

OCTOBER 2023



## The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

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### BELOVED IN CHRIST,

There is no escaping mortality. We are here for a brief time; we die; our body returns to dust and our spirit to the One who gave it. What we have while we are here is only ours on loan. Borrowed. The Word says we are temporary tenants on land that belongs to God. The Bible calls us “strangers” on this Earth. And some day all that we have borrowed must be returned.

God would not even allow the Israelites to sell their land permanently. In Leviticus 25:23 He tells them, “*The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.*” We don’t belong here; but He walks beside us.

He wanted the Israelites, and you and me, to keep our eyes on Him – not on the things of this Earth. *That’s why He called us strangers and sojourners – emphasizing that this world is not our home. We are just transient travelers, walking through life with Je-*

*sus. We arrived here with nothing; we shall leave with nothing.*

In His parable of the “talents” (Matt. 25:14,15), Jesus made our time here, our walk with Him, very personal. He talked about a landholder (Himself) who went off on a long journey and left His servants “talents” to use while He was away. The parable made it very clear He expected a return *with interest* when He came back.

But what are “talents”? *They are whatever we have been given that, when properly used, will bring glory to Him. Those who did not use their talents wisely were called “worthless servants” to be “cast into the outer darkness.” Ouch!*

If we are looking around at the world today – as I know all of us are – we cannot help but realize our “lease” is almost up. All that we have is His, and He is coming to get it back. *With interest!* May we use the talents He has given us to faithfully and wisely bring Him glory now and forever.

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**“It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow.”**

Calvin Coolidge  
30th President  
of the United States  
Born on  
Independence Day!

**“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters: . . . “Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; . . . “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” Isaiah 55:1,3,6**

**Love is the most “active” word in the English language. It is not a passive feeling, it is an action. Ask the One who died on the cross.**

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**Some 411 of America’s prisons are owned and operated by private corporations. I called a chaplain at one of them, and for unknown reasons he wouldn’t give me his name. Yet since then we have received the following two letters from prisoners there that indicate he’s serving the Lord. . . .**

*“Hello, I am currently incarcerated at . . . . I recently requested a Bible from the chaplain, and the chaplain then referred me to your organization. May I please have a copy of the NKJ Bible and any other books that may be put on your heart to send. It is very much appreciated as my time here is for reflection. And without a Bible I can’t fully put 100% into my journey here. Thank you so much. . . .”*

*“. . . My name is Stephanie. I’m currently incarcerated . . . and I would greatly appreciate a copy of I’m Gonna Bury You and any other Christian reading material you might have. Please and thank you . . .”*

**We’re grateful for “repeats.” If they stay embedded in the Word while they’re in prison, they have a much better chance once they’re back on the “outside”--**

*“I’m writing to see if I can get another book sent to me, seeing I finished the last one you mailed to me. I’m very grateful for the books you send. I’m blessed, that’s for sure.”*

**Gene said there was a humorous saying while he was in prison.: “The fastest means of communication are telegraph, telephone and tell a convict..” In prison, news travels fast:**

**“. . . I am writing to request a NKJV Bible so I can spend this time and chance to diligently study God’s blessed Word. I am poor and have no one else to ask. A fellow prisoner gave me a paper with a scripture and this address. He told me I could ask for a Bible of my very own to study. . . . I do not have TV or radio here. . . . I would rather read, and I would love to take this opportunity to read and study God’s Word in depth. I humbly ask you please consider my request.”**

**Our bookmarks are really getting around and carrying the message -- write us for books and bible! Thanks to you, we sent this inmate everything he asked for --**

*“I am an inmate incarcerated in FDOC. I am attending a Bible study at the chapel here and was given one of your bookmarks by them. It says to write you about free Bibles and books. I would appreciate anything you can send me. I am doing word study of the scriptures and could use one or more composition notebooks if possible. I would love a good study Bible and any books you think can help me to grow in my faith. Whatever you send will be greatly appreciated and utilized. I pray that God will continue to bless your ministry!”*

**Prison is an incredible opportunity for ministers to come in from the outside. I pray the Lord will send more into the harvest:**

*“Hello. . . I’m a believer in Christ Jesus and I’ve been saved. What I’m writing you about is to know if you can send me a Study Bible. I’m involved in a fellowship with other inmates within my dorm, and I have no Bible. I keep praying to the Lord someone will send me a Study Bible so I can get closer to God on my daily walk. I hope you can help me. Our chapel library is closed. So for now God bless and I’ll be praying for you. Thanks again for everything you do.”*

*God’s eyes roam the whole earth, keeping watch over all: the great and the small, the eagles and the sparrows, and you and me, and on those “few” - two million in America - who are in prison cells. And when even the chapel library is closed, that can make what we do awfully important. For those who keep their eyes on Him, Jesus put it this way, “Fear not, little flock, it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32 --*

*“My name is Mark and I’m currently incarcerated. . . . Our library is closed at the moment. And I’m in search of a few books. I would greatly appreciate any help. Thank you and God bless. . . .”*

*We had four “firsts” this month! (You’ll find the fourth one in the Chaplain’s section.) Perhaps there are questions in the heart and spirit of this first convict because of all the troubles going on around the world today---*

*“Hello there, My name is Daniel, and I would be so grateful if you might send me the Apocrypha. I would also like the book of Enoch if it is possible. I’d love any Bible studies as well. Thank you and God bless you.”*

*This was the second one - a letter from a mother out here in the “free world.” We don’t know how she got our name, but praise the Lord she did ---*

*“Hi, I would like a large print Bible so I may do Bible Study with my daughter who is in prison. Thank you. God bless.”*

*And the next two letters are actually one of four; THAT IS, we received FOUR letters in SPANISH this month from inmates in four different prisons. They were translated with the help of the internet and my limited knowledge acquired in high school:*

*“Hello, Can you send Christian books to learn about the Word of Christ? I want to know more about Word of God in order to continue to do the will of Christ. I don’t have a mother in this country or family. I am abandoned here in prison. I just want to overcome the loneliness and find the love of God so that it is in my soul. . . bless you and cover you with much love and light in your paths. Juan”*

*“I write this letter to you beloved brothers and sisters, and I hope the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will be with each of you. The motive of my letter is to see if you could give me some Christian books that contain praises of the Blessed Ones? Before I was arrested I had not given my life to God, but today glory to God I told Him I had, and God has had mercy on me. . . .Here I came to read the Bible and here God has transformed my life. It is not easy but with God we are more than victorious. I only ask for wisdom to become the instrument He wants of my life. . . . I wish God to keep guard over each of you in the ministry.”*

**“Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?”**  
**Jer. 32:27**

## CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

Cont.

It may surprise you to know (it did me) the four states with the most women in prison per capita are West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Alabama. One chaplain told me his main concern is their “aging population.” Women growing old in prison! Who would have thought it not long ago? But it’s why we try to make sure to include some *large print bibles*:

*“We got your shipment and really appreciated everything so much, especially the large print bibles. They are a blessing. . . .”*

It’s a large western jail - over 600 male prisoners at the moment - and the chief chaplain there is female. We got along extremely well, and she kept me laughing with some of the stories she told of her on-the-job experiences.

*“Bibles are our number one need, but I’ll be happy to take any good Christian books you have available. Hard or softback, we’ll take them all. . . .”*

Considered one of the toughest prisons in the state, this institution houses over 1600 inmates, and they’re beginning construction on an extension. The Chaplain had the right “personality” for the job, dedicated, understanding, sharp. With so many inmates in a prison with all four security levels (maximum, close, medium and minimum), he was happy to take whatever we could offer. Every Bible and book would find an outstretched hand.

At first, this chaplain said he didn’t need anything for their chapel library. But I’m disinclined to take “no” for an answer. So, I asked, “*We do happen to have a like new Webster’s New World College Dictionary of about six pounds weight. Would you by any chance be able to use that in your chapel library?*” “*Well,*” he said, “*that DOES sound like something we’d be interested in.*” So I quickly added, “*Great! And maybe I could add just a few good books I think you’d like?*” “*Let’s do that!*” He actually sounded enthusiastic. I know I was!

THIS email just came in from a Louisiana chaplain:

*“. . . This is in reference to the shipments you provided our inmate population. . . . We received shipments on three different days. . . . Thank you so much for your generosity!”* 😊

God is good! We received another call from a Chaplain’s assistant telling us they “would be receptive” to softback Christian books. By now, their “*cup runneth over*” because they have received a goodly supply of Christian books.

We’ve never before had a chaplain request *Christian fiction*, but this chaplain did. He told me he had more than 1,600 inmates. And some prisoners who wouldn’t read the Bible would still read related fiction books. By what I call one of the Lord’s little “coincidences,” we had already received donations that included a total of three fiction Christian books this month. I was happy to include those in the boxes!

America has 1,566 state adult prisons and 1,328 juvenile institutions, plus 98 Federal

penitentiaries, and 181 immigration facilities. This doesn't include Indian country jails, state jails, military prisons and prisons in U. S. territories. And still building. . . There is no ministry in America that is able to reach all of the men and women locked behind those thousands of steel doors. We are a country of 335 million people. *EACH WEEK 11,538* of them enter prison - prisons already overflowing with *two million people*. More than any country in the world. *It's like a great winter storm: nothing can stop it.* And only God's divine intervention in the lives of those who turn to Him can pull them out of the angry waters. That's why we're here. To provide a shelter for those who want to come in out of the storms. Psalms 57:1,2 puts it so beautifully:

*"In thee my soul takes refuge, in the shadow of thy wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by."*

**This is the Good News: there really is a place of refuge for the world weary, out of the storm, a place of peace and rest "near to the heart of God."** Thank you for all you've done to help point them to His rest.

**In His Love,**

  
**The Neill Family**

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

**Two Rivers Correctional Institution, OREGON**  
**Jackson Correctional Institution, Jackson, FLORIDA**  
**Mabel Bassett Corrections Center, McLoud, OKLAHOMA**  
**Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center, NEVADA**  
**Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, INDIANA**  
**Santa Rosa Correctional Institution, Milton, FLORIDA**  
**Uvalde County Jail, Uvalde, TEXAS**  
**Robertson County Detention Facility, Springfield, TENNESSEE**  
**Holmes Correctional Institution, Bonifay, FLORIDA**  
**Shawnee Correctional Institution, Vienna, ILLINOIS**  
**Pulaski County Jail, Little Rock, ARKANSAS**  
**Jefferson County Jail, Rigby, IDAHO**  
**Oaks Correctional Facility, Manistee, MICHIGAN**  
**Clinton County Jail, Frankfort, INDIANA**  
**Oregon Dept. of Corrections, Umatilla, OREGON**  
**Union County Jail, Monroe NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Roger Wilson Detention Facility, Knoxville, TENNESSEE**  
**United States Penitentiary Hazelton, Bruceton Mills, WEST VIRGINIA**  
**Eddie Warrior Women's Correctional Facility, Taft, OKLAHOMA**  
**Ohio Correctional Reception Center, Orient, OHIO**  
**Tomoka Correctional Institution, Daytona Beach, FLORIDA**  
**Green County Detention Center, Paragould, ARIZONA**  
**Logan Correctional Center Lincoln, ILLINOIS**  
**Chillicothe Correctional Institution, Chillicothe, OHIO**



GENE NEILL  
Founder

# THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

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~ DATED MATERIAL ~  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## A WONDERFUL PLAN

**YOU'RE NEVER GOING** to get through to some people, no matter how you try. A former high school friend of Gene's told him after hearing his testimony, "*Gene, of all the guys I knew, you were the last one I thought would ever get saved.*" He had not been able to see that place of need down deep inside of Gene where only God could see.

**It reminds me a little of Martin Pistorious, who at age 12 collapsed into a near vegetative state from a mystery illness. Thinking he suffered an incurable neurological disease, doctors gave up on him. And so for four years he remained bound to a wheelchair, unable to speak or move or even think. At last he had a dream showing him there were angels with him. And slowly he began to have brief moments when thoughts would come to his once vacant mind. Although he felt he could go with the angels, in his heart he wanted to remain with his family. And in that moment, Martin said, "*breath filled my lungs.*" I think you and I might say the Holy Spirit – *the very breath of God* – reached down and touched Martin. He didn't understand theology or faith or know the Bible or even comprehend sin. But somehow he realized God was with him. A dozen years passed before Martin's life really began all new. But today he's a Christian, happily married and has a business as a web developer. His autobiography is called *Ghost Boy*.**

***No one is beyond the reach of God.*** Knowing that, we can watch and pray and make sure we don't pass up an opportunity to reach out to someone in need and tell them, "***God loves you! And He has a wonderful plan for your life. . . .***" ***Because He does.***