



[ARM.org/donate](https://arm.org/donate)

February 1, 2024

Help Prisoners Receive Bibles and Bible Studies

Dear Ministry Friends,

I am reaching out to you today because prisoners need your help, and your generosity can significantly impact the lives of incarcerated individuals.

As men and women first arrive in prison, they find themselves in what prison chaplains call the '**Bermuda Triangle for Bibles**'. The official name of this area is the "intake area". This is where the newly incarcerated spend the first 7-10 days of their sentence as they await their cell assignment. This area often lacks entertainment or reading material, which is a challenging and isolating time for prisoners.

Chaplains play a crucial role in supporting and guiding these prisoners as they wait. Chaplains enter the intake area with Bibles, support, and hope. In 2023 alone, prison **chaplains ordered 19,120 Bibles** and **15,567 prisoners received collegiate-level Bible studies** from ARM. To meet the chaplains' requests for Bibles and Bible studies in the 'Bermuda Bible triangle', your help is needed to make a kingdom difference.

Your gift of \$300 will provide 20 prisoners with a Bible and a collegiate-level study of the Gospel of John. Your generous donation will offer prisoners spiritual guidance into **God's love for them through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ** during those initial days of confinement.



It is estimated that 500,000 men and women will begin a prison sentence in 2024. Together, we can positively impact the lives of the incarcerated at their lowest point by helping them find hope, transformation, and solace in Jesus—your support matters.

Every contribution counts, no matter the amount.

Continued on the other side

Thank you for considering this vital cause. Your support will make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

PS - To provide Bibles and Bible studies to prisoners today, return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at arm.org/donate.

PPS - We are excited to invite you to the **ARM Open House on Wednesday, February 21st, from 2:00-4:00 at 3605 N Main St., Joplin, MO**. As many of you will be in Joplin for Ozark's Preaching-Teaching Convention February 19th through the 21st, we thought it would be an excellent opportunity for you to drop by and meet ARM's staff, enjoy some refreshments, and take a tour of our facility at 2:30 or 3:30. If you are interested in attending ARM's open house, RSVP **by calling (417) 781-9100 or emailing info@arm.org**. We look forward to seeing you on February 21st!

January 15, 2024

Dear Ministry Friends,

Questions are the lifeblood of innovation. They have the power to challenge our assumptions, spark curiosity, and drive us toward new possibilities.

Consider this: in the past, nomadic societies were driven by the question, *'How do we get ourselves to water?'* The availability of water determined their movements and way of life.

But one day, someone had the courage to ask a new question, *'How do we get water to come to us?'* This simple shift in perspective led to a monumental change in human history as irrigation was invented. This gave birth to cities located far away from water sources. Just think of the thriving oasis of Las Vegas.



Questions challenge the status quo and push the boundaries of what is possible. Questions drive results.

ARM enters prisons asking two questions:

- What is God already doing here?
- By following God's lead, what new opportunities should we pursue?

ARM firmly believes in having a 'sovereign mindset,' trusting that God is already at work advancing His kingdom in prisoners' lives before we even arrive. This mindset has transformed our approach to prison ministry.

During a recent visit to a medium-security prison in Oklahoma, I had the privilege of participating in a worship service with over 150 prisoners. Before the service, I witnessed fifteen 'prison church leaders' gathering for prayer. Their prayers were filled with a deep desire for their fellow inmates to experience the strength to love their enemies and to surrender their wills to the will of the Father, just as Jesus did. It was a humbling and inspiring moment that opened my eyes to the power of God's work already going on within the prison walls. To build up the body of believers in the prison church, ARM seeks to encourage, equip, and empower the prison church leadership to advance God's kingdom in prisons.

To help ARM achieve this strategic initiative, I am thrilled to announce that we have hired Heather Owen

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as our Director of Strategic Initiatives. Heather brings a wealth of experience and a heart for serving those in need. Heather is a graduate of Missouri Southern State University's Business Management program. After graduation, she took a summer-long internship in St Louis du Nord, Haiti, where she met her husband of 22 years, Janeil. Together, along with their four children, they spent 20 years living and serving the people of Haiti. In 2019, Heather began working with women and children in a Teen Challenge Center in Missouri, which gave her an education in what the true, authentic love of Jesus can do for a wounded soul. Her heart is to continue to be a vessel for this kind of love to come alive to those who have yet to experience it in prisons.

If you happen to stop by our Joplin office to meet Heather, please note that she will not be there. Heather will work remotely from Moberly, MO. This strategic decision allows us to have closer proximity to eight state prisons within a 90-minute radius of Moberly. These prisons house over 13,000 incarcerated men and women.

Being near these facilities enables ARM to visit with chaplains, pray for and encourage prisoners, and collaborate with other prison ministries that are faithfully serving in those facilities with regularity. Through these interactions, ARM will gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities God is opening for His kingdom work in prisons.

Lastly, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and prayers. At ARM, we have a vision, determination, and discipline to grow the prison church. However, **none of this would be possible without God's provision through your generous contributions.** Together, we are making an eternal difference in the lives of thousands of prisoners annually, helping them experience the transformative power of God's love.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. We are truly grateful for your partnership in this important mission.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

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Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

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PPS - Ministry Friends, to help ARM plant prison churches and equip prison church leaders, return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at arm.org/donate.

December 5, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

Have you ever felt the power of your generosity? The impact it can have on someone's life is truly extraordinary. And let me tell you, your kindness has done just that - transformed the lives of prisoners, bringing hope where there was once despair.

Ministry Friends, let me share a powerful encounter I had recently during a visit to a prison that you made possible.

Matt has served 43 years of his life sentence. When he first entered prison at age 16, he was surrounded by regrets for his crime. But God planned to repurpose Matt's life after he gave himself to Jesus in baptism. "These prison walls saved me, for it was in this prison that Jesus finally caught me," he says.



Let's pause Matt's story momentarily and reflect on the timeless story of Jesus' birth. The Son of God was born during the troubling times of Herod the Great's cruel reign as "king of the Jews." As dark as those days were, it was that moment in history when God sent His only Son into the world (Gal. 4:4). **Christmas speaks to the truth that hope can sprout even in the most challenging circumstances.** That is Matt's story; God took a prisoner with a life sentence and remade him into a PREACHER who now leads a vibrant prison church of 150 men.

As we navigate life's challenges, the Christmas narrative summons us to recognize that **hope can emerge unexpectedly.** Just as the shepherds received "tidings of great joy" as they kept watch over their flocks at night (Lk. 2:10), the prison ministry you and ARM champion bears witness to the joy prisoners experience as they discover renewal, forgiveness, and spiritual awakening through Jesus as they live behind prison bars.

You have delivered the light of Christmas hope and redemption to prisoners around the United

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States. In 2023, **17,084 prisoners received Bibles**, and **13,982 Bible courses were provided to the incarcerated to lead them deeper into God's Word**. But the light of Christ didn't stop with them individually, for God moved many of them to use what they learned and lead small-group Bible studies with other prisoners, impacting hundreds of thousands of men and women and leading thousands to baptism. (Speaking of baptisms, could you help with the need in the PS below?).

Ministry Friends, you and ARM Prison Outreach are helping the prison church become more prominent and more faithful to Jesus, and prisoners are being changed into preachers like Matt!



This Christmas season, we extend a heartfelt request for your continued support. Your end-of-year tax-deductible gift by **December 31st** will empower us to expand our reach and connect prisoners to God's "incredible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15), Jesus!

To give, please visit our website at **arm.org/donate** or send your contribution to the address at the bottom of the front page. Every dollar you contribute brings us closer to our mission of transforming prisoners' lives through the Gospel of Jesus.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the hope He offers, we express our deepest thanks for the light of hope you provide to those who need it most. May the joy of this Christmas season be yours, and the coming year be filled with blessings and new beginnings.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

PS - **8 prisons have requested baptistries** that need sponsorship. If you want to help sponsor the **\$800 cost of a prison baptistry**, please complete and mail the enclosed donation card or call (417)781-9100.

PPS - Time slots for speaking engagements in 2024, in **May through October**, are still available, but filling up quickly. If you would like me to speak at your church to a gathering of Sunday School classes, preach during a worship service, or share with your missions team or youth group, don't hesitate to get in touch with me by phone at (417) 781-9100, or email at tnelson@arm.org.



[ARM.org/donate](https://arm.org/donate)

November 5, 2023



Dear Ministry Friends,

A scenic picture of snow in November. Too soon?

Maybe, but the reality is that the end of 2023 is quickly approaching. (Cue the snowflakes!).

You and ARM have accomplished much in prison ministry this year. THANK YOU!

Ministry Friends, with time still left in 2023, already...

- **10,159 prisoners** collegiate-level Bible studies were sent to prisoners.
- **1,643 prisoners enrolled in ARM's first digital Bible study** (The Gospel of John), which prisoners access on their computer tablets.
- **Over 20,000 miles traveled to prisons and churches** to share the news that God offers new life, restoration, and renewal through Jesus Christ.
- **38 new baptistries** placed in prisons, bringing the total number of baptistries in prisons around the U.S. to **1,893**.
- **15,304 Bibles** provided to men and women in jails and prisons.

As we enter the last part of 2023, I'm praying—and I ask you to join me—that **we can reach** every one of the **2,000,000 prisoners** incarcerated in the U.S.!

With our number one priority of 2024 being to leverage our (you and ARM) impact for Jesus in prisons, we seek to **hire a Director of Strategic Initiatives** as soon as possible. This person will:

- 1) Assess current practices and goals to grow ARM's impact in prisons.
- 2) Train, mentor, and guide churches to lead prison ministries, increasing the number of prisoners reached with the Gospel annually.
- 3) Oversee the development of additional Bible-centered resources for prisoners to mature in their faith, engage in ministry, and be equipped to lead the church behind prison bars. This is crucial when chaplains and volunteers cannot be used because of prison staffing shortages or COVID restrictions.
- 4) Facilitate ARM's collaborative partnerships with churches, prison chaplains, and other prison ministries, leading to new ideas and innovations that reach more prisoners with the Gospel.

Knowing that you clearly have a kind heart toward prisoners—would you be willing to consider a generous gift as part of your year-end giving? If so, we are pleased to offer you, at no cost or obligation, **A Guide to Year-end Giving** online at arm.org/arm-blog/end-year.

2023 has been amazing thus far. I anticipate the year-end to be equally as good—thank you for joining me in prayer and giving to make it so!

With Oceans of Gratitude,



Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

PS: Here's a little technical information I trust will be helpful to you...

In America, mainly because of our income tax rules, a significant part of charitable gifts are made between now and the end of the calendar year.

So, I want to ask you, **“What is your giving plan?”**

Have you taken stock of your income and assets and set specific goals for supporting your church and the other ministries you love? Specifically, here are four questions to ask as you plan your year-end giving.

1. **Do you have a plan**, or do you simply give as needs are presented--in the moment?
2. Does your plan cause you to stretch your faith that God will supply all your needs as you **invest in His Kingdom work**?
3. Does your plan consider **giving from non-cash, appreciated assets**--in addition to cash?
4. Does your plan conclude with giving through your **will or trust**?

Suppose you are considering maximizing your generosity and fulfilling your obligations by the end of the year. In that case, we offer you **A Guide to Year-end Giving** at no cost or obligation to you online at arm.org/arm-blog/end-year.

Together, we can impact the lives of those who have made mistakes but are striving for redemption. Please consider including ARM Prison Outreach in your year-end giving. Your support will help us build a brighter future for individuals within the prison system, their families, and our communities.

October 5, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

As I travel the country going into prisons and churches, I meet many Christian men and women serving as prison chaplains or correctional officers. Both roles are noble and deeply meaningful, but they come with unique challenges that expose these men and women to several risks:



Exposure to Trauma: They interact with inmates who have experienced significant trauma, including violence, abuse, or addiction. Listening to these traumatic stories and providing support can lead to vicarious trauma, where they experience symptoms similar to those they are helping and watching over.

This can include symptoms of PTSD, such as intrusive thoughts, nightmares, and emotional distress.

Moral and Ethical Dilemmas: They often navigate complex moral and ethical issues within the prison environment. They may face dilemmas related to confidentiality, helping individuals who have committed serious crimes, or assisting inmates with conflicting spiritual needs. These ethical challenges can lead to feelings of guilt, inner conflict, and moral distress, which can take a toll on mental well-being.

Emotional Exhaustion: Emotions are contagious, so the emotional demands of working with a population that often faces despair, hopelessness, and anger can be emotionally exhausting. Chaplains and correctional officers may feel overwhelmed by the constant need to provide emotional support and they may struggle to set boundaries, leading to emotional burnout and compassion fatigue.

Isolation and Lack of Support: As Christians in the prison system, chaplains and correctional officers work in isolated environments with limited support systems. They may not have access to regular peer support or supervision, making it challenging to process the emotional toll of their work. This isolation can contribute to feelings of loneliness and stress.

Security Concerns: You can imagine the inherent risks of working in a jail or prison. They are at risk of physical assaults from inmates, and witnessing violence among prisoners is a regular occurrence. This

constant threat to personal safety can lead to high anxiety and stress levels, hypervigilance, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Stigmatization and Misunderstanding: Christians who serve in prisons as chaplains and correctional officers often face misunderstanding or stigmatization from colleagues or society at large, who may not fully appreciate the emotional challenges of their role. This lack of understanding can exacerbate feelings of isolation and make it difficult to seek help when needed.



Praying for Christian correctional officers and prison chaplains is crucial.

- Ask for God's protection, granting them strength and wisdom in their challenging roles.
- Pray for resilience against emotional exhaustion and compassion fatigue.
- Seek God's guidance in helping them navigate ethical dilemmas and provide comfort to those they serve.
- Pray that they maintain their faith and compassion while facing daily trials.
- Ask for supportive communities and understanding peers to surround them.
- Finally, pray for the removal of stigma and the provision of adequate mental health resources to sustain their mental well-being, ensuring they continue their essential work with grace and unwavering faith.

As I write this letter, a correctional officer and a volunteer chaplain with a jail just left ARM's office. After I thanked them for the work they do, they said, "Thank you! ARM's support of our work is truly an encouragement to us." Thank you for making a difference to prisoners AND those who serve them.

With Oceans of Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

PS – As we make the final turn towards the end of 2023, now is a great time to think through your plans for end-of-year-giving. To help you with that process, ARM would like to provide you with a FREE ebook entitled "**A Guide to Year-End Giving.**" To download your free copy, go to arm.org/arm-blog/end-year. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at tnelson@arm.org or **(417) 781-9100**.

September 5, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

You Opened Rik's Eyes to See "It's harvest time!"

While recovering from an illness in a prison medical center, Rik dug into ARM's thirty-nine-chapter study on Christian Doctrine by former Bible college professor Denver Sizemore. In these studies, he learned about the authority of the Bible, what the Bible teaches about faith, repentance, baptism, the church's mission, and thirty-four other Bible doctrines. As he studied, Rik also contemplated the choices that led him to prison. His life had spiraled down a dark abyss of crime and despair, but in prison, he found his hope in Jesus.

One morning, Rik received news that he was being transferred back into the prison's general population. He had mixed emotions about leaving the familiar and safe confines of the medical center. Fear of the unknown gripped him, but beneath it all, a spark of anticipation kindled within him.

The larger prison facility he was going to would be a chaotic, unforgiving place filled with hardened souls who had lost their way. But Rik saw it differently this time – **he now saw the prison as a mission field**. With unwavering determination, he started a small Bible study group within the prison walls, inviting fellow inmates to join him.



At first, his efforts were met with skepticism and even ridicule. But Rik's sincerity and conviction were undeniable. Slowly, a few inmates began to attend his studies. Through his words and actions, he demonstrated that change was possible, even in the darkest of places.

Over time, the Bible study group grew, and Rik's influence spread throughout the prison. He became known as a source of wisdom and guidance, helping others find their path to redemption in Jesus. In the process, Rik found a sense of purpose that he had never known before.

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Rik asked ARM to pass this on to you, our ministry partners:

Thank you! The Bible studies are stirring up many inmates here ... I don't know if I would have been prepared for this move without your help and sponsorship. But God went before me and paved the way.

The goal of any missionary organization is to prepare indigenous disciples of Jesus to lead the church. That is what you are doing: helping equip prisoners to lead the church behind bars.

Prisons are ripe. It's harvest time!

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

PS- If Rik's journey from despair to redemption inspired you, become an ARM Ministry Partner:

1. **Give a monthly gift.** Go to arm.org/donate, select "Prison Outreach," type in the monthly amount you would like to give (\$20, \$50, \$100, or more), then scroll down and check the box that says, "Make This a Recurring Transaction." It is that easy to become a monthly Ministry Partner.
2. **Use your IRA retirement funds to help imprisoned people find Jesus.** If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are at least 70 ½ years old, you can distribute funds from your IRA to ARM Prison Outreach TAX-FREE! To learn more about using your IRA to invest in ministry, go to www.arm.org/arm-blog/rik to watch a video by Prison Ministry Partner David Duncan entitled "Using Retirement Funds for Ministry." You can also click the orange button to download your free E-book entitled "Giving Through Retirement Accounts." Please get in touch with Troy at tnelson@arm.org or (417) 781-9100 if you have questions.

August 5, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

Tina's Journey From Despair to Redemption

Life throws unexpected challenges our way, pushes us to our limits, and makes us question our self-worth. For Tina, a young woman caught up in the dark world of drugs, her breaking point came when her father uttered the heart-wrenching words, "You will never be good enough for God to love."

Tina's life spiraled out of control, leading her down a destructive path of addiction and crime. Eventually, her actions caught up with her, and she found herself behind bars, serving time for drug charges. Tina felt like she had hit rock bottom in the depths of despair and isolation. During this dark period, she started questioning the purpose of her life and if there was any hope for her future.

Tina stumbled upon Bible studies from ARM Prison Outreach and enrolled as a student. Desperate for answers and solace, she began to dig into the life of Jesus Christ and His message of love, forgiveness, and redemption. As she delved deeper into the Scriptures, Tina's heart started to open to the concept of grace, the undeserved favor and forgiveness bestowed upon us by God through Jesus. Learning that this gift from God is freely given to those in Jesus, regardless of past mistakes and failures, profoundly impacted Tina. Slowly the weight of guilt and shame that had burdened her for so long was lifted. **She realized that she didn't need to earn her way into heaven or prove her worthiness; instead, she needed to accept God's grace and allow it to transform her life.**

Embracing the grace of Jesus, Tina began to see herself in a new light. She recognized that her past did not define her future and that there was hope for a better life. Overflowing with



gratitude and joy for ARM's Ministry Partners, like you, Tina writes:

Thank you for making these studies available to me... I know I will be okay if I stand firm in God's Word and surrender my will to God in my life because I know that I belong to Jesus, who paid the price for my sin.

Tina now shares her testimony with fellow inmates, becoming a beacon of inspiration and encouragement. Through her vulnerability and testimony, Tina touches the lives of many, showing them that **no one is beyond redemption and that transformation is possible**, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Inspirational stories like Tina's remind us that we are never too far gone for redemption. Let her story inspire you to embrace grace and seek transformation in your own life. Discover the power of grace, and let it guide you toward a future filled with hope, forgiveness, and new beginnings.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),



Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

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July 5, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

Once Blind, You Helped Sy See

In the New Testament, light is often used as a metaphor to explain people's resistance to Jesus' claim of being the Messiah, like a person standing in the darkness (Mt. 4:16-18). To resist Jesus as the Messiah is to have one's sight obscured or to be unwilling to recognize and embrace the truth that Jesus brought. One's preconceived notions and fear of change can blind one from seeing the light of Jesus' teachings and His fulfillment of prophecies. As people rejected His message, Jesus compared their response to darkness, representing their lack of understanding and acceptance (John 1:1-9; 8:12-20).

Just as light illuminates and reveals the truth, Jesus used the metaphor of light to illustrate that He was the source of divine truth and salvation, proclaiming that those who followed Him would "no longer walk in darkness but have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12).



By using the light image, Jesus invites people to step out of the darkness of unbelief and into the light of faith to experience a personal relationship with God and the freedom from knowing Him as the Truth.

This journey to the light of Jesus is one man's story in prison.

In the depths of despair as he sits in a prison cell, Sy, a non-observant Jew, enrolled in ARM's Gospel of John study to distract him from his boredom. As he plunged into the words and teachings of Jesus, a spark of curiosity ignited within him. Questions arose, challenging his preconceived notions about faith.

The profound teachings of Jesus captured his attention, resonating with his deep yearning for a new purpose and redemption from his failed life as both a Jew and a criminal. What began as a way to entertain himself, his study of John's Gospel led Sy to embrace Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He writes,

“Studies such as these confirmed my choice to put my faith in Yeshua (Jesus) and accept Him as my Lord and Savior, who washed me clean with His blood upon my repentance and baptism.”

Jesus ignited a flame within Sy that could not be extinguished.

With an ignited spirit, Sy felt a calling to share the message of Jesus with others, extending that same hope of Jesus to his fellow inmates. Through Bible study groups, prayer sessions, and one-on-one conversations, Sy became an ambassador of Christ within the prison walls, spreading the light of Jesus to fellow inmates.

Sy's journey was not without its obstacles. As a non-observant Jew turned Christian, he encountered resistance and skepticism from fellow prisoners and prison staff, as he was often called a “traitor” as a Jew who was now a disciple of Jesus. Yet, through his unwavering faith and reliance on Jesus, he perseveres. Sy's transformation was not just external; it radiated from within, enabling him to respond to adversity with grace and forgiveness.

Sy's journey from a non-observant Jew to a fervent Christian exemplifies the transformative power of faith you provide prisoners through your partnership with ARM Prison Outreach. Sy's story serves as a testament to the boundless possibilities of spiritual awakening in prisons around the United States, reminding us that no matter a person's circumstances, God's Word can awaken the spirits of incarcerated people to the light of Christ.

If Sy's journey from darkness to light inspired you, become an ARM Ministry Partner:

1. **Give a monthly gift.** Go to arm.org/donate, select “Prison Outreach,” type in the monthly amount you would like to give (\$20, \$50, \$100, or more), then scroll down and check the box that says “Make This a Recurring Transaction.” It is that easy to become a monthly Ministry Partner.
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Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),



Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

May 15, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

Let's celebrate 50 years of prison ministry... TOGETHER!

As ARM celebrates her 50th year of prison ministry, you need to know the impact of your partnership with ARM.

In 50 years, YOU:

- Sent **evangelists** into prisons to preach the Gospel to **tens of thousands** of prisoners since 1973.
- Sent out **1,446,285 Bibles** to prisoners since 1973.
- Provided **754,752 collegiate-level Bible studies** to prisoners since 1975.
- Placed **1,888 baptistries** in **prisons since 1977**.
- Made **124,763,650 DaySpring Christian greeting cards** available for prisoners and their families since 1990.
- Made future prison discipleship possible through your generous gifting of **\$107,294 to "The Seed Campaign"** in 2022.



Together, God has used ALL OF US to make a considerable kingdom footprint in prisons, but what is even more impressive is the heart transformations these numbers represent.

Recently I made a prison ministry presentation to a church. During the presentation, I shared what Chuck Colson believed to be the primary cause of crime in America: The lack of moral training during the morally formative years of childhood.

Our current culture would say, "Hogwash. You're simply imposing your Christian view on today's social issues." For over 50 years, the intellectual elite worked off the assumption that environment, poverty, or oppression are the causes of crime. But when Joe Garman founded ARM Prison Outreach, he believed otherwise.

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In the landmark book *Crime and Human Nature* (1986) by Harvard professor James Q. Wilson, the research showed no correlation between crime and the typical causes of race, poverty, or oppression. Instead, they found a strong correlation between crime and moral training.

Later research by Baylor University sociologist Byron Johnson showed that faith-based programs in prisons are more effective at lowering the rate of prisoners reoffending upon release. Why? Because the Bible provides a new moral compass for prisoners, thus the title of Johnson's 2012 book, *More God, Less Crime: Why Faith Matters and How It Could Matter More*.

Before this research even existed, **Joe Garman knew that the source of crime came from sin in the human heart.** Through your help, you provided prisoners with the Biblical worldview they needed to discover their **new responsible lifestyle in Christ.** ARM teaches prisoners that:

- The source of evil in their lives is sin (Gal. 5:19-25)
- The only remedy for sin is the love of God and the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Jn. 3:16; Eph. 2:4-9).
- Faith in action through baptism brings God's remedy for sin into their lives (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3,4).
- Having received God's gift of the Holy Spirit, they can set their minds on the Spirit (Rom. 8:5-6).
- They have the choice to go to war with sin in their lives by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:13), wielding the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17) so that they may "kill sin" in their lives (Rom. 8:13).
- All this allows them to live "in Christ" (Gal. 3:26-28) and persevere in the faith until Jesus returns for His people (Mt. 21-22).



We accomplished a lot in our FIRST 50 years together with one message for prisoners: **Jesus is the Savior who offers sinners a second chance at life.** So, in our NEXT 50 years of partnership, may God use us **to reach a MILLION prisoners with the Gospel of Jesus by 2073!**

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

Troy B. Nelson
CEO / Donor Advisor

PS- You can make a difference in the kingdom of God for generations through legacy giving. We have prepared a booklet to help you collect the information you need for your estate planning. To download your free copy of *Your Estate Planning Guide*, go to www.ARM.org/legacy.

PPS- To give a gift today to help ARM start their next 50 years strong, return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at arm.org/donate.



[ARM.org/donate](https://arm.org/donate)

April 6, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

Celebrate!

Through the generosity of 493 Ministry Partners, the Seed Campaign raised \$106,454, which will provide 10,654 prisoners with Bible studies!

Prison is often a bleak and desolate place, a world of concrete walls and steel bars where hopelessness and despair often reign. For many inmates, incarceration represents a low point in their lives when they feel that all is lost and that they will never be able to overcome the circumstances that have led them to this point. Yet, even in the darkest of places, hope can still flourish, and redemption is possible.

Through the Seed Campaign, thousands of prisoners will have the opportunity to dig deep into the Bible, where they will find understanding, inspiration, and transformation. The stories of faith within the pages of Scripture offer a message of hope and redemption, and the teachings of Jesus provide a path to forgiveness and salvation.

In Church history, one example of a prisoner changed by Bible study is the story of Richard Wurmbrand. Wurmbrand was a Romanian pastor imprisoned by the Communist government for his religious beliefs. During his imprisonment, Wurmbrand was subjected to torture and inhumane conditions. However, he found solace and strength in the Bible, which he was able to study despite the severe restrictions placed on him.



Through his study of the Bible, Wurmbrand was able to find forgiveness for his torturers and to remain strong in his faith even in the face of extreme adversity. His experiences in prison led him to found the organization *Voice of the Martyrs*, which works to support persecuted Christians around the world.



Another example of a prisoner who was changed by Bible study is the story of Michael Hodge. Hodge was serving a life sentence for murder when he began his study of the Bible. Through his study, Hodge was able to find meaning and purpose in his life, and he began to work to help other inmates who were struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

Hodge's experiences in prison led him to found the organization *Free for Life*, which provides support and resources to prisoners struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

There are many other examples of prisoners changed by Bible study as Scripture helped them find a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives in prison. The Bible also offered them a path to forgiveness and redemption, helping them move beyond their past mistakes and create a brighter future.

For 50 years, ARM Prison Outreach has planted the seed of God's Word into the lives of prisoners for God to produce new life, restoration, and renewal through Jesus. The stories of prisoners changed by Bible study offer a powerful testament to the transformative power of faith, forgiveness, and redemption. Thank you for the important part YOU play in ARM's ministry of outreach to prisoners!

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson".

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S.- Speaking of celebration, on **May 11th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** at ARM Prison Ministry's office in Joplin, MO, we will celebrate our 50th year of prison ministry. Join us for refreshments, stories of God's faithfulness in the past, and the latest news on what ARM is doing in the future. You can **R.S.V.P. by email at info@arm.org or by calling (417) 781-9100.** Celebrate the good work God is doing through our partnership in prison ministry.

P.S.S- Please return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at **arm.org/donate.**



[ARM.org/donate](https://arm.org/donate)

February 7, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

It is hard to believe, but 11 months ago, ARM launched the Seed Campaign. If you remember, we set a SCARY goal of raising **\$100,000** to help place 10,000 collegiate-level Bible studies in the hands of 10,000 prisoners.

With one month left until the Seed Campaign ends, **your generosity has already provided \$86,556 towards the \$100,000 goal!**

Your gift worked hard in prisons in 2022.

- 5,661 NEW prisoners enrolled in the Gospel of John study.
- 9,347 prisoners CONTINUED in one of the eight Bible studies after the Gospel of John.
- 26,734 Scantron exams were graded.

The numbers are great, but what is most important are the lives God is transforming as His Word takes root in the lives of the 14,090 prisoners active in the American Bible Academy (ABA).

Take Rimona, for instance. She writes:

Thank you for this opportunity to know and learn more about the Lord, his teachings, and how to better myself with the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior... After completing this study, I realized God commands us to be baptized in water. I would never have known this without this Bible study, so I will soon be baptized! I am very grateful for this and the other Bible courses you have made available to me and others!



(Turn over for more stories of impact)

Then there is Grant:

Thanks for your support and generosity in making American Bible Academy lessons available to me. The Good News of Jesus has been the key to my freedom and the springboard to my salvation... Your support is not in vain. By your actions I have been allowed to find the Truth of Christ Jesus' redemptive power. All glory to God and to His servants such as ya'll.

Finally, Jimmy. As you read his comments, you will see another reason the ABA is so vital to prisoners:



Thank you for sponsoring this course for me. Our chapel has been closed since 2020 due to COVID and staffing issues, and we have been without a chaplain for two months, so we have no one to help us grow in our faith in prison. These Bible studies are critical to us. Thank you for remembering us and helping us in our need to grow in Christ.

Ministry Friends, as you can see from the numbers and the stories, your support of the **Seed Campaign** has worked hard to expand the kingdom's work. **We are just \$13,444 from meeting the goal.** Your gift to the Seed Campaign helps grow prisoners in the Lord, and while you may never meet Rimona, Grant, or Jimmy, they are the fruit of your ministry of generosity. We are thankful for the kingdom impact you are making possible in prisons.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson".

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S. Please return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at arm.org/donate.

P.S.S.- Prayer needs for prison ministry:

- That God will continue to use you and ARM in breaking the cycle of crime and redeem the lives of the imprisoned through Christian education in prisons around the U.S.
- That God will help guide ARM in creating new methods of evangelizing, discipling, and equipping prisoners for faithfulness to Jesus.
- That God will continue to grant ARM access to prisoners.
- Gratitude to God for the many faithful ministry partners who make it possible for ARM to do prison ministry.



ARM.org/donate

January 05, 2023

Dear Ministry Friends,

You did it!

The news media won't be standing in your front yard to get the scoop, biographers won't be writing a bestselling book about you, and Hollywood won't be making a movie about your life for the big screen; but that doesn't matter, because it is still true.

You did it.

2023 begins the 50th year of prison ministry for ARM Prison Outreach! That would never be possible without faithful ministry partners like you who have supported prison ministry for the last five decades.

Your generosity has helped prisoners change the direction of their lives through the Gospel of Jesus. Here is one example.

Sam sat in a county jail while his trial dragged on for nearly a year. Few people came to visit Sam, but the one visitor he could count on was his minister from back in Sam's neighborhood. Eventually, the preacher brought Sam to Jesus. Now a newborn in Christ, Sam knew very little about what it meant to follow Jesus. Before his minister could help him learn the basics of his new faith, Sam was found guilty and sent to "the Rock" to serve twenty-five to life in prison.

Walking into "the Rock," with its buildings and furnishings made of concrete and steel, he couldn't help but think, "of all places, how did I end up... here?"



(Continued on back page)

Sam brought to “the Rock” a desire to grow in the Lord and change his life through Jesus, but his “old self” still seemed to control his thoughts and actions.

That’s when Ken—a middle-aged bank robber—came into Sam’s life.

Sam said, “Before the other inmates knew I was a Christian, I was warned to avoid Ken. Everyone said he was a nice guy, but **inmates who spent too much time with Ken became Christians.**”

But that is what Sam needed in his life.



Sam and Ken became friends, and Ken never gave up on Sam. “Ken never tried to ram Christianity down my throat, but he helped me in every area he could. **It was slow learning, but I’d gain a little every time.** Prison is not the easiest place to break old habits. To be a Christian behind bars means you catch a lot of flak. You’re made fun of, jumped on sometimes.”

As difficult as it was, Sam would change, and Ken provided the discipleship relationship that would make that possible. Sam describes the relationship this way:

“The support from other Christians is vital to making it. Many claim to be sincere like Ken, but only a few are, and they seek you out. One thing genuine believers do is stick with you through your life even if you don’t have it all figured out just yet. I had much to learn, and my new friends didn’t sugarcoat anything when I was still doing wrong. But they were faithful, and I am grateful to them. I think that is how God means it to be.

Ministry Friends, you make stories like Sam’s possible in prisons around the United States. For 50 years, God has used generous people like you to plant God’s Word in prisoners’ lives through collegiate-level Bible studies. These studies are used by prisoners to evangelize, and disciple other prisoners, like Ken did for Sam. You have made that possible for the last 50 years. As you continue to partner with us, **who knows what stories we will tell from our NEXT 50 years of prison ministry!**

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S. Please return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at arm.org/donate.



[ARM.org/donate](https://arm.org/donate)

December 7, 2022

Dear Ministry Friends,

Thank you for having the spirit of Christmas.

I was recently reminded of a portion of J.I. Packer's classic book on the Christian life, "Knowing God." He writes:

"The Christmas message is that **there is hope for a ruined humanity** – hope for pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because, at the Father's will, Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message that the world has ever heard or will hear.

"We talk glibly of the 'Christmas spirit,' rarely meaning more by this than sentimental jollity on a family basis. But what we have said makes it clear that the phrase should carry a tremendous weight of meaning. It ought to mean **the reproducing in human lives of the temper of him who, for our sakes, became poor at the first Christmas.** And the Christmas spirit should be the mark of every Christian all year round.

"It is our shame and disgrace today that so many Christians – I will be more specific: so many of the soundest and most orthodox Christians – go through this world in the spirit of the priest and the Levite in our Lord's parable [cf. Luke 10:25-37], seeing human needs all around them, but (after a pious wish, and perhaps a prayer, that God might meet those needs) averting their eyes and passing by on the other side.



Continued on back page...

¹ J.I. Packer in *Knowing God* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1973) 63-64.

“That is not the Christmas spirit. Nor is it the spirit of those Christians – alas, they are many – whose ambition in life seems to be building a nice middle-class Christian home, and making nice middle-class Christian friends, and bringing up their children in nice middle-class Christian ways, and who leave the submiddle-class sections of the community, Christian and non-Christian, to get on by themselves.



“The Christmas spirit does not shine out in the Christian snob, for the Christmas spirit is the spirit of those who, like their Master, **live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor – spending and being spent – to enrich their fellow humans, giving time, trouble, care, and concern, to do good to others – and not just their friends – in whatever way there seems need.**

“There are not as many who show this spirit as there should be. If God, in mercy, revives us, one of the things he will do will be to work more of this spirit in our hearts and lives. If we desire spiritual quickening for ourselves individually, one step we should take is to seek to cultivate this spirit of Christmas.”

As A.R.M.'s 49th year of prison ministry wraps up, we want to THANK YOU, our ministry partners, for possessing the Christmas spirit throughout 2022. Without your generosity, the lives of thousands of prisoners would still be in darkness, and they would be without the light and hope of Jesus. Your regular support helps men and women you will never meet this side of heaven experience Christmas throughout the year as they are drawn closer to Jesus through prison ministry.

From the staff of ARM Prison Outreach to you and your family, we wish you a Merry Christmas!

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising
tnelson@arm.org
(417) 781-9100 ext. 221

P.S.- If you desire to make an end-of-the-year gift, there is still time. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift or go to **ARM.org/donate** to give online.

P.S.S.- When 2023 begins, A.R.M. will start their 50th year of prison ministry. In the coming months, be looking for updates on A.R.M.'s vision for prison ministry for the next 50 years!



ARM.org/donate

November 4, 2022

"One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." [Luke 12:15b](#)

Dear Ministry Friends,

On Thanksgiving Day, we acknowledge God's blessings and the bounty of our land. In a spirit of thanksgiving, we approach our God for what we need.

For a deeper **awareness** of God's goodness. (pause)

May we gladly acknowledge the goodness of our God and the many gifts we receive at God's hands, recalling the kindness God has shown to our communities and to our nation. Lord hear us.

For an **attitude** of thanksgiving in our lives. (pause)

May we be people who give thanks for the favor of God and the fellowship of Christ. May our strength be in the gospel and our lives witnesses to its teachings. Lord hear us.

For a sense of **what is important** in life. (pause)

As a nation and as a community, may we know what is of ultimate value in life, not consumed by a desire for wealth but eager to live by the gospel through lives of moderation and gentleness. Lord hear us.



For a desire to be **rich towards God**. (pause)

As God's people in God's world, may we learn from the example of Jesus, who lived not for Himself but for others; and may we so live by His teaching to be rich in the sight of God. Lord hear us.

God of the promises, you are generous in your gifts to us. Help us to be faithful disciples of Jesus in our nation and our communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.¹

As 2 million men and women sit in prison this Thanksgiving, you may wonder what they have to be thankful for in prison?

They are thankful for YOU!

Johnny finished ARM's newest, and ninth study, on Ephesians and Colossians. After completing all 120-pages of study and three exams, he wrote his sponsors the following note:

"Greetings to you. Hopefully this letter finds you blessed, healthy, and full of the Holy Spirit. Please accept this letter as a token of my **gratitude** for your sponsorship of these courses. Being able to receive this material, free of charge, opened my eyes and heart to a wealth of knowledge that otherwise would not be possible. It is my intention that this knowledge will help transform my life and allow me to be a blessing to others the same way you have been to me.



My prayers go out to you and your loved ones, that the Lord Jesus will bless you... Thank you again for your generosity and prayers"

Prisoners are thankful for your generosity in leading them closer to Jesus. So from all the prisoners you are providing biblical studies for and from the staff of ARM, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson".

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S. Please return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at arm.org/donate.

¹ Hugh McGinlay in *Prayers of the Faithful: For Sundays, Feasts, and Seasons* (Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2006) 139.



[ARM.org/donate](https://arm.org/donate)

October 2, 2022

Dear Ministry Friends,

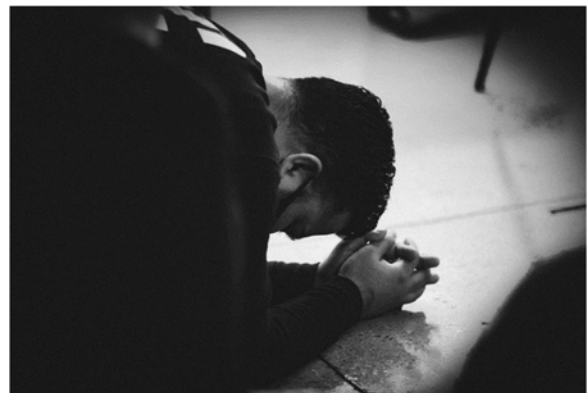
At ARM, here are SPECIFIC requests for you to pray for:

- **Twenty-seven prisoners to enroll DAILY** in the ARM Bible studies. Since March 1, 2022, 3,632 new students have enrolled, and 15,223 total prisoners are working on completing their Bible studies.
- **Forty digital Bible lessons to be available online in prisons by December 31, 2022.** Currently, our nine Bible study books contain a total of 125 individual lessons. As prisons make computer tablets available to inmates, ARM is creating interactive Bible studies to help prisoners dig deeper into the Scriptures online. The estimate is that these digital studies will reach over 35,000 prisoners annually!
- **Ask God to provide the final \$40,639 to reach the Seed Campaign goal of \$100,000,** fully funding the new enrollment of 10,000 prisoners into the *Gospel of John* Bible study.

These are SPECIFIC prayer requests, and there is a reason why.

In Greg Prueett's excellent book, *Extreme Prayer*, he highlights some of the great prayers in Scripture and the common trait they share:

- The Israelites cried out to God **for deliverance from Egypt** to the point that God told them to stop praying and get moving, and they crossed the Red Sea on dry land (Ex. 14:10, 15).
- When Joshua **prayed for the sun to stand still** in the sky until the battle was over, no one had to question whether God had answered; the sun just stood still (Joshua 10:12-14).



- Solomon prayed **for wisdom** (I Kings. 3:12), and God made him so wise that "people came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon" (I Kings. 4:34, NRSV).
- When Elijah "prayed earnestly that it **would not rain**," the answer was evident to every thirsty person in Palestine because "it did not rain on the land for three and a half years" (James 5:17).

What these prayers all have in common is they are SPECIFIC. There is no doubt about what is being requested of God, as the request is EXACT enough to know if God answered it or not.

Be thankful that I wasn't the person praying in each of these situations. Why? Because I now realize how SAFE my prayers often are as GENERALIZATIONS. In each case, I could see myself praying:

- As an Israelite in Egypt, "God, life is tough. Give us some relief."
- In a battle with Joshua, "God, get us out of this."
- If I were Solomon, "Help me lead well."
- As Elijah, "Lord, I can't do anything with these people. Would you do something with them?"

Prayers of GENERALIZATION are so open-ended that it would be challenging to determine IF and HOW God answered. SPECIFIC prayers remove the mystery; either God answered the prayer, or He didn't.

To fulfill ARM's mission of planting God's Word in prisoners' hearts so God can produce repentance, renewal, and restoration through Jesus Christ, pray for the SPECIFIC requests at the beginning of this letter and wait to see how God moves in prison ministry.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),



Troy B. Nelson
 Director of Donor Advising
tnelson@arm.org
 (417) 781-9100 ext. 221

P.S.- You can help the Seed Campaign reach its goal by sending your donation in the enclosed envelope. Help sponsor *Gospel of John* studies for prisoners through this campaign.

P.S.S.- **The International Conference on Missions (ICOM) will be November 3rd-5th** at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. If you will be there, come by and see me at **ARM Prison Outreach in booth 847!** I would love to meet you.



ARM.org/donate

September 2, 2022

Dear Ministry Friends,

He was in isolation for five hundred eighty-two days in a prison cell.

Such an experience would break most people, but for one man, isolation is what God used to show C.M. his "new purpose" in life.

C.M. is serving a life sentence in a medium-security prison that has a population of 2,100 inmates. As C.M. moved back to a prison cell



in the general population, he brought with him a few personal belongings, his Bible, and his Bible studies from ARM Prison Outreach. But there was something else he took out of his time in isolation, **the habit of daily studying God's Word and prayer.**

As he re-established himself in the general population, he regularly shared with other prisoners what God was teaching him through the Bible. Knowing that C.M. was one of the only college graduates in prison, other prisoners began to ask him questions about God and the Bible. It wasn't long before C.M. realized God not only saved him but God gifted him to teach. In his pod, which houses 16 prisoners, he began leading a daily Bible study with ten other prisoners.

Here is the difference God's Word is making in that pod:



"Our pod is the only one in the prison having Bible study, and it is also the only one not faced with the regular prison issues of fighting, extortion, theft, and violence. We are an island of calm and peace in the whole facility, and it is due to our faith in Christ as we steadily grew our faith these

past few months. **The Bible studies from ARM Prison Outreach significantly impacted my life and the lives of my Christian brothers. Thank you for making that possible."**

As you read C.M.'s story, do you see a bit of Daniel in his faith?

Like Daniel, C.M. experienced the transformative power of practicing the spiritual disciplines while in captivity.

Remember how Daniel's story begins.

After Jerusalem fell, Daniel was among the kidnapped Israelites taken back to Babylon to work as servants (2 Chron. 36:20). While in exile in a pagan culture, surrounded by Israelites compromising their faith by turning to idolatry, Daniel continued to grow in his faith. The more life in Babylon tried to change Daniel, the more he prayed and developed a greater dependence on God.

What we see in both C.M. and Daniel is the **difference between PASSIVELY admiring God and PURPOSEFULLY developing a relationship with Him.**

Thank you for helping plant God's Word in prisoners' hearts for God to transform their lives. C.M. is just one of the thousands of men and women you are equipping to represent Jesus behind prison bars.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising
tnelson@arm.org
(417) 781-9100 ext. 221



ARM.org/donate

August 3, 2022

Dear Ministry Friends,

If you don't mind, this month, I am going to step aside and let Jeff communicate the mission of ARM through his experience in prison. He writes:

"The Ephesians and Colossians study has inspired me to write from my heart about what God has done for me.

"A prison is a hard place, and you must always pay attention to what is happening around you. **Yet I see the light of God's Word piercing through the dark abyss, and I am chasing after it.**

"It took many years to reach the point where I am. But I am a work in progress each and every day. In and out of prison since the age of 19, the trauma in my life took me down a path where there seemed to be no turning back.

"My past controlled my life. It took me away from my loved ones and messed up friendships. It led me to make choices that landed me in prison. So, many times while doing time, all I did was count down the days until I got out.

"I didn't do anything to change my way of thinking while in prison. **That shows how lost I was in life. I can finally say 'I am found' after giving my life to God.**

"It was when I was behind bars, in a unit with prisoners who loved God and studied His Word, prisoners who took me under their wing, and they helped me understand that God is my best friend. **I'm still behind bars, but my heart is free of pain, suffering, and guilt. God has opened my eyes to see things His way and trust and believe that His ways are better than mine.** I took the old self off and put the new self on. I can genuinely say I was rescued, not arrested.



"I have learned to not only GO through problems but also to GROW through problems. I study God's Word daily and build my relationship with God because He wants to hear from me. I **want to say thank you for sponsoring the American Bible Academy at ARM.**"

What an encouraging letter from Jeff. Reading it reminded me of God's promise to Joshua in Deut. 31:8:

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be **discouraged**."

To be "discouraged" is what occurs when a hunter breaks or shatters their bow (Jer. 51:56) or when the dry ground gives way and cracks from drought (Jer. 14:4). **To be discouraged is to be broken.** As humans created in the image of God, we do not do well when we are alone and isolated, removed from relationships, which is why so many people crack in prison; prison is that dark and "discouraging" to the human soul. And yet, each Bible study you send to a prisoner delivers God's presence like water poured out on a prisoner's dried-up, shriveled heart. Isaiah 35:7 says,



"The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow."

Just as Jeff discovered, **when God's salvation arrives in the life of a prisoner, the life that was once dry and useless before Christ becomes a well watered and fruitful life in the hands of God.** Thank you for offering God's salvation to the dry and thirsty souls of men and women behind bars. Pray for more prisoners to come to Jesus!

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson".

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S. Please return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at **arm.org/donate**.



July 6, 2022

Dear Ministry Friends,

Numbers aren't everything, but numbers matter. The Bible makes clear that counting counts because there is an entire book in Scripture devoted to counting. The book is titled Numbers!

So here are the highlights of **the last three months** by the numbers:

- **34,268:** The number of **dollars already given** towards the \$100,000 goal of the Seed Campaign! To fully fund the enrollment of the additional 10,000 prisoners in the American Bible Academy in 2022, we need to raise \$100,000.
- **5,848:** The number of **Bible studies mailed to prisoners.**
- **7,416:** The number of **exams graded.** Each Bible study requires prisoners to take three exams, each about 100 questions in length.
- **2,381:** **The number of certificates of completion awarded** to prisoners who completed all 13 lessons in each Bible study and passed the three exams.
- **1:** The **one mission** of ARM Prison Outreach: *To plant God's Word in prisoners' hearts so God can produce new life, renewal, and transformation through the Gospel of Jesus.*



Jonathan is in prison for drugs and just completed his fifth Bible study, Acts: Volume 2. He writes,

"I came into prison full of pride, rage, hate, resentment, and bitterness. But, by the grace of God and through the blood of Jesus Christ, I'm redeemed, and I always want to "strive to keep my conscience clear before God," as Paul did in Acts 24:16.

BACK PAGE: The rest of Jonathan's letter

“I wanted to write this letter to say ‘thank you.’ Thank you for helping me grow in the Lord Jesus, my Christ. The study of the Book of Acts was full of examples of believers full of courage as the Holy Spirit led them; no matter what they faced, they moved forward and never looked back. That is amazing inspiration and dedication to see from fellow brothers in Christ. It has shown me that Christ can change anyone and is willing to forgive all if we take up His cross and let the Holy Spirit guide us.”

Together, we are helping to turn prisoners’ imprisonment into an opportunity for their rescue through Jesus. **Please help us to do good to those experiencing their darkest moments in a prison cell, and let’s give them hope through Jesus through a gift to the “Seed Campaign.”**

- \$1,000 sends 100 studies
- \$750 sends 75 studies
- \$500 sends 50 studies
- \$250 sends 25 studies
- \$100 sends 10 studies

Whatever you send – know that it will be an investment in resourcing the work of God’s kingdom. Thank you in advance for your commitment to helping men and women find new life, renewal, and transformation through Jesus Christ.

Please rush your gift today to resource the work in the mission field of prisons.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),



Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S. Please return the enclosed card along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at **arm.org/donate**.



June 2, 2022

Dear Ministry Friends,

As one who invests in the work of prison ministry, you are offering prisoners the opportunity for a **new beginning**.

For most of us, a “new beginning” implies a new move, new people, a new job, or new situations. New beginnings are an opportunity to start again from scratch. But in Scripture, new beginnings have a deeper meaning.

Scripture is full of beginnings. Consider how Genesis opens, “In the **beginning**...” In the New Testament, three of the four gospels use the image or the language of Genesis 1 to open their gospel. The first few words of Matthew are, “the book of the **beginnings** of...” Mark opens his gospel with the phrase, “The **beginning** of the good news about Jesus the Messiah...” Then John, John doesn’t hint at Genesis 1; he gives a direct quote, “In the **beginning**...”



Why is Scripture so obsessed with beginnings?

Maybe Proverbs 8 can give us a clue.

In Proverbs 8, wisdom puts on flesh and bones; wisdom is made human. Notice the relationship wisdom has with God the Creator in Proverbs 8:22. It says,

“The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.”

In the original creation story, Jesus wasn't on the sidelines watching His Father create. **Jesus was active in the creating.** As God called oceans into existence and commanded mountains to rise, Prov. 8:30-31 tell us that Wisdom was the "master workman" or architect of creation.



What I want us to see is that creating is not a bullet point on God's *resumé* under "past work experience," but a work He continues to do today (I Cor. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2; Rev. 13:8; Jn. 1:1-20; Eph. 1:5-11). **Jesus' work of salvation is a work of creation as He creates new beginnings, a re-gensis if you will.**

Listen to the beginning of new life you helped Robert find. Robert is a prisoner who recently completed his study on Galatians and Philippians. He writes:

"I was one of the truly lost. Most of society had given up on me, and the world no longer had any use for me.... But now, I am rich in Spirit, and I want nothing but Jesus. The world threw me away, but Jesus graciously saved me from myself. He is my Lord and Savior; He has done more than renew my life—He gave me TRUE LIFE!"

Ministry Friends, through your generosity, you help prisoners like Robert find their new beginning in Jesus. Thank you for sharing God's heart for prison ministry.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising
tnelson@arm.org
(417) 781-9100 ext. 221

P.S. If you would like to schedule a video conference call with me to hear the latest ARM updates, or if you would like me to travel to your church to preach, teach a Sunday School class, or meet with your mission's team, I still have some availability on my calendar. Please email me at tnelson@arm.org or call (417) 781-9100, ext. 221.



April 26, 2022

**“To be rich towards God is to be rich in good deeds, rich in generosity,
and rich in relationships.” – Boyd Bailey**

Dear Ministry Friends,

Thank you for being a faithful... PIPE!

Each day God provides us with an abundance of His resources (time, skills, relationships, possessions, finances, opportunities). With His resources, God also gives us the CHOICE to be a BUCKET or a PIPE.

What’s the difference? A bucket HOLDS whatever it receives (water, sand, toys, etc.).

We have **bucket-thinking when we believe happiness comes from having a full bucket.** When God blesses us and we hold on to more and more of His blessings, we are tempted to be like the man in Jesus’ parable of the wealthy farmer (Lk. 12:15). What did he do when his bucket was full? He built a bigger bucket to hold more of God’s blessings for himself.



But we know from Scripture that bucket-thinking is a lie. David reminds us in Psalm 49:16-17 (NIV):

Do not be overawed when others grow rich [when they have a big bucket and it is full] when the splendor of their houses increases; for they will take nothing with them when they die, their splendor will not descend with them.

What is David’s point?

I like how one person put it: “What we keep in our bucket will eventually leak out, be stolen, taxed, evaporate, or spilled out when we ‘kick the bucket’.”

Unlike a bucket that holds whatever it receives, **a pipe is designed to PASS ON what it receives.**



Think about it. When you are home, and you turn your faucet on to get a drink of water, what would you do if water fails to flow freely from the tap?

You call a plumber. Why? Because if water is not flowing, a clog in the pipe is holding the water back. **A clogged pipe is unfaithful to its design.** A faithful pipe is designed to pass on what it receives.

Pipe-thinking believes God created us to PASS ON God's blessings to those needing a blessing. We are blessed to be a blessing! Jesus explained pipe-thinking this way:

But store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Mt. 6:20-21).

Your generosity allows the blessings God gave you to flow to prisoners needing a blessing, like Niki. He writes:

"I know in my heart that God brought me to prison to save my life. By saving me, God now calls me to bring His Word to those in this prison that do not know Him. I genuinely believe that had I not been arrested, I would have been one of those overdose stories that you see on the nightly news... Your selfless generosity touches the lives of those who do not know Jesus and strengthens the faith of us who do know our Lord and Savior... Your gift helps to plant the seed in the lives of prisoners that Christ will surely water and nourish."

As you continue to live as a faithful pipe, may you experience the joy of growing rich towards God (Lk. 12:20-21).

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising
tnelson@arm.org
(417) 781-9100 ext. 221



ARM.org/donate

March 23, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have a **scary opportunity** to share with you—the possibility exists to enroll an additional 10,000 prisoners into Bible correspondence courses in 2022.

Why is that scary?

Each new prisoner enrolled in a Bible study costs an additional \$10.

Do the math.

\$10 per Bible study
MULTIPLIED BY
10,000 additional prisoners enrolled
EQUALS
\$100,000 in additional costs!

Think about that! **Success in prison ministry could cause financial hardship in 2022!** Scary!

To serve MORE prisoners, we need your help. **Without you, prisoners would not have access to the Bible studies that draw them closer to Jesus.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, would you consider **helping prisoners know Jesus** with a gift of \$500 in 2022?

If we all do our part, we could wear out more prison baptistries like Chaplain Bell.

BACK PAGE: CHAPLAIN BELL'S STORY

"He's here!" That is all I heard.

I asked a co-worker, "what's going on?"

I was told, "A prison chaplain from Tulsa is **dropping off his 30-year-old baptistry** to pick up a new one for the jail."

I had to see this for myself.

After 30 years of use in the jail, the original varnish wore off, the wood was cracked and peeling from water damage. But that's the good news. **The baptistry wore out from use in the jail!**

When he used the baptistry for the final time, Chaplain Bell said, "that ol' baptistry" baptized 130 prisoners!

Years ago, ARM collected data and learned that **of the 1,830 baptistries currently in PRISONS, they are used to baptize an estimated 14,000 prisoners annually!** Add to that the 4,324 baptistries in churches, military bases, and on the mission field, more than 45,000 people are baptized annually in an ARM baptistry.



As you help plant God's Word in the lives of more prisoners, you also help wear out more baptistries.

Whatever you send – know that it will be an investment in resourcing the work of God's kingdom. Thank you in advance for your commitment to helping men and women find new life, renewal, and restoration through Jesus Christ.

Please rush your gift today to resource the work in the mission field of prisons.

Your Fellow Prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy B. Nelson".

Troy B. Nelson
Director of Donor Advising

P.S. Please return the enclosed card, along with your gift of support, or you can give your gift online at **arm.org/donate**.



December 27, 2021

Thank you for treating prisoners like dirt!

Dear Ministry Friends,

Don't throw this letter away yet! Keep reading.

Years ago, when I served as administrator/faculty at a Bible college, I attended the annual convocation banquet at the start of the new school year.

The speaker that evening was the New Testament professor at the college, Kenny Boles.

As is often the case with a convocation banquet, Professor Boles' task was to inspire the faculty and student body to give themselves to being studious and resilient throughout the new school year.

Professor Boles walked up to the podium. He looked around at the audience, men in their ties and women in their dresses, and he stood there in silence, which seemed to last forever. Then he spoke, **"Welcome to Bible college. A college where we will treat you like DIRT!"**

I heard a few snickers in the audience, but the statement created tension mostly. Like me, many were wondering, "Did he just say what I think he said?"

Then Professor Boles repeated it, "No, I mean it. This year, **as faculty, we promise to treat you like dirt. And when we do, remember, it is for your own good.**"

Still not fully understanding the statement, both faculty and students found humor in the moment's awkwardness as we erupted in laughter.

As the laughter faded, Professor Boles quoted the text for the evening:

³ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much **soil**. It sprang up quickly because the **soil** was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good **soil**, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear." (Mt. 13:3-9)



Professor Boles preached about how **dirt matters for God's Word to flourish**. Some dirt needs to be broken up, other soil needs fertilizer, other soil needs to be weeded, while other soil simply needs the seed. Whatever preparation needed to take place, both faculty and students looked forward to being treated like dirt that year as God's Word would be planted deep in our lives.

I tell you this story because ARM Prison Outreach looks forward to joining with you in treating prisoners like dirt in 2022. We often hear from ministry partners, "We support ARM because we trust you to teach God's Word to prisoners, whether in person or through the American Bible Academy." Your trust is grounded in a core value of ARM, which is our commitment to the truthfulness and authority of God's Word, and the belief that the Bible contains the power to transform lives. Therefore, **TOGETHER, you and ARM, we treat prisoners like dirt; we support and work to plant the seed of God's Word DEEP into the soil of the prisoners' hearts that God may do a mighty work of redemption in them.**

Prisoner N.R. testifies to the power of the Bible correspondence courses. He writes:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the powerful studies you provide prisoners to educate us in the Word of God.

We are prisoners of sin, which is why we need you to help direct us to Jesus Christ, our Savior, so we can change to become brand new in Him. I am so grateful for all the courses I completed through the American Bible Academy. They have changed me, and I have faith in the powerful message of God's Word.

Desiring a harvest of souls in prisons, a warehouse behind ARM is full of "seeds" (Bibles and Bible correspondence courses) ready to be planted in the lives of more prisoners. Partner with ARM in 2022 as we:

- Prepare to print our newest Bible correspondence course by **Kenny Boles'** (yep, the one in the story), **Ephesians & Colossians**. Besides Professor Boles' study, the print run will also include *The Gospel of John* and *Christian Doctrine Volume 2*. Together, we will print **20,000 books**. The total cost is estimated to be \$30,000. Pray God provides for this financial need.
- **Pray for more prisoners to enroll in the American Bible Academy.** You will be glad to know, as wonderful as it was to have 19,000 studies in the hands of prisoners in 2021, we dream of getting 25,000 studies into the hands of prisoners in 2022, an increase of 31%. We have a big goal because there are millions of prisoners in the U.S. who need the seed of God's Word to be planted in their lives.

We pray this news in 2022 excites you because ARM Prison Outreach continues to do what we have done for **49 years. We take the Gospel behind prison bars, so prisoners find transformation out of their sins.** Walk with us as we go plant more seeds. Happy New Year!

Your Co-planter In God's Fields,



Troy B. Nelson, Development Director

P.S.- If you desire to **help cover the printing cost of Professor Boles' Ephesians & Colossians course**, you can **mail** your gift or go to **ARM.org/donate** to give online today!

P.S.S.- As an ARM ministry partner, I would like to invite you to ARM's open house on **Tuesday, February 22nd, from 2:30-4:30.** The open house is during the same week as Ozark's Preaching-Teaching Convention. So, if you are in Joplin for the convention, come by ARM for a visit. Joe Garman will be there to greet you, we will offer tours of the facilities, and we will have refreshments to share with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (417) 781-9100.



December 1, 2021

Dear Ministry Friends,

Pick up your Christmas card list and look at it. Who is on your list?

- The kids... check.
- Grandkids... check.
- Sunday school class... check.
- Friends... check.

Guess whose Christmas card list looks like yours?

Prisoners.

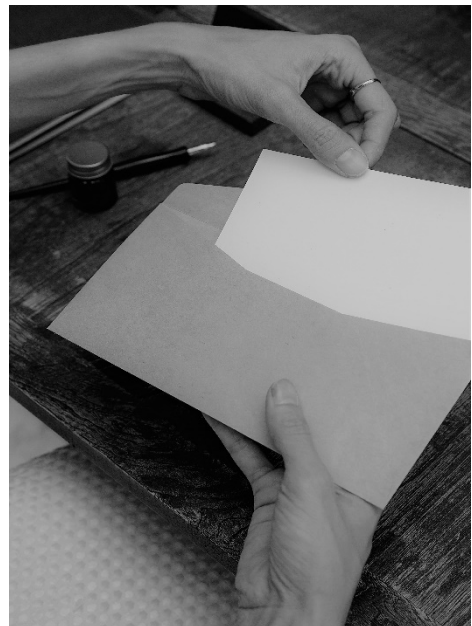
Though behind bars, **prisoners are still grandparents, parents, sons, and daughters.** They long to let their family back home know they are thinking of them and longing to be with them at Christmas.

Besides mailing cards to family and friends, I read of one group of prisoners who were encouraged by their chaplain to “give Christmas to someone else,” so they held a Christmas card party for their prison. The prisoners came together to send cards to people in the prison who needed encouragement. Christmas cards went to:

- a corrections officer who was going through a difficult time
- other inmates who never received mail from home
- the chaplain they wanted to thank for his care and encouragement of the prisoners
- even the warden received a card from the prisoners

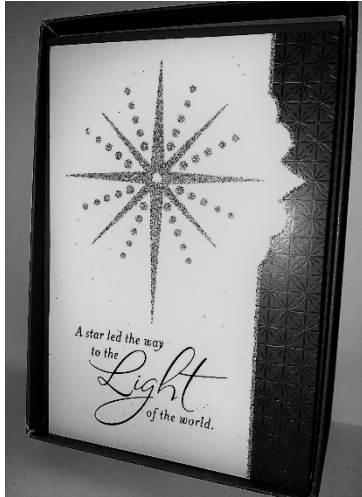
Christmas cards made Christmas a little sweeter at that prison.

As much of an impact as those few cards made, consider this, Ministry Friends.



- Chaplains will hand out on average **four DaySpring Christmas cards** to each prisoner
- **212,237 prisoners** will receive the Christmas cards
- **848,950 family members and friends** will open a Christmas card from a prisoner

A total of **1,061,875 people will read the message of Christmas** through the DaySpring greeting card program. What message will over ONE MILLION people read this Christmas? Here it is:



A star led the way to the Light of the world.

Then inside the front of the card is John 8:12:

I am the **Light of the world**: he that followeth Me will not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.

Having spent many Christmases behind bars, Dino writes:

“... God is good, and the service ARM provides for those of us locked down behind razor wire, and electric fences is a blessing. ... The cards are awesome, and I’m amazed at the difference they make in our lives.”

Ministry Friends, in 2022, ARM will need to **purchase an additional \$30,000 worth of DaySpring Christmas cards to have the inventory necessary to ship out over ONE MILLION Christmas cards to prisoners and their families around the United States.** When you return the enclosed card with your end-of-the-year gift, you will make **the greatest Christmas gift available to prisoners - Jesus!** Will you help?

Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Troy B. Nelson".

Troy B. Nelson
Development Director

P.S. Please return the enclosed card, along with your gift of support, to help prisoners find freedom in Christ. Also, please join ARM Prison Outreach in praying for the Gospel to have a rich harvest of souls in 2022. You may never meet on earth the prisoners whose eternities you have changed, but in eternity you will see the difference your generosity made.



November 1, 2021

Dear Ministry Friends,

Have you ever wondered what it is like to walk free again after years behind bars?

Lee Horton and his brother Dennis know the feeling (picture below). National Public Radio (NPR) featured their story. They were convicted of robbery and murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. They always maintained their innocence. Earlier this year, after being locked up for a quarter of a century, they were granted clemency and released.

Here is how Lee Horton described his experience of returning into his community:

"I'm going to tell you honestly. The first thing that I was aware of when I walked out the doors and sat in the car, I realized I wasn't handcuffed. For all the time I've been in prison, I always had handcuffs on every time I was transported anywhere. And that moment right there was ... the most emotional moment that I had. Even when they told me that the governor had signed the papers ... it didn't set in until I was in that car; **I don't have handcuffs on my wrists.**

"And I don't think people understand that 'the punishment' is being IN prison. **When you take away everything, everything becomes beautiful to you.** ... When we got out ... we went to the DMV to get our licenses back. My brother and I stood in line for two and a half hours. And we heard all the bad things about the DMV. We had the most beautiful time. And all the people were looking at us because we were smiling and laughing, and they couldn't understand why we were so happy. And it just was that - just being in that line was a beautiful thing.



"I was in awe of everything around me. It's like my mind was heightened to every slight nuance. To be able to look out of a window, to walk down a street and inhale the fresh air, to see people interacting. ... something woke up in me, something that I don't know if it died or if it went to sleep. I've been having epiphanies every single day since being released.

"One of my morning rituals every morning is I send a message of 'good morning, good morning, good morning, have a nice day' to every one of my 42 contacts. And they're like, 'how long can (he) keep doing this?' But they don't understand how deprived I was. And now, it's **like I have been released, and I've been reborn into a better day, into a new day**. Like, the person I was no longer exists. I've stepped through the looking glass onto the other side, and everything is beautiful."¹

This Thanksgiving, Ministry Friends, we at ARM are thanking God for you. With the gratitude and amazement, the Horton brothers experienced in their physical release from prison, **you are helping prisoners experience spiritually** every day. Recently, a prisoner shared:

*"I write you today with overwhelming **gratitude in my heart**. Just a simple **'thank you'** doesn't even come close to expressing how I feel. When God led me to begin studying His Holy Word through ARM's American Bible Academy (ABA), he opened a door of opportunity to become the Christian man He created me to be. **You have blessed so many in this prison through your faithful Bible teaching**. ABA is a permanent fixture in my daily prayers."*

ARM Prison Outreach **thanks God** for His faithful provision, we **thank YOU** for your partnership, and we **thank Jesus** for His continued work of setting captives free. Happy Thanksgiving!

Your fellow prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),



Troy B. Nelson
Development Director

P.S.- Do me a favor. On **Friday, November 15th**, would you go to your computer or pick up your smartphone and go to ARM's NEW and IMPROVED website? You can find it at **arm.org**. Tell your friends about it, or, better yet, **share it on Facebook!**

¹ Source: Sally Herships, "Lee Horton Reflects On Coming Home After Years In Prison," NPR Weekend Edition (4-11-21)



October 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

As a regular supporter of ARM Prison Outreach, thank you. Thank you for your dedication and support of our mission to *take the Gospel behind prison bars so prisoners find transformation out of their sins*. You are changing lives.

As an ARM supporter, I would like to make you aware of an opportunity you have to **support the mission of ARM for generations to come**. Consider including ARM Prison Outreach in your **will or trust**.

The will or trust allows you to:

- **save money** for the future,
- ensures you can **take care of your loved ones** first,
- and then leaving what is left for the mission work of **evangelizing and discipling prisoners**.

Listen to the impact you made on Jonathan. While serving a 15-year sentence for attempted murder, Jonathan completed ARM's correspondence course on the *Gospel of John*. He writes:

"I know I am saved, and I know my **purpose** here on earth—**to lead others to Christ**. Because of ARM's studies, I can take what I have learned and **preach the Gospel** to all those around me in prison, and I especially want to lead my wife and children to **live a life pleasing to God**."

You made a difference in Jonathan's life. Through planned giving in your will or trust, you can make a difference for generations to come. I hope you'll call me to share with you other exciting ways God is working behind prison bars! You can contact me at (417) 781-9100 ext. 221. Blessings.

His servant and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony B. Johnson".

Development Director



September 13, 2021

Dear Friends,

Do you have children, grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren who are launching into a brand-new school year? Exciting days for sure. At ARM, we have students starting classes nearly every day – but **you know** this school isn't like anything most people would think of!

Our students – your students actually – are literally murderers, hookers, drug dealers, thieves, and all manner of convicted criminals. They are in “non-traditional classrooms” – local jails, state prisons, and federal penitentiaries.

Do you know about ARM's school? I'm writing to see if you can help.

But first, let me introduce you to one of your prize pupils. He mailed a letter from San Quentin State Prison, and it begins,



“My name is Michael* and I was arrested on murder charges on Christmas Day. I was sentenced to death in California and South Carolina...”

“Before I made those stupid, selfish, and evil decisions, my wife and mother prayed for me and encouraged me to believe in Jesus...I was just too hard-hearted. After my arrest, I had a lot of quiet time to think about the evil I'd done to my victims, their families, and my own family – but I remained stubbornly hard-hearted.”

“I would attend chapel and Bible study groups just as an excuse to get out of my cell. But as time went on, I began to feel something stirring within... the Lord never gave up on me...and I surrendered to Christ as my Lord and Savior.”

Michael has been walking with Jesus on San Quentin's Death Row for more than 30 years. Let that sink in for a moment – he's been more than three decades living for the Lord in a place many would think of as God-forsaken. **He's just the kind of student you love to help through The American Bible Academy** or, as we refer to it, the **ABA**.

Michael's tuition cost isn't much – just \$10 per course – but still, he can't afford it. He recently completed his study of John's Gospel, which is what prompted his letter above. We receive many letters from prisoners who are studying in the **ABA**. The same week that we heard from Michael, Edward wrote,

* Names changed for confidentiality

“Thank you for sponsoring me to take the Christian Doctrine course. The opening chapter on love spoke to me. The lesson on Heaven gives me hope for the future. To know what awaits me on the other side... truly amazing!

The lesson on the evidence of our pardon provided me with more hope. I deal with a great deal of guilt and shame daily. Knowing I am forgiven and pardoned through Jesus is a true blessing.”

Edward, like Michael, is a convicted criminal who met Jesus in prison and is striving to grow by studying God’s word – ***again, he’s just the kind of student you and I are looking for!***

So, knowing that studying God’s word through ABA is life-changing – and maybe even eternity-changing – for prisoners around the country, can you help today?

Already this year, more than 13,000 men and women have enrolled in **ABA** coursework. I fully anticipate that, like most fall seasons, applications will pick up, and we’ll have thousands of more prisoners requesting enrollment in Bible classes.

Just \$10 is the cost for one in-depth Bible study correspondence course for one prisoner student. **\$10 covers all American Bible Academy operational costs, including:**

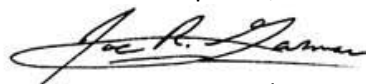
- Writing, designing, editing, and printing the coursework.
- Encouraging chaplains and prison leaders to promote the coursework.
- Mailing the course to the prisoner.
- Scoring the tests and responding to the prisoner.
- Encouraging the further study of another course.

Will you help us say “Yes!” to one prisoner who wants to study God’s word? By sending a gift of \$50 right away, you can know that five prisoners can take one course. \$100 would mean ten prisoners can study, \$250 would provide for 25 prisoners, and so on.

Imagine – your gift of \$10, as Edward said, “gives me hope for the future.” And God knows these incarcerated men and women need all the hope they can find!

Whatever you send – know that it will be an investment in men and women who strive to follow Jesus under most difficult circumstances. Thank you in advance for helping set captives free through the eternal word of God and the love of Jesus!

For those in prison,


Joe Garman, President

PS – Like Michael and Edward, Ronnie has completed the 31st year of her prison sentence. At 55, she came to Jesus. She just finished the **ABA** study on the *Gospel of John* – the course was transformative, and she wrote, **“People tell me I have changed. I tell them they can too!”** Thanks for making a study possible for at least one more prisoner!



August 2021

Dear Ministry Partner,

I wonder if it was tough being one of Jacob's thirteen sons.

To be a "son of Jacob," can you imagine the stories you grew up hearing about God's appearing to your family members?

- Great-grandpa Abraham, God spoke to him on seven different occasions (Gen. 12, 13, 15, 17, 18-19, 21, 22).
- Grandpa Isaac, God appeared to him twice (Gen. 26:2, 24-25).
- Then there's dad, Jacob. Wow! God gave dad a vision of angels going up and down a ladder that spanned from heaven to earth (Gen. 28), and God spoke audibly to Jacob in dreams (Gen. 31 and 35). But the story that amazed everyone was the time dad wrestled with God all night long. When telling the story, Jacob's eyes had a twinkle as he described putting God in a "full Nelson" until God blessed him (Gen. 32)! He told his boys, "That's when God gave me the name, 'God-Wrestler.'"



With such a legacy of God appearing to their family, Jacob's sons must be thinking, "I can't wait for MY word from God!"

But in Genesis 37 through 50, God is silent, hidden.

From what I can tell, there is no record of God speaking to Joseph or any of Jacob's sons through direct speech; God does not even say a word in Joseph's dreams. And yet the reader is told, "the Lord was WITH Joseph" (Gen. 39:2-3, cf. Acts 7:9).

Why does God suddenly go silent and hide?

May I suggest that God goes silent at this point in Genesis, so the world begins to see God through Joseph's life, words, and faithfulness?

Look what the world SEES of God in Joseph's story:

- God's protection and providence in the selling of Joseph into slavery (Gen. 37)
- God uses Joseph's integrity (faithfulness to God) to advance his position in Egypt (Gen. 39)
- God gifts Joseph to be an interpreter of dreams, revealing God's plans to many (Gen. 40-41)
- God's sovereignty turns the evil plans of humanity into good plans to achieve God's purpose (Gen. 42-43)

Through Joseph's life and service, even Pharaoh recognized that "the spirit of God" was upon Joseph (Gen. 42:38).

So, what if God's silence and hiddenness is God's new plan to show Himself present to the world through His people, as we see in Joseph's story? Then God is made visible through the sacrifices of God's people as they bring the life and healing of God to the world.

Saint Teresa of Avila, a 16th-century nun, wrote a poem entitled "Christ Has No Body."

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks,
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

As I weekly read the letters from prisoners, they continually thank our ministry partners for their generosity. A generosity that shows them that God is not silent; God is not hiding from them. God is WITH them through your generous support of them.

Remember those in prison with you (Heb. 13:3),



Troy B. Nelson
Development Director

P.S.- To learn more about what ARM is doing, or if you have questions, please email me at tnelson@ARM.org. I look forward to visiting with you.

P.S.S.- The lithograph image on the front of this letter is by Jack Baumgartner, entitled "Jacob Wrestling the Angel of God."



CHRIST AND THE APPLE TREE

OUTLINE BY BENJAMIN KEACH

COMMENTARY BY JOE GARMAN

“Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, and his fruit was sweet to my taste” (Song of Solomon 2:3).

An Apple Tree yields much fruit. *“For of His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace” (Jn. 1:16).*

An old Amish prayer: “Lord, give us what Thou wilt from Thy Tree of Life, and when Thou wilt, and how much Thou wilt.” *“You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, are they?” (Mt. 7:16)* No restrictions – you can carry away as much as you want from this tree – there is more than enough to go around.

An Apple Tree yields pleasant fruit. *“O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!” (Ps. 34:8).*

Consecrate yourself to Christ and your inner man will take notice. *“Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Ps. 37:4).* This is good news for when you can’t see the road ahead, much less the road signs along the way.

An Apple Tree is beautiful to behold. *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star” (Rev. 22:16).*

Jesus calls sinners to become saints. *“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost” (Rev. 22:17).* And just to think ... it will please God to dwell with me for all eternity.

An Apple Tree provides nourishment. *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105).*

The moral excellence and divine beauty of God’s Holy and inspired word has withstood every error and abuse of religion. *“How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Ps. 119:103)* I know that the Bible is the Word of God because it connects with the truth God has placed deep within my heart.

An Apple Tree provides shade. *“There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain” (Is. 4:6).*

The closer we get to Christ the more shade and shelter He can and does provide for us. *“For You have been a defense for the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a rainstorm against a wall (Is. 25:4).* He is a covering from the scorching heat of sin and a shelter from the storms of life. He provides protection in a weary land.

An Apple Tree (Christ) is a shadow of great delight.

“I wish more inmates would enroll in ABA. That would certainly bring about a positive change in the prison system. Far too many people view the inmate population as lost, without hope and not worth the effort. It is a blessing to know that there are Christians who see us as sinners in need of forgiveness. You did not just send me a Bible, but also a Bible correspondence course to help me understand it. God bless ARM!” – **A prisoner in NC.**

An Apple Tree (Christ) is a shelter in the time of storm.

“We recently hosted a baptismal service where almost 100 men committed themselves to walk in ‘newness of life’ (Rom. 6:4). These men made this commitment partly because of the peace, joy and happiness that they have seen on the faces of the Christians they have met in the chapel. St. Francis had it right – ‘we don’t necessarily have to speak to share the gospel.’” **A chaplain in NM**

An Apple Tree (Christ) provides mercy.

“Because you did not forget the prisoners, He has not forgotten you (Mt. 25:40). God is very much at work in prisoner’s lives. What you do for inmates makes a difference. I am a living walking miracle. I am one God raised from the spiritually dead. I was in a dark place, and when I came to prison it got even darker. I knew Christ at an early age in my life, but rebelled. Thanks to ABA I am, once again, walking in the light.” **A prisoner in OK.**

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST



June, 2021

Dear ARM Partner,

As an ARM “Partner for Transformation,” you help prisoners find transformation out of their sins through Jesus; but you also help ARM change how churches think about prisoners.

Imagine what life would be like if you could not receive forgiveness for your past sins AND your past sins determined your future options, the neighborhoods you could live in, or the jobs you were eligible to have.

Welcome to the REALITY for **70 million American adults with a criminal history.**

After serving time for their crime, prisoners return to their communities with a second chance at freedom, but their criminal history imposes **44,000 LEGAL restrictions** that LIMIT their options at life. Now, let me be clear. For some former prisoners, these restrictions are vital to protect the public. However, for MOST former prisoners, many of the 44,000 restrictions are UNRELATED to the crime they committed.



As the Church, we should be a **SECOND CHANCE MINDSET people** when it comes to prisoners returning as citizens to their communities.

Why?

A “second chance mindset” reflects the character of God. **Micah 7:18** says, “Who is like you, God? Who pardons sins and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but DELIGHT to show mercy.”

A “second chance mindset” is also what God gives Christians through Jesus. **I Peter 2:24** says, “Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed.’”

(continued on back)

Eventually, you will interact with a former prisoner. It could be at church, work, school, or even the parent of one of your teenager's friends. When you learn they have a criminal record, what will your mindset be?

Your regular support of ARM Prison Outreach is changing how churches think about prisoners. Thank you!

Your fellow prisoner in the Lord (Eph. 4:1),



ARM Development Director

P.S. Support ARM through your IRA distribution. If you are 70 ½ or older, you are probably familiar with the IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Each year, the IRS requires you to withdraw a certain amount from your IRA, and you pay income tax on this withdrawal. For many IRA account holders, the taxes can be a significant and undesirable annual burden.

By choosing an IRA charitable rollover, you can reduce or eliminate taxes on your RMD and help reach prisoners for Christ at the same time. You pay no income tax on the transfer from your IRA to a charity like ARM, and that gift reduces the RMD dollar for dollar. Each spouse can contribute up to \$100,000. Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

It is EASY to Do!

To make a gift from your IRA, simply contact your IRA custodian to request a transfer to ARM. You will need the following information:

American Rehabilitation Ministry
PO Box 1490
Joplin, MO 64802
Tax ID # 43-1037106

P.S.S. If you have an interest in learning about **ARM's current needs**, please feel free to call **(417) 781-9100 ext. 221** or email me at tnelson@arm.org.

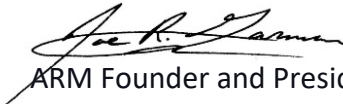


Welcome Troy Nelson to ARM!

Please welcome our newest addition to the ARM team, Troy Nelson. Troy will be serving as ARM's first Development Director.

Troy brings to this role 19 years of organizational leadership and ministry experience at Ozark Christian College, both as VP of Enrollment Growth and later as Director of Alumni Engagement. Like the rest of our fantastic ARM team, Troy has the same heart of service and a passion for making Jesus known to inmates. Welcome, Troy!




ARM Founder and President

Mother's Day Cards Impacted 174,075 Inmates in 2020

Joseph sits in his prison cell, trying to correspond with his family. It isn't easy. All he has is a 3-inch pencil and whatever scraps of paper he can find lying around, which is hardly enough to communicate much to his family. Then one day, the prison chaplain stands outside his cell and says, "Joseph, I have something for you." Passing two Christian greeting cards through the cell door, Joseph holds the cards and says, "The cards are like gold. I can finally send my family something less ratty and more meaningful."



When family connections break down for prisoners, the long-term effect can be devastating. 95% of inmates will eventually be released from prison, but 79% of former prisoners are arrested again within six years. However, studies show prisoners who keep in touch with their families while in prison do better upon release and are less likely to return to crime.

ARM's partnership with DaySpring Cards is a vital tool in helping inmates maintain these meaningful family connections. In 2020, ARM shipped out 2,148,325 cards to 507 prisons. DaySpring Cards generously donates a large supply of cards; however, not enough to meet prisons' requests. To meet the anticipated demand for cards in 2021, we need to raise \$42,000. Our appeal to you, our generous donors, this Mother's Day, is to help us provide for this need. Please use the enclosed card to make your donation today or make an electronic donation by going to arm.org/donate, then click on "Greeting Cards."

This Mother's Day, know you are encouraging the forgotten church behind bars through your generous support of ARM's Christian greeting card ministry. Thank you!


ARM Development Director

¹Timothy Daty, "Family Relationships and the Incarcerated Individual," last modified March 11, 2021, <https://www.ebpsociety.org/blog/education/221-family-relationships-incarcerated-individual>.



THE MISSION WITH AN ARM AROUND THE WORLD



QUESTIONS FOR GOD

BY BENJAMIN KEACH
AND JOE GARMAN

QUESTION: I am a sinner. Is there any hope of salvation for me?

ANSWER: *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”* (Is. 55:7)

QUESTION: My sins are so great. How can you possibly forgive me?

ANSWER: *“I am gracious declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever.”* (Jer. 3:12)

QUESTION: Lord, I know so very little about you. How can you receive me as I am?

ANSWER: *“Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore, He instructs sinners in the way.”* (Ps. 24:8)

QUESTION: My heart is dead and cold. How can it receive your tender love?

ANSWER: *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”* (Ez. 36:26)

QUESTION: I have broken your Ten Commandments. How can you forgive me of that?

ANSWER: *“I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.”* (Jer. 3:15)

QUESTION: If I cannot even forgive myself, how can I possibly accept your forgiveness?

ANSWER: *“Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.”* (Is. 55:6)

QUESTION: I was once a Christian, but I have backslidden. What should I do?

ANSWER: *“Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness.”* (Jer. 3:22)

QUESTION: The law says there is a price that must be paid for sin. What must I pay for my transgressions?

ANSWER: *“Sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace.”* (Rom. 6:14)

QUESTION: Satan is too strong for me. How can I possibly defeat Him?

ANSWER: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”* (2 Cor. 12:9)

QUESTION: I am spiritually weak. How can I stand strong?

ANSWER: *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”* (Acts 1:8)

QUESTION: If I follow you my friends will leave me, and I will be an outcast. To whom can I turn?

ANSWER: *“I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,” so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?”* (Heb.13:5-6)

QUESTION: I am weak and don't know how to debate Christianity with my friends. How should I defend myself?

ANSWER: *“I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”* (1 Cor. 2:2)

QUESTION: But Lord, won't I lose all by following You?”

ANSWER: *“Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.”* (Lk. 9:24)

FROM A PRISONER IN CA:

“I've been a Christian all my life. I was introduced to Christ by my grandmother. I loved every story she told me about Him. However, after high school I joined the Navy, and my faith went downhill from there. When I got out of the Navy, I got in trouble and ended up in prison for peddling drugs. But thanks be to God I came across the ABA. These are wonderful studies, especially Denver Sizemore's *Christian Doctrine* course. He was amazing.”

I hope you will choose to bless and be blessed by helping sponsor prisoners in ARM Bible studies like this. Our true wealth will be measured by the good we do for others. (Mt. 25: 40)

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THE MISSION WITH AN ARM AROUND THE WORLD



KISSES IN THE BIBLE

OUTLINE BY BENJAMIN KEACH
COMMENTARY BY JOE GARMAN

“Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” (Ps. 85:10)

A salutation, the expressive token of a variety of sentiments: common in the Orient, from patriarchal times onward, between persons of the same sex, and, to some extent, between persons of different sexes, seldom on the lips. Parents kissed their children and descendants, and children their parents. Brothers and sisters greeted each other with kisses, and brothers kissed each other. So did other relatives and kinsfolk. Comrades and friends kissed. In the days of our Lord, an invited guest expected to be greeted with a kiss from the host upon entering the house. It was in these circumstances that Christians were enjoined to salute each other with a holy kiss, or with a kiss of love, symbolical of Christian brotherhood. In all these cases, kissing was, or at least professed to be, an expression of love. The kiss played its part when Judas betrayed his Lord. –MASTER STUDY BIBLE

THE KISS OF GREETING: *“Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.” (1 Thess. 5:26)* This is not suggesting a sensual kiss as liberal theologians would have you believe.

THE KISS OF DEPARTURE: *“And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go, and return each of you to her mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me. May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.’ Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.” (Ruth 1:8-9)* The devotion of Ruth to Naomi is one of the greatest love stories of all times.

THE KISS OF SEPARATION: *“When the lad was gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David more. And Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.’ Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.” (1 Sam. 20: 41-42)* It was a normal custom in their culture to kiss on a cheek or kiss on each cheek.

THE KISS OF A TRAITOR: *“Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, ‘Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him.’ And immediately he went to Jesus and said, ‘Hail, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him.” (Mt. 26:48-49)* There was a ‘great multitude’ with swords and clubs accompanying Judas (vs. 47). Jesus said He could appeal to His Father and He would send more than ‘twelve legions’ of angels (vs. 53). A legion consisted of 6,000 soldiers. Twelve legions would have been 72,000 heavenly body guards. Actually, just one angel could have handled Judas and his mob.

THE KISS OF RECONCILIATION: *“So when Joab came to the king and told him, he called for Absalom. Thus he came to the king and prostrated himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom.” (2 Sam. 14:33).* Later, King David would weep and cry out, ‘O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I have died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!’”

THE KISS OF FORGIVENESS: *“Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept; and Benjamin wept on his neck. And he kissed (all) his brothers and wept on them, and afterward his brothers talked with him.” (Gen. 45:14-15)* Joseph (like Christ) forgave, regardless of the sins committed against him. Four times in chapter 45 it says that Joseph (like Christ) wept over his brothers.

FROM A PRISON CHAPLAIN IN OH:

“I served 11 years in prison. During this time, I was in 3 county jails and 2 state correctional facilities. That was 12 years ago. By God’s grace I plan never to return to that type of living. I am now a correctional ministry Chaplain, working with men and women incarcerated in county, state and federal correctional facilities, as well as those on parole, probation and work release. During incarceration I made time serve me as I prepared for Christian service. One study that helped me most was the AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY. Thank you so very much.”

I hope you will choose to bless and be blessed by helping sponsor prisoners in ARM Bible studies like this. Our true wealth will be measured by the good we do for others. (Mt. 25: 40)

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By Boyce Mouton

"Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.'"

(John 5:17)

The six days of creation were a busy time for God. After thousands of years of research and investigation, we are yet to grasp the full magnitude of what God created in those six days. We are always discovering a new star, or a new galaxy, a new plant, or a new fish, a new fossil or a new form of life. Even though God ended His creative work thousands of years ago, we have not yet scratched the surface of what He created.

Obviously, our finite minds cannot understand the infinite. Paul wrote by inspiration that God's judgments are unsearchable and His ways past finding out. Paul was right! On the seventh day, as you know, God rested. His rest, however, was only partial because it was limited to creation. After six days God stopped creating things, but He did not stop working. As Jesus pointed out, God is always at work to this very day.

Maintaining the creation, and holding all things together, is so utterly complex that it defies human understanding. Here are some of the things that God does on a daily basis. For the sake of "simplicity" we will bypass God's management of the heavens and confine our thoughts to the earth. Again, for the sake of "simplicity," we will bypass the incredible complexities of nature, and lower forms of life, and confine our thoughts only to humans.

As you know, our earth is only an infinitesimally small speck in a universe that is beyond our comprehension. And you also know human activity is only a tiny fraction of what happens on earth. Yet, what God does on this earth, just with humans, is still absolutely incomprehensible. Please consider:

- (1) God is actively involved in the development and birth of every baby (Ps. 139:13 - 16), and there are over six billion people alive right now. Billions more have lived and died in the past. God was actively involved in the birth and death of every one.
- (2) It is impossible for anyone to escape His knowledge and scrutiny (Ps. 139:1 - 12). God keeps track of the virtues and vices of every person on earth. Even the very hairs of our head are all numbered (Matt. 10:30). God is our Heavenly Father and is diligent to care for each and every one of His children on earth.
- (3) He hears us when we grumble (Ex. 16:7) and He hears the cry of the needy (Job 34:28). We are told that God will require an account for every careless word we speak (Matt. 12:36).
- (4) Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and asks to enter in (Rev. 3:20). When we open that door, both Jesus and the Father enter in and make their home in our hearts (Jn. 14:23). At this time, God also writes His laws on our hearts and minds (2 Cor. 3:3; Heb. 8:7 - 12).
- (5) He will go with us all the way and will never (double negative in the Hebrew) leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).
- (6) Each time we do a good deed He keeps track of it and adds it to our treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:20). He also monitors our ability to stand firm and will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to endure (1 Cor. 10:13).
- (7) He knows when we are in trouble and gives us wisdom if we ask for it in faith (James 1:5).
- (8) He does not slumber or sleep and is a very present help to those in trouble (Ps. 46:1).
- (9) He rejoices when we repent, and each time we do, with open arms He welcomes us with love. This is just a glimpse of God's infinite activities. It explains what Jesus meant by the words: *"My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."* (John 5:17) So let's also work while it is yet day, because the night is coming when no man can work!

FROM BROTHER JOE:

A prisoner's family in MO writes: *"Thank you for helping our son during his incarceration. You were such a special blessing and your staff is so committed to missions. Everyone and everything was inspiring. We learned so much about ARM that we never knew before. God is blessing you and you are blessing others. ARM is biblically centered and truly a ministry of faith."*

What they are really saying is, *"We saw God working through you."* God takes great pleasure in working through and "with" you and me. I am asking you, in the name of Jesus, to "lock shields" with us as we work in America's jails, prisons and correctional facilities. There is so much work to be done. Please consider becoming a monthly donor if you are not already. You can help transfer prisoners from chains to change. Polycarp urged, *"I exhort you, press on in your course, and exhort all men that they might be saved."*

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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A true friend is a gift from God, and He who made our hearts can unite them. Insomuch as any one pushes you nearer to God, he or she is your friend. Through your prayers and love offerings you have demonstrated your confidence in us. This has strengthened and encouraged us and "pushed" us to do more for the Kingdom's sake.

Please let me share with you what your friendship means to me and this ministry:

Because of your prayers and financial support, the American Bible Academy is today "the fastest growing Bible College behind bars." Prisoners from all 50 states plus all five U.S. Territories have completed over 368,000 ABA courses.

ABA enrolls inmates in a new course every 28 minutes of every day, providing all courses in English and Spanish, and maintains an active enrollment of over 10,000 prisoners.

We also provided baptistries for military installations and mission fields around the world, as well as to correctional facilities all across America. 2,300+ baptistries have been placed on military compounds, mission fields and in correctional facilities since our founding in 1973.

On and on I could go with what your prayers and friendship mean to this mission.

The wife of an inmate recently wrote: "You are a blessing to us. I thank God for ARM, especially the effect you have had on my husband. I am excited about every aspect of your ministry. We are two who have been especially blessed."

And a prison Chaplain writes: "Thank you for your many donations of Christian literature over the years. The state just cut our budget again and if it were not for ministries like ARM our inmates would not have good/solid Christian reading materials."

One of the main reasons I am a soul winner is because I don't want the blood of sinners on my hands.

I'm a great believer in applying scripture in a personal and practical way. Let's read one of those verses made applicable to a soul winner today. "Christian, I have made you a watchman. Hear what I am saying and warn others. When my message to a sinner is, 'You will surely die' and you don't warn him to save his life, then that sinner will surely die in his sin. BUT HIS BLOOD WILL I REQUIRE AT YOUR HAND! But if you warn the sinner and he refuses to listen and turn away from his sin, then he will die in his iniquity, but your soul will be delivered from this responsibility."

2020 YEAR END REPORT

	<p>American Bible Academy: 18,752 Total courses sent to inmates 7,353 New students enrolled 11,399 Courses to existing students 10,760 Courses completed</p>		<p>Bibles: 32,810 Scriptures shipped to 195 prisons Full Bibles - 16,640 NT - 240 Gifts of Freedom books - 15,920 Elements of Life magazines - 250 Plus, 45,275 Gospel tracts sent</p>
	<p>Baptistries: 153 Baptistries shipped to: US Prisons - 19 US Churches - 110 Overseas Missions - 24</p>		<p>Greeting Cards: 2,148,325 Greeting cards shipped to 507 prisons, Sorted by 103 Volunteers serving 7,495 hours</p>

On behalf of the 4,800 federal, state and county jails and prisons we service, and the hundreds of thousands of prisoners touched by this mission, I pray ARM will continue to be worthy of your prayers and mission support throughout this New Year.

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

Joe R. Garman
JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

P



NOEL

E

FEAR NOT!

BY DAVID A. FILBECK, Missionary
Christian Mission to the Orient, Chiang Mai, THAILAND

"FEAR NOT- for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people. For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11.

A

FEAR is not an emotion we usually associate with Christmas. Christmas is a time of joy, a time to be with family, a time to receive and a time to give. It is a celebration of God's greatest gift, His Only Son, our Savior. No, **FEAR** is not a word that is found in our Christmas vocabulary. And yet, when we read the Bible stories we associate with Christmas, we find that **FEAR** was part of those stories.

C

FEAR NOT! the angel said to Zacharias when proclaiming the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:13). **FEAR NOT!** the angel said to Mary when announcing she would conceive by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:30). **FEAR NOT!** to take Mary as your wife, the angel heralded to Joseph in a dream (Matthew 1:20). **FEAR NOT!** the Angel declared to shepherds as they watched their flocks by night (Luke 2:10). There was a lot to **fear** surrounding that first Christmas. And it was not just the **fear** one might experience when confronted by an angel!

E

Imagine the **fear** and trembling Zacharias must have felt as he entered into the Holy of Holies to perform the religious duties. Tradition tells us a rope was tied around the ankle of the priest who entered so that if he died while in the sanctuary, the crowd outside could pull him out without defiling the holy place or putting themselves at risk of incurring the wrath of God.



Envision the **fear** Mary must have felt knowing she would become a pregnant teenager in a culture and legal system that could have stoned her to death for adultery. Visualize the **fear** of what her betrothed, Joseph, might do when he learned of her pregnancy.

Oh, the **fear**, anxiety and anger Joseph must have felt knowing his fiancé was pregnant, and he was not the father. What would his family say? What ridicule would he have to endure from friends, neighbors and community?

Consider also the **fear** of the poor, uneducated shepherds, the lowest of the low. Some say that in New Testament Palestine shepherds were regarded on the same level as tax collectors and dung sweepers--they were dirty and untrustworthy. Why would an angel appear to them if not to punish? What would happen to their sheep if they abandoned their flocks to go find a babe born in a barn? Who would believe their witness of the baby in a manger?



Oh, the overall **fear** all who believed in the coming Messiah must have felt, knowing He would usher in a new kingdom. What political backlash could be expected from the ruling powers? Herod the Great, the present King of Judea, would never stand for a new dynasty and neither would the Roman emperor. No - not ever. **Fear** was part of the first Christmas story. Yet the heavenly hosts all proclaimed, "**FEAR NOT!**"



J

O

Y

Christmas



American Rehabilitation Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 1490, Joplin, MO 64802
Phone: 417-781-9100 Fax: 417-781-9532
Website: www.arm.org Email: info@arm.org
www.facebook.com/pages/ARM-Prison-Outreach

Dear friends of ARM,

“Let me start by expressing my gratitude for the wonderful Bible studies your contributions have provided for me to learn God’s truth through Jesus Christ. As a prisoner I sometimes feel forgotten and alone but thanks to the course lessons through the American Bible Academy, I’ve learned that I’m not forgotten, I’m not alone and that God has and always will be with me and that he loves me as much as anyone else...loves us all equally enough to have given us his only son to pay the penalty we so richly deserve...I thank you for helping me become an Eagle Christian.”



At ARM, we receive many letters like this one. Our American Bible Academy (ABA) has 8 Bible correspondence courses available for inmates to study in English and Spanish. Part of what makes that possible is our “Scantron” exam grading scanner. However, it is 22 years old and needs to be replaced. **Over 1.2 million** exams that were sent in by inmates studying His Word have been graded by this scanner.

It is becoming difficult to find parts for this scanner and the maintenance cost has been greatly increasing each year, so it is becoming cost-prohibitive to continue. We have researched several possibilities for a replacement solution and have narrowed it down to one. That option will include changing our database to work directly with the new scanner and ensuring that it will be productive for hopefully another 20 years.

Studying God’s Word brings life, hope and an eternal change that only God can produce for these brothers and sisters. To continue to accomplish this, we are moving forward in faith to replace the scanner and software at a total cost of \$30,000. We have one generous donor who understands the importance of this project who has committed to contributing \$10,000 by the end of the year.

We need your help. Would you please consider making an investment that will plant God’s Word in prisoners’ hearts forever? A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated to meet this important need!



“Thank you so very much for underwriting the printing costs of the Acts II Bible studies my incarcerated wife, Sharon, and I have been learning from! We have enjoyed the courses and are learning so much about what scripture says and how we should live. We have been blessed as we study together and discuss the questions which challenge us to grow and mature spiritually...It has been hard for us as a married couple to be apart as my wife serves her time...We have been married for 10 years and your gift has allowed us to continue to grow closer to God as a couple and we thank you! -Bryan”

May God bless you this Christmas Season as you pray for and consider adding ARM to your Christmas gift list.

HAVE A CHRIST-FILLED CHRISTMAS

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our mission is to bring the good news of salvation to those in prison.

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ARM has three foreign branch ministries: Cambodia, Mexico and The Philippines. Many of the people with whom we minister live in a shroud of dread and fear, believing that unless they make the appropriate number of offerings to their various gods, they will be plagued with suffering.

Their commitment to these belief systems leaves them isolated from the one true God and without hope. They cry out to idols that cannot hear and cannot save, but nevertheless demand sacrifices of food, money and sometimes physical punishment.

These three nations, including more than two million incarcerated men, women, boys and girls here in America are our parish. Our primary goal is not just to educate, but eradicate their misguided spiritual allegiance, and bring them to a legitimate and saving faith in our Lord and Savior. Our objective is to lead them to Christ. There is a great demand for this unique ministry.

- You can *feel it* as a female prison worker in Ghana tells of meeting a teenage girl in prison who had broken no law, but was being detained there because she had nowhere else to go. Vanessa secured permission to take the young lady home to live with her. I also experienced finding a young mother and her baby who had been living for weeks in the men's toilet room of a local jail. Her husband had broken the law and since the authorities could not locate him they imprisoned her until they could find him.
- You can *hear it* in this letter from a prisoner in TN:
"ARM is so important. I pray for you every day. Your supporters know the effectiveness of preventing crime by evangelizing the incarcerated. All prisoners are getting out some day and will be faced with good and bad decisions. ARM targets the root causes of poor choices and challenges prisoners to walk a higher spiritual level than before. ARM teaches us to cling to our true source of worth – the Lord Jesus Christ."
- You can *see it* in this letter from a prisoner in MO:
"Every day when I begin my ABA studies I say a prayer. I've learned so much. Many of the questions I had before enrolling have been answered. These courses have encouraged me, strengthened my faith and brought me closer to Christ. Before, I was walking in darkness. In fact, this whole prison is filled with darkness. Thank you for teaching me about 'The Light of the world'. Through Him I am an over-comer."

Who will proclaim the Gospel to **these** people? Who will "*bring good news to the afflicted; bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners*"? (Isaiah 61:1) **YOU CAN!** YOU minister side by side with us through your fervent prayers and financial support.

GOD WHO SEES IN SECRET WILL REWARD YOU OPENLY! "*And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'*" (Mt. 25:40).

- IF ... God has provided you with the potential for giving;
- IF ... God is leading you to rescue men, women, boys and girls like those mentioned above;
- IF ... You want to bless others who have no way to repay you;

THEN PLEASE REMEMBER ARM'S BRANCH MINISTRIES
WITH A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING GIFT THIS YEAR.

Your Thanksgiving gift is so important to us. It will minister to the imprisoned in jails and prisons around the world – some in villages so remote that they have limited access to electricity and sometimes no access to Christian discipleship of any kind – no Bibles, no churches, no tracts.

- ✚ \$800. will provide a collapsible portable baptistry for the mission field or a jail
- ✚ \$700 will sponsor a foreign prison evangelist for one month.
- ✚ \$100 will go a long way in supplying our workers and volunteers with Christian literature.
- ✚ \$ 50 will provide a prison with 500 precious gospel tracts.

Thank you for your support!

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,


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“WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS” (2 COR. 4:7)

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By Joe Garman

A TREASURE SPEAKS OF QUALITY AND RICHES.

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Mt. 6:21)

Is your treasure Gold or God? *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Mt. 6:24)* If you want to feel rich just think of all the things you have in God that gold cannot buy.



TREASURES ARE KEPT IN SECURE PLACES. *“Thy word (good thing) I have treasured in my heart (good place), that I may not sin against Thee (good reason).” (Ps. 119:11)*

A GLIMPSE INTO GOD’S TREASURE CHEST

Chaplain T. A. Kain tells of his visit to the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City (population: 2,162 men - maximum security). At the conclusion of his sermon he left the platform to shake hands with the men as they filed out of the auditorium, and to personally pray for those who had special requests.

Seventy-six “lifers” had sat segregated from the rest of the inmate population and were the last to leave. Later the warden asked brother Kain, “Do you remember the man at the end of the line in the lifers’ row?”

T.A. had indeed remembered him because he, more than the others, seemed marked by sin’s curse and his face was ridged with scars. “Let me tell you his story”, the warden said.

The warden then told how that one cold Christmas Eve this inmate’s little girl was found outside the prison walls, clothed only in a thin, dirty dress and wearing a pair of shoes far too large for her. After her mother’s death she had been left in the care of her older brother, but just a few days before Christmas her brother passed away as well.

When a correctional officer saw her, he took her to the warden’s office. She said, “Warden, could I please see my papa? Mama died and now brother is dead too, and papa is all I have left. I brought papa a special Christmas present. If you were in prison and your little girl was me, and she had no one to love, wouldn’t you want the warden to let you see her?”

The warden sent for number 37 to be brought to his office. When the inmate entered the warden’s office and saw his little girl he shouted, “Nellie, what are you doing here?”

“Oh papa,” she sobbed, “Jimmie has died, and because you loved Jimmie so much I want to give you a gift from him.” Then she unrolled the tissue paper she held in her hand and cried, “It’s a lock of hair I cut from Jimmie’s head, papa, just before they buried him and left me all alone.”

The warden said, “The scene was far too sacred for me to look upon any longer, so I gently closed the door behind me and left them alone - the inmate sobbing like a child and holding his little girl in his arms. Later, I learned that she was living on the streets, so my wife and I took her into our home and cared for her until she married.

“Number 37 became a Christian. Once Tom gave his life to Christ he never gave us any more trouble. He is soon to be received a paroled, and plans to live out the remainder of his years with his daughter and her family.”

We do not have the gift of a lock of hair to break a prisoner’s hard heart, but we do have: Baptistries, Bible Correspondence courses, Christian greeting cards, Gospel tracts, In-prison seminars, and the Holy Word of God. Please join us in sharing these treasures with prisoners.

2020 Third Quarter Update

	<p>American Bible Academy: 7,988 Total Courses Sent to Inmates 4,937 New Students enrolled 3,051 Courses to existing students 2,849 Courses completed</p>		<p>Bibles: 6,400 Scriptures shipped to 28 prisons Full Bibles – 5,760 Gifts of Freedom books - 640, Tracts: 8,468 Gospel Tracts Sent</p>
	<p>Baptistries: 46 Baptistries shipped to: US Prisons - 2 US Churches - 28 Overseas Missions - 16</p>		<p>Greeting Cards: 127 prisons ordered 523,525 Greeting Cards, sorted by 54 Volunteers serving 1,822 hours</p>

PLEASE HELP US PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE GOSPEL LITERATURE TO PRISONERS

I hope you will choose to bless and be blessed by helping sponsor prisoners in ARM Bible studies like this. Our true wealth will be measured by the good we do for others. (Mt. 25: 40)



FROM PARK AVENUE ... TO PARK BENCH ... TO PRISON ... TO PREACHER

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By Joe Garman

In 1989, Steve selfishly and suddenly left his wife and son to pursue fame and fortune in Nashville's music business. For this foolish and vain choice, God gave him over to his own lusts. It was a gradual but steady descent over 20 years into depravity. Most of that time he was a mental and emotional wreck (Rom. 1:24-32). He filed bankruptcy twice and was constantly and severely in deep depression.

Steve existed only by the kindness of strangers. He got a menial job in exchange for an apartment, but was soon fired and homeless. For 1½ years He lived in a tent on a wooded hillside in South Nashville. Following that he lived at the Nashville Rescue Mission for Men. It was there that he was arrested and sent to Nashville's medium security prison. In spite of everything he tried, nothing could fill the empty void in his soul.

His first encounter with Christ began when he received a Gideon New Testament from the Chaplain, which he read. It took ten months for him to "come to his senses" like the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:17-18). He began asking himself, "Where did I first begin going wrong in my life?" He concluded that his own ego and greed devastated what, in the world's eyes, was a marvelously successful life. At age 37, he had been at the top of his profession.

He was earning a salary well into six-figures and was blessed with a wonderful godly wife and a healthy son (Ec. 2:10-11). He never dreamed his life testimony would someday be written from a prison cell. Yet, he really should not have been surprised since he had been on the run from God for 40 years. When asked, he would say he was "a Christian", but who did he think he was kidding? He was only deceiving himself ...not God.

Now, he was reaping what he had sowed (Gal. 6:7-8). Thank the Lord that when he finally surrendered, He heard Steve and answered his prayers. He lifted Steve out of the miry pit of hopelessness. He placed Steve's feet on the solid Rock – Jesus Christ (Ps. 40:1-3). Steve was free at last, but he still had a lot of spiritual growing to do. He realized he needed to accept God's forgiveness and also seek forgiveness from those he had hurt.

Steve confessed, repented, and asked Jesus to take control of his life. What a heavy burden of embarrassment and guilt he had been carrying! As he sought God's mercy, his spiritual stress began to be gently lifted from him. Now, instead of those emotional and oppressive sorrows, the Holy Spirit filled Steve with His incredible fruit – love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, etc. (Gal 5:22-24). On his 57th birthday, he was re-baptized into Christ.

Jesus is now his Savior and Lord. Christ is in charge ... Steve is not. Now, more than life itself Steve wants to be a living witness of God's grace. He wants his remaining years on earth to be drastically different than before. I thank God that He impressed upon Steve that he should use his incarceration as a time to focus intently on God's Word and thereby be "transformed by the renewing of his mind" (Rom. 12:1-2).

ARM Bible correspondence courses, prison chapel services, and group Bible study sessions resulted in a solid spiritual foundation for Steve. They were all like sown seed on fertile soil. God had never been more real. The differences in him are permanent. "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever" (I Tim. 1:17).

Steve is a "new creature in Christ – old things are passed away, everything has been made new" (II Cor. 5:17). God has now called him to minister to lost and forgotten addicts, ex-cons, inmates, the depressed and the homeless. Jesus found him in prison – battered, betrayed, bound, broken and busted. But Christ saved him, and has changed his life forevermore. Steve wrote to say, "**ARM PLAYED A ROLE IN MY WALK WITH CHRIST!**"



PLEASE HELP US PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE GOSPEL MESSAGES LIKE THE ONE ABOVE TO PRISONERS.

- ✚ \$700 will sponsor a foreign prison evangelist for one month.
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- ✚ \$ 40 will purchase a case of 20 Bibles.

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,


JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST



AMAZING GRACE

By Joe Garman

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13)

GRACE – GOD’S BENEVOLENT UNMERITED FAVOR

God’s grace enables us to believe. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)

This is one of several gifts from God that separates humankind from the animal kingdom. It does not mean that God does not love the vast variety of creatures in the animal kingdom, but that He has freely bestowed upon humankind (created in His own image and in His likeness) a special and exceptional gift, that of having the ability to believe. Man is the only one of God’s creation that God *“breathed” into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*” (Gen. 2:7) This is what separates us from the animal kingdom. We were created (among other things) to be God’s image on the earth. God not only gave us the gift of faith, but also the ability to crave and seek more faith.

God’s grace, coupled with our acceptance of and obedience to His grace, leads us to salvation.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9).

God sent His only Son as living proof of His love and grace for us. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (Jn. 1:12-13)* Christ brought the gifts of life, light, joy, and freedom. Therefore we, like Paul, have no reasons to boast but in Christ.

God’s grace washes, sanctifies and justifies us. *“And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Cor. 6:10) .*

This was God’s ultimate objective. *“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Eph. 2:13)* We have not been ‘created for’ but ‘saved by’ grace, that we might be rescued from the bondage of sin and Satan.

GOD’S GRACE:

BY BENJAMIN KEACH

Delivers the soul from bondage and breaks the bonds of sin.
 Opens blind eyes that they may see and infuses the love for Christ into our hearts.
 Raises our dead soul to life and draws us to salvation.
 Shines light into our darkened hearts and reconciles us with the Majesty of Heaven.

Regenerates us and enables us to become new creations in Christ.
 Quickens our spirits and provides us with spiritual insights.
 Makes the proud person humble and the unclean person pure.
 Makes hard hearts soft and transforms darkened souls.

Makes covetous people generous and generous people even more generous.
 Makes the worst husband the best husband and the worst wife the best wife.
 Makes the worst children the best children and the rebellious children obedient children.
 Makes the unrepentant heart soft and nets our souls to God.

No grace – no communication with God.
 No grace – no access to Christ.
 It cleanses the filth in the heart and the pollution from our lives.
 It heals the broken hearted and mends the wounded soul.

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It results in a glorious soul, a glorious man, a glorious woman, a glorious child, a glorious family, a glorious church, a glorious eternal city and a glorious kingdom.

If we are naked it clothes us; If we are hungry it feeds us; If we are wounded it heals us; If we are cold it warms us; If we are unclean it sanctifies us; If we are poor it enriches us; If we are bound it frees us.

If we are an enemy to God it reconciles us; If we are condemned it justifies; If we are dead it gives life.

It adorns the soul in white and places a crown upon our head.

It decks us with jewels and with a ring of great price.

It enshrouds our souls with meekness and a confident contrite spirit.

It causes us to behold the beauty of Christ and the glory of God.

It challenges us to love the gospel and be willing to suffer for it.

The Word of grace causes us to see the grace of the Word.

Grace causes men to be like Christ, to love Christ and to be willing to die for Christ.

Grace is good, really good, always good, and glorious at all times.

It results in good mental, emotional and spiritual health.

It's good in sickness and good in prosperity; Good in bad times and good in good times.

We are blessed to have it and they are cursed who live without it.

The profession of God without His grace will do a man no good; It is like a lamp with no oil.

Grace causes men and women to live for God. It makes us wise and enables us to live soberly.

It challenges us to live righteously and holy and in subjection to God.

It challenges us to obey God, to delight in God and to live in obedience and subjection to His Word.

The grace of God leads us to repentance, pardon and peace. It provides the bread and water of life, righteousness and adoption as sons and daughters in Christ. It offers liberty, a personal relationship with God and a glorious walk with Christ. It is the pearl of great price worth more than millions of worlds could afford, a kingdom founded upon the gospel and a crown of endless glory that is eternal and fades not away.

God freely and faithfully bestows this grace. He does not mock us by offering this gift while not intending to provide it for us. As a mother weeps beside the cradle of her sick child desperately seeking and desiring healing, so God patiently offers grace and mercy to all. *"Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you,"* (Is. 55:3). It is our life for the gift of grace.

EVEN PRISON BARS CANNOT LOCK-OUT THE GRACE OF GOD

FROM A PRISONER IN ID:

In prison you can fall prey to Satan or you can seek the Lord. ABA has challenged me to seek His will. After years of incarceration this prison has become my mission field. I am now one of the lights in the darkness. My felony and incarceration resulted in me to losing everything I thought was important, yet they also resulted in my discovering Christ, Who really is everything! As Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 6:10: *"We own nothing, and yet we enjoy everything."*

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SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,



JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST



PRAISE GOD FOR ARM'S OPEN DOORS

By Joe R. Garman

We are receiving many opportunities for prison ministry. God has called and we are responding. **Yet, untold thousands are yet untold.** I am reminded of four truths each time I minister in a prison, reformatory or jail on behalf of Christ...whether they are males or females, juveniles or adults:



- (1) **EACH PRISONER'S SOUL IS VALUABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.** "God is not willing that even one should perish but that every one comes to repentance". Christ's blood was shed of every one of them.
- (2) **IN EACH PRISON THERE WILL BE MORE SOULS LOST THAN SAVED.** We attract only a small percentage of the inmate population, and some of these are responding for all the wrong reasons.
- (3) **MANY PRISONERS WHO ARE EXPECTING TO GO TO HEAVEN WILL BE LOST.** This is one of the most sobering truths of all. Correctional facilities are notorious for false doctrines and spiritual confusion.
- (4) **NOT EVERY PRISONER CONTACTED FOR CHRIST WILL BE SAVED.** There will always be those who, no matter what is said or done, are going to be lost for all of an eternity.

However, you and I, are being used by God to reach and convert many incarcerated men and women for Christ. As we join hearts, lives and prayers together in prison outreach we continue making a difference in the lives of the imprisoned.

Dr. Harry Wendt writes: "The entire created order belongs to God. We do not own any part of it; we merely manage what belongs to God. Without this perspective we are apt to treat our good works as a reflection of ourselves, as a grab for status and power in a world that values self-promotion and greed."

Thank you for knowing the difference and choosing to be a part of the Church's response to a National problem.

ARM'S STATEMENT OF FAITH

ARM IS AN INTERNATIONAL JAIL/PRISON OUTREACH MINISTERING TO JUVINILES AND ADULTS.
OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE GOSPEL RESOURCES FOR THE INCARCERATED.

WE BELIEVE IN THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE AS THE INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD,
AND THE ALL-SUFFICIENT RULE OF FAITH AND LIFE;
IN THE DEITY AND SUPREME AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST;
AND IN THE DIVINE ORIGIN AND CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH AND THE NECESSITY FOR ITS
RESTORATION ON NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES.

WE BELIEVE IN THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST; HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION;
AND THE REALITY OF A FINAL JUDGEMENT RESULTING IN EITHER HEAVEN OR HELL.
WE BELIEVE GOD'S GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION FOR FALLEN MAN MUST BE TAUGHT
IN THE SPIRIT AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD,
AND SHOULD INCLUDE FAITH, REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, BAPTISM, AND FAITHFULNESS.

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GOD IS OUR GOOD FATHER

OUTLINE BY BENJAMIN KEACH
COMMENTARY BY JOE R. GARMAN

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

A Good Father is kind. “Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.” (James 1:17)

The more you strive to be like Him, the more you will love Him. “In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.” (James 1:18) Good Fathers make our faith and trust easy and strong.

A Good Father provides. “To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Pet. 1:4)

This word reserved is used 57 times in the Old Testament and 75 times in the New. “Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Pet. 1:5) The power - means, the faith - method, the salvation - motive.

A Good Father clothes. “But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith?” (Matt. 6:30)

Jesus first proves God trustworthy, then challenges us to trust God. “Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’” (Matt. 6:31) Shall we trust God or gold?

A Good Father protects. “Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” (Eph. 6:11)

Stand firm because the victory is already assured. “Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, AND HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one, and take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph. 6:14-17) Notice there is no protection for the back side. Turning and running is not an option.

A Good Father sets a good example. “Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.’” (Lev. 19:2)

A good father does not take away our free will. There are definite choices we are to make. “Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the people to be Mine.” (Lev. 20:26) The key verse of the book of Leviticus is 20:26.

A Good Father educates. “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16).

He provides opportunities for us to express His love. “And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” (1 John 3:24) When you are Spirit filled, you can feel the Spirit.

A Good Father loves. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John. 3:16)

God in Christ carried a rugged and heavy cross up a bleak and lonely hill. “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.” Greatest Fact – Greatest Act – Greatest Pact.

I hope you will choose to bless and be blessed by helping sponsor prisoners in ARM Bible studies like this. Our true wealth will be measured by the good we do for others. (Matt. 25:40)

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JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

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The Jail and Prison Chaplain's Source for:

- * Christian Greeting Cards from DaySpring
- * Bibles from American Bible Society
- * Bible Correspondence Courses
- * In-Prison Seminars
- * Gospel Tracts
- * Baptistries

What We Should Do According To The Scriptures

- * Believe John 6:29
- * Confess Matthew 10:32
- * Repent Acts 3:19
- * Be Baptized 1 Peter 3:21
- * Walk In The Light 1 John 1:7
- * Remain Faithful Revelation 2:10
- * Tell Others Matthew 28:19

Contact us:
(417) 781-9100

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Joplin, MO 64802

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www.arm.org

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THERE IS NO SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE HERE!

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Most Bible Colleges have only one or two campuses, which have been purchased and must be maintained by The Church. The AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY, however, has 4,200 campuses called jails and prisons, all built and maintained by The State.

Consider the following:

<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>BIBLE COLLEGE</u>	<u>AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY</u>
Academic Advisors	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Athletic Equipment	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Attorney	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Cafeteria	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Chapel	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Classrooms	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Courses	Taught by Professors	Written by Professors
Dorm Supervisors	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Electricity	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Expansion Projects	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Food	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Gymnasium	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Insurance	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Kitchen	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Maintenance Workers	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Natural Gas	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Nurse	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Parking Lot	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Real Estate	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Security	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Trash Disposal	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Vehicles	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Waste Management	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State
Water	Paid by The Church	Provided by The State

ABA is "the fastest growing Bible College behind bars," with an active student body of over 10,000. Our only expenses are the four "P's": Paper, Printing, Postage, and Personnel to oversee the applications, mailing, and grading.

Are you or is your church co-laboring with ABA in this cost-effective rapidly-expanding ministry of prison evangelism? For only \$8 per month, you can place a 120-page Bible correspondence course inside a prison cell where sits a man, woman, boy, or girl without God, without Christ, and without a hope in this world. Maybe you can sponsor 10 courses for \$80. Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated!

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST



WHY THE RESURRECTION MATTERS

BY VICTOR KNOWLES

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"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!" (Rev. 1:18)

I read the following post from my friend Sarah Ziegler. "The kids and I were watching a series on the History Channel called 'Jesus: His Life'. The segment came to an end before a commercial and the spokesperson intensely said, 'Stay tuned for the dramatic conclusion of Jesus' life'. Then Caleb (age 11) cried out in a perfectly timed response, 'Ha! There is no conclusion to Jesus' life!'" I love that kid.

Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever. He is alive forevermore! Here are some reasons why:

First, it establishes who Jesus is. He was *"declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead"* (Rom. 1:4). Mohammad died June 8, AD 632, and he is still in the grave. Jesus died in AD 33 but he arose and is alive forevermore!

Second, it tells us what God is all about. God's mission was - and is - to raise the dead. God did not abandon His Son to the grave or let His body see decay. He raised Him from the dead, for it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him (Acts 2:22-27). And He will raise us too!

Third, it is inseparable from the Gospel. Some say it doesn't matter if Jesus was raised and others totally reject the bodily resurrection of our Lord. But Paul's definition of the gospel is that *"Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"* (1 Cor. 15:3-4). It is a matter of "first importance."

Fourth, it is key to our salvation. God raised Jesus from the dead *"as a Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel"* (Acts 5:30-31). Jesus *"was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification"* (Rom. 4:25).

Fifth, it is connected to our baptism. *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life"* (Rom. 6:4). When we are raised from the watery grave of baptism, we too can live a new life. When General Sam Houston, a notorious sinner, was raised from the waters of baptism, he exclaimed, "God have mercy on the fish!"

Sixth, it is the fuel that ignites our preaching. The resurrection was the touchstone of apostolic preaching in the book of Acts. *"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all"* (Acts 4:33).

Seventh, it gives us a living hope for a bright future. *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you"* (1 Pet. 1:3-4).

Eighth, it establishes the Judgment. *"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead"* (Acts 17:30-31). The resurrection sets the stage for Judgment Day.

Ninth, it guarantees our own resurrection. *"... we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence"* (2 Cor. 4:14). *"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep"* (1 Cor. 15:19-20).

Tenth, it reminds us that Jesus is coming again! I read from 1Thessalonians 4 at the graveside service of nearly every believer. *"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus"* (v. 14). I say, "This is not their final resting place. This is their future launch pad!" *"The Lord Himself will descend from heaven ... and the dead in Christ will rise first"* (v. 16).

Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin was a Russian Communist leader who took part in the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. He was also editor of the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* (which means truth) and was a full member of the Politburo. In 1930, he took a trip from Moscow to Kiev to address a crowd on the subject of atheism. He pulled out all the stops in a verbal assault against Christianity trying to disprove it on several levels.

He spoke for an hour and when he was done it looked like he had shattered any shred of faith in the room. Then he asked, "Are there any questions?" The auditorium went silent. But one man got up from his seat and approached and stood behind the lecturer. He paused and looked the audience over. After the pause, he shouted out the well-known Russian Orthodox Church greeting: "Christ is Risen!"

And without any prompting, in unison, the crowd stood up and responded loudly, "He is Risen indeed!"

Condensed from a sermon I preached at the Promise City, IA Church of Christ.

GREAT QUOTES ABOUT Jesus Christ

"All my theology is reduced to this narrow compass - 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.'"
- Archibald Alexander

"Jesus Christ is to me the outstanding personality of all time, all history, both as Son of God and as Son of Man. Everything He ever said or did has value for us today and that is something you can say of no other man, dead or alive. There is no middle ground to stroll on. You either accept Jesus or reject Him."
- Sholem Asch

"I find the name of Jesus Christ written on the top of every page of modern history."
- George Bancroft

"A man who can read the New Testament and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man, can look all over the sky at high noon on a cloudless day and not see the sun."
- William E. Biederwolf

"I believe there is no one deeper, lovelier, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus - not only is there no one else like him, there never could be anyone like him."
- Fyodor Dostoevsky

"If Shakespeare should come into this room, we would all rise; but if Jesus Christ should come in, we would all kneel."
- Charles Lamb

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. Either Christ was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. Let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being just a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.
- Portions taken from the writings of C.S. Lewis

FROM BROTHER JOE:

I am so thrilled to be able share this '**Revelation about the Resurrection**' with prisoners.

If you want copies to place on the literature table in your church vestibule or distribute to your Sunday school class, please write or phone. There is no charge. Let us know how many you need. "Worship involves witness. The factor that unites them is the Resurrection."

Remember, every Christian is a missionary and a case of 20 Bibles for a prison is only \$40.

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,



JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

Please consider inviting Brother Joe to personally visit your church. He would also be honored to speak to your Sunday School class or missions committee via video call or prepare a video for a mission moment.

American Rehabilitation Ministries

PO Box 1490, Joplin, MO 64802-1490 | www.arm.org | 417-781-9100 | email: info@arm.org



ARM'S IN-PRISON SEMINARS

BY JOE R. GARMAN

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Linda and I founded A.R.M. in 1973 and have watched it grow into a world-wide ministry that is leading more men, women, boys and girls to an abiding life with Christ today than at any other time in its history. Over the years the United States incarceration rate has increased to become the most populous prison system in the world, locking up more people than any other nation on earth.

This ballooning imprisonment of souls is crying out to the church, demanding to be recognized as one of the largest and most fertile mission fields on earth. Inspiring and instructing inmates, who are without God, without Christ, and without a hope in this world, is ARM's mission.

Christ -- not court is the answer and the remedy for sin, whether the sinner is in a prison of concrete and steel, or in a dungeon called "self". Seeing the Word become flesh in the lives of thousands of prisoners will forever be the legacy of this ministry.

One of ARM's most popular outreach programs is the SEE THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES seminar I teach in prisons all across America. This seminar was written by Harry Wendt, founder of CROSSWAYS INTERNATIONAL in Bloomington, MN. Each prisoner with faithful attendance receives a certificate suitable for framing. Christ is its grand object; the prisoner's good its design; and the glory of God its end.

After conducting a STTS at one prison the chaplain commented, "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened here." A prisoner added: "Now when I read my Bible, I do so with understanding."

PRISON FELLOWSHIP has written, "When Jesus was berated for eating with tax collectors and sinners, He answered: *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"* (Mark. 2:17). Back in the day, tax collectors had fallen into their own category of contempt – set apart it seems, from the rest of the sinners. They were considered corrupt, treacherous ... criminal.

"Yet Jesus went to them. He spent time with them and shared friendly meals with them. He did not overlook what they had done or what they had become. But in the moral 'sickness' of their sin, He offered them the healing of His forgiveness, His salvation, and even His friendship.

"One of those loathed tax collectors was Zacchaeus, a corrupt man who had grown rich by cheating others. He climbed a tree to get a better look at Jesus. The Lord invited Himself to dinner with Zacchaeus – again, to the irritation of the more 'righteous' people in the crowd.

"But that loving invitation brought this corrupt tax collector to repentance and transformation, ready to make amends for his crimes. And then Jesus made an announcement to the crowd. *"This man, too, is a son of Abraham"* (Luke. 19:9). This man that others considered an outcast was to be restored.

"If Jesus were on earth today, would we find Him in the prisons, talking and dining with the most loathed criminals and outcasts? Of course we would. He would be there *"to seek and to save the lost"* and to restore them, just as He did with Zacchaeus.

"And because the church is now His representative on earth, prison is where we should be as well – calling the sick to the healing touch of our Lord and Savior. We are to recognize in them the dignity of God's trusting that no one – NO ONE – is beyond Christ's love and power to redeem. The scriptures give us insight into God's heart for prison ministry. They exhort us to follow Jesus into the prisons and into the jails to minister to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families."

Let us not forget the call of Mt. 25:36-40. \$64 will underwrite a complete set of ABA correspondence courses; \$50 will provide a prison with 500 gospel tracts; \$40 will sponsor a case of 20 Bibles.

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From M. L. and Kay Miller, Chaplains at Waterproof, LA:

***Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!
For the portable baptistry, for the Bible studies for the inmates,
for the Bibles and for the DaySpring cards.***

***Total to date: 445 men baptized
110 women baptized***

Hallelujah – Give God the Glory!



GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS MIRACLE OF A NEW YEAR

BY JOE R. GARMAN

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With His help I will endeavor not to:

- *Complain* because it is raining, **but be thankful** the grass is being watered for free...
- *Feel sad* that I don't have more money, **but be glad** I have enough to live on and give to those who don't...
- *Grumble* about my health, **but rejoice** that I am alive...
- *Lament* over what my parents didn't give me when I was growing up, **but be grateful** that they provided me with the necessities...
- *Whine* because I have to go back to work tomorrow, **but shout for joy** that I have been blessed with a job.

**I will praise God for who He is and for all He has given me, for He is the owner of all things!
I will adore and love Him - obey and serve Him, for He has blessed me with:**

- *A partnership* with AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, the world's largest and oldest Bible society, which resulted in **tens of thousands of Bibles shipped** to prisons through ARM.
- *The delight* of placing over **1,800 baptisteries** in America's jails and prisons. Years ago we surveyed prison chaplains to find out how many prisoners they baptized each year in ARM baptisteries. The average was 37 prisoners per year. So, 1,800 X 37 = 66,600 per year.
- *The fortune* of partnering with DAYSPRING CARDS of Siloam Springs, AR. This has resulted in ARM becoming **the world's largest provider of Christian greeting cards** for prisoners...
- *The fulfillment* of teaching and maintaining over **10,000 prisoners** who are actively enrolled in the AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY...
- *The pleasure* of working with **150 Christian volunteers** who frequent our headquarters.
- *The joy* of ministering in all **50 states and all five U.S. Territories**, and participating in four branch ministries around the world - Cambodia, Mexico, The Philippines, and a woman's transitional mission here in Joplin. We also provide a **Hispanic Ministry Outreach** for Spanish speaking prisoners.

All this is possible because of **Christian friends and supporters like you** who fervently pray and financially sacrifice so ARM PRISON OUTREACH can continue. You will never know this side of Heaven, the blessing you are to this ministry and me!

2019 YEAR END REPORT

	<p>American Bible Academy: 17,123 Total Courses Sent to Inmates 6,612 New Students enrolled 10,198 Courses to existing students 9,626 Courses completed</p>		<p>Bibles: 32,018 Scriptures shipped to 122 prisons Full Bibles - 30,818 NT - 1,200 Gifts of Freedom books - 6,340, Elements of Life magazines - 200</p>
	<p>Baptistries: 169 Baptistries shipped to: US Prisons - 36 US Churches - 106 Overseas Missions - 27</p>		<p>Greeting Cards: 2,472,350 Greeting Cards shipped to 584 prisons, Sorted by 210 Volunteers serving 9,215 hours</p>

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Following his baptism into Christ, this prisoner was so overwhelmed that he couldn't even get out of the baptistry. He simply laid his head on the edge and wept. Glory be to God!



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

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ABA Resource Center website:
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Donations:
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My dear Christian friends:

Linda and I are so blessed. And our wish and hope for you this year is that you will be blessed too, and that God will grant you the same happiness we are enjoying as we send you this New Year's letter.

Someone has said that life must be read like a Hebrew book – from the back to the front. When Linda and I view our lives together we can see God's providence – even in the midst of a few dark valleys. But, if it all should end tomorrow – how could we possibly complain? The Lord has been so good to us.

The hope of a New Year is Life, Light and Love. And once a year we are given this unique opportunity to remember and celebrate all that God has done for us. This is the joy of the New Year. And the Lord continues to give us more.

Our ministry with prisoners actually began when we were serving as missionaries in South Korea in 1969. It was there where we entered our first prison in Taejon. Word quickly spread through the Korean prison system that American missionaries were willing to visit Korean prisoners.

We soon found ourselves in full-time prison and reformatory ministry throughout the Republic of Korea. In 1972, the Korean prison ministry was transferred into the capable hands of the Korean churches and we moved as missionaries to Israel.

After only six months, Israeli authorities refused to renew our visas, so we returned stateside in May of 1973 to establish the AMERICAN REHABILITATION MINISTRIES (formerly known as the REVIVAL FIRES PRISON MINISTRY), and is now known as ARM PRISON OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL. Today, ARM is leading more men, women, boys and girls to an abiding faith in Jesus Christ than at any other time in over four decades of ministry. We have received recognition from four U.S Presidents for "significant and lasting contributions in the field of corrections."

When we began ministering to U.S. prisoners, America's prison population was about 234,000. Today, ARM's target audience is more than **2 million** souls who are incarcerated in America's 1,600 state and federal prisons and 3,100 county and city jails.

We quickly discovered there was a great need for baptistries to be placed in these correctional facilities. Our first attempt to meet this challenge was the **Baptistry on Wheels**; a trailer with a fiberglass lining that could be towed from prison to prison. Next, came the **Communion Table Baptistry**, a hollow communion table containing a fiberglass tub.

We still produce the CTB but today we also offer the **Collapsible Portable Baptistry**, which is constructed of aluminum tubing with a vinyl tub. It unfolds like a lawn chair and can be hand-carried. Its total weight is only 30 lbs. We have placed CTB's and CPB's in 1,782 correctional facilities and with 364 missionaries.

Each year we place around 3 million greeting cards in our nation's correctional facilities. DaySpring Cards donates these all-purpose all-season greeting cards to us. And when prisoners come to the chapel to get a card, they are exposed to the gospel in a variety of ways.

We must also tip our hat to the American Bible Society for choosing us as one of their distribution centers for federal and state prisons. Thanks to ABS we are able to provide over 100,000 prisoners with the holy word of God each year. These are two of the most generous Christian corporations in America.

ARM is fulfilling every aspect of THE GREAT COMMISSION. We are **baptizing** by placing baptistries in the correctional facilities; we are **teaching** by way of our Bible correspondence school (which maintains an average student body of 11,000 prisoners); and we are **abiding** with them through our Christian greeting card ministry (DaySpring) and Bible distribution program (ABS).

But I would be amiss if I failed to thank those of you who are holding this letter in your hands right now. You are the ones who financially underwrite the day to day expenses of ARM. Your love-offerings and sacrificial gifts make possible the In-prison seminars; the distribution of thousands of pounds of gospel literature; college level Bible correspondence courses; and our baptistry placement program. ***Thank you!***

CHRISTMAS AT A.R.M.

C is for **CHRIST**, whose birth we celebrate. He is the inspiration for this ministry.

“For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me” (Matt. 25: 35, 36).

H is for the **HELPERS** who unselfishly contribute two of life’s greatest treasures...energy and time. Volunteers frequent ARM headquarters every day.

R is for the **REHABILITATION** of prisoners. The word “Re-habilitate” means to ‘re-clothe’ with a covering superior to the one previously worn. *“Let me tell you how happy God has made me! For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and draped about me the robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels” (Isa. 61:10).*

I is for the **IN-PRISON** seminars Joe Garman teaches in federal and state prisons. These panoramas of the Bible (written by Harry Wendt, President of Crossways International in Bloomington, Minnesota) take inmates on a journey into the Bible, book by book, from Creation to Christ.

S is for the **STAFF** at ARM who provide constant encouragement to one another through their Christ-like work ethics, and are a strength of service far beyond their pay scales. They rise early and work late, and are true examples of “profitable servants”.

T is for the **TRACTS**, Bibles and Christian greeting cards ARM distributes to prison and jail chaplains, making us the world’s largest distributor of Christian greeting cards to correctional facilities. ARM ships more than 3 million Christian greeting cards to correctional facilities each year ...compliments of DaySpring Outreach in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

M is for the **MANUFACTURING** of Communion Table Baptistries and Collapsible Portable Baptistries. ARM is also the world’s largest supplier of baptistries to jails, prisons and reformatories.

A is for the **AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY**, *“The fastest growing Bible College behind bars”*. ABA averages an active enrollment of about 10,000 adult prisoner students with an average of 19 new inmate students enrolling each day.

S is for faithful and generous **SUPPORTERS** like you, who pray for and financially undergird this mega-ministry through your tithes and love-offerings.

“Thank God for his Son – his Gift too wonderful for words” (2 Cor. 9:15).

From Joe, Linda and the staff at ARM



THE "INSIDER'S REPORT" FROM BROTHER JOE

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“HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP TO GAIN THAT WHICH HE CANNOT LOSE.”

JIM ELLIOT, MISSIONARY

My dear Christian friends:

ARM is in our 47th year of service to America's jails and prisons. Four U.S. Presidents have honored us with a Certificate of Recognition for our contributions in the field of corrections. We minister in all fifty states, five U.S. territories and four branch ministries located in Cambodia, Korea, Mexico and the Philippines, and the Guiding Light Ministries for women in Joplin. We exist to proclaim Christ.

Jesus said, *“Inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these, you did it unto me”* (Matt. 25:40). Would you like to know how you can be an extra special blessing to ARM as this year comes quickly to a close? A missionary told me, “People want to help. They just don't know how.” So this is what I suggest for those already supporting ARM as well as those wanting to partner with us in the months ahead.

First of all, please consider donating an extra special Thanksgiving gift. This would greatly bless us by helping us make up for our low summer months and finish this year strong. We can then begin the new year to do all that God has for us to do.

ARM is the national jail and prison distribution center for DaySpring Christian Greeting Cards. Because of them, we are able to place around 3 million all-occasion greeting cards in our nation's correctional facilities each year. But at Christmas we usually exceed our donated number of cards, so we must pay to have extra cards printed. Your Thanksgiving gift will greatly assist with this expense.

ARM is also one of the national jail and prison distribution centers for the American Bible Society in New York. As such, we place around 30,000 English and Spanish Bibles in our nation's correctional facilities each year. We are indebted to ABS but we must purchase more Bibles than our gifted limit. We also ship thousands of pounds of Gospel tracts and Christian literature. Your Thanksgiving gift will help us.

But our greatest expense is American Bible Academy. ABA currently has around 12,000 actively enrolled prisoners. ABA courses are 120 pages in length and have been written by outstanding Christian leaders. You may access our website at WWW.ARM.ORG to learn more about our Bible correspondence school for prisoners. Thanksgiving gifts are needed to underwrite printing and postage.

Thank you for caring and sharing. William Barclay has written: *“The proclamation of the cross revolves around you and me as gospel messengers, with Christ as our leader. Before us is the missionary call of God.”* Missionary Jim Elliot wrote: **“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”** Your investment in ARM will be such a blessing to us.

LINDA AND I WISH YOU AND YOURS A BLESSED THANKSGIVING!

From Chains to Change,

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist



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“WICKEDNESS PROCEEDS FROM THE WICKED” I SAMUEL 24:13

My name is Jose. I first met Joe Garman when he visited my prison in Black River Falls, WI. I was born in Cuba and came to this wonderful country seeking freedom and a better life when I was only a teenager. I left all my loved ones behind, not knowing what was ahead of me. I did not speak English and I did not have any money. I had only the clothes on my back. Wow, what a culture shock!

I began immediately associating with the wrong people and soon I was selling marijuana and cocaine. I was the youngest person ever to become an official member of the New Orleans Cuban Mafia. Eventually, I was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to serve my time at Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. I was one of the 2,600 Cuban detainees who rioted and took over the prison from correctional officers.

Upon release from GA I moved to WI where I went back to selling drugs and was arrested and convicted again. But this time things were different. ABA had just translated their Bible study courses into Spanish. Several of us Spanish prisoners enrolled. I surrounded myself with spiritually minded men. Brother Joe Garman and my chaplain will testify that, “Wickedness no longer proceeds from me.”

FROM BROTHER JOE: "As that old proverb says, "Wicked is as wicked does!" (1Sam. 24:13, TLB). Every day we receive letters from wicked (and formerly wicked) men and women. Some testify how God has delivered them, as He did Jose. Others ask us to help them be delivered. But one thing all of them quickly confess: God did not cause their wickedness.

I have been in this ministry 46 years. Of the thousands of prisoners I have met I have yet to encounter one who blamed God for his or her incarceration. Some (and rightly so) blame their environment or their family. But most admit that it was when they gave themselves over to certain pursuits and temptations that their lives began spiraling out of control and they became confused and empty.

“Anything I wanted, I took, and did not restrain myself from any joy. I even found great pleasure in hard work. This pleasure was, indeed, my only reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had tried, it was all so useless, a chasing of the wind, and there was nothing really worthwhile anywhere” (Eccl. 2:10, 11). Outwardly some had everything but the one thing that mattered: the Lord.


“Yes, they knew about him all right, but they wouldn’t admit it or worship him or even thank him for all his daily care. And after awhile they began to think up silly ideas of what God was like and what he wanted them to do. The result was that their foolish minds became dark and confused” (Rom. 1:21, 22). They became their own gods, destroying His holy will for them and following selfish desires.

“So God let them go ahead into every sort of sex sin, and do whatever they wanted to – yes, vile and sinful things with each other’s bodies. Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God; they deliberately chose to believe lies. So they prayed to the things God made, but wouldn’t obey the blessed God who made these things...They became full of every kind of wickedness” (Rom. 1:24-25, 29).

“Remember that in those days you were living utterly apart from Christ; you were enemies of God’s children and he had promised you no help. You were lost, without God, without hope” (Eph. 2:12). They felt unworthy of love and, over time, pushed away every friend and family member. Some wanted to die and tried several times to take their lives. But God had His own plan for them.

And this is where you and I enter the story. God is using us to, *“Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself” (Jude 1:23).* Oh, thank God for ARM. Thank God that when they finally *“come to their senses” (Luke 15:17),* a ministry like ARM is here for them. Jesus said, *“For I was...in prison and you visited me. When you did it to these...you were doing it to me” (Matt. 25:35, 36, 40).*

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PEACEMAKER

by Joe R. Garman

A young man named David had been a drug addict since he was ten years old. His mother taught him to mix and cook dope and his father, who was a Hell's Angel, taught him how to curse and fight when anyone confronted him. His friends were also addicts. This dysfunctional lifestyle was not discouraged because, after all, it was the family business. God was not part of their lives so he didn't know anything about Jesus until he was 27 years old.

After his parents separated, his mother hooked up with a man who was a child molester. He molested David's brothers and sister. Later he went to prison. While he was in prison, David learned what he had been doing. A month after his release David retaliated against him and was sentenced to eight years in Leavenworth. David was released in 2015, and two weeks later was high on drugs again. He was then sentenced to the Jasper County Jail.

While in Jasper County Jail in Carthage, Mo. he met a Christian volunteer named Curtis Williams, a biker who called himself Peacemaker. Curtis led David to Christ. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds. At first, David told him to shut up and leave him alone. But David didn't say it in just exactly those words. To David, being with him was worse than being in prison, so David refused to talk to him. But Peacemaker kept coming back.

David finally surrendered to Christ. He doubted if God even wanted to have anything to do with him. He still held grudges and there were more than a few people he wanted to take revenge on. But Peacemaker kept helping him find the answers to the questions he was asking and continued pointing him to one verse of scripture and after another. Peacemaker was on a mission from God and he was not about to give up!

Peacemaker read Prov. 28:13, "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." David thought, "Oh, Lord, this is what I want - another chance Lord - another chance!" Peacemaker read John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." David prayed, "Show me more!"

Next, David was introduced to Col. 1:21: "This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends." And then to Rom. 8:1: "So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus." David said, "I felt my shame lifted. God loved even me! He wants to free me from sin and death.

"Now I can stop constantly thinking about my past. I am of far greater in value to Christ than I thought. He, in me, has made me worthy of a loving relationship with God. By His stripes I am healed. Now, I can forgive myself." "For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. He sent his own Son in a human body and destroyed sin's control by giving Himself as a sacrifice for our sins." Rom. 8:3.

FROM BROTHER JOE:

Upon release from jail, David headed straight for WATERED GARDENS, a Christian based gospel rescue mission based here in Joplin, founded by Mr. and Mrs. James Whitford. There he met some outstanding Christian workers, received three hot meals each day and a place to lay his head at night. They were even equipped with an ARM baptistry. David said, "I have all the support I need."

David considered his Christian friends and Bible teachers at Watered Gardens to be his 'new family'. Since he was already familiar with the dozen or so "homeless groups" in and around Joplin, he wanted to start a "homeless camp outreach program" where he could witness one-on-one with them and distribute gospel literature. Next he hoped to join a jail house ministry at Jasper County Jail.

Unfortunately, in the midst of it all, Peacemaker died, and David began to stumble in his walk with Christ. But a precious Christian lady, Jamie Myers, stepped in to take his place. Jamie is director of FORGE, a program that helps struggling men develop virtue and a strong work ethic. It teaches discipline and skills so they can go from being jobless to becoming self-supporting and responsible.

Please keep David in your prayers, as he is continuing to struggle. Our ministries broaden even after they receive Christ. As Keith Green said, "We are to be fishers of men rather than keepers of the aquarium." God is so good to us by giving us Christian friends like you. If it should all end tomorrow how could I possibly complain? Remember, \$40 will provide another case of Bibles!

Saved to Serve the Savior,





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THE MISSION WITH AN ARM AROUND THE WORLD

A prisoner in Florida writes: "I am from Cuba. My friends and I had never heard the gospel before arriving in America. Many Cuban inmates are coming to Christ now, thanks in part to Spanish Bible correspondence courses provided by ARM. We need all the spiritual help the ARM family of supporters can provide. I am teaching seven other prisoners." (NOTE: ARM HAS PLACED SIX BAPTISTRIES IN CUBAN PRISONS AND CHURCHES).

In fact, many are unaware that we perform quite an extensive international ministry while serving American correctional facilities. ARM started on the mission field (South Korea) which continues to be one of our branch prison ministries. Today, we have ministries in all five U.S. territories as well as in Cambodia, Mexico, and the Philippines. Here are a few of the letters we have received from foreigners currently incarcerated.

FROM ORPHAN HELPERS IN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS:

"We celebrated 36 baptisms over the past few weeks in three orphan detention centers. These young people, with transformed lives, are leaving violent gang activities and affiliations to follow Christ. We are grateful for the baptistries ARM has placed with our missions. We look forward to a strong and continued partnership with you. It is a marvelous work God has called us to ...that of taking the gospel to the most rejected members of society!"

FROM A MISSIONARY IN CHINA:

"According to WORLD magazine, over the past three years as many as 2000 crosses have been torn down from the tops of churches in the east coast city of Wenzhou (dubbed by some as the 'Jerusalem of China'). In addition, authorities are demanding that the churches hang Chinese flags inside their sanctuaries and install surveillance cameras in their buildings. In times like these we are grateful for the many baptistries ARM has donated and installed for the Chinese Christians."

FROM A CHRISTIAN BROTHER IN THE PHILIPPINES:

"I first heard about you in 1974 while attending a Youth Conference for Christ in Cebu. Four years later I received Christ and was baptized. My father almost killed me for that. This year Dad accepted Christ and was baptized. Dad now lives with me and my family. You will rejoice to learn that our minister found Christ while serving ten years in a penal colony. By God's grace we are all doing well."

FROM A MISSIONARY IN JAPAN:

"I am a church planter with Mustard Seed Network in Kyoto, Japan. Thank you for donating a baptistry to this ministry. Kyoto is less than 1% Christian and is the center of Japanese Buddhism. We pray many will turn from idols to serve the living God. We cannot wait to begin using this baptistry. ABA's Director, Joe Welch, has a son named Drew, who came over and worked along side us a few months ago. Needless to say, he blessed us. Thank you for all you do."

FROM A SPANISH PRISONER IN FL:

(Translated by missionary Bob Marsh).

"I was a drug dealer and gang member while imprisoned and fashioned a knife from a strip of steel. I used it in fights with other prisoners. **One day I found a discarded NIV Spanish Bible and began reading it.** It totally changed my life. But some members of my gang were unimpressed. They vowed to kill me unless I continued selling drugs. Pray for me. I am determined to walk with Christ despite their threats."

FROM A SPANISH PRISONER IN TX:

(Translated by missionary Bob Marsh).

"Over a decade ago I completed all eight ABA courses while in prison, but I remained rebellious. Finally I came to realize that head knowledge about the Bible was not the same as having a personal relationship with Christ. When I got out of prison I began attending church, surrendered my life to Christ and was baptized. I now walk with the Lord and am teaching a Bible study class in my church (about 25 students)."

FROM BROTHER JOE:

Daniel 12:3 records: *"And those who are wise – the people of God - shall shine as brightly as the sun's brilliance and those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever."* And Charles Spurgeon wrote: *"You are either a missionary or a mission field."* Please lock shields with us in this battle for souls. \$40 will provide a case of Bibles like the one mentioned above that changed the Spanish prisoner's life. They are looking to us - we are looking to you!

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist



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LOCKED UP FOR JESUS BY BILL CORUM

My friend, Timothy Chung, was sentenced to a labor camp in China for re-education through labor. His sentence was to be 3½ years. But he entered the camp in 1958 and was not released until 1979. After spending 21 years in prison for his faith in Jesus Christ, he was finally released and came to America. He ended up in Kansas City, MO, where I live. Timothy's life is a testimony for us all.

At the end of his 3½ year sentence, he was asked if he was ready to denounce this superstition of believing in Jesus and go home to be with his family. The only thing he was required to do was to say the words, "I do not believe in Jesus," and even if he didn't mean it he would be released. Timothy told the interrogating officer that as a Christian he was obligated to believe with his heart and confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The officer pounded his fists on the table and said he would not release him. Year after year (although never again given the opportunity to deny his faith), he was kept as a prisoner, and registered with an "unannounced life imprisonment." In the labor camp the prisoners were forced to work from 10 to 16 hours a day. Timothy labored in the rock quarry and the brick kiln. The living conditions were inhumane.

There were two thousand men in his labor camp. The beds in these prisons were made of hard dried mud, and then covered with straw. Each bed was 100 feet wide and slept 50 men to a bed. During the time of his incarceration there was a three year famine in China, from 1959 until 1962. During that time, ten million people died from starvation. Two thirds of the prisoners in the labor camps also died.

Because it was 1200 miles by train, Timothy's wife only visited him two times during his incarceration. One of those times was at the beginning of the famine and she brought him some rice. He said he was very hungry, but when she got there they were disappointed that the rice had spoiled on the two day train ride, so they had to throw it out. The next time she came was at the end of the famine and she helped nourish him back to health.

In 1979, a church in Waco, TX, began **fasting and praying** daily for him. Within a month he was released. I asked Timothy if he would be writing a book. He said he was not a writer. I suggested that we could get someone else to write it. He said, "I have never done anything for God. Only God has done things for me." Can you even imagine what it would be like to spend 21 years doing hard labor in a Chinese prison camp?

FROM BROTHER JOE:

Brother Andrew (a renowned Bible smuggler) has written: *"I'm convinced that we are entering into what appears to be the cruelest period of history. More people will suffer for Christ's name than in any other generation. Christians who are not under such persecution must find a way to help our persecuted brothers and sisters. They need our presence, our encouragement, and our prayers."*

Our prayers are crucial. Our best prayers will move us into our best action. I close the day praying for my brothers and sisters in harms way. They are not just the "Timothy Chung's" of the world but also the men, women, boys and girls right here in America standing in the need of prayer. Some are struggling with physical, mental or emotional battles; others are in the midst of spiritual warfare.

As YOU pray for various missions and missionaries would you please include ARM in your daily prayers? Brother Andrew wrote, "Prayer transmits presence." We need your **presence** with us as we walk through these huge concrete walls and confront men and women who are living without God, without Christ and without a hope in the world. Through your **prayers** you can be an **encouragement**.

Presence and Encouragement through Prayer: *Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God's answers and remember to be thankful when they come. Also, don't forget to include ARM in your tithes and offerings. You can provide a Bible correspondence course for only \$8 or 10 of them for \$80, 50 Bibles for \$100 or a general donation of any amount. Please remember when you give, God will receive it and use it to bless many.*

Saved to Serve the Savior,

P.S. I was recently invited to accompany Bill Corum on one of his visits with Timothy Chung. It was truly a "mountaintop experience". Timothy is 96 years old and his spirit is strong.



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THE MAN WITH A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

By Norman L. Bales

Caleb, the son of Jephunneh, is described in the bible as "a man with a different spirit" (Numbers 14:24). He is the only man so portrayed in the Holy Word of God. What made Caleb a different spirited man? He is different because of the way he responded to a crisis when the spies came back to Kadesh Barnea. The majority returned in fear of the walled cities and the giants of Anak, but Caleb would not.

Caleb had the pathetic experience of having his wise advice rejected by his friends and country. His disappointment was compounded by the fact that he was right, and that the nation would now suffer because it followed the wrong counsel. Yet he said, "I wholly followed the Lord" (Joshua 14:8). Caleb had to cope with this rejection at age forty, when he was at the zenith of his leadership abilities.

Caleb had been God's original spokesman in Numbers 14, but Joshua was chosen for the leadership assignment when it was time to go over Jordan. Lesser men would have sulked, but Caleb requested the dangerous assignment of attacking the Anakim. One of the great lessons we can learn from Caleb is to be "different spirited people" and continue following God despite disappointments, rejections and a forty year set-back.

FROM BROTHER JOE: **ARM IS SURROUNDED WITH CALEBS!**

In addition to all fifty states of America and her five U.S. territories, ARM serves five branch ministries: the Philippines, Cambodia, Korea, Mexico, and the Guiding Light Ministry for Women here in Joplin. One of our foreign prison directors, who was previously incarcerated, now travels the Philippines with his team of evangelists, proclaiming freedom to captives.

In 1970, Ernesto O. Alocelja of North Cotabato, Philippines joined a rebel group "ILAGA", a vigilante organization committed to fighting Muslim terrorists and outlaw gangs.

Eight months later Ernesto organized his own group, leading to encounters with cattle rustlers, outlaws and terrorists. In 1971, he was shot and had to have his leg amputated.

In 1972 an army brigade arrested and incarcerated Ernesto. Bail was not recommended. During his imprisonment he became void of hope and overcome with depression. Then, one afternoon a Filipino evangelist visited his cell. They spent considerable time in Bible study and prayer. Later, Ernesto felt led to learn more about Jesus.

Ernesto chose to attend, along with about 200 other prisoners, a gospel presentation conducted inside his jail by veteran missionary to the Philippines Charles Littell. From that point in time Ernesto endeavored to surrender his life through Christian baptism, Bible study and prayer. Ernesto has served as Philippines Prison Ministry Director for ARM since 2003.

A portion of offerings received each month is shared with all of our prison ministries for their salary and travel expenses. Our evangelists are frugal with their requests for funds because they realize our limited resources must provide for each ministry including ARM. God enables us to do all of this and more through Christian friends like you. Your love, prayers and offerings make it all possible.

I can proudly hold each of these ministries up before you recommending them and their workers as worthy of your prayers and love offerings. Please continue to stand with us? Also, encourage others to join you and me in this ministry. Thank you. "HE WHO WINS SOULS IS WISE" (Prov. 11:30).

AND I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD YOU YET ABOUT THE OTHER CALEBS' WHO WORK HERE!

SERVING THE GOD OF CALEB



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FLORENCE DACE

"The Woman Who Had Forgiveness in Her Heart"

By Bob Green

Former minister of South Side Christian Church
 Springfield, IL

I received a call from St John's Hospital asking me to hurry to the emergency room. When I got there and saw the condition of Tom Dace, I just knew in my heart that he would never recover.

Tom was an elder at South Side and teacher of "The Bible Crusaders" Class. Tom was in his 70's and traveled all over the state as a full time independent carpenter. He would rush home after work each day, eat a quick meal, and then he and Florence would sometimes drive for hours to attend a Christian meeting.

Florence was quite a Christian lady. She taught VBS, and was always prepared to deliver devotions at church. She sang in the choir and was faithful in church attendance. She knew in whom she believed and spoke up for what she felt was right! She was dearly loved by the entire congregation. But tragedy was about to strike the Dace family.

Frank Sherry, a local drug addict, used a claw hammer to strike Tom and a fellow carpenter who were remodeling the house where Frank was living. Frank had mixed several mind-altering drugs the night before, and when the power saws came on he thought it was aliens attacking. After striking the two men Frank rushed out of the house and struck some of the other workers. Thank God, he was soon apprehended.

It was a horrific crime. Christians from all over the area came to the chapel at St. John's hospital each evening to pray for Tom and Florence and the family. But Tom didn't recover. Then, something amazing happened!

After Frank Sherry sobered up, Florence Dace went to the jail with Tom's Bible in her hand. Upon being properly screened, she met Sherry face to face. She said, "You have done a terrible thing, but God's holy word declares that if I want Him to forgive me, I must forgive others. Frank Sherry, I forgive you. But, you owe it to me, since you killed my husband, to take his Bible and read it. Especially, I want you to read the inside cover of his Bible where he has written how to become a Christian."

The whole community heard about her courageous witness and was amazed that she forgave the killer of her husband. Sometime later, Sherry invited her to visit him at the Maximum Prison in Marion, IL.

She asked me to accompany her. Privately we discussed what Frank might say to her. After going through the necessary security procedures we passed through one gate and then another, hearing that chilling clang as each steel door slammed shut behind us. We found Frank sitting at a small table in the visiting area with a Bible in his hands.

When he saw Florence he jumped up and shouted, "Florence, oh, Florence, I've been saved, I'm a new man!" They embraced each other, and all three of us wept. He kept asking Florence, "Do you really forgive me. Do you really forgive me?" We were overjoyed and anxious to hear all about his conversion.

He opened his Bible to Jeremiah 17:9 and read: "The heart is the most deceitful thing there is, and desperately wicked. No one can really know how bad it is! Only the Lord knows! He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so he can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds---how he has lived."

Then he openly confessed his sins. He told of his misspent life, the drugs, the degrading music, and the alcohol. He confessed that he had received a dishonorable discharge from the Navy because of his addictions. He was facing his sins head-on and genuine repentance is always preceded by a penitent heart. It was a time for rejoicing!

Florence wrote the Parole Board year after year requesting Frank's release. He was released from prison in 1988. Later, Frank founded a prison ministry in Tucker, AR. He has since passed into the fellowship of a God who specializes in "Amazing Grace." Florence preached a greater sermon with her life than all the sermons I have ever preached. God's grace had a human face...Florence Dace, "The Woman who had forgiveness in her Heart."

FROM BROTHER JOE: We have heard, "God helps those who help themselves." But God also "helps those who are unable to help themselves." And He helps "those" through you and me. You can be the "human face" that introduces him/her to God's grace. Some of the prisoners with whom we minister do not have a Bible. Where can they get one? \$2 provides one Bible; \$40 provides a case of 20.

From Chains to Change,



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GRIEFS ARE THE ROPE BURNS OF LIFE By a female prisoner currently incarcerated in TX ISAIAH 53: 4-6

I am 54 years old and I have lived a hard life. But I do not want to go into too much detail because I don't want to give the devil an opportunity to gloat. Suffice it to say, I grew up in a church-going family. My father was a deacon and we were in church every time the doors were open. I was led to believe that I had to be perfect and when I sinned God was angry with me. I did not love God ...I feared Him.

I was taught that God was mad most of the time and that His love was reserved for those who did not disappoint their parents or who did not make mistakes. My family was one of the most "spiritually dysfunctional" families on earth. If anything scripturally wrong happened in our home it was quickly "swept under the rug." I became a very angry young lady. I went to bed angry and I woke up angry.

I got pregnant at age 12. I was not given a choice ...I had to abort. After that, I went wild. I turned to alcohol and drugs to relieve my anguish. I was diagnosed with emotional and mental trauma. The first chance I got I ran away from home and ...no one even bothered to look for me. Years later my mother told me they didn't try to find me because they were tired of "walking around on eggshells" all the time.

I learned to survive on the streets, sleeping in crack houses and dealing drugs to support myself. I missed out on a happy childhood because of drugs. A lot of bad things happened to me. I was raped, physically abused and in jail most of the time. In fact, this is my seventh time to prison. I am amazed at the many times I could have died, but God rescued me.

Now for the good news! During this seventh trip to prison I heard about American Bible Academy. I enrolled immediately. Wow, what a revelation to learn that God is good, that God is Love and that He has a plan and purpose for my life. Praise His Holy Name! I don't have to keep running. I can rest in His arms. I can't begin to tell you how excited I am! I want to serve Him in every way possible!

Thank you for helping me open the door so He could enter my life (Rev. 3:20). I used to dwell somewhere between despair and loneliness. I refused to turn to Him when He called my name. It was here in prison that I finally listened to Him.

I want to be an honest Christian. I want a better life for myself and I want it to begin today. I don't ever again want to renounce my love for Him.

I realize that I am going to have to endure in my present living conditions until the Lord says otherwise. But I can live anywhere now with Him in my life. I want to grow each day in the Lord and ABA is helping me do just that. I want to be a true Christian. The Lord has already changed me in so many ways. I am a much more caring and loving person than ever before. I have a future now ...here and in Heaven.

Even in this dark prison cell, I have seen the Light. When I get out I will stay out and serve the Lord the rest of my days. No more hopelessness ...no more pain ...no more darkness ...no more hate. All I want now is more of Christ in my life. I am thirsty and hungry for the water and the bread of life. Thank you, and all those who make ARM possible. You have meant and are meaning so much to prisoners like me.

How do you unscramble scrambled eggs? Jesus said in Mt.19:26, *"With God, everything is possible."* Bob Stacy, one of my professors at Ozark Bible College always said, "God specializes in the impossible. *Without God, it is utterly impossible. But with God anything is possible*" (Mk.10:27). The way to unscramble scrambled eggs is through the Love of the Lord.

Someone has written: "The stronger our appetite the greater will be our satisfaction." This poor, lost soul was in the pit of despair. She was walking and sleeping in spiritual darkness without God, without Christ and without a hope in this world. But someone somewhere sponsored the cost of a Bible correspondence course (\$8) and this pointed her in the right direction home.

We have 14,000 prisoners in our Bible correspondence school and hundreds more enrolling weekly. Please provide a course this month or sponsor all eight of our courses for only \$64.

From Chains to Change,



THE "INSIDER'S REPORT" FROM BROTHER JOE

FREEDOM IN PRISON

by Boyce Mouton

American Rehabilitation Ministries (ARM) is located in Joplin, MO.

Our mission is to bring the good news of salvation to those in prison.

"For I was hungry and you gave me meat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, sick and in prison and you visited me"
 Matt. 25:35-36.

Contact us:
 (417) 781-9100

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 Joplin, MO 64802

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Donations:
 arm.org/donate

In his book *Loving God*, the late Chuck Colson writes that millions have lived and died in Soviet Gulags without a trace. These nameless faceless victims were often herded into box cars and sent to Siberia never to be heard from again. One such prisoner, however, was fortunate enough to have his story leaked to the outside world. His name was Dr. Boris Nicholayevich Kornfield. He was both a Jew and a communist. We do not know his 'crime'.

It could have been something as simple as criticizing Stalin. At any rate, he was imprisoned in the concentration camp at Ekibastuz. Communism looked differently to Dr. Kornfield inside a concentration camp than it did from a classroom. When he saw first hand the barbed wire, the brutality, the corruption, the mass executions, and the way some prisoners were treated better than other prisoners, he not only renounced communism, he became a Christian.

Incarcerated doctors medically treated other prisoners as well as prison officials and guards. Therefore doctors were regarded to be better than other prisoners. No guard wants to be treated by a doctor that he has just tortured. Kornfield's conversion to Christianity caused him to see his prestige as a doctor in a different light. He began to fear God more than the guards. Consequently, he dared to express his opinion about condemning innocent men to death.

When a prisoner was marked for death, it was routine to ask Dr. Kornfield to sign a certificate indicating that the prisoner was in good health and should be able to tolerate the punishment. With a wink and a nod Kornfield had previously gone along with this sham. Now, however, he refused to sign, so his usefulness to his slave masters had come to an end. His death was made even more certain when he reported one of the guards had been stealing bread.

Not long afterward, Kornfield was beaten to death. Fortunately, Dr. Kornfield had shared his testimony with another prisoner before he died. In so doing, the good doctor revealed a strange paradox. He said that he was a prisoner in a Soviet Gulag and yet, for the first time in his life, he had found true freedom. Before his conversion he cringed in fear before his cruel masters, but now he only feared the Lord. Dr. Kornfield died a free man in prison.

FROM BROTHER JOE: *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* (Jn. 8:36).

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Many men, women, boys and girls are today living free while incarcerated. Just like Dr. Kornfield, they were not free in Christ when they entered the gates, but as Ps. 139:8 declares, *"If I make my bed in hell, You are there."* Hear this female chaplain in GA describe the impact you have made on her prisoners:

"I have been a chaplain in the prison system for 33 years. I have received countless ABA correspondence courses, ABS Bibles and DaySpring greeting cards for my residents. I thank God for all you have done. I could not have been nearly as effective as I have been without ARM. It requires all of us working together to meet the spiritual needs of so many women."

"Please do not become weary of well doing. I cannot tell you how many times a Christian greeting card has led someone to chapel and then she is moved on to salvation from there. ABA English and Spanish Bibles and Gifts of Freedom books have influenced hundreds of lives. And I have witnessed many prisoners being baptized in ARM baptistries. God knows what each prisoner needs to turn her life around. And He continues to meet those needs through you."

Now please read a portion of a letter we received from one of her residents:

"I have no more right to God's love than anyone else ...but it sure makes me feel special. As a child, I never knew what love was. There was no father in my home and my mother gave me away several times. Abuse left me with fractured ribs and a dislocated shoulder by age four. But in spite of my physical disabilities God has chosen me to be a witness even while I am in prison. I am honored to do so."

"In preparation for what I am to be in His Holy Name, I began studying the scriptures as an ABA student. I have learned and grown so much in the word. ABA lessons are both insightful and inspiring. They have helped me comprehend the bible better than ever before." "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Many prisoners will die free men and women in prison. I know. I have met them and prayed with them. I have even baptized some of them. But I could not have done this alone. IT TAKES CONVERGING STREAMS TO FORM A MIGHTY RIVER. Let's continue to flood the massive prison walls and demonic forces we encounter with the good news that Jesus Saves.

From Chains to Change,



THE "INSIDER'S REPORT" FROM BROTHER JOE

WE LIVE IN A FALLEN WORLD

by Maxine Fream Gash

American
Rehabilitation
Ministries
(ARM) is
located in
Joplin, MO.

Our mission is
to bring the
good news of
salvation to
those in prison.

*"For I was
hungry and you
gave me meat,
I was thirsty and
you gave me
drink, I was a
stranger and
you took me in,
naked and you
clothed me, sick
and in prison
and you visited
me"*
Matt. 25:35-36.

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All around today we can hear faithful Christians commenting about the sad state of affairs our nation is in: the decline of morality, the breakdown of the family and the lack of godly leadership. We are horrified by the persecution of Christians by ISIS, their cruelty in beheading people, and crucifying some in mockery of Christ.

We've seen unprecedented natural disasters: tsunamis in Indonesia and in Japan that killed hundreds of thousands; floods in China that drowned millions; earthquakes in Chile; volcanoes in Iceland and a devastating hurricane in New Orleans. This has sobered and shocked nations. "What is the world coming to?" many ask.

Yet any student of history can tell you that none of these events is unusual. You can satisfy your own curiosity by goggling "natural disasters" and find long lists of them. In 115 AD, an earthquake in Antioch of Turkey killed 250,000 to 300,000. In 79 AD the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius buried Pompeii and killed 33,000 people.

As for man's inhumanity to man, the Romans fed Christians to the lions, during the inquisition men and women were burned at the stake, the French revolutionists chopped off heads with the guillotine, the Nazis gassed people in the "showers" and communists in Russia and China starved millions. **We live in a fallen world.**

We really should not be surprised that these things take place. Evil people outnumber those who would live godly in Christ Jesus. Christ has not promised that we will be spared from these calamities, but has promised never to leave or forsake us, and He is there to welcome us home when these trials of life are over.

FROM BROTHER JOE:

I thank Maxine for reminding us just how fleeting and fragile life really is. In view of these facts, how are we as Christians to live? For me, I went straight from High School to Bible College because of the urgency of ministry and time. The following anonymously written article says it best. I read it time and again. It is how I want to conduct my mission in life. I pray it will become your goal as well.

"Be a child of God; dare to be different, be a warrior, be a leader. Be the kind of person who, in the face of adversity, will continue to embrace God. Live and walk fearlessly toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Take it on, be a truth seeker and let Jesus rule your domain, whatever it is – your life, your home, your family, your work place – with a loving heart.

"Be a true lover of God. Be tenderhearted, with all compassion toward others, and rejoice in your opportunities. Stop wasting time being mundane and mediocre. We are children of God, put here to teach the world how to love and to share the truth and joy of our Savior Jesus Christ. Your walk with Christ is not determined by where you come from, who your parents are, or by your social status."

In other words: STAND FIRM in your faith ...regardless what is happening around you! I pray God will give me this type of strength when all around there is destruction and despair. This is why ARM is dedicated to loving prisoners as Christ loves them. They face dire threats every day. Our prayer is; 'how can we best influence inmates to become children of God and followers of Christ the Savior'.

I invite you to join in courageously declaring His glory to imprisoned men, women, boys and girls through support of ARM! The light of the gospel is shining brightly in prison ministry today. We must take advantage of this opportunity while we can. Please adopt ARM as one of your monthly mission supports. \$80 will provide 10 Bible courses. Help teach them the role God has for their lives.

"For I was in prison and you came to me."

Matthew 25:36

From Chains to Change,



THE "INSIDER'S REPORT" FROM BROTHER JOE

American Rehabilitation Ministries (ARM) is located in Joplin, MO.

Our mission is to bring the good news of salvation to those in prison.

"For I was hungry and you gave me meat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, sick and in prison and you visited me"
Matt. 25:35-36.

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FAITHFULLY TEACH THE WORD OF GOD WITHOUT SPEAKING A WORD

Have you ever counted to 15,000? Do so, and you will begin to realize what it's like to have 15,000 prisoners looking to you for answers to their spiritual problems. As I write this letter 15,000 prisoners are actively enrolled in AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY. The majority of them are without God, without Christ and without a hope in this world. You can help disciple them without ever leaving your home.

The ABA Bible correspondence courses are available in both English and Spanish and are tremendous blessings sent by God. But the showers of God's blessings have now become a torrential downpour of demand. We offer eight 120-page Bible courses written by Bible college professors and missionaries. Every day dozens of letters are received from the incarcerated crying out to learn more about Jesus.

This speaks volumes about the spiritual hunger inside America's jails and prisons. Jesus said we will be judged by whether or not we minister to these prisoners because inasmuch as we do or do not do it unto the least of these we do or do not do it unto Him (Mt. 25:44-46). Many are open to the teachings of Christ. Your partnership with ARM will enable you to minister to those in prison as Christ asked us to do.

I pray you will participate and challenge your Church, Sunday School Class or Mid-week Bible study to consider doing the same. Each course cost \$8. Or you can sponsor a complete set for \$64.

A prisoner from IL writes: *"Being in prison is tough. There are a lot of fake doctrines floating around. ABA has given me a depth of spiritual understanding. Thank you for your love of the truth and your desire to help prisoners understand the Holy Word. If I could leave today I would enroll in a Bible College and prepare myself for the mission field. I'm ready to go right now! 'Here am I Lord, send me'."*

A prisoner from TX writes: *"Paul traveled great distances to preach the gospel. He did all this knowing that he was putting himself at risk. I want to have that same assurance when I return to the streets. In fact, I am already beginning to experience that courage now as I share with prisoners in my pod what I have learned from ABA. It's actually fun to have a spiritual discussion and know what I'm talking about."*

And a prisoner from TN writes: *"Paul's conversion gives me great hope. Paul was able to turn from being a murdering sinner to a Christian who wanted only to save others for Christ. I too was a lowly man who sought selfish pleasures and caused hurt to a lot of people. I only wanted what was right for me. I didn't care who got hurt. I didn't care what it cost them. But, like Paul, I 'saw the light'. ABA was my 'Ananias'."*

Bill was a drunk, converted in a Skid Row mission. Before his conversion he had gained a reputation as a derelict and a wino for which there was no hope. But when he gave his life to Christ everything changed. He spent his days doing whatever needed to be done. There was not anything he was asked to do that he would refuse. With gratitude he would care for any man who wandered in off the streets.

One evening after the mission director delivered his evangelistic message to the usual crowd of solemn men with drooped heads, one of them came down to the altar, knelt, and prayed for God to help him change. The repentant man kept shouting, **"O God, make me like Bill! Make me like Bill! Make me like Bill!"** The director leaned over and said, "Wouldn't it be better if you prayed, "Make me like Jesus?" After thinking about it for a few seconds, the man looked up and asked, 'Is He like Bill?'"

DO OTHERS SEE JESUS IN US?

**"For I was in prison and you came to me."
 Matthew 25:36**

From Chains to Change,

Dear Friends:

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FUND-RAISER AND A FUN-RAISER?

A FUND-raiser carries with it the idea of a targeted structure or purpose, whereas a FUN-raiser is exactly that ...a joyful and personal involvement in giving. You can pick and choose what you want to sponsor and provide. It's FUN to supply a case of Bibles for boys and girls in a federal or state youth facility. It's FUN to send Bible correspondence courses to men and women in isolated cells without God.

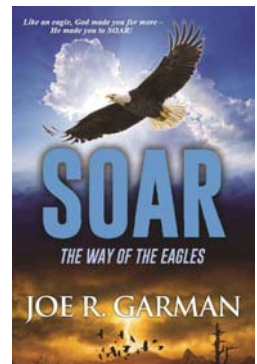
Where Linda and I worship, the minister will announce "It's time for the offering" and the entire congregation will break out in cheers and applause because we know "giving" is an act of worship just like praying or singing. Offering time is not just Fund-raising, it's Fun-raising that results in Faith-raising.

**WOW! DO I HAVE AN EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
FUN-RAISER FOR YOU!**

No doubt you are familiar with the award-winning movie SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION! A scene I cannot forget is when the library clerk pushes the book cart down the walk-way, stopping at each cell to ask the prisoner if he wants a book to read. I am impressed because that scene is repeated each day in almost every prison in America since most prisoners are not allowed to leave their cells to go to the library.

I recently wrote a book entitled "SOAR - THE WAY OF THE EAGLES". You can read part or all of it by visiting our webpage www.arm.org/SOAR and click on the image of the book to open a PDF file of the book. I pray this book will bless you as you prayerfully consider helping to provide it to those behind bars.

It took me over two years to write SOAR. It contains experiences I have had during forty-eight years of prison ministry and is written to teach the reader how to become a Christian and how to grow spiritually. Many helped in its development such as Angela Brower, Brenda Black, Jackina Stark, Victor Knowles and Amanda Tepe. Now, we need your help to get these books inside every jail and prison in America.

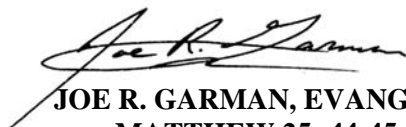


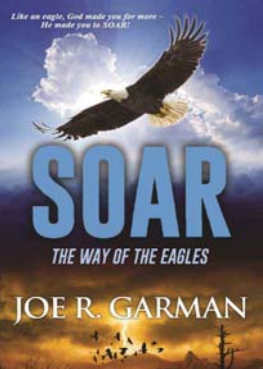
Please join us:

1. Put this information in your church newsletter or bulletin. I'm certain there are many in your church who would love to sponsor a SOAR book for a prisoner this Christmas. They will each receive a thank-you letter from us and their personal information will be kept secure.
2. Ask your minister to announce this special and worthy Christmas project to the congregation.
3. Visit each Sunday school class or care group and tell them what you are doing and invite them to participate.
4. This would even be a special Christmas project with which the church youth group would want to get involved.

The best way to please God is to love one another. There are thousands of jails and prisons and tens of thousands of prisoners who, this Christmas, will sit in isolated and lonely cells without God, without Christ and without a hope in the world. Your efforts to help provide these books will truly be a ministry of love. There are donors and there are ministry partners. Thank you for being both!

FROM CHAINS TO CHANGE,


JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST
MATTHEW 25: 44-45



American Rehabilitation Ministries

P.O. Box 1490, Joplin, MO 64802-1490 www.arm.org call 417-781-9100 or email info@arm.org

Each \$10 will get a SOAR book into the hands of an inmate who needs to hear the life-saving stories that may change their life forever.

Do you want to help spread God's Word to men and women in prison this Christmas season? Complete the back of this card and send it along with your generous donation, so we can send more Bibles, Bible correspondence courses and books, like SOAR, to those who are incarcerated and need to hear the message from God Himself through His Word.



2018 THIRD QUARTER UPDATE



ABA:

4,900 Total courses sent to Inmates
 1,971 New Students enrolled
 2,929 Courses sent to existing students
 2,723 Courses completed



Bibles:

18,390 Scripture resources shipped to 72 prisons
 Full Bibles - 9,520, New Testaments - 480
 Gifts of Freedom books - 8,140
 Elements of Life magazines - 250



Baptistries:

59 Baptistries shipped to:
 US Prisons - 30
 US Churches - 28
 Overseas Missions - 1



Greeting Cards:

644,875 Greeting cards shipped to 225 prisons,
 sorted by 95 Volunteers serving 1,783 hours

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to:

- Send SOAR books for prisoners**
- Use where needed most for prison outreach**
- Other:** _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, ST, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
email: _____

Complete this portion if you wish to use your credit/debit card to make your donation.

Visa / MC / Discover / AmEx Amount \$ _____ **One time gift** **Monthly** Day of Month _____
 Account Number _____
 Exp. Date ____ / ____ CSV _____ Signature _____



GIVING THANKS
BY **GIVING BACK**

Happy Thanksgiving from the ARM Staff

Thank you for your partnership through prayer and financial support!

Stay tuned for an exciting project set to jumpstart in December to provide Joe Garman's book "*Soar*" to inmates nationwide! Then, as a special "Thank You" for your support and friendship, ARM would like to share with you the link for the electronic version of "*Soar*"!

ARM | PO Box 1490 | Joplin, MO 64802-1490 | 417-781-9100 | info@arm.org | www.arm.org

Testimonies of “*Soar, The Way of Eagles*”

“I just finished reading your book, “*Soar,*” and I wanted to take a moment to thank you for sending it to me. It was very encouraging and inspiring. I would like to receive information about the possibility of receiving a portable baptistry for my facility. Thank you very much and have a blessed day.”

Chaplain Tracy Hale

Mesa Verde Detention Center, CA

“Dear Mr. Garman,

My name is Bobby. I am not the prison Chaplain but I am the chaplain clerk, here at Johnston Correctional Institution in Smithfield, NC.

I have been reading the book, “*Soar, The Way of Eagles.*” Thank you very much for the book and also thank you for the bibles you sent earlier last month. I have given the bibles that you sent to people here who needed a bible. I would very much like to receive some more copies of your book, “*Soar, The Way of Eagles.*” I am sure that the men here would appreciate the opportunity to read this book.

Thank you again for all the opportunities that you have given us to hear God’s word from the bible and also for the book that you have written and donated!

Sincerely,
Bobby

October, 2018

ANGELS HAVE DONE SOME OF THEIR BEST WORK INSIDE PRISON CELLS

(Just ask Peter)

By Joe R. Garman

My dear Christian friends:

Recently a prisoner wrote the following: *“My father was a minister, but he was a different man at home than he was in the pulpit. He would berate us children whenever we failed to live up to his expectations. Continuous verbal abuse can leave deeper and longer-lasting scars than physical abuse. I believe this is one of the reasons I always had such low self-esteem. Now I have become a new man in Christ ... but not because of him. He was always visible but hardly ever accessible.*



“This is where ARM ‘stands in the gap’ for those of us who are incarcerated. Most Christians do not realize that prisoners have no one in prison that is approachable. The average prisoner seldom has opportunity to speak one-on-one with the chaplain. It’s not the chaplain’s fault. He is outnumbered. Most prisons only have one or two chaplains and this is usually for a population of eight or nine hundred inmates. This speaks volumes about the need for a Bible correspondence school like ABA.

“None of the Bible studies I have seen in prison come close to ABA. I’m so thankful for the Christians and churches that make the school possible. Our Lord took some heat for ministering to sinners like me. That’s why God, with great care, provided ministries like ARM. You are an ‘arm’ the church can use to reach over huge concrete walls, through steel bars and into darkened unevangelized cells to fulfill Mt. 25:36. Thank you, ABA supporters, for providing me with a deeper understanding of Christ. I no longer walk in failure or fear of an uncertain future.

“I enjoy studying the Bible through ABA. I am now a Bible teacher in my pod where I teach a class of six or seven men. Isn’t it strange that having such a failure of a father I should end up teaching a Bible study group of my own? To God be the Glory! Tell your people to rest assured that their love-offerings are reaching far and wide to spiritually starved prisoners like I was, and that I continue to grow in faith. I plan to teach all eight of your courses. Thank you for introducing me to Christ.”

+

For the thief on the cross, that was to be his worst day ... but it turned out to be his best. And for this preacher’s son, going to prison seemed to be the worst thing that could happen to him, but it turned out to be the best. As a former prisoner said, *“One day I shouted, ‘Get me out of this God-forsaken cell!’ Then I heard a still small voice whisper, ‘Don’t say that. Angels have done some of their best work inside prison cells.’”* And so it was with this young man. Please, write a generous check to ARM today, so we can continue introducing more prisoners to Christ!



From Chains to Change,

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

September, 2018

AMY WILSON CARMICHAEL

(Dec. 16, 1867 - Jan. 18, 1951)

Amy Carmichael is one of the most respected missionaries of modern times. She lived in India for 55 years without a furlough, authored over 35 books, and spent the last 20 years of her life as an invalid. She never asked for money, never referred to herself by name in her writings, never allowed her picture to be taken, and requested that she be buried without a head stone. She staked the entirety of her eternal hope on the accomplishments of Christ.



In many ways she seemed unfit for mission work. Her health was not good because she suffered from neuralgia which made her body weak and often forced her to bed for weeks at a time. She initially traveled to Japan, but after 15 months fell ill and returned home to Ireland. In 1895, she tried again, but this time went to India. Soon after arriving she contracted dengue fever.

A life changing experience took place on March 7, 1901. A five-year-old girl had been sold by her mother to Hindus to be “trained” as a temple prostitute. Twice the little girl ran away but was caught, beaten, and returned. On her third escape she found a kind woman who brought her to Miss Carmichael. Sitting on Carmichael’s lap, the little girl used a rag doll to demonstrate what they had done to her at the temple. This incident led to the founding of the Dohnavur Fellowship, which over the years has rescued thousands of temple children.

Dohnavur is located in Tamil Nadu, thirty miles from India’s southern tip. The name is derived from Count Dohna, who initially funded German missionaries there. Thomas Walker also established a school there. Carmichael’s ministry transformed Dohnavur into a sanctuary for over a thousand children.

Respecting Indian culture, members of her organization dressed in Indian clothing and gave Indian names to the children they rescued. Amy herself not only dressed as an Indian woman but even dyed her skin with dark coffee. She often traveled long distances, on hot dusty roads, to save just one child from suffering. In 1912, Queen Mary heard of her work and helped fund a hospital. In 1918 a home was added for young boys.

In 1948, India outlawed temple prostitution and the ministry began to be run by Indians. All children at the mission were now sent to Indian schools until the 6th grade. Since 1982, little boys have been adopted out rather than remaining in Dohnavur.

Amy never described mission work as easy. She was fond of saying, “**Missionaries must have a good sense of humor, and no sense of smell.**” Illustrative of the contrast between missionaries and others she penned this parody:

*“Onward Christian soldiers, sitting on our mats;
Nice and warm and cozy, like little pussycats.
Onward Christian soldiers, Oh, how brave are we,
Don’t we do our fighting, very comfortably?”*

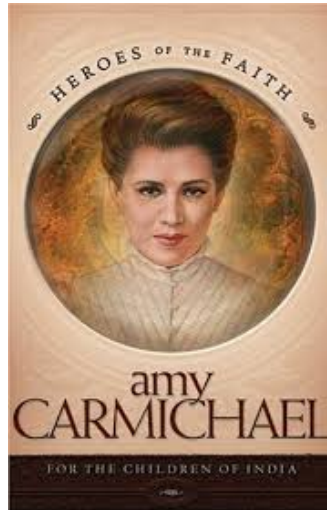
Amy believed that it was her privilege to not only believe in Christ, but also to suffer for Him (Phil. 1:29). She therefore wrote the following:

*Hast thou no scar?
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land;
I hear them hail thy bright, ascendant star.
Hast thou no scar?*

September, 2018

*Hast thou no wound?
Yet I was wounded by the archers;
Spent, they leaned me against a tree to die;
And rent, by ravening beasts that compassed Me, I swooned.
Hast thou no wound?*

*No wound? No scar?
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow Me.
But thine are whole; can he have followed far
Who hast no wound or scar?*



Her life challenges us to count the cost, look for a scar and take up our cross! Some of us ‘take up our cross’ by sending and some ‘take up their cross’ by going. Which is the more important? Romans 10:14, 15 answers this question. *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”* We pray God will move through you to provide financially for this jail and prison ministry just as He inspired others to support her mission.

From Chains to Change,

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

August, 2018

JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY **THE MOST FERTILE MISSION FIELD ON EARTH**

“Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you! Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for reaping.”

JOHN 4:35 TLB

Chaplain Franklin N. Blodgett

Alaska Correctional Ministries

Anchorage, AK.



Helen's Baptismal Testimony

“From my teens into my early twenties I experimented with alcohol and drugs and my relationship with God diminished. I would pray only in times of need or sorrow. When I came to prison I was completely broken and lost! All I had left was prayer. Although it was only a flicker it was strong enough to lead me back to reading the Bible, which eventually saved my life. I asked the Lord into my heart and He has been growing my faith ever since.”

Baptismal Testimony by Luzy

“I was raised in a single parent home with two brothers. Mom left us in the care of a babysitter when we were 2, 3, and 4 years old. The babysitter physically abused us until dad found out. Dad cried over his guilt and pain of leaving his children in that situation. I have always believed, that in my case, God was my personal protector, and that He delivered me and my brothers from an abusive relationship. *‘With God, everything is possible’* (Mt. 19:26).”

“If God is on our side, who can ever be against us?” (Ro. 8:31). *‘Nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us’* (Ro. 8:39). *‘But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God’* (Jas. 1:17). He is the giver of all gifts. I received the wonderful gift of two beautiful daughters. I thank God for them. This is one of many reasons I have decided to follow Jesus. He is everything to me!”

Jacqueline's Baptismal Testimony

“Growing up, everyone encouraged me to do better, but I lacked discipline, so my grades suffered. I dropped out of school when my mother had a heart attack but later I got my GED. I moved to Anchorage and got a job. It was there that I met and married my husband. I was only 19 when I had our first child. It was also about this time I began to seek the Lord. When my daughter was 11 months I enrolled in college and completed my first year with a 4.0.

But, my husband and I began hanging around with the wrong people and it was not long before we were on drugs and homeless. My husband was abusive mentally and physically and refused to go for treatment. My life began to turn toward Christ when the women at the soup kitchen ministered to me. I now look to Christ first and foremost. I believe I've discovered the reason the Lord included prisoners in the Mt. 25 list. It's because we need the Lord so very much.

August, 2018

COUNTY DETENTION CENTER BAPTIZES 1,000TH INMATE

HARRISON SMITH – S.C. NOW
MORNING NEWS - EFFINGHAM, S.C.

God is with you at your highest moments; He is with you at your lowest. There was no truer example of God's omnipresence and omnibenevolent nature than at the 1,000th inmate baptism held at the Florence County Detention Center. Five inmates were baptized on a Sunday afternoon; with the second of the five to take this spiritual step of being Chaplain Ira Rainwater's 1000th baptism conducted at the Center.

Regardless of the legal or personal circumstances that led to their incarceration, Chaplain Rainwater has been coordinating and providing for the spiritual needs of inmates at the center since 2010. Rainwater began conducting inmate baptisms two years into his tenure as chaplain. For him, it is about giving them hope. "I can tell you that most who are baptized do not go back to where they were before," he said.

Despite the enclosed walls of the center -- a place often associated with negativity and defeatism -- the service brought a ray of light to both the inmates and those in attendance. Prior to the baptisms, each inmate was given a Bible with their name and two verses written on the inside cover by the Chaplain. He said that if these two verses were read each day they would help them remain faithful to God's word.

One verse was Isaiah 40:8, "*The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of our God shall stand forever.*" The second was Philippians 4:13, "*I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power*". Chaplain Rainwater knows it is possible for every inmate to begin a totally fresh journey in life by being transformed through their decision to trust and obey Christ.

"I would not want to be doing anything else," Rainwater said. "It is incredibly rewarding to see God at work in here." The center's ceremony contained all of the characteristics and attributes of a traditional church service. A local pastor even provided several songs on the guitar and a rousing version of the Lord's Prayer was sung at the conclusion of the baptisms by members of the staff and invited visitors.

Chaplain Rainwater has no intention of slowing down his commitment to providing this service, and will continue to bring the light of God to those who have so often been sheltered from its glow. "Today we passed 1,000 prisoners baptized," said Lieutenant Robin Fleming, a squad leader. Baptisms happen in here almost every Sunday. There will be plenty more to come." The service concluded with prayer.

FROM BROTHER JOE: A prisoner from Chicago's south side recently told me, "**The streets have raised a lot of kids. Now they are raising the grandkids.**" But our God-fearing chaplains are sending inmates back onto the streets with the message that Jesus is the hope for lost sin-sick men, women, boys and girls. Christ changes things. This is the gospel message!

"Go" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language. "Go" with us into these prisons. "Go" with your prayers. "Go" by providing Bibles ...both English and Spanish. "Go" by donating Bible correspondence courses. "Go" by sponsoring in-prison Bible seminars. Jesus said, "*Inasmuch as you do it for the least of these, you do it for Me.*" Gospel begins with "Go."



SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe R. Garman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

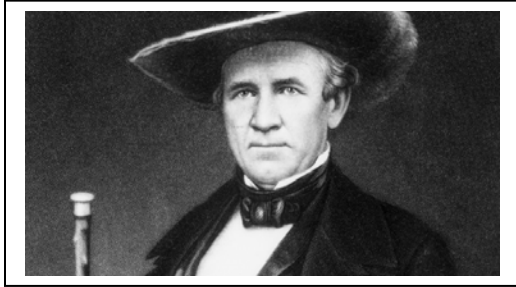
I PETER 5:6-7



A female inmate smiles as she is baptized at the Florence County Detention Center

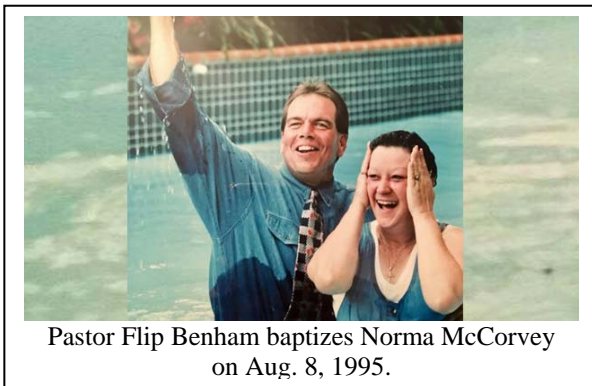
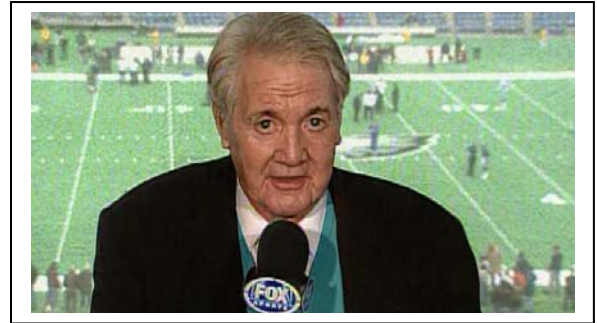
July, 2018

GREAT QUOTES ON CHRISTIAN BAPTISM



“God have mercy on the fish!” - GENERAL SAM HOUSTON, after being baptized in Little Rocky Creek, near Independence, Texas, November 19, 1854.

“I went down into the water, and when I came up it was like a 40-pound weight had been lifted from me.” - PAT SUMMERALL, former NFL great and CBS sportscaster.



Pastor Flip Benham baptizes Norma McCorvey on Aug. 8, 1995.

“I’ll serve the Lord and help women save their babies for the rest of my life.” - NORMA McCORVEY, of “Roe vs. Wade” notoriety. She was baptized August 8, 1995, the same day of her last employment in a Dallas abortion clinic.

When Linda and I started our prison ministry in South Korea we were pleased to learn that each prison had a “bath house”. It was a small building containing a circular concrete “tub” about 3’ tall and 30” in diameter. Sometimes we would have three or four ministers baptizing simultaneously as men (or women) stood around the edge waiting their turn.

One of the first prisons I entered after returning stateside was Leavenworth Federal in KS. They had no bath house and no baptistry. But praise God that their huge laundry carts held water. Laundry carts, child wading pools, horse troughs and rain barrels became the “tools of choice” for Christian baptism and chaplains were not opposed to using them.

In 1973, I designed a “baptistry on wheels.” It was actually a horse trailer with fiberglass covering the floor and extending 3’ up the interior walls. The trailer was pulled inside the prison walls and parked in the vicinity of the chapel. The top of the trailer was opened so all could watch the baptisms. We eventually built ten of these and placed them in strategic states.





Later I had a vision while sitting in church. I was looking at the communion table and thought to myself, “Why not place a fiberglass tub inside a hollow communion table? Secure it with a lock down lid and insert a two way valve so it can be filled and drained with a garden hose. This way it could be placed permanently in the chapel and available year round.”

After installing hundreds of these in the prisons, we began focusing on small jails. We discovered that most of them did not have room to store a communion table baptistry, so we constructed a collapsible portable baptistry. These are manufactured using aluminum tubing and vinyl. Simply unfold the aluminum frame and snap on the vinyl lining. It can then be filled and drained with a garden hose.




The sun never sets on an ARM sponsored baptistry. Every 10 minutes someone, somewhere in the world, is baptized in one of ARM’s baptistries. ARM has placed 4935 baptistries in churches, military installations and prisons throughout America, and with 289 missions around the world. Go to: www.arm.org to learn more about ARM baptistries.

Prisons are now waiting to receive baptistries. For sponsorship information e-mail: info@arm.org or phone 1-800-CALL ARM. It is the mission gift that keeps on giving.



Saved to Serve the Savior,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

June, 2018

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU LOSE YOUR SONG?

By Lester Roloff

Let me ask you a question. What would it take to make you lose your song? Could you sing in a cemetery? Could you, really? "Oh," you say, "Brother Roloff, don't be ridiculous." I ask, could you sing in a cemetery? Could you sing on the way home from a cemetery? I know of a man who did. I know of a man that had ten funerals in one day for his ten children, seven boys and three girls.

He came home singing, "*Blessed be the name of the Lord.*" You ask, "Who's that?" Job! Can you sing in a cemetery? Now, if you cannot sing in a cemetery, your singing may not amount to too much on Sunday morning as you sing the church songs or special music. "Well," you say, "I believe I could." Then let me ask another question. Can you sing in the jail? The Lord taught me to sing in the jail one night.

I didn't plan it, but the Lord did, and I sang. That was a dark night. That was one of the hardest nights of my life. The devil pressed in that night to get my mind, to wreck my body and to disturb me with rock and roll and heavy-medal racket that was going on three or four radios there in the jail. It was a horrible time, but the Lord said, "Why don't you sing? Why don't you just sing? Sing to Me."

One time, there were some folks who came up to some sweet singers and said, "*You know, we've heard a lot about your singing, and we'd like for you to sing us a song.*" And they asked, "*How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*" This is found in Psalm 137. Of course, there's a lot of sense in that verse. How can you sing God's song in a nightclub or liquor joint? You can't!

"We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, 'sing us one of the songs of Zion.'" And they said, "*How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*" Oh, dear friend, we need to sing our songs of Zion. Let's sing for *our* Lord. Let's not allow anyone or anything to cause us to lose our song.

My dad used to whistle a song, in times that were bad and hard with crop failures and low priced cotton. He'd come from the cow pen, whistling his favorite anthem — his national anthem, if you please - "In the Sweet By and By." He's over there now. I'm asking a question. Can you sing in the cemetery? Can you sing in the jail house? Can you sing in times that are hard and bad?

Mother used to stand at the old west porch, with her hands way down in wash water in a number three and number two tub, with homemade lye soap cut up in it, washing the dirty clothes of her boys and her husband. All the while singing, "Sweet Hour of Prayer, That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne, Make all my wants and wishes known."

When I'd come home I'd hear her in the kitchen on those old fashioned linoleum floors. We used to have nothing but plank floors, but we got some linoleum, and I remember how cold it was in the winter time. I'd come running down that long hall and dash into the heater room to put my clothes on. She'd be singing, "What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and grief's to bear!" Oh, her songs were so pretty!



I heard about two prisoners who sang the Lord's songs while incarcerated, and the "chains" of every prisoner fell off. You can read about them in Acts 16:25, 26. YOUR SUPPORT OF ARM HAS BROUGHT THE LORD'S SONGS INTO MANY DARKENED CELLS. EVERY BIBLE YOUR OFFERINGS PROVIDE, EVERY CORRESPONDENCE COURSE YOU SPONSOR, EVERY BAPTISTRY YOUR GIFTS INSTALL, ARE "SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS" TO IMPRISONED, SIN SICK SOULS. THANK YOU! - JOE G.

From Chains to Change,

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

May, 2018

THE REMARKABLE STORY OF STEPHANIE FAST

By Boyce Mouton



Stephanie was born just after the Korean War. Her father was an American soldier whom she never knew. She was separated from her mother at the age of four and has no recollection of her. Somehow she survived on her own for the next three years. During the summer she would steal food from the farmers, and in the winter she survived by living in caves, eating roots and insects. Because she was bi-racial she was the victim of discrimination. **She was known by the insulting name of “Toogee” which means “foreign devil.”**

As a “Toogee” she was beaten, raped, and abused more than other homeless children. Once, when caught stealing food, she was tied to a water wheel as punishment. Each time the wheel went around she surfaced with a mouth full of mud and blood. Finally, some kind man had pity on her and let her go, telling her to run for her life. After that, she was thrown into a well and left to die. On yet another occasion, she and a younger girl were locked in an abandoned building and left to be eaten by starving rats.

She does not remember how she got there, but at the age of seven she was living at the garbage dump and dying of cholera. A World Vision nurse from Sweden named Iris Erickson found her. Iris had been warned not to go near the dump, but felt led of God to do so. When she saw Stephanie she sensed the Lord saying, “She’s mine.” Though Stephanie was too old by this time to be admitted to the orphanage, Iris made a place for her. God used Iris to preserve and protect Stephanie.

When she was nine years old, a missionary couple named David and Judy Merwin visited the orphanage searching for a son to adopt. Because Stephanie was the oldest child there, she was in charge of washing diapers and helping take care of the younger children. The Merwins had already visited six other orphanages. Stephanie was excited to see which little boy they would choose. At the time she barely weighed 30 lbs. She had boils, head lice, parasites and scars, as well as being cross-eyed and dirty.

When David Merwin placed his hand on Stephanie’s head she spit on him. However, David and Judy took this to God in prayer and became convinced that this was the child He wanted them to adopt. The next six years were very difficult for David, Judy and Stephanie. She was so emotionally scarred that she found it difficult to give or receive love. Finally, the story of Jesus began to register in her confused mind. He too was despised and rejected by His own people. He too knew what it was to be the victim of hatred and rejection.

Yes, Jesus also knew what it was to live in the midst of a people who wanted to kill Him. But even after David and Judy led her to Christ she still needed years to recuperate and heal. Through it all, it became increasingly clear that God continued to care for her in so many ways. She married her husband, Darryl Fast, right out of high school. She was too embarrassed to tell him about all the abuse she had experienced. They later learned that because of the sexual abuse she had endured, it would be impossible for her to have children.


After miscarrying five times she finally gave birth to her first biological son. Her doctor recognized this as a miracle from God and surrendered himself to Christ. After losing three more children, she gave birth to a second son. Stephanie marvels at the way that God has directed her life and tells her story in a 224 page autobiography, published by D & S Publishing (July 1, 2014), titled: *She Is Mine: A War Orphan's Incredible Journey of Survival*. In it, she reminds her readers that just as God guided her life, He is also directing theirs.



When Linda and I were missionaries in Korea we lived in the same town with David and Judy Merwin, and became close friends. We remember Stephanie as a beautiful girl, who was always bright eyed and excited about knowing Christ. We are happy to share her victorious testimony.

By reflecting on her story, we find inspiration to help others. ARM works with many women in prison. Would you please send a special Mother’s Day gift this month to help us? Thank you in advance for responding to this need and to this appeal.

From Chains to Change,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

April, 2018

THE RUIN AND REDEMPTION OF THE WORST KING OF ISRAEL

By J. Vernon McGee

Condensed from Thru the Bible, Vol. 2, pp. 467- 469

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel (2 Chron. 33: 1-2).

It's a strange thing, isn't it? Hezekiah was the best king and led the nation in a revival. His son comes to the throne and is the worst king. How can you explain that? I'll let you in on a secret: I cannot explain it. Around me things are happening like that which I cannot explain. Periodically, I hear of a Christian home with wonderful parents in which a child rebels against everything.

When one looks at young delinquents across the entire land, one can conclude that they were neglected at home. They saw godless, materialistic parents who were fighting all the time, or they came from broken homes, homes that were centered merely on self and selfishness. I can understand why they rebelled against all that and just walked out.

But why is it that a son or daughter will simply walk out of a lovely, Christian home and join the rebellious crowd? I really cannot explain it. I can give two possible reasons, and both of them are feeble. The first reason is that young people are influenced by the other young people around them. All young people go through a period when they feel that their parents are stupid.

I can remember after I had gone away to college I was almost ashamed to come home and to carry on a conversation with those at home. They just didn't know enough, you see. That is a period that youth go through. I have heard other young people tell me the same thing. One young pastor told me how ashamed he was of his dad when he went off to college.

But after he had been out in the big bad world and had faced some problems, he returned home for a visit. He realized that although his dad had been somewhat stupid, he had managed to make a good living and had provided a marvelous home for his family. He said that the thing which amazed him was how much his dad had learned in those few years he had been away from home!

I think all young people go through such a period, and I can understand that young people are influenced by other young folk who have left home in rebellion. That is one explanation. Also I have noted that young folk, who rebel against a Christian home, after they have professed the Lord, usually return to Him in time. The king we are looking at here, Manasseh, is an illustration of this.

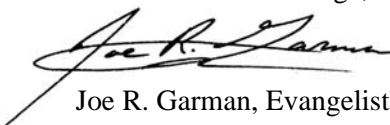
Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God (2 Chron. 33:11-13).

Many would have given up on Manasseh, but God didn't. A gracious God heard his prayers. When Manasseh returned to Jerusalem, he removed the idols out of the house of God, repaired the altar of the Lord and sacrificed there. Here was a son of godly parents who went into captivity (prison) and then came back to God. **That should be an encouragement to us, and to Christian parents everywhere.**



Thank you for believing that God hears the prayers of prisoners and for supporting ARM with a very special Easter gift.

From Chains to Change,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

WHAT IS A PARDON?

Excerpt from: OFFICIAL PARDON

Under President Andrew Jackson’s administration a railway clerk, George Wilson, killed his co-worker and tied himself up, to make it appear that a train robbery had occurred. However, during routine questioning, flaws were found in his testimony and he confessed and was sentenced to death. A friend of his started circulating petitions for mercy, and public opinion was so aroused that President Jackson granted him a pardon.

But the prisoner refused to accept the pardon! The case finally went all the way to the Supreme Court, and Justice John Marshall wrote in the decision: “A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if refused, it is NO PARDON. George Wilson must hang.” (And he did!)



After twenty years inside Leavenworth Federal prison, Ernie Eads received a presidential pardon. Unlike George Wilson, Ernie humbly accepted the pardon. He is pictured here between Joe Garman and Joe Welch (ABA director) at ARM headquarters.

The same is true spiritually. You are a sinner under the sentence of death and condemned to an eternal hell. Will you refuse the great PARDON that Jesus paid for with His own precious blood on Calvary? IF YOU REFUSE THIS PARDON, it is NO PARDON, and you must pay the wages of sin which is eternal separation from God. *“The same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him”* (Rom. 10:12). Therefore, *“Lay hold on eternal life”* (I Tim. 6:12).

I heard a minister say, **“Kites can’t fly without strings.”** That really registered with me. I immediately began thinking about the thousands of prisoners with whom we work. It is true! They are like kites that (spiritually) can’t even get off the ground. And if they do, they get caught up in the first down-draft and come crashing to earth. They are *“carried about with every wind of doctrine”* (Eph. 4:14).

Can you imagine having no one to guide you during your teen-age years? Where would you have ended up? For 120,000 American teenagers the answer is detention. For 2.4 million adults it is jail or prison. *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”* (Rom. 10:14).

They are kites without strings. They walk in darkness because they are detached from the Bible. David said, *“Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Ps. 119:105). I am so thankful that last year we were able to send over 45,000 Scripture Resources including English and Spanish Bibles and Bible study books to jails and prisons, compliments of American Bible Society and friends like you.

You have also helped us provide many thousands of Bible correspondence courses. During a Bible study a chaplain asked 30 inmates, *“Who among you have never been to church?”* Three had never attended church. That’s 10% ... and this was out of those who really wanted to attend his Bible study. The chaplain said, *“What kind of numbers would I have if I were to ask all 2,717 men in this prison?”*

Each time you sponsor a Bible (string) for an imprisoned man, woman, boy or girl (kites), you will provide spiritual and mental strength for him or her in the midst of powerful winds. God’s holy word is their only protection from the winds of destruction and death. When you make the Gospel known through a Bible correspondence course they will learn of **THE GREAT PARDON** that Christ provides.



*“Give the winds a mighty voice, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Let the nations now rejoice, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Shout salvation full and free, Highest hills and deepest caves;
This our song of victory, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”*

Priscilla J. Owens

From Chains to Change,

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

INCARCERATED WOMEN AND GIRLS THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Washington, D.C.

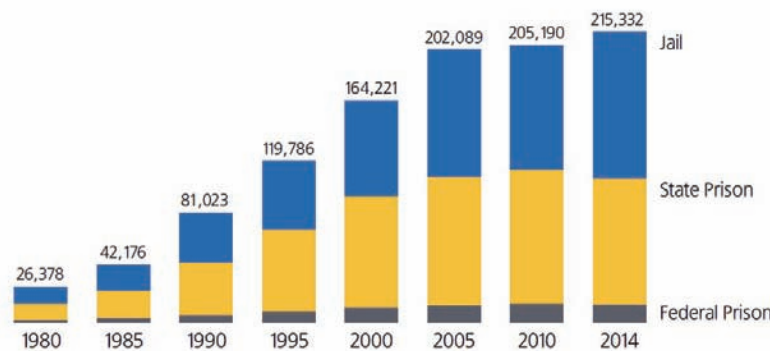
Last statistical update – November 2015

Over the past quarter century, there has been a profound change in the incarceration of women in the justice system. This is the result of more expansive law enforcement, stiffer drug sentencing, and post-conviction barriers to reentry that uniquely affect women. Women comprise a larger portion of the prison population than ever before. More than 60% of women in prisons have a child under age 18.

Between 1980 and 2014, the number of incarcerated women increased by more than 700%. Though many more men are in prison than women, the rate of growth for female imprisonment has outpaced men by more than 50%. There are 1,284,186 women in prison and jail or on probation and parole. The female prison population stands nearly eight times higher than its incarceration population in 1980.

Between 1980 and 2014, the number of incarcerated women increased by more than 700%, rising from a total of 26,378 in 1980 to 215,332 in 2014.²

Rise in Women's Incarceration, 1980-2014

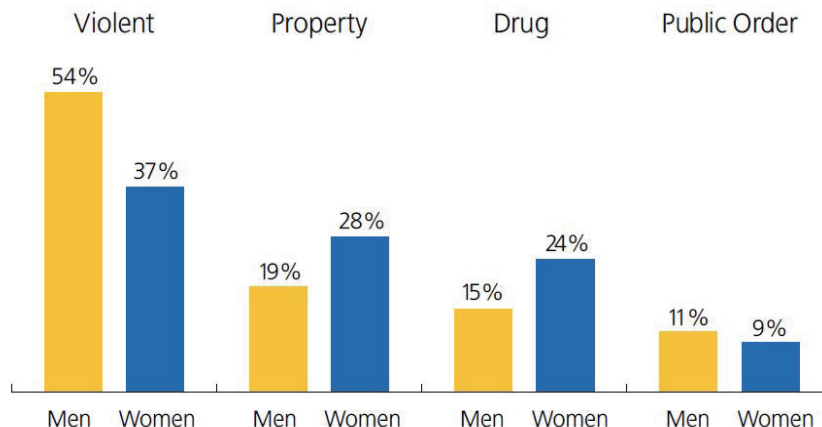


Sources: Historical Corrections Statistics in the United States, 1850-1984 (1986), Prison and Jail Inmates Series. (1997-2014) Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Prisoners in 2014. (2015). Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

OFFENSE TYPES FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN STATE PRISONS

Women in state prisons are more likely than men to be incarcerated for drug or property offenses. In 1986, 12% of women in state prisons were imprisoned for these offenses compared to 24% by 2014.

Incarceration Offense Type by Gender, 2014

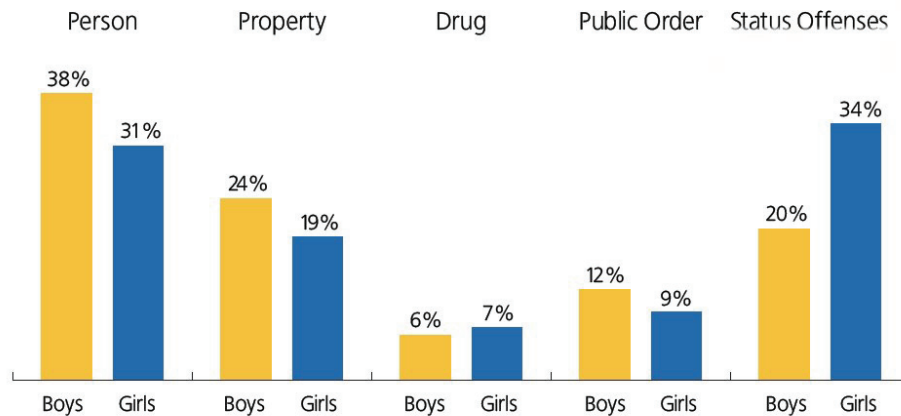


Source: Carson, E.A. (2015). Prisoners in 2014. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

February, 2018
INCARCERATED GIRLS

Girls represent a high proportion of those confined for low-level status offenses such as behaviors that would not be considered illegal if committed by an adult (such as skipping school or running away).

Youth Offense Type by Gender, 2013



Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, M., Kang, T.J., and Puzanchera, C. (2015). Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

A LETTER FROM A GIRL IN FL ENROLLED IN ABA

“When you teach an inmate, she will share it with someone else, and the second with a third, etc. That’s how things work in prison. American Bible Academy courses are the most accurate and professionally written studies I’ve seen. And just to think ...your people supply them completely free to prisoners, including shipping. I just finished Christian Doctrine and feel I climbed to a whole new level of spiritual knowledge. Thank you!”

ABA Courses are an excellent way for inmates to study the Bible for their transformation.

“OTHER BOOKS WERE GIVEN FOR OUR INFORMATION, THE BIBLE WAS GIVEN FOR OUR TRANSFORMATION.” - T. H. DARLOW

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ABA COURSE FOR A BOY OR GIRL. IT IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING. Please make your check payable to A.R.M.



FROM CHAINS TO CHANGE,

JOE R. GORMAN, EVANGELIST

January, 2018

My dear Co-laborer in Christ:

You have meant and continue to mean so much to this ministry. You have allowed the Lord to work through your prayers and offerings to bring many prisoners to Christ. Men, women, boys and girls who were previously sitting in darkened prison cells without God, without Christ and without a hope in the world, are now standing in the light of the Glory of Christ.

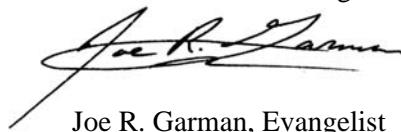
There is no way ARM could do what we do without Christian friends like you. You and I are a team. You have the same spiritual vision that I have. I view you as partner. You are an ARM Missionary. As we enter this New Year, let's do so with a renewed heart, soul, mind and strength. Here are some exciting missionary quotes to get our new year started.

TEN GREAT MISSIONARY QUOTES

1. "Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument later. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him. Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work." - J. Hudson Taylor
2. "God is a missionary God. The Bible is a missionary book. The gospel is a missionary message. The church is a missionary institution. And when the church ceases to be missionary minded, it has denied its faith and betrayed its trust." - J. Herbert Kane
3. "I have discovered that the people who believe most strongly in the next life do the most good in the present one." - C. S. Lewis
4. "I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done." - J. Hudson Taylor
5. "It is possible for the most obscure person in a church, with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world, as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions." - John R. Mott
6. "Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions." - Roderick Davis
7. "Some of us are senders and some are goers. Neither is more important than the other. Neither is possible without the other." - David Sills
8. "The Church is by nature missionary to the extent that, if it ceases to be missionary, it has not just failed in one of its tasks, it has ceased to be the Church. Thus, the Church's self-understanding and sense of identity (its ecclesiology) is inherently bound up with its call to share and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth and the end of time." - Andrew Kirk
9. "The Church must send or the church will end." - Mendell Taylor
10. "The Gospel is not how people get to heaven. The Gospel is how people get to God." - John Piper



From Chains to Change,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

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Christian greetings to my fellow workers in the Kingdom:

A

A dear friend of mine, Dr. Harry Wendt, sent me a prayer for the Christmas season. I want to share it with you. Note that it is "top heavy" (as well it ought to be). The first paragraph flows with adoration for what Christ has done for us and the second paragraph is filled with praise for what He soon will do. He closes on what we are to be doing in the meantime.

C

"Lord, You comforted those whom the so-called righteous despised. You touched and raised the dead. Although You made this vast universe, You visited us in the humble Person of Jesus. You did not seek to live in a palace. You did not walk in the ways of the rich and powerful. You sought not the greatness that the world applauds. You redefined what it means to be blessed and cursed. You showed mercy to those who put You to death.

E

We thank You that soon we will 'inherit' (not merit), the kingdom prepared 'for us' (not by us) before time began (when we were not present to help prepare it). Boasting will be out; grace will reign supreme! Make us aware of the need of Your message and mission in our confused world. Inspire and empower us to make known Your forgiving mercy and Your eternal plan for humanity. In Your great, wise, and forgiving name we pray. Amen."



A prisoner in Florida writes: "I am from Cuba. My friends and I had never heard the gospel before coming to America. Many Cuban inmates are coming to Christ now, thanks in part, to the Spanish Bible correspondence courses provided by ARM. We need all the spiritual help the ARM family of supporters can provide. I am currently teaching seven other prisoners." (NOTE: ARM has placed six baptistries in Cuban prisons and churches).

TEN GREAT QUOTES TO REMEMBER THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

1. "And those who are wise – the people of God - shall shine as brightly as the sun's brilliance, and those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever." - Daniel 12:3
2. "You are either a missionary or a mission field." - Charles Spurgeon
3. "Give me one hundred people who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth." - John Wesley



J

O

Y

Christmas

4. "You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere." - Jesus of Nazareth

5. "Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face - whose mercy you have professed to obey - and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world." - William Booth

6. "I exhort you, press on in your course, and exhort all men that they might be saved." - Polycarp

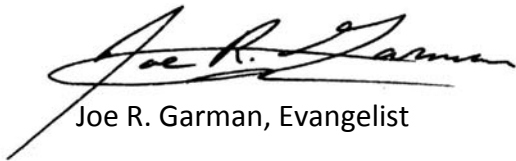
7. "We are to be fishers of men rather than keepers of the aquarium." - Keith Green

8. "It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor." - Martin Luther

9. "You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving." - Amy Carmichael

10. "Lord, make me a crisis man. Let me not be a mile-post on a single road, but make me a fork that men must turn one way or another if facing Christ in me." - Jim Elliot

From Chains to Change,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe R. Garman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and under the first part of the name.

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

P.S. Please consider sending a special Christmas/year-end gift in the enclosed envelope. It will be used to purchase materials for the incarcerated men, women, boys and girls we serve.

Merry Christmas from all of us at ARM!



My dear Christian friends:

Someone has written, “Gratitude takes three forms: A feeling in the heart, an expression in words, and a giving in return.” My **heart** is blessed at this, my favorite season of the year. **Words** cannot express the joy I feel during the fall! It is a time that challenges me to contemplate what lies ahead for this ministry and how best I might improve my **giving** to God for all He has accomplished through ARM.

Thanks to your partnership, many lives have been changed this year through the gospel of Christ. Every week, we get letters from men and women who’ve paid the price for their mistakes and turned their lives around. Your support helps us keep Bible studies in their hands. Here are just a couple of those stories:

“... the turning point in my life came when my 15-year-old son was gunned down in a drive-by gang shooting...Since then I have given my life back to Christ. Only by His mercy and grace am I still alive and not serving a life-sentence. I have forgiven the young men that took my son's life...I promise to take this wisdom and knowledge to spread the Good News in this dark, desolate place to others...” Dave

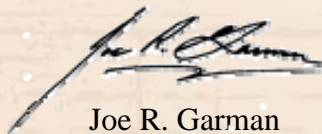
“...I wish I did not have to be locked up in prison to have found God. ... if this is what it took to be a child of God, then there is no regrets.” Sue

ARM exists to proclaim Christ to the captives and light to those sitting in dark prison cells. Next year we will celebrate 45 years of service to America’s jails and prisons in all fifty states. We also minister to U.S. territories and four branch ministries in Cambodia, Korea, Mexico and the Philippines.

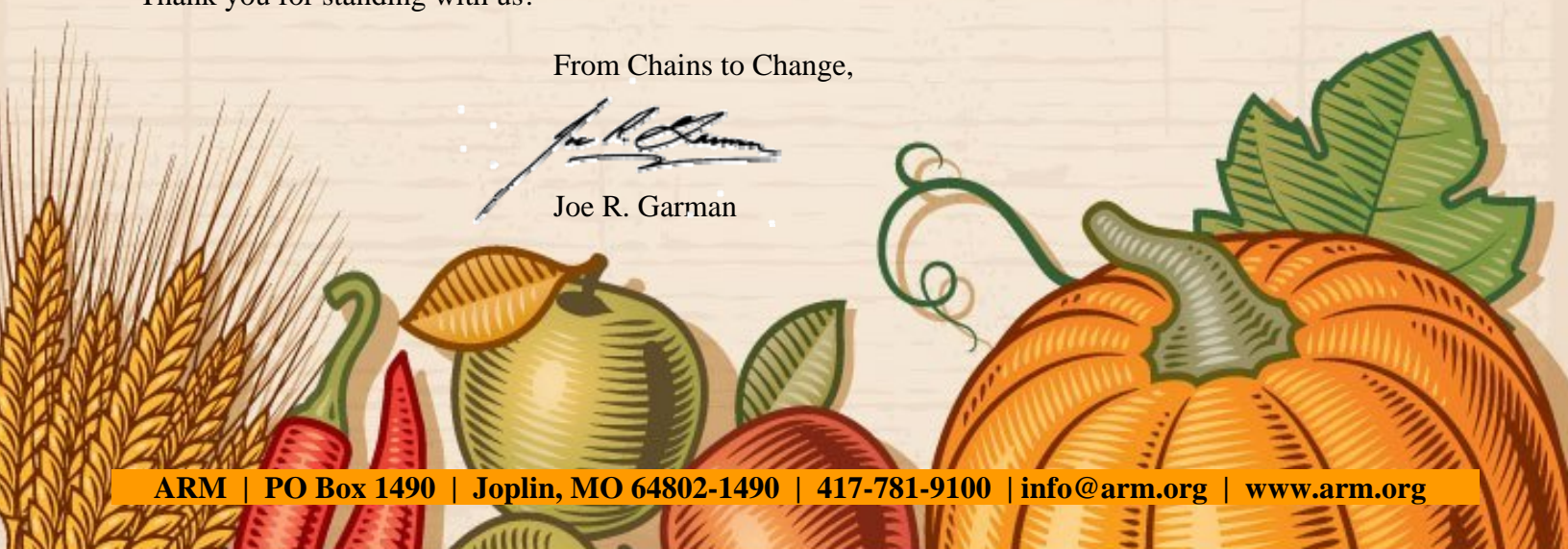
But we simply can’t do it without you. It’s your commitment that makes it possible to continue serving Jesus through blessing “the least of these.” Historically January and February are low income months for not-for-profits and ministries. Would you pray that God will enable you to give your best end-of-year gift so we can begin 2018 without a deficit? Together we can make a real and lasting impact in the lives of those in prison who need Jesus.

Thank you for standing with us!

From Chains to Change,



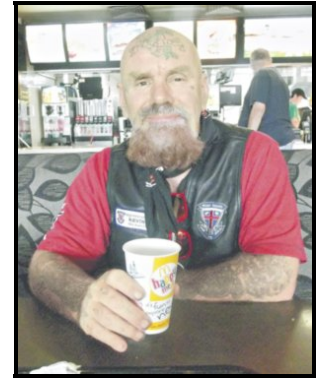
Joe R. Garman



THE MAN WHO WRAPS HIMSELF IN CHAINS

In and out of 42 state facilities including boys' homes, mental institutions and prisons, Kevin Mudford learned life could be different after his brother in blood and crime became a Christian. Not even being hit in the head with a brick could deter this 57-year-old from speaking up for Christ in order to prevent others from traveling the path he had walked. The attack occurred at a rehabilitation center.

The assault left him with severe head injuries and temporary brain damage. Despite brain surgery and months of rehabilitation, the biker says, "I turned my injury into a testimony and went back into the same type of meetings where it originally occurred." Kevin and his wife Dee now travel from city to city, sharing Christ wherever they go. Kevin is an example of how Jesus changes lives.



Kevin Mudford

Kevin is proof that you do not need alcohol or drugs to feel special. "The only One who can truly transform you into someone exceptional is Jesus Christ our Lord", he says. "The government attempts to curb drinking, but I have the real answer – just don't touch it. Some people will end up on top like I did, but prevention is better than cure. Oh, the wasted years I spent in sin and shame."

Like many career criminals, Kevin began at a young age, hanging out on the streets due to a dysfunctional home environment. He and his brother started off as burglars. "I never knew how it felt to have my father put his arms around me and say, 'Son, I love you!' And when boys don't hear those words they go out onto the streets looking for them. By age 15, I was in juvenile detention."

He nearly strangled a guard to death during an escape from that detention facility. Shortly thereafter he began a crime spree, but it was short lived. He was captured and incarcerated for the next five years. Upon his release from prison, he became an alcoholic. "I drank in hotels with other bikers. If I couldn't get drunk, I wouldn't go. The old 'poor me, poor me, pour me a drink,' was my attitude."

After 3 ½ years in and out of mental asylums, Kevin learned about his brother's conversion to Christ. "Because it was my brother, I trusted him. The way he was so totally transformed caused me to realize that there was hope for me. I gave my life to Christ and the change in me was like night to day. When my friends heard about my decision to become a Christian they called it a passing fancy."

"Fellow gang members would laugh and say, 'Don't worry, it won't be long and you'll be breaking into shops, stealing cars and getting off your face in fights. You'll end up back in the pubs and back in prison. A lot of guys have tried that Christian deal to get out of prison or to make things a bit sweeter for them. They didn't last, and you won't either.' I told them not to look for me at the bar next Sunday."

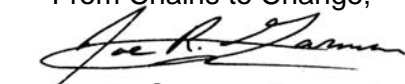
"Every week, I showed them I was free from drinking and drugs and told them why. Years later, I'm still proving them wrong. The clearest change in my life was that I no longer needed or wanted to drink or drug. If I hadn't become a Christian, I would have continued sitting in hotel bars drinking with gangsters. To be honest, I really didn't think I could remain faithful to God, but God proved He was faithful to me."

"He gave me a ministry. I am to tell all people about Him and to give my testimony." Kevin will go wherever there is opportunity to speak for Christ. He gets attention in his biker attire and his many tattoos. When he speaks to violent crowds, he often wraps himself in chains as an illustration and tells his audience, "These chains are what sin is like, but Jesus Christ can free you from your chains."



"Jesus replied, 'You are slaves of sin, every one of you. And slaves don't have rights, but the Son has every right there is! So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free'" (John. 8:34-36). Thank you for allowing Christ to use you in support of this prison ministry. Because of Christians like you, men and women will know the truth, and the truth will set them free.

From Chains to Change,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

PRIZEFIGHTER TURNED PREACHER

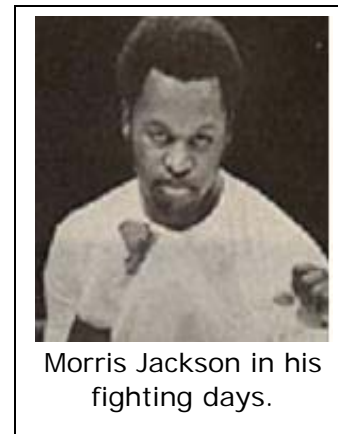
By Leo Adam Biga

In his best three-piece suit, Morris Jackson looks like just another slick do-gooder to prisoners seeing him for the first time at the Douglas County Correctional Facility, where he's a chaplain with Good News Jail and Prison Ministry. But the large man soon separates himself from the pack when he tells them he used to be a prizefighter.

Rattling off the famous names he met inside the ring — Ron Stander, Ernie Shavers, Ron Lyle, Larry Holmes — usually gets their attention. If not, what he says next, does. "My number was 30398." That's right, this chaplain did time on an armed robbery charge. The former convict now stands on the other side of the bars as a Christian Chaplain.

During the day Jackson was a sparring partner for several boxing legends, and ran with a rough crowd at night. "I started hanging with some friends who had served time. I was influenced by them to make some quick money in a hold up. I was rescued not arrested, because eventually somebody was going to get hurt. I deserved everything I got."

While serving his stretch, Jackson studied Islam and became a Black Muslim. After prison he began bouncing at strip clubs. "I got caught up in the lifestyle. I started smoking marijuana and was immersed in sin. My wife was working days and I was bouncing nights. We hardly ever saw each other. My life was spiraling out of control.



Morris Jackson in his fighting days.

"I would never have imagined I would someday be a Christian. If someone would have told me that, I would have said, 'Yeah, right, you're crazy man. Give me some of what you're smoking.' But it was my mother God used to pull me back from the brink and into the church. She staged a one-woman intervention for me. And I am so thankful she did.



Morris Jackson preaching the Word.

"My mother came over to my house to talk with me about what my life was like and how Christ was calling me. She shared the gospel in a way that I had never heard before. She spoke of God's grace and how He loved me, and had a purpose and a plan for my life. 'But, it is up to you to accept and follow the path God has for you', she said.

"I felt the presence of God and heard an inner voice say, 'the line is drawn in the sand, and if you don't make the decision now, you'll never get another chance.' I know, just as sure as I am here today, that if I had not accepted Christ into my life, I'd be dead and in hell right now. My mother closed with prayer. The next day I went to church."

Church Bible classes led to Bible college studies and, ultimately, his ordination. His first ministry was on the streets of north Omaha (a difficult place to minister). Now, he can't imagine going back to his old life. "It makes a difference when you come from darkness to light. I used to live for the weekends. Now, He is my reason for living."

Living his faith, which he loudly proclaims from the inscription above his home's front door to the message on his answering machine, are only two of his ways of telling the world that he's a Christian. He's seen enough cons turn their lives around to know he has had an effect on them. Joe Garman says, "He is one of the greatest witnesses I know."

September, 2017

The proud old fighter sees his ministry as his new battleground. Only, instead of knocking heads, he's all about saving souls. "Most of my teaching is biblical principles applied to our daily lives. But I'm still a warrior. Now though, when I put on my armor and go to war every day, I don't feel violent. My victories are won in my prayer closet.

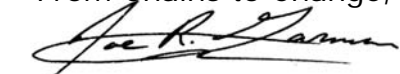
"Prisoners sometimes hang on my every word because they see a change has taken place in my life. They really can't believe I was where they are today. Having Christ in your life makes a big difference in your visible presence, in your eyes, in your demeanor, in your voice and in your conversation. Prisoners notice these things. You can't con a con."



Morris Jackson – What a beautiful man of God. Morris Jackson with his friend, Joe Garman.

P.S. BECAUSE OF YOU, AND CHRISTIANS LIKE YOU, MORRIS JACKSON IS ONE OF MANY WHO HAS PLACED HIS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR PRISONERS THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT OF ARM. THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR WHOLE SELF TO HIM!

From Chains to Change,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

THE SCOPE OF CHRIST'S SALVATION

By Darryl Budge

Drugs, alcoholism, hi-jacking, breaking and entering, and robbery are no longer 'the norm' of Jeff's life like they were before his wrongs were forgiven. There were no good men for Jeff Paraffin to look up to as a young man, so he followed bad influences which led him straight into the hands of crime. Jeff was 17 when he began stealing to buy alcohol. Eventually, he was involved in a fight at a local bar that caused a tragic death.

"I stabbed and killed an attacker in self-defense," Jeff explains. Jeff fled the town after receiving death threats from relatives of the deceased, but was later captured and acquitted on grounds of self-defense. He was employed for two years by a Christian publishing company, packaging and mailing Bibles and Christian literature, but admits that 'excessive drinking habits' led to his dismissal. He moved back to his hometown.



Jeff Paraffin

Jeff moved in with his old friends and they soon introduced him to local gangs. During a bloody shootout between police and his gang, Jeff received a leg wound, but says, "It was only through God's grace that I was not killed." A year later he was sentenced to 15 years in prison for armed robbery and murder. Jeff joined the prison's most infamous gang. But it would also be in this prison where He would receive Christ.

"I was so evil and immoral that although the authorities tried to rehabilitate me, it was to no avail," Jeff says. "Yet, thankfully God did not give up on me, but sent a Christian man to declare the forgiveness of sins in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Later in the month, that same prison volunteer returned leading a large group of Christians. I heard them explain how we have all sinned and fallen short, yet in spite of it, Christ died for us.

"At this meeting my life was totally changed. After receiving a study Bible, I joined the Fellowship of Christian Inmates. While still incarcerated, I continued faithful in my Bible correspondence studies, obtained a diploma, was allowed to leave prison during the day to attend on-campus classes, participated in the graduation ceremony, and was baptized and ordained to the ministry. Upon release from prison I founded an inner-city church.

"I became its full-time pastor. My wife (Letia) and I have now started two new churches and are still very much involved in local prison outreach programs." Jeff says with a smile: "God, in His grace and mercy, has given me His peace. Praise be to God the Father and to Jesus the Son! Also, thank you to all the Christians who held me up in prayer and contributed to my spiritual growth that led me to where I am today in Christ."



I recently heard a devotion from I Kings 20 about the king of Syria attacking Israel "in the mountains." When the Syrian king inquired why he lost the battle, his advisors told him, "Next time, attack them in the valleys. Their God is a God of the mountains, not of the valleys." So he attacked again, this time in the valleys, and learned that "**God is God of the mountains and of the valleys!**"

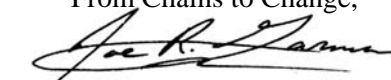
*"For the God on the mountain, is the God in the valley.
When things go wrong, He'll make them right.
And the God of the good times is still God in the bad times.
The God of the day is still God in the night."* Lynda Randle

I thought of Jeff when I heard this devotion and Lynda's song. He was facing a 15 year sentence and had joined the most notorious gang in the prison. But like the prodigal son in Luke 15, "*He finally came to his senses. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming, and was filled with loving pity. And his father said, "He was lost and is found."* Let the party begin.

The next time you drive past a correctional facility, Please pray for the men and women incarcerated there. The scope of God's salvation reaches over huge concrete walls, through steel bars and into dark and lonely cells. You help make it possible!

Thank you for supporting this beautiful ministry of jail and prison evangelism!

From Chains to Change,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

THE BAPTISM OF GENERAL MANUEL NORIEGA

By Joe R. Garman

President George H.W. Bush ordered the invasion of Panama in December 1989 for the purpose of capturing General Noriega on charges of massive drug trafficking. Noriega was incarcerated for 17 years in a federal prison in Miami, and then extradited to France where he was imprisoned for four years on money laundering charges. In 2011 he was transferred to a prison in Panama.

In January 1990, a Spanish New Testament came into the notorious prisoner's hands. Ten days later the editor of the Soul Winner's New Testament (Evangelismo Personal), Clift Brannon, a former attorney turned preacher, received a letter from Noriega. Noriega expressed his appreciation for the copy of the scriptures. Brannon immediately applied for a visitation permit.

In May, Brannon and a Spanish interpreter, Rudy Hernandez, were allowed to visit Noriega for a total of 6 hours. Following their visit, Noriega wrote Brannon as follows: *"The hours flew by without my being aware. I could have desired that they continue forever. There was so little time. Thank you for the deep and meaningful spiritual strength brought to bear on my mind and soul."*



In July, Brannon requested Spanish Bible correspondence courses be sent from ABA. In 1991, the former drug lord requested permission from the prison authorities to be baptized. But his request was denied upon the advice of his attorneys. In September, 1992, the Honorable William M. Hoeveler, United States District Judge in Miami granted permission for Noriega to be baptized.

On October 24, 1992 (United Nations Day!), ARM's baptistry arrived at the back door of the Federal Court House in Miami. A Deputy Marshall supervised the baptistry as it was transported into the courtroom and filled with water. That was a first. We were told this had never taken place in a federal courthouse before. Security was tight as Noriega was led into the courtroom.

Surrounded by 12 guards, Noriega, wearing civilian clothes, took off his jacket and shoes, and got into the baptistry. Brannon preached on the meaning of baptism as Hernandez interpreted, followed by prayer. Then Brannon immersed Noriega in Christian baptism and raised him up again (Rom. 6:4).

Rudy had an accordion, and began singing *Amazing Grace*, first in Spanish and then in English. The music reverberated off the marble floor. One of the guards later said, "At one time he was Public Enemy No. 1, but now he is my brother in Christ." Noriega must have agreed because when he autographed the above picture for me in 1995 he signed it "from Brother Noriega".

MANUEL NORIEGA DIED MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017, IN A HOSPITAL IN PANAMA CITY. HE WAS 83. IN HIS LAST CORRESPONDENCE WITH ME HE WROTE, "GOD BLESS CLIFT, RUDY AND YOU WITH PHYSICAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUAL WISDOM. PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! I AM CONTINUING TO WALK WITH CHRIST."

Please contact ARM for free additional copies

June, 2017

ARM Baptistries and Church Plants

By Kerry Decker, Minister



Chaplain Rainwater baptizing in a Communion Table Baptistry at the Florence County, KY Detention Center

Compass Christian Church is a church plant in Riverside, CA, that I and several other Christians launched in 2013. It was not long until ARM supplied us with one of their baptistries. Now we can baptize converts without leaving our property. Compass also has a You Tube video online to teach new converts about baptism. We find it an effective training tool. Feel free to access it at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ7gt9xLV7w>).

I love this baptistry. It's perfect for us. It collapses to about the size of a large suitcase and one person can easily set it up. It's well-engineered. I'm impressed. I would recommend anyone who is doing a church plant to consider an ARM baptistry. They are first-rate and durable. Church plants and mission fields around the world are finding these baptistries perfect for their ministries. Now, any church or prison in America or on the mission field can baptize immediately

by using an ARM Collapsible Portable Baptistry.

Our first "in chapel" baptistries for prisons were the Communion Table Baptistries. On the outside they look like communion tables, but remove the table top and you access a fiberglass tub that serves as a baptistry. A valve in back of the table enables you to connect a garden hose for filling and draining the baptistry. Thus, they required no permanent plumbing.

We placed hundreds of these in America's largest, oldest and most violent prisons. Penitentiaries like San Quentin required as many as four baptistries, because of the danger in transferring inmates from one yard to another. As wonderful as these baptistries were, we quickly learned that they were difficult to install in county and city jails due to limited space. Enter the CPB.

The Collapsible Portable Baptistry was designed for small jails that could not accommodate a CTB. Then, chaplains with the armed forces began ordering them for their military bases and missionaries around the world ordered them for the mission field. The manufacturing of these baptistries was of the Lord. Who could have imagined the affect they would have on the world?

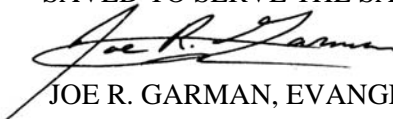


5,371 BAPTISTRIES SPONSORED AND INSTALLED BY ARM'S FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS AS OF MAY 22, 2017

COMMUNION TABLE BAPTISTRIES IN U.S. CHURCHES	2,825
COMMUNION TABLE BAPTISTRIES ON THE MISSION FIELD	23
COMMUNION TABLE BAPTISTRIES TO THE MILITARY	108
COMMUNION TABLE BAPTISTRIES TO THE PRISONS	1,161
COLLAPSIBLE PORTABLE BAPTISTRIES IN U.S. CHURCHES	389
COLLAPSIBLE PORTABLE BAPTISTRIES ON THE MISSION FIELD	290
COLLAPSIBLE PORTABLE BAPTISTRIES TO THE MILITARY	30
COLLAPSIBLE PORTABLE BAPTISTRIES TO THE PRISONS	545

Just think, some baptistries are in Africa where baptisms used to take place in crocodile and snake infested rivers. Some have provided baptisms for American soldiers prior to going into battle. Others have been smuggled into underground churches in Asia and the Middle East. I pray that you will help us increase our outreach. You can sponsor a Communion Table Baptistry for \$1200 or a Collapsible Portable Baptistry for \$800. Thank you for making these baptistries available.

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,


JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

GOD MADE A WAY FOR ME

**BY DAVID MANLEY
CHURCH OF CHRIST, MINISTER
CLINTON, IA**



I am from Taylorville, IL, a Midwestern community of 11,240. It is like any other “small town U.S.A.”, a place where you have ample opportunities to “*decide whom you will obey*” (Josh. 24:15). As a young man, I made the wrong choice. I began hanging out on the streets and going to bars.

My parents and I did not go to church when I was growing up. Once, we attended for a couple of months, but that ended abruptly and I never knew why. After graduating from high school I entered the work force and partied hard on the weekends. Drugs became such a big part of my life that I could no longer hold a job. And Satan was still not finished with me. Things were about to get a lot worse.

I started dating a woman who had a two year old son that had been molested. I went to the authorities, who told me that they believed the story was true, but due to lack of evidence they could not prosecute. I was stunned and enraged. A friend and I decided to go to the molester’s house, which was a foolish thing to do. We were going to force him to confess. I took my gun with me.

All the way to the house, I felt we were making a huge mistake. When we got there, I laid my gun on the dash of the car. My friend took my gun and went into the house. A minute or so later I heard three gunshots and knew instantly that things were totally out of control. We were arrested on murder charges. I plead guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and two counts of obstructing justice.

I spent three years in prison. While there, I came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I surrendered my entire life to Him, which changed the way I used to think. It was a gradual process because I had been on the wrong path for a long time. Gently, He began smoothing my rough edges. I started studying the Bible in depth, and even began conducting a group Bible study for the prisoners.

Prison was the best thing that had happened to me at this point in my life. I was released in 1992, and was concerned that life would be difficult because of my record and parole restrictions. I moved to Peoria, IL, got a job and began to settle down. I met my wife Patty there. Then Patty and I moved to Taylorville to be near my oldest son and closer to job opportunities not available in Peoria.

I picked up pretty much where I left off. I got a job in a factory, began running with my old friends and when I wasn’t working I was usually drinking. Finally, Patty had enough of it and gave me a choice. I quit drinking, and to my surprise God gave me strength I never knew I had. I have now been 20 years sober. What a testimony to God for what He did for me. **God took control while I was out of control.**

In 1996, my minister told me that I should consider becoming a minister. But, I doubted God’s call on my life. I asked the Lord for confirmation from three people, after the pattern of Gideon in Judges 6:36-40. God sent more than three witnesses to me. I quit working in the factories and enrolled in Lincoln Christian College. I continued to walk with God through the good and the tough times.

God has shown Patty and me some amazing things about His greatness. The years I have served as a minister of God have been the most fulfilling and rewarding of my life. He continues to teach me about redemption. I love to preach about God’s forgiveness and love. One of my favorite statements from the pulpit is: “God made a way for me, and He can make a way for you.”

God turned my broken life into a success story. All of the churches I have served have grown. I know that it is through His goodness, not my ability. I pray that He will continue to use Patty and me for His glory. We serve a great God who can transform the most despicable of human beings. I am so thankful that I find myself weeping almost every day over God’s deliverance of me. I am grateful to my friend Joe Garman for encouraging me to share my testimony about what God has done in my life.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING GOD TO WORK THROUGH YOU IN SUPPORT OF ARM’S MINISTRY!



April, 2017

My dear Christian friends:

Please consider these unfortunate statistics: **80%** of women in U.S. prisons are mothers of school-aged children! The chaplain of a juvenile detention facility told me that it is common for daughters of incarcerated mothers to believe that it is their *destiny* to also go to prison someday. The average age of prison inmates' minor children is eight years old! Most are faced with the trauma of separation.

It is equally as difficult for the sons of incarcerated mothers. The majority of these boys and girls live in fear, depression, guilt, sadness and low self-esteem which lead to emotional and social withdrawal. **86%** are more likely to become drug-addicted or end up on the streets. Proverbs 6:21 urges children to *"Tie your mother's instructions around your finger so you won't forget. Take to heart their advice."*

But the children's mothers with whom we work are imprisoned. Their mothers cannot *"lead them and save them from harm; or guide them into the new day"* (Proverbs 6:22). In fact, it is conservatively estimated that **one in five** of these children were present at the time of their mother's arrest. Former prisoner, Kim Mikesell, writes in *Beyondmedia Educ.*, *"Children do hard time for their parents' crimes."*

Children of incarcerated parents are **85%** more likely to go to jail as adults if there is no change in their mother's attitude and behavior toward them while they are young. But thanks to Christians like you, ARM PRISON OUTREACH has been ministering to prisoners (both male and female) for forty-four years. From the beginning we committed ourselves to offer prisoners the finest rehabilitation possible.


Many former imprisoned mothers have made decisions for Christ and have returned home to guide their children in paths of righteousness. I have been privileged to personally meet some of these families who were *totally transformed* by the influence of these Christian mothers. Mother's Day is only **a few short weeks** away. Would you please help us minister to incarcerated mothers this May?

Please find enclosed an offering envelope you may use to help reach women in prison. Or, you may use your credit card to donate on-line by going to www.arm.org and clicking "Donate". **\$30** will provide a package containing a "prisoner's Bible", plus a box of 10 extra Bibles for distribution, and an ABA Bible correspondence course. Please be generous. We really need your help on this special occasion.

If you want more of these posters for display please e-mail: info@arm.org or call: **1 800-CALL-ARM**. When we reach mothers for Christ we make it possible for a child to someday sing the closing refrain of B.C. Robinson's song:

*"Take this message to my mother,
It will fill her heart with joy.
Tell her that her prayer is answered,
God has saved her wandering boy."*

FROM CHAINS TO CHANGE,



JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST
PROVERBS 20:23



p.s. This would make an excellent Mother's day project for your church, care group or Sunday School Class.

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FUND-RAISER AND A FUN-RAISER?

By Joe Garman

A FUND-raiser carries with it the idea of a targeted structure or purpose, whereas a FUN-raiser is exactly that ... a joyful and personal involvement in giving. You can pick and choose what you want to sponsor and provide. It's FUN to supply a case of Bibles for mothers in a federal or state facility. It's FUN to send Bible correspondence courses to mothers in isolated cells without God, without Christ and without hope.

Where Linda and I worship, the minister will announce "It's time for the offering" and the entire congregation will break out in cheers and applause because we know "giving" is an act of worship just like praying or singing. Offering time is not just Fund-raising, it's Fun-raising that results in Faith-raising. Your sacrificial offering to ARM increases the faith of many. There are donors and there are ministry partners. Thank you for being both!

March, 2017

**KELLY LAWSON HAS TAUGHT AND BAPTIZED
THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF PRECIOUS SOULS
BY JOE GARMAN**



Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

The Main Street Church of Christ met in a worthless old building at 4300 Main Street in Dallas, TX when Kelly got out of prison. It was the only church he had ever known. Thieves had stolen most of the church's money and were about to sell the property for \$250,000. He stepped in and put an end to the threat. It took a thief to stop the thieves.

Worthless? I don't think so! Recently, the church was offered over a million and a half dollars for their property. At this "choice location" they feed more than 150,000 meals to the homeless every year. The poor enjoy chicken soup and bologna sandwiches in class rooms that are cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

They have their own jail and prison ministry which teaches and baptizes about a thousand prisoners a year in various Dallas correctional facilities. Their prison evangelist, Eddie Frazier, has baptized over 17,000 inmates since he began serving in 1998. They have three Chaplains ministering at Baylor Hospital in the inner-city.

They preach the gospel to the entire world three times each week via WCBC Radio Madagascar, a 100,000 watt short-wave broadcast. They also transmit through eight other AM & FM stations. Each program is one hour in length and designed as a "worship service" for churches in countries where there is no freedom of religion.

They get between a million and a million and a half hits a year on their website from persecuted Christians and those wanting access to audio sermons, written lessons and song albums. Consequently, they have established 5,000 house churches world-wide. For this reason they focus on hermeneutics rather than homiletics.

They encourage their house churches to practice a five-fold worship pattern: singing, praying, listening to the broadcast, observing the Lord's Supper and receiving an offering for the Lord. They should then buy Bibles and grow the Church, rather than sending it to Dallas. Kelly says, "that seems to be the long term future of Christianity."

And remember those books that George Faull and I bought him written by B.W. Johnson and J.W. McGarvey? Kelly now buys them by the case. If you are ever in Dallas on a Sunday morning and want to meet Kelly, "Any friend of Jesus is a friend of his."

When I think of Kelly I am reminded of the missionary's story of serving communion to a converted cannibal in a far away land. He said he experienced a foretaste of glory as the cannibal reached out to receive the bread and wine and partake in the emblems of the Redeemer's love. So Kelly exchanged his gun for a Bible and responded as the masses at home and around the world cried out, "Please, tell us more about Jesus."

FROM CHAINS TO CHANGE,


JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

March, 2017

I WAS THE PRODIGAL SON OF MY FAMILY BY KELLY LAWSON, EVANGELIST

There has been much water under the bridge since I first met Joe Garman. I taught the gospel to a "hell's angels", M. Malone, and Joe baptized him in a huge trash can full of water at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, KS. I think Joe got almost as wet as he did ... Malone was a big boy. Joe came to us "when we were in prison." He left us with a Christian education.

It is long overdue that I write ARM and thank you for sending Joe to me. He made my life-long ministry possible. After being a fugitive from justice for over five years, robbing a bank or two a year, I was unpacking a suitcase and there was a Bible my dad had given me when I left his home years before. I thought: "I have yet to read this even though I grew up in the church."

I knew all the Sunday school stories ... but I didn't know Jesus. I began reading at Genesis 1:1 and read the whole Bible in a little over a month. You really can read the whole Bible in a month if that's all you do. Naturally I felt He was pleased, so I began negotiating with Him: "If He would let me pull off just one more job, I would retire and not rob any more banks."

Within a few days the FBI shot all my doors off and because of my affiliation with organized crime, I was sent to the worse prison on the face of the earth at the time, Leavenworth, KS. Leavenworth is where they transferred most of the convicts when they closed Alcatraz. I knew God had His hand on my life and I wanted to serve Him... that is, anywhere but in Leavenworth.

How do you live a Christian life in the midst of such men? Being a Christian in prison was not popular among the convicts. Some things never change. Christians are still assumed to be "punks, sissies, snitches or stool pigeons." On top of all that I was only 26, the youngest man in Leavenworth at the time. But God was with me like He was with Joseph in prison in Egypt.

God never promised to deliver us from our trials but rather while in the midst of our trials. And so it was that in the furnace of affliction I learned His discipline. I wrote churches, schools of preaching and Bible colleges everywhere for Christian studies, and quickly learned that prison ministries were not very popular. Almost all replied, "Sorry, we have no prison department."

Then I wrote George Faull at TREATY UNIVERSITY OF EVANGELISM, now SUMMIT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY in Peru, IN, and he introduced me to ARM. Between him and Joe Garman, all of my Bible college education was underwritten. They even sponsored books for the prison library written by such Bible scholars as B.W. Johnson and J.W. McGarvey.

I eventually became Chaplain Mannford Craig's office clerk at Leavenworth which allowed me opportunity to teach and baptize hundreds of prisoners. Upon release from prison I began serving my home church in Dallas, TX and have remained its minister for 24 years. I got to bury my mom and dad whom I had shamed. I was the Prodigal Son of my family.

One year I was invited to address over 5,000 attendees at the Tulsa Soul-Winning Workshop. That was a long way from one-on-one counseling at Leavenworth Federal. As I looked out over the assembly I thought to myself, "*Lord if not for You, my father, that Bible in my suitcase, Mannford Craig, George Faull and Joe Garman, I would be dead and in Hell right now.*"

But because You had a plan for my life, a plan no one could see but You, I was able to 'come to my senses' and become the man of God You created me to be. How can I ever thank You enough? How can I 'give credit to whom credit is due, and honor to whom honor is due?' You and these men, and all those who support them, are more precious than silver and gold.

Look what you, Lord, have set in motion: because You first loved me, and had a better plan."



Kelly Lawson, Evangelist

February, 2017

“IS IT NOTHING TO YOU, ALL YOU WHO PASS BY?”

~Lamentations 1:12

BY JOE R. GARMAN

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, an Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, Oklahoma’s high incarceration rate has led to one in ten children in the state having a parent imprisoned at some point in their lives. Parental incarceration has placed a heavy toll on the lives of children and families. More than 96,000 Oklahoma children currently have a parent who has served time in a correctional facility.



Ohio has long had one of the nations highest incarceration rates for men and has recently seen an increase of imprisonment among females. The impact parental incarceration has on the children is traumatic.

**THE TOP TEN STATES WHERE THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE
OF CHILDREN HAVE SEEN A PARENT GO TO JAIL:**

1. KENTUCKY	13%	135,000	6. OHIO	10%	271,000
2. INDIANA	11%	177,000	7. OKLAHOMA	10%	96,000
3. ALASKA	10%	18,000	8. TENNESSEE	10%	144,000
4. MICHIGAN	10%	228,000	9. ARIZONA	9%	138,000
5. NEW MEXICO	10%	52,000	10. NEBRASKA	9%	41,000

Notice that Kentucky has a higher rate of parental incarceration than any other state, which is nearly double the national average of 7%. “You can’t ignore 13% of the population problem,” said Terry Brooks, a youth advocate director. “Nationwide, about 5.1 million children have experienced parental incarceration. Many feel it is their destiny to one day be incarcerated, because one of their parents was.”

An Indiana spokesperson for child advocacy reported, “When a parent is in jail or prison, it creates an unstable environment for kids. Policy debates about incarceration rarely focus on the impact on children.”

What is ARM doing to help imprisoned parents develop and maintain a proper rapport with their children? We distribute over three and a half million Christian greeting cards to jails and prisons each year so parents can write home to their children. We thank DaySpring Outreach for providing these cards, and appreciate our Christian volunteers sorting the cards and envelopes and preparing them for shipping.

We also provide Bibles from American Bible Society, Bible correspondence courses (some that teach parenting skills), and gospel literature that imparts family values. It is not uncommon to hear men and women say that when they get out they want to become better fathers and mothers to their children. Encouraging communication between parents and their children is one of our most important programs.

Thank you for caring about what happens to incarcerated parents and the children they leave behind. Thank you for sharing your sacrificial offerings so we can keep ministering to the last and least of them.

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

I DECLARE... BY JOE GARMAN

Jack Turner accepted Christ as a young person, but never read a single book in the Bible or said his first prayer until age 35. One day a friend, Pastor Jerry White of Halltown, MO, gave him a pocket New Testament from American Bible Society. Jack said, "I completely wore it out." A Christian shoe repairman sewed and stitched a leather cover for the little Bible. Jack says, "I still use it to this day."



Jack is known in his small Ozark community as a Christian businessman who owned the Ben Franklin which was also the local general store. At age 87, he became known as even more than that. He became an international advocate for God's Word! Jack counts 40 Scriptures where God instructs, "Go and tell what I have done for you." His obedience to these calls includes travel throughout Asia.

Jack also works in his own backyard. For years he has served as a volunteer with jails in and around Springfield, MO, and he has locked shields with ARM in various outreach projects. Jack lives and loves to see hearts and minds transformed. "That little Bible totally revolutionized my life," Jack says. "I have never served time as a prisoner, but I can sponsor Bibles for prison ministries like ARM."

Jack contends that with our "words" we can bless our futures and the destinies of others. So he has a printed list of *Ten Declarations* that he distributes among his prison audiences and then has them repeat each declaration after him. In-between each declaration he expounds from scripture how the declaration can transform our walk with Christ and lead to victories over family or generational curses.

I DECLARE...

- I. **I DECLARE** I am blessed with God's clear directions and supernatural wisdom for my life!
- II. **I DECLARE** I am blessed with God's abundance, courage, creativity and productivity in my life!
- III. **I DECLARE** I am blessed with self control, self discipline, a strong will and God's plan for me!
- IV. **I DECLARE** I am blessed with faith, friends, fulfillment, health, and God's favor!
- V. **I DELCARE** I am blessed with strength, success, support, and divine protection!
- VI. **I DECLARE** I am blessed with a positive heart and outlook concerning God's plan for my life!
- VII. **I DECLARE** that evil words spoken against me are broken in the name of Jesus!
- VIII. **I DECLARE** that I am free from all curses because Jesus came to set the captives free!
- IX. **I DECLARE** I am blessed in the city, in the county and in the state!
- X. **I DECLARE** that everything I set my mind to do from this moment forward will be to glorify God!

Words have power! When you speak, either good or bad, you give life to what you are saying. Whether it is the parables of the ten coins or the ten virgins, the stories of the ten lepers or the ten plagues, the studies of the Ten Commandments or Brother Jack's ten declarations, most inmates tend to retain best when the presentation is laid out in a consistent numerical line of reasoning.

Repeating each point verbally also seems to be extremely effective while teaching within a jail setting. You must send your words out in the direction you want your life to go. You cannot talk defeat and walk success. With your words you either strengthen or weaken your testimony for Christ! *"Your words now reflect your fate then: either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned"* Mt.12:37.



Left to right: Bill McLemore, former inmate, Jack Turner and Joe Garman at the Greene County Jail in Springfield, MO.

Juvenile prisoners in Sudan, who lived through violence and war, have discovered new hope in God's Word, sponsored by Jack Turner. In Ukraine, 8,000 juvenile inmates received New Testaments with special inserts. Here in America, Jack went beyond **"the gates of steel and bars of iron"** to see that prisoners had opportunity to receive God's precious word. Oh, that you and I might do the same.

You can sponsor a Bible for a prisoner with ARM's address in it for only \$2. Or, you can provide a case of 20 Bibles for \$40. God has promised, *"As the rain and snow come down from heaven and stay upon the ground to water the earth, and cause the grain to grow and to produce seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry, so also is my Word. I send it out and it always produces fruit"* Isaiah 55:10-11.

December, 2016

REMEMBER THOSE IN PRISON

By Victor Knowles



"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3).

Joseph was put in prison, "the place where the king's prisoners were confined" (Genesis 39:20). One day he interpreted a dream for one of those prisoners, the king's cupbearer. He told him that in three days he would be restored to his former position. Which, indeed, he was. "The chief cupbearer, however, **did not remember Joseph; he forgot him**" (Genesis 40:23). Unbelievable!

Two years came and went. That's 720 long, miserable days. Then Pharaoh had some dreams. No one could interpret them. That's when the chief cupbearer nervously cleared his throat and managed to squeak out: "Today **I am reminded** of my shortcomings" (Genesis 41:9). The Living Bible says, "Today **I remember** my sin!" The Message says, "**I just now remembered** something. I'm sorry; I should have told you this long ago." We all know the rest of the story.

One day two thieves were taken from prison, along with Jesus, and were led out to be crucified with Him to the place called the Skull (Luke 23:32). For a time they both railed on Jesus. But then one of them had a change of heart. He **remembered** something. He rebuked the other, saying, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then, turning to Jesus, he said, "Lord, **remember me** when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:40-42). He asked to be **remembered**. And Jesus assured him that he would not only be **remembered**, he would be ushered into the kingdom, escorted on the everlasting arms of Christ!

Do you **remember** the poignant words of this hymn? "The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; and there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away" (William Cowper). We need to **remember** that someday all nations will be gathered before Christ, and He will separate the people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

*The King will say to those on His right, "Come, you are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I ... was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:32, 34, 36). And the righteous will answer Him, "Lord, when did we see you ... in prison, and come to visit you?" They couldn't **remember**!*

So the King *helped them to **remember***. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." The Message says, "Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was Me — you did it to Me."

Few people are more overlooked, ignored or disenfranchised than prisoners. But when we **remember** to visit them in prison, we are having an audience with the King - "that was Me - You did it to Me."

We need to **remember** these truths as we support the affairs of this unique and wonderful ministry to those in prison - the overlooked and the disenfranchised. "That was Me - you did it to Me! **REMEMBER?**" Prisoners are more spiritually sensitive at Christmas than at any other time. Thank you for **remembering** those in prison during this very special season of the year.



November, 2016

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

My dear Christian friends and partners in the Gospel of Christ:

Someone has written, “Gratitude takes three forms: A feeling in the heart, an expression in words, and a giving in return.” My **heart** is blessed at this time of year. *“The autumn wind is searching for a place where it may pile the season’s falling leaves; It visits hollows in the woodland grove and grasps at bushes that it bends and weaves”* – Arthur Thatcher. This is, without a doubt, my favorite season.



Words cannot express the joy I feel during the fall! Yet, as beautiful as God’s handiwork is at Thanksgiving time, we haven’t seen anything yet! Christ promised, *“Let not your heart be troubled. You are trusting God, now trust in me. There are many homes up there where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come”* John 14:1-3.

But Thanksgiving is also a time that challenges me to contemplate on what lies ahead in the year to come and how best I might find myself **giving** back to God for all He has done for me. This process begins with me locking myself in my office on a Saturday and digging through binders containing clippings and bulletins that remind me where I was during the year and challenge me to do more.

One article that spiritually inspires me every year is ***Fellowship of the Unashamed*** by Bob Moorehead. I identified with it the first time I read it. I pray it will be of great stimulation to you too. I want to “share” it with you ... and also thank you for “sharing” with us. There is no way this ministry could have accomplished all that it has without Christian friends like you.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

“I am part of the ‘Fellowship of the Unashamed.’ I have the blessed Holy Spirit living in me. The die has been cast. I’ve stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present is secure in Christ, and my future is in His hands. I won’t give up, let up, or slow up. I am finished and done with low living and sight walking.

“I want nothing more to do with meaningless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals! I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live with presence, walk by faith, love with patience, last by prayer, and labor with power. My face is set, my gait is fast and my goal is Heaven.

“My road is narrow, my way is rough and my companions few. But my guide is reliable and my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not quit in the face of adversity, I will not flinch at the need to relax and I will not hesitate in the presence of opposition. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder for the sake of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

“I must go till He comes, work till I drop and preach for all to know. When He returns to receive His own, He’ll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear. May they then lay me down softly, place a two-edged sword on my body, raise an anthem triumphant and say, ‘He stood in awe of the Lord’s majesty and mercy. He was a brave soldier of the Word and e’er he died he became a noble spokesman for God.’

“And when he was burned out by the flaming Word that coursed through him, when he was consumed at last by the fiery grace blazing in him, the man who was privileged to translate the truth of God to man, was himself translated from earth to heaven. He had so lived that they bore him away to his eternal home singing, ‘He enlightened our hearts that we might know and embrace the wonder of God’s love, and the wisdom of His will.’”



From Chains to change,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe R. Garman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

October, 2016

FAITHFULNESS

BY JOE R. GARMAN

I was recently invited to return to my home church, the First Christian Church of Richland, MO, for an Anniversary Celebration. Richland has a population of 1,735. It is "small town U.S.A." in the Ozark Mountains, not far from Ft. Leonard Wood and seven miles south of I-44. I completed all 12 years of school in Richland and was active in church. I attended four services on Sunday, and Thursday night Bible study. "Precious Memories-How they linger."



First Christian Church was established in 1876, America's Centennial year. It was also the year of General Custer's last stand. The church remained strong through the Indian Wars, Spanish-American war, Mexican-American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. Through it all, they were living testimonials to Heb. 10:23, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

There were only 38 states in the union when First Christian was established. There was no electricity, no phone service, no sewer system, no streets, and no water works. But, by the time I entered the scene they had it all. The water treatment plant was built in 1930, electricity became available in 1936, the streets and sewer system were laid out in 1938, and phone service became available in 1944. As Richland grew, so did the church.

When I graduated from Richland High in 1962 and announced I wanted to go to Ozark Bible College, First Christian said, "We will co-sponsor you." When I graduated from Ozark in 1966 and announced I wanted to go to the mission field First Christian said, "We will support you." Over the years we slowly drifted apart. Some of the people I knew passed away, others moved away. But First Christian remained faithful to the Lord, and I did too.

The American culture, church culture and prison culture is changing fast. **I cannot tell you what is going to happen in the next few days. But I can tell you what happened 2000 years ago.** I cannot tell you what is going to happen in the next few months. But I can tell you what happened 140 years ago in Richland, MO. I cannot tell you what will happen in the next few years. But I can tell you what happened 54 years ago in 1962.

Throughout the history of First Christian, one word rings loud and clear ... "faithfulness". Buildings stand straight and tall because of the faithfulness of their builders. Armies win battles and wars because of the faithfulness of their soldiers. And First Christian has remained strong for 140 years because of the faithfulness of its directors, its members and its ministers. This is what I want for ARM.



1927 - 1966

The Church Brother Joe Attended

FIND US FAITHFUL - BY STEVE GREEN

"Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful

May the fire of our devotion light their way

May the footprints that we leave

Lead them to believe

And the lives we live inspire them to obey"



1966 - Present

The Current Facility

David Sills wrote, "Some of us are senders and some are goers. Neither is more important than the other. Neither is possible without the other." ARM marches forward empowered by the faithfulness of Christians like you. Thank you for linking shields with me in this battle for imprisoned souls. "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown" (Heb. 6:10).

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,

JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

September, 2016

INMATES BAPTIZED IN STATE'S TOUGHEST LOCKUP

BY MIKE WARD, THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HUNTSVILLE — One by one, the three tattooed inmates were ushered into the small cinder-block room deep inside Texas' highest-security prison, each shackled at the waist with handcuffs locked to a thick leather belt, flanked by two guards wearing flak vests, police batons and pepper spray. Then, "Amazing Grace" was played on a harmonica.

Each was escorted to a galvanized horse trough filled with water at one end of the stark room, where their handcuffs were removed, the guards still at their sides. Reciting a cadence of blessings and prayers, a prison chaplain then immersed each man in the cool water, proclaiming each to be "God's children, born again." The convicts smiled broadly.

Back in shackles, they were escorted out, trailing water in their soaked prison white uniforms as a small group of prison officials looked on. "This is my happiest day," said Davey Enriquez, 33, a former member of the Pistoleros crime gang who is serving a 99-year sentence for committing home invasion robberies in the Texas Panhandle.

"I talked to my mom for the first time in six years a few days ago," he said, "but I didn't tell her about this. She's going to be real surprised." The scene marked the first fruits of a five-year initiative by state officials to put religion inside the state's toughest lockups, using convicts with long sentences as ministers to convert other prisoners to turn their lives around.

Two other convicts were to have been baptized. But officials said one was freed on parole and another — a Muslim inmate — backed out. Estelle is one of six state prisons where the convict ministers have been deployed, part of a first class of 36 ministers that graduated 10 months ago from a prison seminary established four years ago at the Darrington Unit.

"What I am witnessing here is amazing. We are seeing the Lord at work, changing hearts and lives," said state Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, who along with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, established the seminary program, modeled after a successful similar program in Louisiana. "This goes to show what can happen when you give people another chance."

"They will never be free in this world, but I know they will be free in the next world", said Lt. Gov. Patrick. For Enriquez, the path to baptism began when Michael Townsend, 52, arrived with five other "field ministers" at Estelle. Townsend was the sole minister assigned to the high-security unit that houses just over 600 of the most dangerous convicts in Texas.

"It took a while for the men to accept me," Townsend told the Houston Chronicle. "My father is a pastor. I lived a life of rebellion. And I came here half-cocked, not knowing the demonic warfare that I'd encounter. People said, 'Get away from my cell, Christian.' They wouldn't talk. But the Lord gave me a passion to make this work, and eventually the doors opened."



One of three prison inmates baptized at Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Estelle High-Security Unit in Huntsville.

Marjorie Kamys Cotera, Photographer.



TO DATE, ARM HAS INSTALLED 185 BAPTISTRIES INSIDE TEXAS PRISONS. THIS FALL WE NEED MORE BIBLES, BAPTISTRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND TO KEEP UP WITH THIS NEW WAVE OF PRISON EVANGELISM!

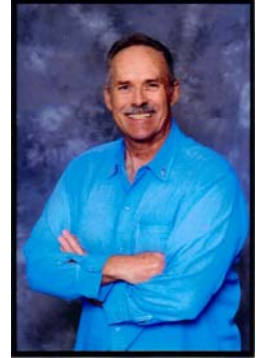
SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR

Joe R. Gorman
JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

August, 2016

I LOOKED FOR CHRIST I FOUND HIM IN PRISON

By Phillip Burdick



San Quentin State Prison is a terrible place to stay for a night, much less several years. But, after five years in Soledad on a life sentence for murder, it was either there or Folsom. I was one of those hardened criminals with a long record. The California Department of Corrections wanted to make sure I never escaped or hurt anyone again! I was just trying to survive one day at a time. I lived totally for self.

The convict code is “anything and everything goes.” Men are killed here for the price of a pack of smokes ... reduced to no more than animals in a zoo. Death would even have been comforting, relieving me of my anguish within, of fear twisted in hate and lies. Death was almost peaceful sounding. Romans 6:23 is right in more ways than one: “*For the wages of sin is death.*” The wages of sin is also darkness ... in so many forms.

STARING AT DEATH

It was April, and after days of drinking prison-made wine, shooting drugs and smoking pot, I found myself in the grip of a prisoner who was holding a knife to my throat. I had encountered near-death experiences before, but this was like none other. This man was serving two life sentences and had a reputation to back them up. He was a hardened, cold-blooded killer.

He was drunk and crazed on drugs and we were alone in a cold, darkened cell. As he prepared to slit my jugular vein and watch me die, he began taunting me, knowing I was frightened and powerless. Death no longer seemed comforting or peaceful. My life flashed before my eyes. I was 30 years old and 15 of them had been spent in California prisons. Is this all life had for me?

THE AWAKENING

Suddenly I began to pray ... to a God I had always refused to believe in, a God I had never known, a God I had run from, a God who loved me! I prayed, “Please, don’t let me die like this.” Then, all fear subsided. I heard myself calmly say, “Give me the knife.” **When he gave me the knife I handed it back to him**, and walked out of the cell. A miracle had just occurred! There is no human explanation why that should have happened.

Soon, I was transferred to California Men’s Colony in San Luis Obispo where I met Joe Garman for the first time. I played drums in several of the services where Joe preached. My new life had begun and I was becoming more and more aware of a loving Savior and His calling on my life. It wasn’t long before I gave my life to Jesus Christ and was baptized in an ARM baptistry at the prison church.

A NEW DAY

I know this sounds strange, but as I sit in my cell right now, I can’t believe life is so good. There has had to be a lot of tearing down of old beliefs and rebuilding on God’s foundation which is Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3: 11). I’ve been a deacon in the prison church, a director of the in-prison outreach department, and a moderator in the prison Yokefellow program. I prayed for God to save me, and He did ... TWICE!

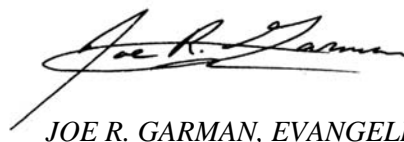
Only God can change a heart and mind as scrambled as mine was. I should be dead physically and spiritually, but God is faithful to those who cry out to Him! “*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us*”(Heb.12:1).

There are people who take the heart out of these men, women, boys and girls, and there are people who put it back. You are among of the latter! When the power of His love overcomes the love of their power, there will be peace in their lives. I thank God for those who love others, regardless of their circumstances, like you do.

“All my prayers for you are full of praise to God! When I pray for you, my heart is full of joy, because of all your wonderful help in making known the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.” (Ph.1:3-6).



From Chains to Change,


JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

July, 2016
KIDS CRAVE GUIDANCE
BY DON W. TODD
MEMPHIS INNER CITY OUTREACH
MEMPHIS, TN

I am sickened with the recent teen mobs attacking innocent people, school fights, and bullying and drug-related drive-by shootings. This is more than just kids being kids. To hear our city leaders and school officials respond to such bad behavior by our city's teenagers with a business-as-usual approach tells me things are not going to get better any time soon.

I don't hear them talking about discipline and tough love, or demanding that teens and parents get their act together. Consequently the teens are acting more like animals, with no respect for authorities or each other. After ministering 25 years in the inner-city, including eight years as a Juvenile Court volunteer, I have found that most teens are starving for genuine role models and strong leadership.

Most of them are unsuccessfully looking for someone to show them the right way to live. This leads to a very low self-esteem and a pointless life with no real purpose. Unless they get the guidance they need I will probably see them in one of our area adult prisons.

Our job as Christians is to instill in young people a sense of true worth ... *"Created in God's image"* worth! Please pray for our inner-city juvenile ministries and for our prison ministry at Whiteville men's prison. Many of the prisoners here are enrolled in ABA!



120,000 teenagers are currently confined in various juvenile detainment and detention facilities.



We thank brother Todd for this accurate observation concerning juvenile delinquency. We see the same thing inside the walls that Don is experiencing on the streets. Having a dysfunctional family environment is one of the leading causes for the anarchy and rebellion we are witnessing today. America's youth definitely need a source for discipline and structure in their lives.

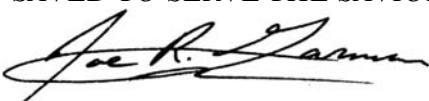
2.7 million children have a parent behind bars (one in 28). Mental Health Professionals tell us that many of these young people feel it is their destiny in life to be incarcerated because their parents were. Of the 120,000 teenagers currently detained, 70% will eventually be transferred to jail or prison or returned to the streets. 30% will be released to their families or find their way into foster care.

So what are you, brother Todd and I doing to instill a *"created in God's image"* in the lives of young people sitting in holding cells without God, without Christ and without a hope in the world? We are introducing them to Christ, their Creator and Redeemer, who will bring light into their darkened hearts and Christian leadership into their lives as He says, "Follow Me". They will then take it to the streets!

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WILL TRANSFORM A HOME AND OVERCOME THE DARKNESS ONE CHANGED LIFE AT A TIME. We are not to "stand down" but to "stand fast" – *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong"* (I Cor. 16:13). *"And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up"* (Gal. 6:9).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT OF THIS PRISON MINISTRY OUTREACH

SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR


JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST

June, 2016

LOST IN A CONCRETE JUNGLE

By Bill Corrman

“I left Puerto Rico bound for New York City. I was impressed by the size of the city. It felt like I was on top of the world. Little did I know that in this concrete jungle I would become a criminal and drug user. I landed a job and lived for Friday’s so I could go to the clubs and party hard until dawn. I fell into a life immersed in cocaine and prostitutes.



It wasn’t long until snorting cocaine wasn’t satisfying enough any more so I began shooting it, and eventually graduated to heroin. Being on heroin was like going on vacation away from myself, but then it began manifesting itself in physical and mental changes to my body and mind. I would wake up with pain so bad that I was unable to perform my duties at work.

Looking for an escape, I moved to Philadelphia to start a new life. I was going downhill fast and resorted to using crack and speedballs. These habits became so expensive that I began robbing businesses, homes and people on the streets. I was wanted by the law and the drug dealers to whom I owed money, and ended up living under a bridge.

I survived by scavenging through dumpsters and trash bins. I was always looking over my shoulder, expecting someone to stab me or steal my stuff. Lev. 26:36 says, ‘... *the sound of a shaken leaf shall cause them to flee; they shall flee as though fleeing from a sword, and they shall fall when no one pursues.*’ I lived that way for fifteen years.

One day under the bridge, I woke up crying. It troubled me all day. That night I prayed to God, ‘If you are real, take me out of this trash dump!’ Shortly after that I was arrested (or you might say rescued), and eventually sent to prison. Now I can identify with the words of Joseph in Gen. 50:20, ‘... *you (Satan) meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.*’

Here, in a Pennsylvania state prison I have found the Lord. Today, I am an active member of the prison church. I have a burning desire to preach the Word to those lost on the streets as I once was. God has allowed me to study His holy word through American Bible Academy. I have finished all eight of their courses, from John through Christian Doctrine Vol. 3.


I thank God that He never gave up on me. He set me free. ‘... *He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth*’ - Ps. 40:1-3.”

Many prisoners with whom we work came to this wonderful country seeking freedom and a better life. I meet them every time I go into the jails and prisons. Some are mere teenagers. Most have left their loved ones behind, not knowing what lay ahead of them. They do not speak English and they have no money. All they have are the clothes on their backs.

They are hungry and thirsty, a stranger ... sick and in prison. Sounds a lot like Mt. 25: 35 – 36, doesn’t it? Yet Jesus said, “*Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me*” 25:40. Would you please sponsor some bibles or correspondence courses, an In-Prison seminar or a baptistry for them. Through you, things can be different ... they can become Christians.



SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR


JOE R. GORMAN, EVANGELIST

May, 2016

PRISONER SUCCEEDS IN BEING THE FIRST INMATE BAPTIZED AT THE IDAHO MAXIMUM SECURITY INSITUATION IN BOISE IN APPROXIMATELY SEVEN YEARS

Dear Christian friends and supporters of AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY:

After finishing *THE GOSPEL OF JOHN*, I read the "Special Study" article on pages 97-102 by Dr. Jack Cottrell and realized that even though I had accepted Christ three years earlier I needed to be baptized to complete the package. So I began the process of requesting prison administration and the chaplains department to assist me. Progress proceeded slowly.



During the series of events that followed, three more prisoners decided to be baptized. One was a man in the cell next to me who is also an ABA student. This was of great encouragement to me and we kept the other inmates informed on the latest developments. Through it all I had countless opportunities to witness for Christ to officers and residents.

After about three months of praying, writing letters to those in authority and working with our chaplain, Rob Wright, who had several meetings with the Warden's staff, we "began to see light." Pastor Gary Anderson, a friend of Joe Garman, then made a personal call to our Warden. After the baptisms, Brother Anderson presented me with a beautiful study bible.

My neighbor and I now get Communion every fourth Sunday and have been approved for a prayer and worship service led by Dave Browning, a man who was instrumental in our baptisms. We continue work on our ABA courses, but I must confess we are rather slow. All four of us remain strong in Christ and are grateful to those who assisted with our baptisms.

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We have placed nine baptistries in Idaho prisons - all important, but none more important than this one. Thank you. Thank you also for the thousands of ABA courses you have co-sponsored that have led men and women to the foot of the cross. Jesus said, "***Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me***" Mt. 25:40.



After reading of this brother's three month struggle to be baptized I sent him the following message. "As you continue to walk with Jesus, remember that He loves you and is always with you – and that many are praying for you!" ***'Sin's power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ...'*** Romans 6:3 TLB.

"Anybody living in the strength of Christ's baptism is also living in the strength of Christ's death, burial and resurrection."

- DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

From Chains to Change,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe R. Garman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

April, 2016

Dear Partners in Prison Ministries:

I just returned from a prison in the “High Plains” of northwestern Colorado. Prisons are like churches - they are all alike, yet each one is different. The same can be said about prison chaplains. Encouragement is the key to successful leadership and the chaplains with whom I minister are the absolute best at offering faith and hope to their prisoners.



This prison in Colorado is unique in that a percentage of its inmates are from Central America. This is where the role of “a really excellent and accomplished” chaplain is paramount. The chaplain and his staff do not just want to bring the inmates to Christ; they envision training them to return to Central America as missionaries and pastors.

Several of those with whom I worked were drug and human transporters. One of these told me, “*I was born into the Christian faith. However, the curve balls that life threw at me kept my faith weak. Then I was offered \$2,000 to carry a backpack of drugs to the U.S. I had never seen \$2,000 in my life. When I was arrested I basically gave up on God.*”

“But, since coming to this prison I have so much peace. I seek Him diligently day after day. I want to give meaning to my life. Now, I want to “transport” people to church so they can have the same joy that I have. I was afraid, and walking in the dark. Christ is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I have found far more than just salvation.”

One day, while in chapel waiting for count to clear, I was approached by a Muslim. He whispered, “***I have a prayer request. Pray for your Christian brothers and sisters in Syria. They are being slaughtered. It’s not right what the militants are doing.***” I assured him I pray for them every night and will continue doing so. He turned and left.

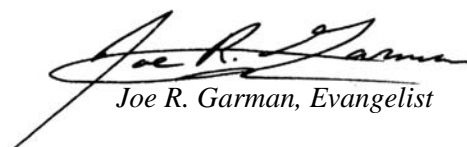
That Muslim will not only get his prayer request honored, but he will also be in our prayers. Thank you for supporting ARM! To “facilitate” means “to make easier, to help cause.” This is exactly what you are doing for this ministry. You helped “facilitate” this prison seminar that touched the lives of so many, including the chaplain and his staff.

As I was leaving the prison, I met an inmate with a smile on his face who said, “I won’t be here when you come next year. I will be released in 15 days. Your seminar came at just the right time. Now I have 15 days to meditate on what I’ve learned. Life is going to get complicated when I get out. I want to absorb as much as I can before I go home.”

Joseph W. Shields, chaplain of the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA has written, “Prison Ministry is a calling, not a job. It is a ministry with those who are suffering hardship, trials and pain. The areas of prison ministry are as varied as the types of flowers.” Through you, God has made more lives to blossom. And that is enough.



SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR,


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist

March, 2016

BIBLES, CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND SEMINARS

My dear Christian friends:

I recently conducted two weeks of Bible seminars at the **CALIFORNIA MEN'S COLONY** in San Luis Obispo, CA. This is a huge prison with some 6,612 prisoners. On the east side are maximum security inmates and on the west side is the medium level. The first week of programs was on the west where we had 11 inmates baptized.



One of the first inmates I met said to me, *"I'm glad you're here. I know how to hate. I want to learn how to love."* I sensed this attitude in a number of men. At the end of the week, one "gang-banger," originally from Chicago said, *"I can't believe I enjoyed the Bible seminar so much. Before, I would never have listened to a white man."*

Some needed Bibles, others wanted gospel literature and thirty-seven enrolled in the American Bible Academy. Chaplain Alderson prepared the way, I was a willing vessel to go, but it was you who helped make it possible through your prayers and offerings. It took all of us to make this seminar a success. Most of all, it took each of us allowing God's will to work through us.

This is not to say we were without difficulties and setbacks. One night a heavy fog rolled in off the Pacific so they closed down our program. Another evening a fight broke out in the yard and only 23 out of our average of 120 students showed up. Then, a correctional officer wanted to cancel services, but Chaplain Alderson strongly opposed his suggestion.

On Sunday evening we transferred to the east side. This was my 13th year to visit the east so many of the men knew me. Some had invited their friends to the program and were anxious for the seminar to begin. Services continued each night for a week and concluded with 11 inmates baptized - déjà vu. In addition, 22 men rededicated their lives.


One inmate said, *"My mother and father were both 'Crips.' The last time I saw my dad was at age four. My mother kicked me out of the house at age five. I was adopted by a street gang and became a 'runner.' This seminar has been a bright and shining light for me. I always knew there was a God but I never understood how to connect with Him."*

Before one of the final sessions, a prisoner told me, *"I was on the run for over two years for the crimes I committed. Finally, I prayed, I'm tired of hiding out and living a life of deception. Lord, not my will but thine be done. The night I was arrested God reminded me of that prayer. Truly, His will was done through my arrest, trial and incarceration."*



I could go on, but suffice it to say that you and I have stepped onto a mission field that is '...white unto harvest' populated by men, women, boys and girls without God, without Christ and without a hope in this world. We have been called to this mission field, and never before has the light shined brighter than it is today from these dark prison cells.

FROM CHAINS TO CHANGE,
JOE R. GARMAN, EVANGELIST


Joe R. Garman, Evangelist