

NOVEMBER '24



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IT'S NOVEMBER—*a month of remembrance for the Neills! The month in which Gene came to that “great cloud of witnesses on Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all. . . .” (Hebrews 12:22-24)*

How do we imagine such a sight?! Surely it is beyond our comprehension at this moment in time. But it is comforting to me to know that Gene has stood there—stands there even today—and I will be with him soon, God willing.

IN THE MEANTIME, with the help of our sons, I am “about our Father’s business.”

You don’t have to do great things to make a big impression on our Father. Remember--

“Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny.”

Ignored by the rich as they put in their large sums, she slipped quietly in and dropped two of the least valuable coins of that time into the money box.

With no one to notice but the King of kings—

“And Jesus called his disciples to him, and said to them,

“Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.” (Mark 12:41-44)

She gave not from what she had; she gave everything she had. What a difference!

How would you like to be among the few—the very, very few—who do such great things with what little you have that He notices and calls others to Him to tell them about you! Even though I am not worthy, I rejoice at knowing I may one day meet those who are. >>

ACTUALLY, He is taking notice of everything we do and say. And Revelation says “the one who conquers” will have his or her name written in “the book of life of the lamb” (Rev. 3:5, 13:8). Imagine! There’s a record being kept in a great Book somewhere of all we have said and done in our lives! And it will be made known on that great day when we stand before “the Judge who is God of us all”

To seek God with all our heart, as His Word tells us to do, does not mean our journey with Him is like that of the vast biblical Nile. *(Our journey is far greater!)* By the way, more than one place (Lake Victoria for example) claims to be the initial source of the Nile. Decades ago, Gene and I stood beside a sign in Uganda (East Africa) that indicated the little trickle at our feet was the beginning of the great river. If we were able to follow the trickle, we were told, it would become a brook, and the brook a roaring stream, the stream a torrent and the torrent the mighty Nile, *which flows through eleven countries, eventually emptying into the Mediterranean, which flows through the Strait of Gibraltar out into the Atlantic Ocean—of which only 5% has been explored! Yet far greater is the journey of many who write to us and are taking their first baby steps into the fathomless depths of the River of Life. (Just imagine how far and wide that flows—endless upon endless)!*—

“I’m currently incarcerated and was wondering if y’all can please send me a study bible and maybe a bible study. Please. . . .”

“I will have faith that God will tell you the study material I need. . . . I’m currently reading a book on I and II Samuel [which we sent him]. But I’m looking for the next good read.”

And the ripples just keep on going

“I found out about your ministry from a fellow inmate here. I’d like to obtain a copy of the 3-in-1 Bible Guide: Dictionary, Concordance and Atlas. Please. Thank you for your ministry!”

We’ve been sending books to this women’s correctional center for as long as I can remember. Only the names of those who write to us keep changing:

“Hello! I am currently serving time I just received two books from you, I’m Gonna Bury You and Power in Praise. I want to thank you very much. Unfortunately, I am indigent. I would also be grateful for any other books you have available - not to be greedy! I will definitely pass them along to other inmates. Thank you very much! God bless!”

Some 2,345 miles separate the woman who wrote that last letter from the one who wrote this next one. Distance doesn’t hinder God’s Word getting out:

“I came across one of your books that said a prisoner could write for literature and bibles.

I’d like any readings you could send me and also my two fellow inmates. You may have to mail c/o the chaplain. I appreciate all you can send to help my time go by and to get closer to Jesus. I love Jesus. Thanks so much. If possible, please send 3 different packages to these 3 inmates.”

We couldn’t turn this man’s requests down! Books and bibles are on their way to him and to his children:

“. . . A buddy of mine let me look through his “No Stress Bible Guide,” and your address was inside. I would like to request this book. Because of the way it is worded and because of art work and pictures, I could see my children, a boy and young lady, picking up the books and reading them. They don’t go to church but I am trying to show them who God is and have them learn about the Bible. So if possible, can you send them these books please. I would really appreciate it a lot. . . . Thank you for all of your help and for making a difference in this world. May God always bless you and continue to bless your ministry. . . .”

“Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. . . . Then shall come to pass the saying: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” I Cor. 15:51-55 Maranatha!

Genesis says, in so many words, there was no light in the beginning of our world. Darkness and chaos ruled the fathomless depths, and Earth was without form and void. Spiritually speaking, those words similarly describe the emptiness in someone before the Light that is Christ comes into his or her life:

“I am currently an inmate and I am writing in hope of receiving a large print bible that is easy to understand and any other reading materials that will help me become closer to God. I have been sharing a few books that have been mailed from you all. It’s great knowing there are people still caring about and showing and telling about God’s Word, and I really appreciate you all for showing me that. . . . I know in my heart God will bless you for the great work you are doing. Thank you and God bless!!!”

Neither sun nor moon were created until Gen. 1:14. Yet God’s first words eleven verses earlier (Gen. 1:3) were “Let there be light.” How could this be? Is the “secret” shared with us twice in John 1:1-4: “In the beginning was the Word . . . All things were made through him . . . In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

“My name is Daniel. Someone gave me one of your bookmarks. I read the bible every day at home but they won’t let me have my own in here. I am sorry I can’t spell very well, and I can’t get a pair of glasses to read small print. Your bookmark said you could send me a bible and some God books. My family does not have a lot of money and I am looking at 8-10 years

for DUI’s. . . . I feel God told me to write you and ask. . . . Thank you for spreading the word of Jesus our God. I hope you can read this. . . .”

This inmate’s name is Spanish, so he may be making an effort to improve his English. We were happy to send him what he requested:

“I am writing to ask if you can please send me 2 Bibles. One in English and one in Spanish. The version I hope you can send if possible is NIV. And if God allows please I will like to be sent a book called Spiritual Warfare. Thank you for your time and help and above all for your blessing. God give you peace...”

We’ve yet to begin to reach all of the detention facilities in America. But we’re trying! Today there are 1,566 state prisons, 100 Federal facilities, 3,116 jails, 1,323 juvenile facilities, 142 immigration facilities—and some two million prisoners. Here’s another:

“Hello, I am requesting literature . . . Thank you for helping me desire more of the Lord and be a better person.”

ONCE THE LIGHT CAME into the world and illuminated the hearts of men. But before Jesus left He warned His disciples twice the light would be withdrawing—and the awful results of its absence:

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work.” John 9:4

“You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you.” John 12:35-37

“ONLY THOSE who are willing to risk going too far can find out how far one can possibly go.” (T. S. Eliot) With our hand in the hand of the Man who walked the waters on the Sea of Galilee, the reward is worth the “risk!” Ask Peter—Matt. 14:22-32

CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

This is the nicest letter! But the praise she is heaping on me belongs on you ~ you are the “village” she’s talking about!!!—

“Hi, Dorothy, I pray this email finds you well! I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generous boxes of books and Bibles. The incarcerated women are very grateful and have been enjoying them. It takes a village to serve those in prison and I thank you for being a part of ours. In Deep Gratitude and God Bless. . .”

Prisons today are microcosms—what my dictionary describes (roughly) as a place which encapsulates, in miniature, the features of something much larger. i.e. Prisons are small cities. This northwestern prison has over thirty programs grouped under “religious,” many of which are organized and run by the inmates. Fortunately, they also have a good man of God to care for their souls. Here is a small portion of his response to your donation of some forty books and bibles:

“The concordance you sent was put to use immediately. It’s been really useful in the study of the scriptures. . . . All the books are helping them understand how much God loves them. They particularly appreciated the large print bibles and the reading books by Graham, Lucado, Warren, Swindoll and all the rest that help them understand redemption and salvation....

(Note: He asked for additional books, and I’m getting them ready to ship.

This was a “first” . . . After talking with this relatively new chaplain for a short time he not only happily accepted our offering, but then surprised me by asking—

“We are always in need of books and bibles. It is making a difference in the lives of some of our inmates. . . . Are you calling from this area? We would also like to invite you to come and visit us. . . .”

Once in a while I run across a living saint. I just talked with one such chaplain. There is nothing a chaplain can do that he’s not already doing. What was originally designed to be a short term evaluation center for 174 is now running as high as 250 per cent over capacity. When I told him what our ministry does, he spent several minutes explaining why, as he put it—

“I would love to have anything you have to offer . . . I’ll make sure it’s available to those who are new [in the reception/evaluation center], and to those who are in our geriatric facility or who are less mobile. We also have a general population section and a maximum security section. Depending on what you send, I’ll also put some of it in our Chapel for the inmates allowed there. . . .”

The two chaplains in this receiving and assessment center asked me to contact them on a regular basis. New inmates are quickly assessed to determine their security level, medical needs, etc. that determine where they’ll be sent to serve their time. Bibles they receive at R&A centers can be taken with them. So bibles “disappear” quickly....

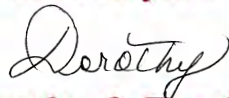
“Hello, Thank you for reaching out and thinking of us. We’d definitely appreciate more bibles. Thank you so much!”

Yes, since we were little children we've heard all about the "first" thanksgiving celebrated at Plymouth Bay in 1621 by the surviving 44 colonists of the original 102 *Mayflower* passengers. (It was also in that year, by the way, that Gov. William Bradford performed the first wedding ceremony.) And with the help of the local Wampanoag tribesmen the little colony grew and prospered.

But did you know (despite paintings to the contrary), it's unlikely the ladies of Plymouth were even at that first autumn festival? It was 200 years later (1846) that a woman named Sarah Josepha Hale (her parents were undoubtedly Christians), editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, a popular nationwide magazine, began campaigning for an annual national thanksgiving holiday. (*Take a bow, ladies!*) It was seventeen years later a man named Abraham Lincoln *finally!* got around to declaring the annual Thanksgiving we celebrate today.

Smiles aside, to God be the glory for His help in creating this great nation! May we once again put Him at the forefront of what we do and say that we might survive the "cold winters" that are ahead. *God bless you!*

Our love to you all!



Dorothy & Family

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS AND JAILS YOU'VE HELPED US
PUT BIBLES AND BOOKS INTO AGAIN THIS MONTH:**

Adephi County Jail, Adelphi, MARYLAND
Maury County Jail, Sevierville, TENNESSEE
Bonnevill County Jail, Idaho Falls, IDAHO
Holmes Correctional Institution, Bonifay, FLORIDA
Carroll County Jail, Delphi, INDIANA
Kempeo Neshoba Corr. Facility, DeKalb, MISSISSIPPI
Northwest Correctional Complex, Tiptonville, TENNESSEE
Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, Madras, OREGON
Sampson County Detention Center, Clinton, NORTH CAROLINA
Stafford Creek Correctional Center, Aberdeen, WASHINGTON
SWVJRA—Abingdon, Meadowview, VIRGINIA
Gadsden Correctional Facility, Quincy, FLORIDA
Wrightsville Women's Facility, ARKANSAS
Ely State Prison, NEVADA
Anchorage Correctional Complex, ALASKA
Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA
Silverdale Detention Center, Chattanooga, TENNESSEE
Jackson Correctional Institution, Malone, FLORIDA
Calcasieu Corrections Center, Lake Charles, VIRGINIA
Wyoming Medium Correctional Inst., Torrington, WYOMING
Beaufort County Detention Center, SOUTH CAROLINA



GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN

SOME OF THE HYMNS we sing in churches across America are sermons all their own. Consecrated by the lives of Christian men and women of the ages, they have brought peace and redemption to many lost souls. The prayers of David, the great psalmist of biblical glory, were written three thousand years ago. Yet they still live on today, in story and in song, bringing peace to the hearts of the weary, inspiring the sorrowing and lifting many of the lost into realms of glory with their blessed strains and heart touching power.

According to the book *Hymns Historically Famous*, an account of the life of a notorious robber was published in a New York newspaper in the late 1800's. Multiple imprisonments had done nothing to change him.

Finally, an evangelist came to talk and pray with him. Yet in spite of the thief's willingness to hear what he had to say, it was still to no avail. But then, the evangelist began to sing, "*There is a Fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath its floods lose all their guilty stains.*"

It was the second verse that touched the heart of the thief and at last changed his life: "*The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; And there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.*"

Wherever the Spirit of God is, redemption is available for the least of men.
