

JULY 2023



The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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NOTHING IS KNOWN about the prophet **MALACHI**. God wanted the entire focus of this, *the final book in the O.T.*, to be on Himself, not the prophet. Even Malachi's name means, "**MY messenger.**" The judgment themes still apply today: *the sins of the world, the coming judgment, the urgency of repentance and the coming (or return) of the Lord.* From Eden until today, the depravity of man has kept God from obtaining His one desire. And what is it He desires? "**Godly offspring!**" (*Malachi 2:15*). *All God has ever wanted is a family! A family to live with Him, for Him, through all eternity.*

And as God's people moved farther and farther away from Him, He often warned them. But they wouldn't listen. Only a few heard His parting words just before the world fell silent for 400 years:

"Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another; the Lord heeded and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him

of those who feared the Lord and thought on his name. [And God said], "They shall be mine, my special possession..."

And for four hundred years (from Malachi to Matthew), there was no Word from the Lord. Four hundred years—the same length of time Israel lived in Egypt before God sent a light, His servant Moses, to deliver them. And so it was again: 400 years after Malachi, *Jesus came!* The very Light that illuminated the universes in the beginning was born in a stable in the nothing village of Bethlehem. And the Light lived and spread around the world; and for a while God became visible to man, even to the furthest reaches of Earth. And for a time Earth blossomed from the sheer joy of knowing *He walked among us!*

But then the Light began to fade because no one was paying attention to it anymore.

And as the darkness began to descend, the Light in men's souls went out.

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THE DAYS OF DARKNESS ARE HERE, AND MEN WILL WALK LIKE THE BLIND UNTIL THE LIGHT RETURNS IN GLORY.

ARE WE READY?

JULY is a very special month! Gene and I were married in July of 1963; so this would have been our 60th wedding anniversary. Some say folks aren't married in Heaven. All I know for an absolute certainty is, *Love never dies.*

The length of our lifetime is nothing compared to the length of Eternity. We thank God for the opportunities He gives us to open the door to His Kingdom to those who are knocking:

"I am an inmate. . . . I received a bookmark with your ministry name on it. And it said I could write for a free bible and books. If possible I would appreciate whatever you can send. I am a new Christian, and I have a fire for anything that deals with the Lord of my salvation. Thank you and may God bless your ministry and all who are in it."

How sad to think how many mothers and sisters and wives languish behind prison walls. But an answer to every problem is found in Christ; and we are grateful to be a small part of that "answer:"

"I am an indigent inmate in the Women's Correctional Center. I just received Gene Neill's book from our Chaplain and am writing to see if you could help me with a Bible and other books. Please. Thank you"

The next two letters are from women incarcerated in the same facility. The "good news" is that the center offers a wide range of rehabilitative programs: anger and aggression management, sex offenders treatment program, alcoholics anonymous and "Pups on Parole." The ladies are given rescue dogs to train and get ready for adoption. Others are also trained to be dog handlers:

"I came across your bookmark and it says if I am a prisoner to write to this address

for free books and a bible. I really will appreciate it. Thank you."

"I am asking for bibles and books for myself and for two other ladies I teach them the bible. I am fighting a life sentence, and I am trying to find myself. Amen. I would also like a book on Solomon if I may. Thank you so much."

Once in a while there is a letter that "refreshes" and encourages me in a very special way. This letter is one of those:

"My name is Danny. . . . I'm saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. I'm asking for help from your ministry for prayer for my health and strength and my wholeness. God has forgiven me for my crime as has my family. I found out about your ministry in a Christian magazine. It also says you distribute bibles. Do you have any softcover large print study bibles with notes. I had surgery on my right eye and when I read it causes vision problems. I think yours is an outstanding ministry that really cares about people. I will pray that your ministry be blessed and prosper a hundred fold always. Remember, 'love is a many splendored thing' - but God's love is ETERNAL. May it refresh, refocus and renew you with grace and mercy and unspeakable joy and full of glory in Him."

**GOD'S GIFTS
PUT MAN'S BEST DREAMS
TO SHAME.**

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

▶ **Tom Heck is a Wisconsin dairy farmer. Sometime ago he wrote a book on—not surprisingly—his family’s occupation. This letter from a repeat ministry “customer” is in response to the copy of Tom’s book we sent him:**

“The last book y’all sent me “Life on the Family Farm” I must say was a bunch of wonderful stories written by Mr. Heck. But now that I’ve finished reading it, I was writing to see if I could get another book mailed to me. I am very grateful for the books you have sent me. Thank you and God bless.”

I suspect this inmate wasn’t nearly as happy a year ago as he sounds now. But then, something very special happened in his life back then:

“First off, I hope you’re having a great day. Guess what? You give up? Ha . . . Jesus loves U. I finally gave my life over to the Lord 6/6/22. Wow what a difference. My life feels free! I know through Jesus all things can and will happen. Amen. Okay I’m writing in hopes of getting one of your bibles. The one I saw was a RSV Zondervan Thinline large print. This would be a blessing. I’m in prison. I’m 54 with bad eyes. I’m indigent. I just need a Bible and a prayer. Your church is in my prayers. Have a great day. Godspeed. Amen.”

Remember the old saying, “Better late than never”? It’s certainly true when we’re talking about our relationship with the Lord Jesus:

“I am incarcerated in Arkansas and would like to receive religious books. I love to read and increase my knowledge. I am 76 years old and have given my heart back to the Lord. Would you have a list of books that could be sent to me? I have a Bible to read and enjoy doing it every day. Thank you for anything that can be sent to me. God bless you.”

Praise the Lord that it doesn’t happen too often. But unfortunately it does once in a while: this inmate and his wife are both incarcerated—

“My wife and I are in prison. She sent me a little brochure of yours. I am requesting a free copy of your book, I’m Gonna Bury You! Any other literature you have and could send me for free I would be more than blessed to receive it. I am trying to stay positive as I can. I have plenty of bibles so I will not request one. Your brother in Christ. . . .”

This Hawaiian lady began her letter with the traditional “Aloha,” then signed it, “Mucho Mahalos,” which of course combines Spanish and Hawaiian. But I had never heard the expression. The internet shed a little light on it for me: it’s a slang way of saying, “Many thanks” in today’s world:

“Aloha, I was recently blessed with the book, RESTLESS, which had a stamp saying to write you for more books. So here I am humbly requesting any books you may be able to bless me with! I’m currently incarcerated. I can receive 3 books at a time. May God be with the USA.”

George Beverly Shea sang that “God is big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart.” Billy Graham put it this way, “He holds in His hands the whole world, while His Spirit is able to fill the void in man’s heart.”

No problem is too big or man too small for God to care.

The grains of sand cannot be counted, the waves of the sea are beyond numbering, nor can the stars in the sky be reckoned. Such is the love of God in Christ for us.

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

A large donation of pew bibles by a church in GEORGIA gave us a wonderful opportunity to offer their like-new large hardback bibles to several chaplains who can take them. (The majority of prisons can't accept hardbacks. But I'm familiar with several who can.) And within 48 hours I'd received return requests for seventy of the bibles. *Only one box is left, and it won't last.*

This next jail is eight stories tall, and that's just the maximum security building. There are several smaller annexes for juveniles, females and short term prisoners. The "Chaplain Services Manager" acknowledges our sample gift and says:

"I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the donation. . . . Thank you for offering to donate additional books and bibles. Your donation will allow us to significantly increase the number of religious materials available to the inmates."

Two days have passed since I wrote the first paragraph on this page. And today I received the following response from another chaplain about the pew bibles. His Reception Center has over 1,300 inmates:

"Greetings Ms. Neill, I'm writing to you regarding the [pew] Bibles, requesting a donation for our inmate population at the Reception Center. Please send us as many as you can. On behalf of the staff and inmate population we thank you beforehand. Blessings. . . ."

And just like that, some one hundred like-new pew bibles are now in the hands of one hundred more prisoners!

A former Tennessean, this next chaplain told me he was "raised in a church environment." He joined the Marine Corps, came home, married, moved around, drove a UPS truck for ten years. Then he said one day God spoke to him *personally* through Rev. 3:1-3:

" . . . I know your works; you have the name of being alive and you are dead. Awake and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. . . . Repent. . . ."

That was enough for him! He began ministering along his UPS route to customers; then the door opened to prison ministry, and he took it. This month he also took a whole bunch of bibles and books *from you* for his Chapel!!

Well, I asked for it, and boy did I get it! When I asked this chaplain more exactly what he could use, this is part of what he told me:

" . . . As far as stuff we need, if you have any, we have 1200 inmates and I could use some Daily Bread booklets for them. Also some large print bibles are often requested. Quality reading books, no conspiracy stuff, but books on how to deal with suffering and how to grow as a Christian. . . ."

There is, in Jesus Christ, the miraculous power to ignite a holy fire in the soul of any man or woman who truly calls out to Him.

A purifying fire that will burn away the flotsam and jetsam of this earth and burn through all eternity. And it is up to you and me to keep those fires burning until He returns. We can see that time is growing short. *Jesus' warnings—given 2,000 years ago while He personally walked on Earth—are today's headlines.* And only He knows what tomorrow's news will bring.

God bless you for helping us to keep the Light of His fire burning while we still have a little time.

Love,



The Neill Family

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

Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, Madras, OREGON
Jackson Correctional Inst., Malone, FLORIDA
Oahu Community Correctional Center, Honolulu, HAWAII
Ester Unit, Pine Bluff, ARKANSAS
Skyview Unit, Rusk, TEXAS
F. M. Women's Correctional Center, Las Vegas, NEVADA
Santa Rosa Correctional Center, Milton, FLORIDA
Colorado Department of Corrections, Denver, COLORADO
Atlantic County Justice Center, Mays Landing, NEW JERSEY
California Rehabilitation Center, Norco, CALIFORNIA
Shelby County Jail, Columbiana, ALABAMA
Beaver County Corr. Facility, Aliquippa, PENNSYLVANIA
Cross City Correctional Inst. Cross City, FLORIDA
Lawton Correctional Center, Lawton, OKLAHOMA
Cullman County Detention Center, Cullman, ALABAMA
Henley State Jail, Dayton, TEXAS
Pine Bluff Women's Reentry Center, Pine Bluff, ARKANSAS
Columbia River Correctional Center, Portland, OREGON
Sumpter Correctional Institution, Bushnell, FLORIDA
High Desert State Prison, Indian Springs, NEVADA
Jefferson County Jail, Rigby, IDAHO
Ferguson Unit, Midway, TEXAS
Gulf Correctional Institution, Wewahitchka, FLORIDA
Sebastian County Detention Center, Ft Smith, ARKANSAS
Wilson County Jail, Floresville, TEXAS
Onslow County Detention Center, Jax, NORTH CAROLINA
Broward Sheriff's Office Chaplain Services, Ft. Lauderdale, FLORIDA



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

Post Office Box 177
Delano, TN 37325

~ DATED MATERIAL ~
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A PSALM OF LIFE

Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

*Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou are, to dust thou returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.*

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

*In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!*

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
*Act -- act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!*

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
*And, departing, leave behind us
FOOTPRINTS
on the sand of time;*

*Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solenn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.*

*Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.*

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow