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SCRIPTURE doesn't call Solomon a prophet, but a few things he wrote make me won der if God didn't sometimes whisper in his ear. For example, the "seal" Solomon speaks of twice in Song of Solomon 8:6 is reminiscent of the love God declared for His own in the New Testament---

"Set me as <u>a seal</u> upon thine heart, as <u>a seal</u> upon thine arm <u>for love is strong as death; ..."</u>
Song of Solomon 8:6

Similarly, in Revelation 7:4, the four winds of earth (which represent worldwide devastations) are held back for a special group of 144,000 "servants of our God" ---

"After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. Then I saw another angel... with the seal of the living God and he called... to the four angels... saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God...."

These servants of God are mentioned again in Rev. 14:1:
"Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads...."

The "seal" on their foreheads identifies them as those for whom God has a special love because they "follow the Lamb wherever he goes." He has claimed them for His own and given them the promise of eternal life.

This "seal" stands in distinct contrast to the "mark" the beast, Satan's progeny, makes all mankind take in order to buy and sell. Rev. 13:16,17.

The Seal of God denotes eternal Life. The mark of the beast signifies everlasting Death. Separation from God!

It was a "mark" (not a seal) that God placed on Cain when He sent him away to "Nod" after he killed his brother Abel – a location unknown to this day, but symbolic of "wandering."

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Cont....

BUT CAIN recognized the awful and far deeper significance of "Nod" because he cried out to God---

"My punishment is greater than I can bear ... you have driven me away from your face." (Gen. 4:12,16).

In life and in death, Cain was forever separated from God. "And convince some who doubt, save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

Jude 22-23

NOTE: The scripture above, quoted from JUDE, is believed to have been written by one of the four half-brothers of Jesus. Only John (author of Revelation) is known to have still been alive when Jude was written. All the other apostles had been martyred. Christianity was under severe political and spiritual attack, and Jude called the church to fight for the truth!

IT SOUNDS like this convict could write a book about his life now that he's living a new life for Jesus Christ:

"Hello, and God bless. It would be a great blessing to read your book and read your testimony. . . . I have been in and out of prisons all of my life, doing drugs and living a life of crime. Living in the world. I have finally surrendered my life to Jesus, and now I seek Him first, not the worldly things. Life has meaning because all good things come from the Father. I would love to get a copy of I'm Gonna Bury You. If you can, also send my cellmate a copy. He said he too would love to read it. If you could send me a giant print bible I could really use it. May God bless you always."

God gave His Word: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matt 7:7) And we are doing our part, with your help, to fulfil His Word:

"I am currently doing a prison term at the Women's Correctional Center. . . . I am writing this request for a free NKJ study bible and any daily devotionals or other

reading materials that can motivate me spiritually, and emotionally connect my walk with the Holy Spirit. Thank you..."

As we've mentioned before, the number of women locked up behind bars is on the increase. Here are two more --

"My name is Bianka and I'm in prison. . . I'm not exactly sure what you guys can send me, but I would really enjoy a bible and a journal and other reading materials if that's possible. Thank you so much!"

"... Our chaplain said I could write you to receive a NKJ Bible and books. I would really love some books. Also I have been looking for a NLT bible if you could help me out with any of those that would be so very appreciated. Thank you..."

What a privilege to share Christ with someone who's never going home:

"... I need a study bible and any books you can send. I'm in prison for life. I believe Jesus is the Son of God. I just need a good bible and Christian books. Please help me..."

The ruffed grouse isn't very big, but they look quite dramatic when they fan their tail and ruffle their neck feathers to attract the ladies; and they're the state bird of Pennsylvania, from whence this *chaplain* called:

"Your books have arrived! I've already passed out some. . . They're all good stuff, and your donation was very generous. I recognize the significant cost of shipping as well. But the things you sent will not go to waste. . . ."

I couldn't help but chuckle over this inmate's worrying that he might be stepping over "a boundary" by asking for a bible. If there's a line in the sand over that, it's been stepped over ten thousand times these last 50 years. And thanks to you, it keeps "moving" out...

"I am currently an inmate in Oregon. I received a brochure from another inmate, and it says to write if I would like a free copy of Gene's best-seller, 'I'm Gonna Bury You'! Even more so, I currently am trying to focus on studying the good Word, and my Bible has more missing pages than attached ones. I am curious if you can send me a large print study bible. I have no money to send you for one but I will not forget you when I save up some. If not, I understand, and I certainly hope my asking was not over stepping any boundaries. . . . "

This inmate is "excited" when he hears from us. His words are a gift worth all the gold this world has to offer for they bring honor and glory to our Father in heaven...

"Thank you so much for all the books you have sent me. It really helps out and keeps me busy. I always feel excited to see what you send next. . . . I look forward to whatever you send next, but would love to have a Bible Atlas, anything by Lee Strobel or books that tour through the Bible or its stories. . . . But anything that's available will be put to good use."

This letter arrived in Spanish. My high school Spanish courses didn't do me much good in translating it. But the internet helped in figuring out what he wrote:

"I am taking a Bible study, and thanks to your program I am learning. I want to know more about Jesus and his grace and help. And I am writing to you to see if you can send me books to learn more about papa God. Thank you very much. God bless you..."

We're grateful for the opportunity to help them all! This next letter comes from a large Women's Correctional Center---

"Hello, I am currently in the Women's Correction Center. I was wondering if I can get a copy of the NKJ Bible for studies while I am here and looking to get closer to God. Thank you. I appreciate you all."

These are times of adversity. For the moment, most of us read the news and often see the dire things happening around us — but they have not happened to us, not yet. And we can be lulled into complacency, and that's

a snare. In contrast, some prisoners are in a "better" place. "Dire things" are already a reality in their lives. And they want to escape the immoral, physical quicksand into which they have sunk. We are the "lifeline" many have been searching for--

"I received one of your bookmarks. Thank you for supplying them. Every time I'm feeling low or discouraged I read the scripture on it Psa. 118:5,6,21. It really helps refocus me back to my bible and our Lord Jesus. I still have 8 years left and would deeply appreciate any books and study items you can send from time to time. I will also share them with other believers and non-believers alike. Thank you for thinking about the forgotten ones. Psalm 22. Hope thru Christ!"

Some inmates almost remind me of little children; but of such is His Kingdom:

"... I'm requesting NKJ Bible and other books. 31 days of prayer and other spiritual books. God is good. God is great..." "TRUST IN THE LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5,6

CHAPLAINS'
CORNER

THE LAST TIME we heard from this chaplain in Kentucky was way back in March of 2022. So we were very happy to get a phone call earlier this week requesting more Bibles and Christian books. Since his facility allows hardbacks and softbacks, we were able to send a generous and varied selection of good Christian material, including New Testaments and large print Bibles for his (as he put it) "aging population" - all of which you made possible! And out they went!

Not all chaplains have the time to send a thank you, but today's mail brought a welcome note from a chaplain out west whom I respect as one of the "best." He writes:

"Just writing you a quick letter to let you know that we did receive the Hard Back NRSV Bibles and other books, along with some bookmarks for the men here. . . . Thank you so very much for them. May God continue to bless you and your ministry."

It takes a special heart and a God-given love to be a great chaplain. This chaplain loves his job and always sounds happy, even surrounded by 1500 inmates. The first time we talked years ago he told me,

"I've been here a long time. The Lord was willing and so I stayed." And he was more than willing to accept our latest offer of books and bibles this month.

This next letter comes from the Senior Chaplain of a large prison. He's seeking spiritual "food" on a regular basis for some 1,700 inmates:

". . . We hold various church services throughout the week and many attend faithfully. I also conduct rounds in the cellblocks and lockdown unit. I would like to request free religious materials . . . And an order form if your ministry is willing to provide on a periodical basis. Material will be distributed to church attendants, men in segregation and men that are held temporarily at this prison for processing before being transferred. . . This material is essential to my ministry, and I hope God will continue blessing your ministry and efforts in spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . . ."

The rather small ruffed grouse is an enchanting fellow who makes quite a display of his neck and tail feathers to impress the ladies. No wonder Pennsylvanians are fond of him. This chaplain hails from there:

"Your books have arrived! I've already passed out some of them. . . . They're all good stuff. And your donation was very generous. . . . I recognize also the significant cost of shipping. But the things you sent will not go to waste. . . ."

LIFE WITH GOD is not free of challenges. But you know that, don't you. One such "challenge" occurred in 1993 while we were living in a stilt home near the Gulf in Crystal River, Florida. I was at home with our youngest daughter; Gene was away on a speaking tour in Alabama. And Florida was enjoying the balmy days of spring.

But over night on March 12th a massive unpredicted cyclonic storm began in Canada and swept down the entire East Coast with a vengeance. Rightfully dubbed *The No Name Storm of the Century*, it brought high winds and historic snowfall, topped in some places with two inches of sleet, and killed more than 250 people. And when it reached Crystal River, wind gusts up to 110 miles per hour drove a high wall of water in from the Gulf. I awakened at 7 a.m. and looked out my bedroom window on a vast sea of water stretching as far as the eye could see. The depth of the water in our yard varied from 6 to 8 feet.

So get to the point, Dorothy! Okay, smile. It's this. As I looked out the second floor of our stilt home (the first floor was below water), there, right below my bedroom window, three books were floating close together, all in a row. Two were opened as though someone were reading them. The one in the middle was closed. There was a Bible, a copy of Gene's book, and a copy of Merlin Carother's book, the Power in Praise. How did they get there? We have no idea. There were books downstairs, behind walls and closed doors now flooded with sea water. Nothing God could have done could have preached a more eloquent "sermon" than those three books. Through all the storms of life, we can trust Him. King or pauper, prisoner or "free", we can trust Him. Thank you for helping us continue to tell many who are weathering "storms" in prison that He is all they need.

In His Love,

The Neill Family

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRISONS TO WHICH YOU HELPED SEND BIBLES AND BOOKS AND OTHER CHRISTIAN MAERIALS THIS MONTH Oregon Department of Corrections, Madras, OREGON Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women, Pee Wee Valley, KENTUCKY Ohio Correctional Reception Center, Orient, OHIO Orange County Correctional Facility, Orlando, FLORIDA Central Mississippi Prison, Pearl, MISSISSIPPI Kentucky State Reformatory, LaGrange, KENTUCKY Regional Jail - East, Barhamsville, VIRGINIA Potomac Highlands Regional Jail, Augusta, WEST VIRGINIA Berkshire County Jail. Pittsfield, MASSACHUSETTS Vandalia Correctional Facility, Vandalia, ILLINOIS United States Penitentiary, Lewisburg, PENNSYLVANIA Limestone Correctional Facility, Harvest, ALABAMA James Allred Unit, Iowa Park, TEXAS Green Haven Correctional Facility, Stormville, NEW YORK Salinas Valley State Prison, Soledad, CALIFORNIA Racine Correctional Institution, Sturtevant, WISCONSIN Emanuel Women's Facility, Swainsboro, GEORGIA Merrimack County Jail, Boscawen, NEW HAMPSHIRE Indiana Women's Prison, Plainfield, INDIANA Federal Correctional Facility, Greenville, ILLINOIS Calhoun Correctional Institution, Blountstown, FLORIDA

Bill Clements Unit, Amarillo, TEXAS



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GENE NEILL Founder

A.W. Tozer on Billy Graham: WE CAN ALL GET ALONG

THERE WAS A TIME when Dr. A. W. Tozer was asked to come to a meeting of Fundamentalists of Chicago. Some members were greatly upset that the ecumenical council and the Council of Churches had invited Dr. Billy Graham to come to Chicago. Who would support Billy's coming to Chicago and who wouldn't? What were they to do? To help settle the question, they asked Dr. Tozer to come. And he did, sitting against a wall in the meeting. His voice was growing weak with time, and he knew the wall would amplify his voice should he speak. Pen and paper in hand, he listened quietly. Finally, he called out: "Mr. Chairman." ... "Yes, Dr. Tozer."

"I want to say that I have met Billy Graham. He did me the great honor of coming to see me in my study one day. I don't agree with everything he says anymore than I agree with everything anybody says. But I want to warn you about something. It's possible for any of us to run against the wrong object and bend our lance for good. Now, come on brethren, let's take our hair down. You could line all the fundamentalist in the United States up in one line and start them to preaching and they would have less effect on the United States than Billy Graham would have just clearing his throat."