

MAY 2023



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Dear Friends in Christ,

BUILDING BLOCKS . . .

Particles that are smaller than *atoms* are called *subatomic*, of which there are three: *protons*, *neutrons* and *electrons*. Smaller still are *quarks* and *gluons*. Scientists currently believe the latter two are indivisible; they cannot be broken down into still smaller components. *Yet nothing is beyond God. And nothing He has done or ever will do is either "small" or insignificant.*

Behind all things that exist is the divine Hand. And the One by whom all things came to have their being has a purpose for each one. But the intricacies of atoms and quarks are beyond my limited intellect.

For people such as I, JESUS came and spoke in far simpler terms. He spoke of clouds and rain and waves of the sea. Of bread and wine and sparrows and salt and wedding feasts. Of thorns and thistles. And in parables of the Prodigal Son, and the Seeds and Sowers—parables from which we still

gain wisdom and understanding today. But 2,000 long years have passed since then.

AND TIME WANES. The opportunity for ministry—for hearing the true word of the Lord—diminishes as the time of Jesus' return approaches (Amos 8:12). And what remains will be reduced to of little more value than the husk of the corn or the shell of the peanut. *(Noah must have felt that way as his preaching fell on deaf ears during the years the ark was being built.)*

Jesus asserted God will always hear the cries of His elect, yet questioned, *"Will the Son of man find faith on earth when He returns?"* Luke 18:8

Could it be it depends on what we do in this hour?

And so we preach and prepare and wait and watch, knowing the last pages of a great Book are being filled up, a Book that will be opened and read on the Last Day before a Heavenly Court of angels and saints, and before a Judge who is God of all.

THE MASTER'S PLAN

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; *the whole earth is full of his glory!*" Isaiah 6:3

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Hab. 2:14

"Surely, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" Rev. 22:20

It has been said, *“The eyes of the Lord roam to and fro across the whole earth to show His might on behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him.”* And, as Jesus testified, He also takes great delight in showing His power and showering His love on *“the least of (wo)men.”* For the last few weeks, His eyes and His love have been focused on *“Sin City USA” - Las Vegas.* Here’s the most recent of a number of letters we’ve received from that area:

“Hello—I pray this letter finds you blessed. First let me say thank you for taking the time to read this letter and also for your ministry. I received a flyer for the I’m Gonna Bury You book and bibles. I would like to request that book and other books as well, and a Study Bible if available. My cellmate and I are walking with the Lord spreading the Good News so we thank you for sending each of us copies. I also work in the Chaplain’s office. If there is bulk available of books or bibles, we can always use them to spread His Word. We will be lifting up your ministry in prayer. In His love and light”

In many if not most prisons and jails, the prisoners “own” nothing that is really theirs, unless you take into consideration personal items such as a toothbrush or a book, or perhaps a photograph someone on the “outside” has sent you, which explains this inmate’s use of the word —

*“I own one of yall’s Triumph bookmarks, and the verse on it Psalm 118:5,6,21 helps me a lot. My mom died May 5th and I’ve been really stressing. I came to prison at 17 years old and now I’m 35 years old and have 3 years left in prison. I lost my mom, dad and only child since I’ve been incarcerated. I see your bookmark says, **“Are you a prisoner? Write to us for free Bibles and books.”** May you please send me a Bible dictionary and a King James Bible. . . .Thanks so much. I have nobody but God and yall. Thanks again.”*

In one of the places where Gene was in prison, a convict who just simply couldn’t deal with prison ended his life by ripping some wire out of the support system in his bed and forcing it down his throat. Prisons often have no choice but to deal with such *“possibilities”* - hence many of their burdensome rules. And inmates who would never consider harming themselves must nonetheless follow them:

“Hi, I am incarcerated in the Florida prison system and would very much appreciate books, a Bible and a plain notebook without staples or wire. Thank you sincerely, Sandra.”

And this letter, from another woman in prison, comes from our West Coast:

“My name is Alicia and I am incarcerated. I was given a bookmark which gave your address for a Bible and Books. I’d greatly appreciate them. Thanking you in advance”

NOTE: The idea for our bookmarks came from one of you. The *“good”* they have done is incalculable. *Thank you!*

This next note was an unfortunate and unexpected “first.” He writes from the Hospice section of a large prison:

“I am currently serving a 25 year sentence in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice. I have been diagnosed with a terminal heart condition, and I am now in Hospice Care due to my medical. My reason for writing to you is to ask your ministry for a Bible. I got your info in a book. I really want and really need a Bible. Large print. As soon as possible please. God, our Lord, richly bless you.”

Is “*Song of Solomon*” about the Lord’s love for us, that is, the *Bride of Christ*? Or is it perhaps an adaptation of that love to honor the love of a man and a woman for each other? Belief’s vary. *But this one thing stands out as being most Christ-like. And that is 8:6, which says, “Set me as a seal upon your heart. . . ; for love is strong as death.” And He proved that on a cross.*

I read a great truth somewhere a decade or so ago: “*The only free people in this world are those who are slaves to God.*” You can read and see the truth of those words in this next letter from an inmate who has done over 20 years in prison. The “tract” he speaks of is one Gene and I wrote many years ago:

“What a mighty God we serve; angels bow before Him, Heaven and Earth adore Him.’ I pray that this finds you enjoying His many blessings. I ran across your tract and read it. I am so grateful that Jesus came to die for me and that He hears my prayers and loves me. . . . Since my time in prison I have come to know more about Jesus Christ and ABBA Heavenly Father. My time in here has helped me to appreciate what God the Father has done for me. I am writing to request an ESV Bible. . . .”

Of all the things God wants us to have, a Bible has to be foremost. With it we can conquer all the “fiery darts” of the Enemy. You’ve made it possible to answer every request for one we’ve ever received.

“I was given this address to ask for a Bible. The prison here does not supply us with a free Bible. So here I am asking, hoping to receive one from you. . . .”

The great grammar of some of the men and women who write to us put me to shame. But it’s their love of the Lord that challenges and blesses me most:

“Please send more books! And a Bible please! Thank you so much for your

ministry to prisoners like me. I was very blessed by the book Power in Praise by Merlin R. Carothers. It just so happened that the arrival of the book was the hand of the Lord, because it directly applied to my present trial. God is good! I am a well-studied believer and love writers like Charles Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards, John Calvin, etc. Thank you so much for your willingness to bless us prisoners with the Word of God! David”

We keep several books and Bibles available in Spanish. The following is the English translation of a letter written in Spanish we received recently:

“Look, first, God bless and protect you. My letter is to ask you for a favor. I would like a couple of books in Spanish because I don’t read English. I don’t have a family here, so I am writing to see if you can help me with that favor. I would be very grateful. All that, and I pray God the Father protects you and your family. Please pray for me.”

And we have prayed for him, along with all of those who have written this month.

John, who wrote the next letter, is a steady “patron of the library” you help us provide the inmates. His letters are brief; but without telling us, he recently convinced his chaplain to write us for books and bibles. So the entire prison has now benefited:

“Dear ministries. Loved the last book that was sent on the Apocalypse. I read the authors’ other book, too. But I’m writing to see if I can get another book. Very grateful for the books that’s for sure. Thank you. . . .”

“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works . . . encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Heb 10:24,25

CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

This chaplain was out on the playing field when I called recently—the ball field that is—which is where he was when we spoke a few months ago. He umpires the inmates’ ballgames. And I could once again hear the shouts in the background. Comradery on the field doubtless pulls some of them into the chapel. As to my query about more books, he “shouted” —

“Send them all. Appreciate you! And yes, we still take hardbacks. . . .”

Prisons (like this one) are more frequently requiring we provide them in advance with a Donation Form setting out the number and type of books we are sending. The Warden signs off, then we send in the boxes. Incidentally, religious services at this prison include Hebrew Israelite Studies, Islamic Jumah Prayers, a Jehovah’s Witness Bible study and Jewish Sabbath Prayer Services. It speaks well of this chaplain that he averages between 200 and 300 in his Protestant services:

“Hello there. Good to hear from you again! . . . We’re getting two or three hundred in chapel each Sunday and could use a little of everything, including Spanish New Testaments if you have any. I’m still teaching classes, so we can also use more journals and notebook paper. . . . Attached is the prison’s Donation Form for you to fill in and email back to me. As soon as the Warden signs off, I’ll return it to you”

He shepherds between 1600 and 1800 inmates daily. (It’s a receiving center, so it’s a constantly revolving door.) I’ve never talked to a finer chaplain, even though he did make one misstatement—which I corrected him on—smile. And that was . . .

“The chaplain is the only resource and programming that speaks directly to the heart of prisoners.” I told him we claimed a share in speaking to their hearts, too. He chuckled and went right on—bless him—saying, “We tap into their heart because the overflow from the heart results in changed behavior.” And, “I rejoice in the Lord’s care. The world prizes accomplishments, but the Lord prizes the heart. What a blessing to rejoice in the doors the Lord opens for worshipping.” And, “God waited a long time to call me. But when He did I was ready to answer. I was done with temporal chasing! And what a blessing to rejoice at the doors the Lord opened when I began to worship him.” He said a lot more, but closed with this: “You wonder how long until He comes back. But until He does, I will raise my hand and help stop the evil.”

He talked on for fifteen minutes, but he never said anything more poignant than that when God called him, *“I was done with temporal chasing.”* The things of the world no longer beckoned him. Jesus was calling, and he answered!

THE POWERFUL WORDS that follow are not primarily my own. They are paraphrased from an old book that is part of the great Pastor Charles Spurgeon’s library of sermons. But they are appropriate for every hour of human history and every aspect of the Godly warfare against the evils of this world:

The day will come, Spurgeon wrote, a day beyond remorse and sadness, for anyone who finds he or she did not attain the heavenly kingdom toward which we now look and hope and strive. But instead find themselves in the midst of fires and smoke and a horrible anguish of trembling souls lost forever. Locked away from the Presence of the Savior, His glory and love. What would such a person give to buy back a single hour within which to make amends for his sins and ransom his soul? Yet not even all the kingdoms of the world, were they his to give, would suffice to purchase even that one hour. That being the case, why not resolve, while you have this hour, to make the utmost of the remaining time and come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOD BLESS YOU for your great help in fighting this last and greatest of all conflicts—the *end-time battle for souls.*

- . . .The stage whereon this war is fought is every man's own soul. . . The whole world is engaged in the quarrel, either for God against Satan, or for Satan against God.
-
- **William Gurnall (1616—1679)**

HIS peace be yours,



Dorothy and Family

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

Mesa Police Holding Facility, Mesa, ARIZONA
Eastern Correctional Institution, Westover, MARYLAND
California State Prison Corcoran, CORCORAN, California
L.C.I. Work Camp, Tampa, FLORIDA
Johnson State Prison, Wrightsville, GEORGIA
Pruntytown Correctional Center, Grafton, WEST VIRGINIA
Washington State Penitentiary, Walla Walla, WASHINGTON
Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Aberdeen, WASHINGTON
Baker Street Jail, Houston, TEXAS
Oregon State Prison, Salem, OREGON
Sussex Correctional Center, Georgetown, DELAWARE
Fresno County Jail, Fresno, CALIFORNIA
Luther Unit, Navasota, TEXAS
Idaho State Correctional Center, Kuna, IDAHO
Coastal State Prison, Garden City, GEORGIA
Danville Detention Center, Danville, VIRGINIA
Hudson County Correctional, Kearny, NEW JERSEY
Orange County Correctional Facility, Orlando, FLORIDA
East Mississippi Correctional Center, Meridian, MISSISSIPPI
Barrow County Detention Center, Winder, GEORGIA
Wood County Correctional Facility, Quitman, TEXAS
Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA
Knox County Jail, Knoxville, TENNESSEE



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

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- DATED MATERIAL -
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SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS have enhanced our lives beyond measure, affording us comforts the generations before us never dreamed of having. Health, communications, transportation; the list is virtually unlimited. But today the talk is all about AI – artificial intelligence – which many believe potentially threatens life as we know it today in the near future. Some even say machines are about to exceed our ability to control them. And there is considerable evidence they may be right.

American pastor A. W. Tozer (1897-1963) warned of the dangers of science unrelated to our physical comforts. “*Science,*” he said, “*has robbed men of their souls by surrounding them with a world hostile to their existence.*” Tozer wasn’t referring to the as yet unheard of dangers of AI, but to the spiritual dangers of the world. Media, radio and television, newspapers, movies, even telephones were what he called “modern playthings. “*No spot is now safe from the world’s intrusion.*” He once said. And Tozer probably had never even conceived of today’s cellphones, computers and the internet that pries into every word it picks up from our “searches.”

What’s the point of all this? It’s the same today as it was in Tozer’s time. And the same as it will be day after tomorrow – if tomorrow comes. *Modern life seeks to draw us away from time with God. And time with Him is the only thing that will provide us with “oil for our lamps” - the stability we need in order to be ready at whatever hour our Master returns—and the spiritual strength and joy that will keep us from becoming weary of the waiting.*

