

MARCH 2024



The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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BELOVED IN THE LORD,

In Bethlehem of Judea Christ the Lord was born and placed in a manger from which cattle ate — a manger in what was doubtless an over-crowded stable, because the Inn to which it belonged was so filled with other travelers it had no room for the weary Mary and Joseph.

How petty many of our own complaints would seem if we stopped for a moment and compared them to giving birth to our first born child in a stable. And not until we had ridden the last 3 or 4 days on the back of a donkey!

From the beginning of the story of the birth of Jesus through to the culmination of His life on a Cross, God is showing us two primary things: *the literally unfathomable depths of His love and our seemingly unrelenting refusal to accept it.*

Yet He knew this was the way it would be from *“the beginning.”* So why has He allowed it to be so? Because He is looking for a very small, unique group of people who will do whatever is necessary to follow

in His son’s footsteps—wherever that leads, and at any cost—that, as Paul put it, we *“may know him and the power of his resurrection and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible [we] may attain the resurrection from the dead.” Phil. 3:10,11*

Life requires forgetting what we did yesterday. It’s over. And there’s no changing it. We start new each day with God if we ask Him to let us do so. And again, as with Paul, we *“forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead . . . pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:13,14*

I’ve started over personally with God so many times I’m not sure there’s a calculator made that would be able to fathom the number. Far better that having closed out yesterday with His forgiveness, I *“forget what lies behind and press forward,”* because I know if I do something wonderful awaits me. Because that’s the way our Father is.

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HE’S ALIVE!

**HE’S ALIVE AND
I’M FORGIVEN!
HEAVEN’S GATES
ARE OPEN WIDE!**

HE’S ALIVE!

HE’S ALIVE!!

HE’S ALIVE!!!

Don Francisco



YES, this first letter was written almost five years ago - by an “ex-con.” But I don’t believe I’ve shared it with you before. I’m doing it now because it helps explain more than most letters can why we - you and I - do what we do.

“Dear Friends,

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend 85 days incarcerated in the Racine County Jail in Racine, Wisconsin. I did NOT have a vision, nor did an Angel appear to me. However, I did see a real need for Christian books, literature and Bibles. I researched the Web for Christian organizations that supply Bibles and other materials to inmates in jails and prisons. I truly realize that your group has limited resources. But just one Bible or literature would help. . . .”

“Then the King will say, Come, blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world for . . . I was in prison and you came to me.” Matthew 25:34-40

“Just one Bible” You surely need to have been in prison to understand that! It means you help us a lot more than you might think sometimes. And I just wanted to let you know, through someone who has “been there” just how much what you do means.

Of course, we’re delighted to replace a Bible that is falling apart from use! —

“I was excited to find one of your bookmarks in a used book I picked up from Chapel today! At the bottom it had a printed message— ‘Are you a Prisoner? Write to us for free Bibles and books.’ My current Bible is really falling apart from lots of use! I’ve glued and taped it back together three times now and it’s in need of another overhaul. We’re not allowed to have a leather Bible but ‘imitation leather’ is approved. If available I’m requesting an imitation leather or cloth bound, large or extra large print, KJV 1611 Bible to replace my current tattered Bible. . . . God bless all of you for providing for the spiritual needs of us, the many forgotten men and women in prisons. . . . Your brother. . . .”

This doesn’t happen often!! (I can count the times on the fingers of one hand.) But then, prisoners don’t usually have much money. He sent us a “tithe” from his prison account! —

“What a bunch of great people you’ve been. I praise your name to keep me away from sin! Thank you for your books. Thank you for your mercy. . . And setting me free like a dove! Jesus

Jesus is kind, and He thinks the world of me and you. The devil doesn’t stand a chance when a person is holy and right, prays, repents and rebukes him. . . .”

Our bookmarks sure get around —

“I got your bookmark that says we can write for free books. I’m so hungry for God/Jesus/Holy Spirit. Any one or two books that will help me grow spiritually, please send. On the blood or on the Cross or how Jesus walks, please. . . .”

“I have lived a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men.” Benjamin Franklin

Merlin Carothers’ books teach a powerful spiritual lesson:

“Power in Praise was so good I didn’t want to put it down. . . . This book made it easy for me to get some answers on some things in life that I needed to understand. I’m sure I will read it again just because it was so good. Thank you.”

“And JABEZ called on the God of Israel saying, Oh, that thou would bless me and enlarge my border, and that thy hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil that it be not to my sorrow! And God granted his request.” I Chron 4:10

JABEZ (at least in my opinion) was making a request of God that He would love to hear from all of us: *OH, God! Extend (enlarge) my spiritual horizons so I can see what other people do not. Stretch the limits of my faith so I can see beyond the sight of my natural eyes and see what cannot be seen by the natural man. In other words, Lord, I want to know you, to walk and talk with you personally!*

This next man has spent *thirty-one years* behind bars! I pray God grants him the “freedom” to see beyond his natural horizons—concrete walls, steel doors and barbed wire—and come to experience the joy and freedom of knowing Christ. . . .

“My name is Michael and I ran across your book mark. At the bottom it says prisoners can write for free bibles and books. I have a bible I read daily, but I would love to receive some books as well. I have no living family left and I’ve been locked up since 1993 and I still have 7 years left to go before I am free. Thank you.”

Prisoners with no paper on which to write letters are sometimes given a free post card on which to send brief notes to someone outside. This inmate is one of those; his note is short and to the point:

“Hi, my name is Lope. I would like to ask your ministries for a study bible please and thank you. God bless.”

Restrictions are understandably in force in every prison, and even permission to go to the library (if the prison has one) can be hard to come by. . . .

“Hello, my name is Mark and I’m currently incarcerated. . . . Our library is VERY hard to get into to check out anything. I am looking for some books. . . .”

Inmate-to-inmate and our bookmarks are still our best sources of “advertisement”—

“I am a female inmate in a Federal Correctional Institution. I was given your address and told you send books to prisoners. I would enjoy any biblical books. Also if possible I would really like the book markers I saw in a bible. Thank you. GOD BLESS.”

WE ARE ALL FACED WITH A SERIES OF GREAT OPPORTUNITIES BRILLIANTLY DISGUISED AS IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS. Charles Stanley ***

Oh for ten thousand large print bibles! They are always in demand:

“I would love to have some books and bookmarks and a Bible. If possible could it be a large print Bible? I am 60 years old and the small print is getting harder to read. Thank you for your time and the Bible. Please pray for my family.”

I’m getting a little better (*I did say “a little”) at translating Spanish into English, but I praise the Lord for online translators!—

“I find myself in prison in Austin, Texas. They provided me with the addresses of ministries that offer resources to inmates in prisons. I would like to obtain Christian literature and books in Spanish. . . . God bless you!”

So awful were signs that men saw on earth and in heaven during Christ's crucifixion that Dionysius the Aeropagite—who was in Egypt during the crucifixion—is reported to have exclaimed, *“Either the Author of Nature is suffering or the universe is falling apart.”*

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

I've never talked to this chaplain before, but when I gave him a call “cold” and told him who we were and asked if he would like for us to send him bibles and books, his exact response was:

“Why sure. You betcha!” We went on to have a wonderful 30 minute conversation, during which we “fixed” all the problems that plague the world today (and some that plague the prison system). Smile.

Remember Goshen—where the Israelites lived in Egypt before Moses led them out? Well, there's an area in the USA by the same name, and there's a prison there whose population represents 10% of the entire area! Its chaplain is also the chaplain of another prison 52 minutes drive apart, and he was very pleased to receive literature and bibles for both institutions:

“Thank you so much for the Bibles and the books. The inmates are already receiving them . . . If it is OK with you I will check back in a month or two to let you know if I could use more bibles. . . .”

(OK with me?? Why, “you betcha!”

We chatted for several minutes, during which this next chaplain repeated the word “wonderful” with regard to the three boxes of books and bibles we sent him at least five or six times. . . .

“. . . Thank you! . . . The boxes are wonderful! The guys are making tracks in here

getting books out of those boxes. And the bibles are some of the nicest we've seen come through here. Wonderful! Just wonderful. . . A couple of guys have come in while we've been talking and are going through the boxes right now.”

The Post Office assured me (on their receipt) that the bibles and books we were sending to a large prison (with a hospice) would reach them the 23rd. I had hoped sooner because I knew a group of Christian men were going in that weekend but weren't allowed to take bibles. In checking the P. O. website today I found your bibles and books arrived two days early! Just in time to be available for the meetings! (Thank you for the help, Brent!)

This would have been a sad place in the beginning. It began as a State Hospital for the Criminally Insane way back in 1896! Today it houses some 1,800 prisoners in all security levels. But the chaplain is another gem! I did my best to pack the “crevices” of the boxes to the max because the books and bibles are really needed there. And I found—when we took them to the post office—that one of the boxes was the heaviest we've ever mailed out! *Thank you; God bless you all!*

THE MOST DANGEROUS THING in this world isn't Satan. It's trying to take our spiritual “Rest” this side of Heaven and losing the opportunity for victory.

For forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, round and round and getting nowhere. God had promised them victory against all their enemies if they put their trust in Him and obeyed His words through

*Moses. But most of them failed to trust Him. When at last a remnant came to believe His words, they still faced many battles and strong foes. **But the victory was always theirs.** Decades later, the Lord similarly admonished King Jehoshaphat when he was faced by a vast army, **“Listen . . . Do not be afraid . . . for the battle is not yours but God’s.”** And indeed it was.*

*God never abandons us. Our battles were fought and won on Calvary. The devils may have danced and sang when they saw the Cross. But their merriment was short lived. It was the angels turn to laugh when they pushed away the stone and found His body gone. **When battles face us, as they often do, God sees the Cross and says, “Put your trust in me, for the battle is not yours, but mine.”** We have only to accept that truth and say, **“Father, take this burden I’m carrying around; it’s too heavy for me. From now on I will trust in you to carry it for me.”** This is victory. This is the way we enter His Rest today.*

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER!


Dorothy and Family

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS TO WHICH YOU HELPED US SEND BIBLES AND BOOKS AGAIN THIS MONTH:

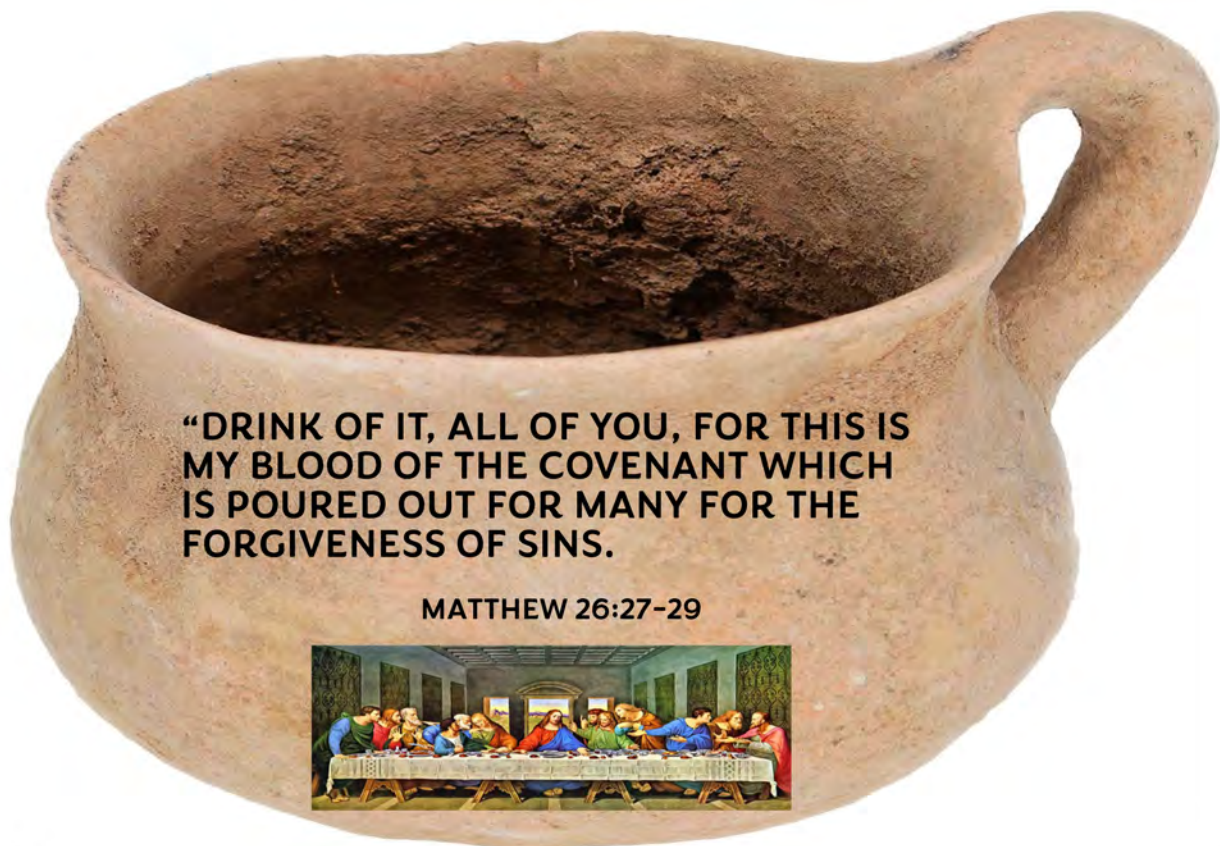
Wyoming Women’s Center, Lusk, WYOMING
Snake River Corr. Inst., Ontario, OREGON
Orient Road Jail, Tampa, FLORIDA
Green Haven Correctional Facility, Stormville, NEW YORK
James River Correctional Facility, Jamestown NORTH DAKOTA
High Desert State Prison, Indian Springs, NEVADA
Anchorage Correctional Complex, Anchorage, ALASKA
Florence McClure Women’s Corr. Center, Las Vegas, NEVADA
Federal Correctional Center, Milan, MICHIGAN
Ouachita River Unit, Malvern, ARKANSAS
Union County Jail, Monroe, NORTH CAROLINA
Jess Dunn Correctional Center, Taft, OKLAHOMA
Jackson Correctional Center, Malone, FLORIDA
Beaver County Jail, Aliquippa, PENNSYLVANIA
Telford Unit, New Boston, TEXAS
Pamunkey Regional Jail, Hanover, VIRGINIA
Southern Regional Jail, Beaver, WEST VIRGINIA
Lowell Correctional Annex, Ocala, FLORIDA
Roger Williams Detention Facility, Knoxville, TENNESSEE
Wrightsville Unit, Wrightsville, ARKANSAS
Indiana Women’s Prison, Plainfield, INDIANA
Roanoke County Jail, Salem, VIRGINIA
Limestone Correctional Facility, Harvest, ALABAMA
Henry County Jail, Paris, TENNESSEE
Cherokee County Jail, Rusk, TEXAS



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

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- DATED MATERIAL -
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**“DRINK OF IT, ALL OF YOU, FOR THIS IS
MY BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH
IS Poured OUT FOR MANY FOR THE
FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

MATTHEW 26:27-29

