

SEPTEMBER 2024



The Voice of Triumph, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) corporation

P. O. Box 177
Delano, TN
37325

Telephone
(423) 338-8275

Email:
gneillministries
@gmail.com

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

You probably know as much about John Bunyan (1628-1688) as I do. Puritan preacher and prolific writer, he's best known for *The Pilgrim's Progress*, a Christian allegory. I remember helping my granddaughter work on a paper she had to write on it while she was still in high school.

Having become a preacher after his marriage, Bunyan belonged to the group known as nonconformists - Protestants who did not conform to the governance of the state church in England. His refusal to give up preaching led to his arrest and 12 years in prison. It was here that he began his work on *The Pilgrim's Progress*. And it was during a second imprisonment that he completed it.

Who would have guessed - even John himself - as he languished "in the cold damp floor and mouldering walls" of that jail that his book would eventually become one of the most published books in the English language.

God's ways are not our ways.

Knowing all of this, who is to say how very much the Bibles and books you help us provide today will matter even to this single decade.

But if one book written in a dank, dark prison in the 1600's by a little known preacher can circle the world for hundreds of years after his death, surely what we do by providing *The Word of God* to thousands of men and women in prison today can make a difference that will help light the dark corridors of earth so long as it remains.

God bless you for helping rob the Devil of his quarry and for making bright the halls of the City to come with the spirits of the children of Light.

Thus far did I come laden with sin
Naught could ease the grief I was in,
Til I came hither: what a place is this!
Must here be the beginning of my bliss?
Must here the burden fall from my back?
Must here the strings that bound it to me crack?
Blest cross! Blest sepulcher! Blest rather be
The Man who was put there to shame for me! PP

Philippians 3:12-16

"NOT THAT I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.... Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Oh, my! Other prison ministries are now sending people to us for bibles—

“I am currently incarcerated in Louisiana. I found a book (faith based) in a drawer here and read it. There was a stamp for another prison ministry. But after writing them they returned my letter with your info stating I could write and request a study bible. I am in dire need of a bible. Our chaplain said he is out when I asked him for one. I would love any reading material you could send. Thank you in advance for all you do and God bless.”

I would never have guessed what a wonderful impact our bookmarks would have on inmates! But indeed, God is using them:

“I am a prisoner. Every time I read any book, I look at your bookmark with, ‘Out of my distress I called on the Lord. The Lord answered me and set me free. With the Lord on my side, I do not fear. What can man do to me? I thank thee that thou hast answered me and hast become my salvation -



Psalm 118:5,6,21 It gives me boldness to continue in God's greatness and to hold on to His promises. I would like to ask if I may get a Study Bible. Please and thank you. God bless.”

This prison had its beginnings in the late 1800's as a State Hospital for the criminally insane. Believe it or not, part of the original building is still in use, only it's now part of a medium/maximum security prison. This man is one of well over 1,500 inmates:

“Hello dear reader. . . I would like to see if you can send me a BIBLE that I may read while I keep on learning from God. I am grateful and if you can, pray for me. Thank you.”

Praise the Lord, this man has met the King of kings in prison, just as Gene did. And like Gene he's already sharing the Good News:

“Hey, I hope whoever is reading this is having a good day. I was just writing because I saw a bookmark with this address on it. I got saved while incarcerated and am trying to spread the Word of Jesus Christ our Lord. Please send me a Bible so I can help share the Good News. With warm regards, David.”

He wants to carry God's Word around with him, and we're certainly happy to make that happen. And yes, it's going with our continued prayers:

“. . . I'd love to have a pocket Bible if you have one for me. Any other books would be great also. Mostly, send me lots of prayers . . . Thanks and God bless.”

Bless him, he thanked us not once but four times in his letter requesting books . . .

“. . . I heard of you from another inmate here, and I'm very interested in what you offer. Is there any way you could send me a large print study Bible and/or any other type of material I can use to further my relationship with God and be able to better yourself. Anything at all will be greatly appreciated, and I thank you for at least taking the time out to read this letter. Thank you in advance because any and all reading material is greatly appreciated. Thank you and may GOD BLESS YOU for the get work you are doing spreading His work!

From Abraham (1981 B.C. until now—4,000 years later,) Jews have waited and watched for their Messiah. They expected a champion to lead them in battle and restore Israel to its former glory. But God sent them a shepherd, a servant Savior, who said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” John 18:36. And so they missed Him. But now He’s coming back

In addition to a bookmark, each book and Bible we send out is stamped inside with a notation indicating prisoners can write to us for more literature:

“I was reading a book you sent someone, and it said for books and Bibles to write you. I’ve been trying to get a Bible that’s called ‘The Bible Promise Book.’ It said you send books on religion. I’m interested in them because this book looks good. I’m trying to read all I can about religion and anything there is to do with it. Thank you.”

A field minister, which this next inmate mentions, is a prisoner. The few I’ve encountered or have heard of are serving long prison sentences themselves, but have either gone to special seminary programs or have gone through extensive prison-based training programs which have equipped them to serve as mentors to other inmates—

“Good tidings to you and Shalom. . . . I am currently a prisoner. I recently was visited by a field minister and he gave me a book called ‘How to read the Bible for all it’s Worth.’ Inside the book was your bookmark which is how I discovered you and ultimately lead me to write this letter. With that being said, will you please send me a study bible and some books that will help enlighten me in my walk with the Lord. Thank you!

NOTE: We don’t carry the book he mentions, and I have no idea how one of our bookmarks wound up inside his. God knows!

“I pray Thee, O God, to make me beautiful within.” I came across that quote today and thought, “That’s odd. I don’t remember that, but it almost sounds like a scripture.” I learned to my surprise on a Google search it was made by Socrates, the great Greek philosopher! It is our prayer that God will do the same for these prisoners:

“. . . I’ve just finished reading one of your books. Upon completing the book, I found a stamped page stating: For more books and Bibles write: Voice of Triumph. . . So, I took the liberty of asking a few of my bunkies if they were interested in reading with me. In this letter, I’m requesting any material you see fit. We all have 5 or more years until we are released and we are all happy and strong readers with an out date. I’ve included all 3 of our information below. Thank you so much for taking the time to read our letter. God bless you! Respectfully . . . Xoxoxo”

Although I correct their spelling when I put them in our newsletters, we receive a number of letters each year from inmates who tell us they are learning to read and write since coming to prison. The “good news” is they are learning on Christian material :

“. . . My name is Sarah. . . I’m interested in any books, bibles, study bibles or Christian fiction books you can send me. Thank you! Address it like this. . . .”

“THE BIBLE, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life. It should be read in our schools in preference to all other books.” Dr. Benjamin Rush, Founding Father of the U.S., Graduate of Princeton University at age 14

“What is the meaning of my life? . . . What is my mission in this complex life about me? The Author of my being has made a mistake or my life is of tremendous significance. His intention in giving me life is of momentous importance, and the knowledge of this problem should be my ceaseless pursuit. . . .” Unknown. Taken from The System Bible Study.

CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

Operating over capacity, this prison has all five levels of inmates. Those in the top three levels of security live behind 20 feet high walls. Many never see a sunrise or sunset. Because of the current overcrowding, the chaplain said they could only accept Spanish bibles/books. And of course we sent what they asked for!

I “met” another very special lady over the phone today. She’s chaplain of the state’s largest women’s prison. And for a while she’s also filling in for another female chaplain at a nearby men’s prison who’s having a baby. When I told her the purpose of my call, she replied,

“Oh, my, I can’t believe this! I was just wondering who I could hit up [yes, she said that, laughing] for some books and bibles. We would be incredibly grateful for whatever you could provide for the men and women. And we would love anything you could send. I was just beginning to think about sending emails to churches in the area to get more bibles when you called. . . .”

I told this chaplain how Gene came to meet the Lord, and that copies of his book would be included in what we sent. She responded with this note when our boxes reached her the following week:

“It was a pleasure speaking with you. . . . The books did reach me safely, and I have already blessed the warehouse staff/inmates with Bibles and inmates in the infirmary. Additionally, the books are on the shelf in

the Chapel library. Please know that the ladies and I are grateful. . . . We can always use more Bibles. . . .”

This chaplain and I have had many conversations over the years. He’s given me his cell phone, and I called him at home today to make sure our most recent materials had arrived—

“Yes, Dorothy, as always! I’m having a good day. Thanks for being a part of it! . . .”

I suggested to this lady in a Sheriff’s office they consider having N.T.’s on hand as well as complete bibles. Inmates unfamiliar with the bible (and many are) can get “lost” trying to make sense of all the O.T. laws, offerings and general instructions about life. Not to mention trying to retain the endless stories about 42 kings over hundreds of years. Many lose interest in trying to take it all in. But they’ll more eagerly grasp the N.T.—

“Dorothy we are truly inspired by your words of wisdom and encouragement. We agree with you about the old and new testaments so we will gladly take both. Thank you for your longevity of supplying the word of God to the inmates and to us. May God continue to bless you and your ministry. We look forward to hearing from you in the future.” (Matthew 5:8)

The chaplain at this prison is out on sick leave, but his assistant told me our recent shipment had arrived, and . . .

“They were great! Please call us around December 1st. We can probably use more.”

(We’re always busiest around the holidays! A bible is great comfort at Christmas time.)

Every day the disciples spent with Jesus must have been an “eye-opener!” The gentle lamb of God knew He had only a brief three years to prepare them to follow in His footsteps and to open their eyes to understand the purposes of God—purposes reflected over thousands of years in the Old Testament, but poorly comprehended even by Jewish rulers. His disciples’ “college degree” would be earned following in His steps as He walked and talked and worked the work of His Father along dusty roads across Galilee, Jerusalem to Judea, and through surrounding areas. Remember what the Apostle John said:

But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

One story I love that was written down is the story of the fig tree. Jesus came to a fig tree, and seeing no fruit, He “cursed” it. And virtually over night it withered and died. His disciples were amazed, but Jesus told them, *“Have faith in God . . . Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe . . . And it will be yours.”* I remember that fig tree anytime I’m tempted to be a “slacker.” Jesus cursed it for lack of fruit (*even though it was not the season to bear fruit*). But for us, it’s always the season to produce fruit. (Oweee....I’d better get back to work!) I always thank God for you. Your love and prayers have helped carry the weight of this ministry for fifty years now. Together, we continue *“ . . . to grow up in every way into Christ, from whom the whole body . . . when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.” Eph. 4:15-16*

For the sake of Christ,



Dorothy and the Neill Family

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PROVIDE BIBLES AND BOOKS TO PRISONS
AND JAILS AGAIN THIS MONTH:**

Denver Diagnostic and Reception Center, Denver, COLORADO
Union County Jail, Monroe, NORTH CAROLINA
Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women, Baker, LOUISIANA
Denver Women’s Correctional Facility, COLORADO
Goose Creek Correctional Center, Wasilla, ALASKA
Fishkill Correctional Facility, Beacon, NEW YORK
Calcasieu Sheriff’s Prison, LOUISIANA
Montana State Prison, Deer Lodge, MONTANA
Wrightsville Unit, Wrightsville, ARKANSAS
Wyoming Women’s Center, Lusk, WYOMING
Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority, Haysi, VIRGINIA
Laborde Correctional Center, Cottonport, LOUISIANA
Santa Rosa Correctional Institution, Milton, FLORIDA
Cois Byrd Detention Center, Murrieta, CALIFORNIA
Florida State Prison, Raiford, FLORIDA
Polk County Jail, Dallas, OREGON
Federal Correctional Institution, Aliceville, ALABAMA
Harnett Correctional Institution, Lillington, NORTH CAROLINA
Kern County Jail, Bakersfield, CALIFORNIA

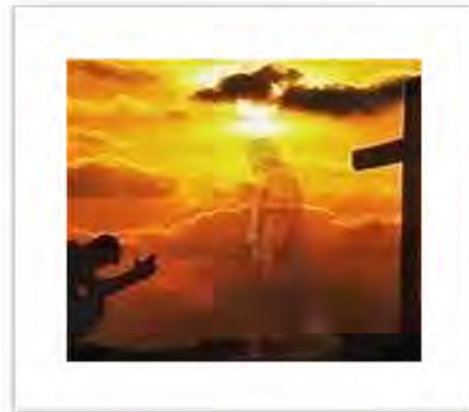


GENE NEILL
Founder

THE VOICE OF TRIUMPH

Post Office Box 177
Delano, TN 37325
~ DATED MATERIAL ~
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LIFE WORTH LIVING



Scottish reformer John Knox (1505-1572) spent decades struggling against English Catholic royalty to open the door to Protestantism. At one point he was held prisoner in a Galley ship for 19 months. Subdued in health but not in spirit, he is said to have stated, "*Life worth living is the life worth suffering for.*" He is revered as the founder of the Presbyterian Church.

The Apostle Paul

"I count everything as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish. . . ."

Phil. 3:8,9,10