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The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

More than one New Testament author indicated his expectation Jesus' return was nigh. Three times (Chap. 5) James states as much, "*Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord. . . Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand . . . behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. Even the apostle Peter declared, "But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober and watch. . . ."* I Peter 4:7.

Jesus may even have intentionally "muddied the waters" - repeatedly telling Peter, "*Feed my sheep.*" But then of John the Lord said, "*If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you.*"

There was far greater emphasis on the urgency of their mission if the time they had to accomplish it was short.

It was likely not until after John wrote *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*" that the timing of the Lord's return began to be called into question. The mysterious and unimaginable

events it sets out in detail provided substantial evidence that these things were going to "take a little while" to accomplish. But each delay has afforded His disciples of every generation time and motivation to continue to take the Gospel to the world.

There is a city, Revelation tells us (21:27), a holy city having the glory of God. And in it is the Lamb's Book of Life. And we know without seeing it that each page is numbered. And when the last name has been written on the final page, the heavens will open and the skies will fill with myriads of angels heralding the return of the One for whom and by whom all things were created.

But allow me a play with words: *Jesus isn't here until He's here.* And while we wait, we too prepare as every generation before us, leaving footprints that will be a guide to those who follow—whether the time be long or short.

Let the false shepherds feed themselves instead of the sheep. But you and I have work to do!

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I MUST WORK
THE WORKS OF
HIM THAT SENT
ME, WHILE IT IS
DAY: THE NIGHT
COMETH, WHEN
NO MAN CAN
WORK.
JOHN 9:4

Of course, I'm not prejudiced (smile), but this is a precious letter. We know inmates sometimes send our books home to their wives, as this inmate did. And that's wonderful! *But this is the first time an inmate has told us he sent a book home at the request of his teenager!* Here's the "rest of the story:"

"First of all let me thank you so much for the books you have previously sent to me—a God send and so important to me in my journey to deepen my relationship with Jesus. Two have not only helped me, but I have sent them home. I sent the book, "A Quick Guided Tour Through the Bible" home at my 14 year old son's request and he is reading that one. The problem is the prison will not allow my family to send books back. Is it possible for you to send me those books again? If not, I understand and sharing them is more important to me. So I will make do. And any other books will be greatly appreciated. Here is a list of some books I would like to get to read. . . ."

**IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME IN AMERICA WHEN
OUR CHILDREN NEED OUR LOVE, PROTECTION,
PRAYERS AND GUIDANCE, IT IS NOW!!**

Another growing Christian (and repeat "customer") sends a letter that is a real blessing. Thanks to you, we'll send him books 'til he quits asking —

"I just wanted to again thank you so much for the books. I am so much enjoying reading them. . . . I have been sharing with other inmates so they can share in the great messages from these books. Oh, please, any other books you can send me would be such a blessing. I have so much to learn. . . . I am soaking up everything I can. I have a new found passion for learning about Him. . . ."

Jesus' disciples did not comprehend their mission was not to Jews only, but to the whole world, much less how long it would be ongoing. I can identify with that! When Gene and I began this ministry in 1974-75—twenty-five years before the turn of the last century—neither of us had any idea it would still be flourishing almost another twenty-five years into this current one. God, I have learned—as did Peter, Paul, James and all the others also did—doesn't tell you everything all at once!

Brief, but precious:

"Hi, I am Dale! Will you please send me your Good News Bible? May we see each other in HEAVEN! . . ."

"I would like to receive all that you have to offer, including bookmarks. I found your address on one. Please and thank you."

"Thank you for the great pretty calendar. Very kind of you, especially as most of society turns their head as the word prisoners is said or used."

SMILE—and praise the Lord!—

"I am writing in hopes you would be able to send me a couple of biographies of people who gave their life over to God after the struggles they went through. Most of the books here are love stories with too much detail or westerns with 'guess who gets shot next.' Reading about people getting saved or reading my Bible gives me peace in my heart. If you can't send books, please keep me in prayer. Thank you and God bless. . ."

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, nor the mighty man glory in his might. Let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, *that he understands and knows me . . .*” Jeremiah 9:23,24

This isn't a good state in which to do time. One inmate, sentenced for a murder 68 years ago, is still serving time in one of their prisons. The inmate who's writing to us now (same state, different prison) is housed in their state “super-max” where prisoners sentenced to long prison terms—or death—are held....

“I am writing looking for any faith based books or Bible study materials, concordance, dictionary, etc. to use in my every day studies. And do you have any extra bookmarks? I am serving 25 years and am in need of these items. Thank you for any help you can give and God bless.”

It's the “bible of choice!” Prisoners often, and Chaplains always, are in need of them:

“My name is Charles and I'm a new man in Christ Jesus. And I need a good study Bible in my walk with God the Father. My eyes are kind of out of focus and I need one with large print if you have one. And any book to help me in my faith in God...”

He failed to mention which of our books he has read; but that's okay. We sent him two different ones. Now he has one to keep and one to give away:

“. . . I came across a good book I have read recently, and I saw the address for free books and magazines, Voice of Triumph. Can you send me a free book and magazine please. Thank you so much, and may God bless you.”

He's about to be released, but he doesn't

want to go home without his “Sword” —

“I am trying to get a New King James study bible large print. And a bible dictionary! Please pray for my family and for me. I get out May 1st. And pray that God helps me get my daughter back. Thank you and God bless!”

Our personal bookmarks are really doing a great job! We tried repeatedly to get the chaplain at this prison on the phone, but he was never available. So we just sent him a stack of bookmarks and tracts. Here's the results:

“I'm an inmate in the state prison system. I saw your info on the back of a bookmark my prison chaplain gave me. Can you please send me a free Bible and free Christian books as well. Thank you and God bless . . .”

He's making the most of his “time!” And yes, thanks again to you, we always keep Spanish bibles and a few books in Spanish on hand—

“Thank you for all you do for inmates. As of 11/21 I embarked on a life-long journey that is the Christian walk. I thank God for finding me here and the Lord Jesus for opening my eyes. As of now I serve as an interpreter to the small inmate run church/bible study group in my pod. While there is a lot of material in English, there is a lack in Spanish. I am requesting any Spanish materials you have for my Hispanic brothers in the church group. I thank God for ministries like yours. . . .”

His real name is, yes, Angel. And his entire letter asked only, “Keep me in your prayers. Thank you. Amen.”

“The steadfast love of the lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness!” Lam. 3:22,23

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

This chaplain started his job in 2001—over 20 years ago! In 2017 he retired. For a week! When I asked him why he came back, he hesitated for only a second, then said, *“For the love of the job.”* The moment’s pause was enough to make me realize what was really in his heart, and I teased him, *“You mean for the love of the inmates!”* *“Yes,”* he conceded, *“that, too.”* There’s a special place in heaven for love like that. I couldn’t help but put some extra bibles and books in his box; I know they’ll be put to good use.

Before becoming a prison chaplain this man was a missionary in, among other places, Bangladesh. The last time I spoke to him (about four weeks ago) he was leaving for India. I promised to time the sending/arrival of this shipment of books so they would arrive at the prison about the time of his return. And sure enough, his email just confirmed:

“Dorothy, I just wanted to send you a thank you for the books . . . You sent a nice variety that will appeal to the men. Thank you for your ongoing ministry. It is appreciated! . . .”

This Detention Center has some of the best looking officers you could ever hope to find in a Police Department. Narcotics, search and rescue, they’re known to

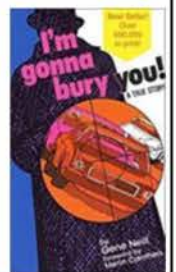
be fearless even faced with dangerous felons. They don’t read, but the guys they catch do. And then we have the blessing of sending books and bibles to those they arrest. Oh, almost forgot to tell you: they’re the K-9 team! The Chaplain there just emailed us: †

“Hello, I received the shipment of bibles and books today when I came to the office. Thank you so much for your time and sacrifice in sending these. They will benefit our inmate population greatly. I appreciate so much your service to our Lord and His kingdom. God’s blessings.”

This Regional Jail was built to stem the flood of inmates at the nearest jail. But only five years later the new facility already averages almost 200% per cent *over* capacity! When we contacted them with samples of bibles and books to keep prisoners occupied and help with their spiritual life, the “Recreational Specialist” (as they call him there) immediately accepted and replied:

“We received your sample books. They were nice and have been handed out to some of our inmates. This email is basically letting you know we’d love to continue receiving the free books and bibles. Please place us on your mailing list.”

Note: We sent more immediately, and once again he emailed, saying he had already started unloading the books and putting them out on their shelves. And with your help, we’ll make sure they don’t run out of Christian books in the future!



A day or two after you receive this newsletter, Easter will be here. What an unimaginable joy it must have been when Jesus' disciples realized *He has risen!* It must have taken a few days for them to grasp at last the purpose of His death on the cross; that He purchased our pardon so we might live with Him throughout Eternity. As Paul put it years later, ". . . *if we have died with him, we will also live with him.*" 2 Tim. 2:11

It's not the easiest of lives—being a Christian. But neither is it, as some have said, a walk by "blind faith." For faith is not blind!

And seeing is not believing, as doubting Thomas supposed. Rather, believing is seeing.

God bless you for helping us take the Good News to the men and women in prison, that *"the kingdom of heaven is in the midst of us."* Now, today. And Jesus is waiting.

In His love,


Dorothy & Family

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS AND JAILS TO WHICH
YOU HELPED SEND BIBLES AND BOOKS THIS MONTH**

Pennington County Jail, Rapid City, SOUTH DAKOTA
Sebastian County Detention Center, Ft. Smith, ARKANSAS
Nebraska Correctional Center for Women, York, NEBRASKA
San Diego County Sheriff's Office, San Diego, CALIFORNIA
Tennessee Prison for Women, Nashville, TENNESSEE
North Carolina Prison for Women, Raleigh, NORTH CAROLINA
Middle River Regional Jail, Staunton, VIRGINIA
Tygart Valley Regional Jail, Belington, WEST VIRGINIA
LaSalle Correctional Center, Olla, LOUISIANA
Colorado Department of Corrections, Pueblo, COLORADO
Florence McClure Women's Facility, Las Vegas, NEVADA
Graceville Correctional Facility, Graceville, FLORIDA
Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA
Colorado Department of Corrections, Denver, COLORADO
Telford Unit, New Boston, TEXAS
York County Prison, PENNSYLVANIA
Cois Byrd Correctional Center, Murrieta, CALIFORNIA
Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, Nashville, TENNESSEE
Bertie Correctional Institution, Windsor, NORTH CAROLINA
San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CALIFORNIA
Guadalupe Detention Center, Seguin, TEXAS
Oregon Department of Corrections, Wilsonville, OREGON
Henry County Sheriff's Office, McDonough, GEORGIA
Blackwater River Rehabilitation Facility, Milton, FLORIDA
South Central Regional Jail, Charleston, WEST VIRGINIA



GENE NEILL
Founder

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~ DATED MATERIAL ~
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

There's so much wrong in the world today there doesn't seem to be much point in carrying the extra "weight" of grudges around. Yet some folks do. It's not unusual to hear someone claim they "want" to forgive a wrong done to them, but they just can't seem to let it go. I'm too old to let most things bother me any more. But just in case one day somebody crosses my path and does something that really ticks me off so badly that I just can't seem to forgive and forget, I've got a real good reminder of why I should.

It's something that happened to someone I came to know pretty well through the years. I couldn't ask for a better friend. But somehow he just always seemed to be doing something to make someone angry at him. The event that really got to me was the day some thugs caught up with him just minding his own business, talking with his friends. But they beat him half to death. His friends realized the odds were against them, and "skedaddled." If they had stuck around, things might not have gone so badly. But they ran. And two days later my friend died from his injuries.

Want to know what his last words were? They wouldn't have been mine, I can tell you that. But they keep coming back to me every time I get angry at someone. And they've kept me from saying, even doing, a lot of things I would have regretted later. He's gone now, but I still remember his words, *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."*

