



Our Mission

"I was in prison and you came to Me... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Matthew 25: 36,40

We desire to introduce prisoners to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, help them build a firm foundation of faith, and equip them to minister to others, whether they remain in prison or are released.

Both a Blessing and a Quandary

Praise the Lord! We recently received a sizeable donation. A portion of this is being used to begin shipping to some of the thirteen hundred facilities on our waiting list..

The larger portion of this donation has been set aside as a building fund. To efficiently send more books to more prisons, we will need to have more work area with packing stations to assemble the assortment of books, pack the boxes for shipment, etc. We desperately need fifteen thousand square feet (or more) to consolidate our office and warehouse operations. The current office and warehouse (a total of 3,000 square feet) are separated by approximately two and a half miles. The warehouse is full and the overflow is stored in donated metal shipping containers at a third location.

To sum all this up, we are very thankful for the funds which come from many sources, the Christian publishers for their generous supply of books, and your prayers. Please add MORE WORK SPACE to your prayer list for our ministry!

Thank you, and God bless.

Prayer Needs

- For the prisoners who read
- For the chaplains
- For God's protection and direction for Project staff
- For Ray and Kazuko's health
- Protection from spiritual interference
- Larger warehouse space urgently needed

FROM RAY

We are excited!!! Our new web site is up and running. It will be so much easier now to tell people how to check us out without them having to try to remember a complicated Web address. We are now simply www.prisonbookproject.com. We also have a new email address at touchinglives@prisonbookproject.com .

The old site name, www.nbbd.com/npr/PrisonBooks, has served us well, but was a bit more than a mouthful when trying to tell folks about it. We are very thankful to Dave Rich at Peak Performance for helping us set up that site and running it for us free of charge for so long. We will add a link from that site to the new site and keep it open for a few more years. (We estimate that there are probably a hundred thousand pieces of paper floating around with that site name listed.)

We are also thankful to Will Marple for volunteering to set up the new site and doing such a wonderful job in designing it. He is truly a "Web Master". Shonnie Ruiz, David Jackson, Dolores Woodrum, and Joyce Foote also deserve a big hand for their contributions. The new volunteers who have come on board have not only helped to keep us going through the past two years of my wife's sickness, but they have also lifted the ministry out of the stone age. They even have me using a computer. After twelve years, my old typewriter has been retired (almost). Sally Smircich has volunteered to serve as our new bookkeeper to replace my wife, who is no longer able to do this. Sally is very "computer literate", which means that she can work up charges and all that good stuff. We're happy!!!

Because of the success of the newsletter, we have been able to move several facilities from our waiting list to our active list. Even so, as inmates transfer from facility to facility, the waiting list continues to grow. It would sure be nice if we could immediately activate new facilities instead of having to place them on a waiting list. It just takes money.

Thank you for all the help that you have given. We strive to use your contributions wisely and will continue to do so.

Letters

I have found intimacy with God through these books. Mr. Hall, I am not only speaking for myself...I can tell you how much of great inspiration the books gave to inmates, especially to long-termers and lifers. We found God and inner peace. Those books are not just materials made of paper—they are wrapped and sealed with Spirit and love.

Prisoner-CA

The public is rarely informed of the success stories of ex-prisoners. The press would have us believe there are none, but praise God, this is not the case! Of the inmates who are devoted to God upon their release, only a small percentage of women return to the system as repeat offenders. In fact, the rate of success in devoted followers is well above any other program offered to the inmates during incarceration, making this the most successful “program” the State of Florida has going. Your donations are not going to waste!

Chaplain—FL

We depend on the Lord to meet our daily needs for bibles and Christian reading materials. Prison Book Project is part of His answer.

Christian Volunteer - TX

Thank you for your wonderful ministry. We appreciate it each time we receive books from you. These books are distributed to our offender population and we receive a lot of positive feedback in return from our offender population.... Thank you and keep up the good work.

Chaplain - TX

I love reading Testimonial books. They encourage me to live out my faith.

Prisoner - PA

... thank for all that you have done for us. It is a blessing to have ministries that care enough to send us materials. We are extremely grateful for you and will be praying for your ministry to flourish.

Chaplain - CA

We are're the brightest of people or we wouldn't be in prison. The book help us to have a better understanding of the Bible that's forever changing our lives. For this we're thankful for your faithfulness.

Prisoner — AL

The spiritual novels that your organization constantly sends uplift the spirit as well as help the offender with understanding, and continually give hope in moments of despair. The novels not only help the ladies experience joy in their periods of sadness, but also teach the ladies how to deal with certain situations outside the confines of a facility....We thank you for your generosity of reading materials, which help spiritual motivations become a reality.

Chaplain—TX

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for the book selections you sent me. I have enjoyed them very much. I have shared the wonder of Gods word and the talent of these wonderful authors.

Prisoner – WA

Thank you so much for the books. I enjoy them very much and pass them on to my friends. Please send more when you are able to do so. Thank You!

Prisoner – CA

Well, I am writing to say thank you to your organization placing effort in sending books to prisoners. Your organization has increased my spiritual insights by giving me a daily bible. This bible allows me to set aside time to be with the Lord. I get to strengthen my relationship with the Lord Jesus in daily reading. I have been blessed. I wanted you to know this. Thank you have helped make a difference in my life.

Prisoner—OK

<p>2006 STATISTICS THRU AUGUST</p> <p>1,557 boxes and packages 84,962 books 47 states 3,357 responses</p>

Do you have a heart for the lost? We need your help. Each box of books costs about \$20 to mail. Please join our team and participate with us in this important work.

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will sponsor _____ box(es) at \$20 each. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please continue to send the newsletter. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will commit to pray daily for P.B.P. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send _____ brochures. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will give a monthly gift of \$ _____. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in hosting a presentation. |

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Phone _____

Send checks or money orders to Prison Book Project (501-c-3 tax-exempt organization)

by Pastor Jim Govatos of Indian River City United Methodist Church

“A library is a hospital for the mind.”

~ Anonymous ~

Many of the minds and hearts in prison are broken. Many of them were broken before they arrived, and certainly they received further damage once they got there. How do you fix a broken mind that has no vision for the future? Counseling helps. So does the dignity of work. But how does a mind trapped behind bars find a larger vision? Through the gift of reading.

One of the great advantages of The Prison Book Project is that it offers liberty to captive minds and healing to broken ones. Many of the books distributed by the project help prisoners take a fresh look at their thinking. Others present a heroic, idealistic view of the future. When the minds of so many prisoners have been warped by abuse and deceit, books provide a fresh wind indeed.

Of course the most important book the ministry offers is the Bible, which is “*a lamp unto our feet and the light unto our path*” (Psalm 119:105). Prison Book Project has distributed thousands of Bibles to prisons throughout the United States, and the Word of God continues to penetrate hearts and minds that have been imprisoned.

Some 1600 years ago a similar thing happened to a man named Augustine. He was not in a physical prison, but he was trapped in a world view that had no place for God. This world view had led him into a life entrapped by alcohol,

workaholicism, lust, and longing. One day he was wandering around in his garden when he heard the voice of a child proclaim, “Take and read, take and read.” There just happened to be a copy of the Bible nearby and Augustine turned to Romans 13:13-14: “*Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*” (NIV)

Augustine received this word and it changed his life forever. It also changed the history of the church, as he went on to become one of the great leaders and teachers of Christianity.

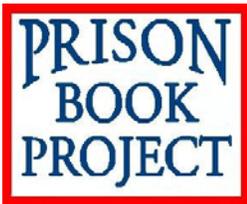
When you support the Prison Book Project, you never know what sort of seeds you are planting and what sort of chains you are loosening. You may be setting free the mind of a person who will go on to accomplish great things in his family or even his world. Who knows? You may even be leading the way for someone to eventually have a town named after him—like St. Augustine!

THE POWER OF THE PRINTED WORD IN PRISON

A single book takes about eight hours to read and is read by 30 people (=240 hours).

There are 65 books per box (=1950 people and 15,600 hours).

So just one \$20 box of books does the work of one person working full time one-on-one for seven and a half years, without a vacation!



3880 South Washington Ave.
 Suite 154
 Titusville, FL 32780
 321-269-4100
 prisonbookproject@earthlink.net

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Why Prisoners?

Around 2.1 million people are in American prisons. An estimated 8.5 million more are in county and city jails. Prisoners are not all the same and come from many different backgrounds. Some are scared, some are confused, and some are just plain evil. Some may never change but some will. Sinners can be changed -just look at me (or you).

Nothing society can do will be 100% effective in eliminating unlawful behavior, but we can offer hope through our Lord Jesus Christ because prisoners read! As one chaplain put it, "they will read anything, the Bible, a Playboy magazine, or the label from a soup can." In fact, 90% of new Muslim recruits in the U.S. are largely a result of aggressive Islamic recruitment and literature dissemination within the prison system. The inmates have lots of free time, and many prefer reading to squabbling over what to watch on T.V.

Consequently, our goal is to reach the prisoners who can be impacted with God's gift of salvation by offering literature that can change their lives forever. More than 95% of inmates will be released eventually to be our neighbors!!!. The re-incarceration rate after two years for the general prison or jail population is 85%. However, where Christian material is available, the rate of re-incarceration drops to 17%.

Even one soul is worth our effort. May God raise up serious workers for the harvest.

We Are Grateful For...

Evangel Christian Center for blessing us with a sizeable donation from a property sale

George Mamoulides for purchase of a pallet of Spanish books from Kregel Publishing

Crossway Books, Destiny Image, Harper, Warner Faith and Tyndale House for sending us some really great books this quarter

Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce welcoming and supporting Prison Book Project as a member

Mercado Management allowing us to use a storage area free of charge

All the churches and individuals who are providing financial support

