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The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, the first mentioned shepherd in the Bible was Abel, Adam's son. Abel's brother Cain, a tiller of the ground, murdered Abel out of jealousy because God found Abel's sacrifice from his sheep "more acceptable" than Cain's offering of *produce from the ground*.

In accepting Abel's offering, God was looking toward the death of His own Son – *the great Shepherd of the sheep* – who would come some 3,800 years later. Remember also, because of Adam's sin, *God had cursed the ground (Gen. 3:17-19), saying Adam's food would henceforth come only with toil and troubles, thorns and thistles and the sweat of his face.*

Obviously, all of the events from Creation and the garden of Eden down to the present hour were either foreseen or divinely conceived and implemented by Almighty God. Something no mere mortal mind – or Satan for that matter - is capable of doing.

Only God and the *cherubim* (we serve a triune God), and Man and the deceiver Satan, are mentioned as being in Eden. The cherubim was placed there, *between God and man*, with a "flaming sword" to guard "the way" back to "the tree of life" (Gen. 3:24).

And who is it that still stands guard between man and the way back into the presence of God and the tree of life? Who indeed but Jesus. For it is from His mouth that comes the "sharp two-edged sword" of Revelation 1:16 and 19:15-21 *with which to strike down the nations, the beast and the false prophet*, and reopen the way back into the presence of God! *Maranatha!*

TRUTH IS A TROUBLER

If what you hear from teachers, preachers or prophets always leaves you feeling warm and fuzzy, you probably aren't being challenged to do your "utmost for His highest." And you are on dangerous ground. Sinking sand. Not solid Rock. Anonymous

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Years ago, Gene spoke to our granddaughters' second grade classroom back in Florida.

At one point, he told the children he had ministered in Israel. And one little boy raised his hand and asked, "Isn't that where God used to live?"

“I AM the Lord; I have called you in righteousness. I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon. . . . those who sit in darkness.” Isa. 42:6,7

FROM THE AIR this penitentiary looks like a great walled city. Ten manned towers are spread around the perimeter, and some 2,800 inmates are confined within its walls; eight are currently on death row. This inmate isn't due for release until 2039—16 more years. But in the meantime, he's “occupied” with the life-saving books you've sent:

“Thank you very much for sending me a second copy of Power in Praise and for all the other books you have sent me. I am learning so much thanks to you. . . . I have even loaned out a couple of the books to other inmates so they also can learn more about the Lord. I love all the books you have sent and look forward to whatever you send me next. . . .”

This inmate's letter was filled with misspellings. But he can read, and that's all that matters because he just wants to study the Bible! (I've corrected his misspellings.) —

“Hi, my name is Daniel. I've been looking for a NKJ study Bible. With pictures or not. Can you help me with a nice Bible? Also if you have any Bible catalogs or concordances or a Bible atlas and Bible markers. . . . Anything you want to bless me with will help. Thanks from Daniel.”

It doesn't sound like this man is trying to “con” us. But when Gene was speaking in prison meetings, he often joked, 'If you didn't do what you're accused of, what about all those things the cops don't know you did.' It inevitably caused ripples of

laughter across the room. Not only was Gene a criminal attorney, but he had also been in prison, so they knew he understood:

“Hello, my name is Joshua. I was recently sent to D.O.C. for the first time. It is a life changer. They charged me for something I didn't do. I am guilty of the drugs, but not the other charges. And that has me down and questioning my faith. I recently read your tract ‘Convicts are the most important people in the world to Jesus,’ and I really like it and was hoping I can receive a Bible and a copy of I'm Gonna Bury you!?! . . .”

You don't have to say a lot of words or make a lot of noise in order to get God's attention. He hears your faintest whisper, and your most fleeting thoughts are well known to Him. The Bible this inmate requested is on the way, along with a Spanish-English dictionary—

“My name is Lopez. I would like to request a large print Spanish bible if possible. If you don't have one, then an English one. I only speak Spanish, but I'm trying to learn English. (A friend is writing this for me.) I hope you can help me in this matter. God bless. . . .”

DEATH ROW

Every man and woman on this planet is born into a spiritual “death row cell.” A cell from which there is no release, even at death, without Christ. Nothing — neither position nor power nor wealth “nor anything else in all creation” — can free us from it unless we invite Christ to come into our heart and set us free.

The “experts” tell us what we already know: that literary skills are in decline. The blame falls on television sets, smartphones, computers, increased personal entertainment devices and decreased intellectual pursuits. Among other things. Like plain old book reading. Prison sometimes awakens a desire to read; even better, it sometimes stirs up an interest in learning more about the One in life who matters most:

“Hello, I am an inmate at the Women’s Correctional Center. I am writing you for free bibles and books. Is there any way you guys have the NKJV Bible or the Complete Guide to the Bible. If you can please send those. I will really appreciate you. I’ve been trying to get those for a while. I need them to continue my studies of the bible. Please if you may also get the books called The Message of the Truth, Beauty for Ashes, Battlefield of the Mind, The Bait of Satan. Sorry it’s my first time in prison. So I really don’t know how this works, if I send you titles or not. I’ve always wanted to read Power in Praise by Merlin Carothers, books by Dwight L. Moody. Please. Thank you. Hopefully you can at least send the bible and guide.”

Short. Sweet. And a blessing. . . . This inmate writes:

“Hi Christian people in Tennessee, and God bless you! I am so thankful for your sending me a brand new King James Version of our Bible. It’s beautiful! Will you send me, Dale,

another one? I got somebody who wants the Bible off of me; please send! Your servant to all, one way or another! Also will you send me an amplified bible please! If you don’t have it in stock, please send me the address and I will write and get it! Last but not least, in the pamphlet you sent me, on the second page is a colored picture of Jesus with a man! Will you please blow up the picture. What I want is a large picture of Jesus! I’m sending the pamphlet, please send it back to me. Take care!”

You may have heard that Henry Ward Beecher, an American Congregational clergyman, once said, “A mother’s heart is the child’s classroom.” How sad many mothers today are unable to fulfill that “calling.” Perhaps what we do will help at least a few:

“I am inquiring about your book I’m Gonna Bury You that another ministry told me you send to prisoners. I spoke to our Chaplain and she knows I’m requesting this book. I would be interested in any materials you have to offer. I read daily and recently completed over 200 lessons of bible study. I enjoy doing these. . . . Please keep me in your prayers!”

He went to prison when he was 17 years old. And he’ll be 43 years old when he gets out. Without Christ, there’s little hope for him:

“. . . I would like to know if you could send me a Bible and a concordance. I’ve heard a concordance will help break down the Bible for a better understanding. If there are other books that can help me, it would be a blessing. God comes to me in the most of misunderstanding ways, and I feel He is really trying to find ways to save me and give me a new outlook on life itself. I’ll be honest. I felt God left me to find myself. But a good friend said, ‘no, he is trying to save you. . . .’ I’m grateful for all He has done for me, and I guess I could take this time I have right now and get to know the One who gave me life. Like giving me your info to ask for some things to help me get a better understanding of Him. I would like to say Thank You for the enlightenment books you might send to help me with God.”

“ . . . I know, O Lord, that a man’s life is not his own; that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. Correct me, O Lord, but in just measure. . . .” Jeremiah 10:23,24

CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

It took eight weeks to get the required written approval from

the Warden to send bibles and books into this prison. The chaplain there is a rare gem; and when I commented on how much we appreciate him, he said,

“You have to want to do this job to do it. Even the Warden didn’t understand that when I told him, ‘it’s a calling.’ You have to want to be involved or you won’t last.”

He then gave me a list of a few things they need for a special religious program. So I’m going shopping. Thanks to you!

SPECIAL THANKS also to one of you who donated a huge box of Christian DVD/CD’s for their chapel library!

Remember the prisons that closed back in late 2022 due to storms? I called to check on one of them—a chaplain who is “pushing 79”, as he put it, but who sounds more like a spry 40. He’s another one of those who really loves what he does. When I asked if they could use anything, he said,

“We will take anything you want to send! There are spots in our new chapel shelves that are still empty and in need of filling from the storm that took us out in ‘22. You may recall we lost our chapel right down to the studs, including all the book shelves. Even the ceiling was gone! The inmates were all evacuated; and for a time we thought we’d never be able to reopen. But we’re back! And three months ago we opened a new Faith Based Dorm! We’re

able to take some hardbacks now; we can put them in the Faith Based Dorm. I just can’t take them into confinement. . . .”

In addition to bibles and books, we sent this chaplain twenty full size notebooks for their religious and “special education classes,” which include, Bible life, Bible authors, Evangelism Explosion, Fundamentals of the Faith, The School of Christian Life, Anger Management, Victims’ Impact, and Spanish to English classes. He even has an outside pastor come in once a week who teaches special classes to those interested. Plus Christian videos are shown on weekends.

This chaplain’s assistant is one of the best! (We’ve talked before.) When I told her I was calling to see if they could use more bible and books, she quickly replied, “Indeed we could!” And they’re on the way.

This jail is one of the largest in its state. It’s a multi-purpose, medium security facility that holds “locals” for up to two years. It also assists U. S. Marshalls by holding detainees awaiting transfer out of the area. The Sheriff I know wasn’t in when I called, but we’ve sent materials there before. So the Sergeant on duty gave me permission to send more Bibles and books. They’ll be there in time for Sunday’s chapel service!

GOD BLESS YOU for all you've done to help bring the Light of Jesus Christ to the men and women in prison. Yes, most have suffered loss because of their own mistakes. But then, so have I. And if I need a *personal* reminder, I can read again missionary/pastor Adlai A. Esteb’s (1901-1992) powerful poem, *The Meaning of the Cross*:

When to our trembling lips the bitter cup of woe is pressed,
 And we must taste life's gall with briny tears;
 And trials come to crush our ships with fierce and fiery test,
 And make us captives of our doubts and fears—
 'Tis then, sometimes, we see another's sorrow, suff'ring pain,
 So piercing as to shame our selfish thought of our own destiny,
 And flashes flame across our brain, dwarfing our own tragedies to nought!
 So when you're tempted sore to ask the Everlasting, "Why?"
 Then think of Job and all who've suffered loss;
 Or climb up Calvary's hill once more and watch your Saviour die,
 And learn anew *the meaning of the Cross.*

FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE TO MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE, THANK YOU~!

The Oxyrhynchus hymn, named for the Egyptian archaeological site in which it was discovered, is the oldest Christian hymn with both music and lyrics in recorded history. Uncovered in 1918, and written in Greek, it poetically invokes silence for the praise of the Holy Trinity and tells historians about early Christian practices and the spread of language and culture in the Roman empire circa 400 AD.

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

McClure Women's Correctional Center, Las Vegas, NEVADA
 Souza Baranowski Correctional Center, MASSACHUSETTS
 Taylor Correctional Institution, Perry, FLORIDA
 Johnson State Prison, Wrightsville, GEORGIA
 Pennington County Jail, Rapid City, SOUTH DAKOTA
 Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA
 Cummins Unit, Grady, ARKANSAS
 Sampson Correctional Institution, Clinton, NORTH CAROLINA
 Federal Correctional Facility, Aliceville, ALABAMA
 Rockview Correctional Institution, Bellefonte, PENNSYLVANIA
 Oregon Department of Corrections, Portland, OREGON
 Dixon Correctional Facility, Dixon, ILLINOIS
 Ohio State Prison, Youngstown, OHIO
 Federal Correctional Facility, Oxford, WISCONSIN
 California Institution for Men, Chino, CALIFORNIA
 Maury Correctional Institution, Maury, NORTH CAROLINA
 Rhode Island Department of Corrections, Cranston, RHODE ISLAND
 San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CALIFORNIA
 Montana State Prison, Deer Lodge, MONTANA
 Ouachita River Correctional Center, Malvern, ARKANSAS
 Bertie Correctional Institution, Windsor, NORTH CAROLINA
 Colorado Department of Corrections, Canon City, COLORADO
 Hardee Correctional Facility, Bowling Green, FLORIDA
 Arkansas Valley Correctional Center, Ordway, COLORADO
 Greensville Correctional Center, Jarratt, VIRGINIA
 Bossier Correctional Facility, Plain Dealing, LOUISIANA
 Sheboygan Adult Correctional Facility, Sheboygan, WISCONSIN



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

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~ DATED MATERIAL ~
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“LOOK TO THE ROCK from which you were hewn . . . Isaiah 51:1

CENTURIES before Jesus made a personal appearance on earth, God sent Moses to bring Israel out of bondage in Egypt. On their journey through the wilderness, Moses entreated the Lord, *“I pray thee, show me thy glory.”* God refused, for, *“man shall not see me and live”* Ex. 33:20,21. But He told Moses, ***“Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand upon the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock. . . .”***

So it was Moses got a glimpse of *the Rock upon which God’s Kingdom stands—for that rock is Christ, the glory and grace of the Father.* Although Israel *“drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ, nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.”* I Cor. 10:1-13

Much later, Augustus Toplady was born in England (1740-1778). He became a Christian when he was only 16 while visiting in Ireland. Of this event, he wrote, *“Strange that I, who had so long sat under the means of grace in England, should be brought right with God in an obscure part of Ireland, midst a handful of people met together in a barn, and by the ministry of one who could hardly spell his own name. Surely it was the Lord’s doing and is marvelous.”* Years later, he wrote a poem which became one of our most beloved hymns:

ROCK OF AGES cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.