MOMENT

THE FRIEDMAN GROUP is a leading provider of retail consulting and sales training to help retail sales companies increase their revenue. And in one of their retail sales courses, Harry Friedman says, "Any true salesperson will come to a <u>defining moment</u> when he or she must make a choice between morality and financial success." I know this because I have talked personally with someone who took their retail sales training course.

It kind of reminds me of what Joshua told the people of Israel as they were entering the Promised Land: "Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served [beyond the Euphrates River] or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:2-3,15). Joshua gave the people only that one day to choose whom they would serve. That one day was their "defining moment." And the people swore, "we will serve the Lord, for he is our God" (24:18).

Knowing the propensity of the people to waiver, Joshua warned them that the Lord was a holy god, a jealous God, and He would not forgive them if they were to forsake Him. Yet one generation later they forgot their vows - and of course the rest you know.

TIME GROWS SHORT: may God grant each of us the victory and the rewards that come from knowing and serving Him, and Him only, forgetting nothing of what we have promised Him, but living each day only and always for Him.