



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.

FROM RAY

This newsletter is in a little different format from what we've used in the past. Instead of printing excerpts of letters from inmates and chaplains, we've included whole letters with only minor editing for clarity. With excerpts, the facts are there but the soul is missing. By giving you complete letters, we hope to convey the souls of the writers. These are real letters written by real people who have a story to tell. I hope you enjoy our new format.

By the end of 2006 we were able to send books to prisons in all fifty states. Another 150 facilities have been moved from the “waiting list” to the “active list.” We have also added several more foreign countries to our missions list, bringing that total to twenty-nine. American servicemen and women in the Middle East are now enjoying the benefits of your donations. Ain't that awesome???

But dig deeper—we still have about a thousand places on our waiting list. We have plenty of books; we just need the money to ship them. I would love to swamp every prison and jail in America with Christian books...wouldn't you?

Prayer Needs

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

From Mike Brown Commander of Operations of Brevard County Jail, Florida

I am the Commander of Operations for the Brevard County Jail Complex operated by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office in Brevard County, Florida. My primary responsibility is to protect the public by detaining people in jail who have been arrested until legal authority determines their eligibility for release. A variety of resources are needed to accomplish this mission, and tax dollars are the principal means of support. One reality of any publicly supported entity is that the demands of running an institution such as the jail are always greater than the available funds. Many of you reading this article who have experience with public institutions are familiar with this reality. However, this article isn't about our needs, it's about our blessings.

For over twelve years, Ray Hall, founder of the Prison Book Project, has provided the Brevard County Jail Complex with books for our Inmate Reading Library.

Allow me to briefly explain some of the benefits to the jail. Legally and administratively, the Brevard County Jail Complex is a state accredited facility that receives its accreditation from the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. This legislatively established commission has a total of 237 standards that jails must comply with to receive and maintain accreditation.

Specific to this discussion is *Florida Model Jail Standard, section #10.07, sub-section (B)*, which states, “A reading library service shall be available to inmates held beyond first appearance.” In Jail Administration, the term *shall* doesn't mean *should*, nor does it have any other meaning other than “you had better do it, or else!” I am aware of many correctional agencies throughout the state that must budget funds for their inmate reading libraries. Now you have a better understanding of why the Prison Book Project is such a blessing to the Brevard County Jail Complex. It's a blessing that can actually be counted.

Other blessings from the Prison Book Project are seemingly less tangible than saving dollars, but actually have a greater impact on the secure operation of the facility. You see, the blessing that places books into the hands and minds of individuals who have been generally written off by society, keeps those individuals connected to society. It brings positive thoughts into a hostile and sometimes violent environment. It allows individuals to dream and envision things once believed unattainable, and offers an element of hope. When an inmate is reading, the inmate isn't cursing, threatening, or fighting, and hopefully, not planning an escape. That's a blessing to the officers working the cellblocks, and ultimately a blessing to us all.

Please join me in supporting the Prison Book Project. As Christians, it's just our reasonable service.

Dear Ray:

Greetings Sir, and may this letter find you in a whirling bliss of peace and happiness. I thank you, immensely for the graciousness & care, that you extended out to me, a mere man, ostracized from society, condemned by men and unforgiven by men, yet a child of God sitting in here trying to better myself. The strengthening of my education, and the means of expanding my knowledge, is so far, only been provided by you, and those publisher/donators that contributed the book's that I recently received, from you.

Sir, I am enclosing a letter of gratitude addressed to the suppliers responsible (free willing responsible) for sacrificing the wisdom filled book's to your organization that has already broadened my knowledge as well as strengthened my spiritual faith. If any way possible, would you please see that they receive the enclosed letter?

Sir, the publishers that make a sacrifice, by donating book's to your organization, to help us unfortunates in here, may already know that us prisoners in here are very grateful for their contribution of book's. "But" unless they've been in here, or in a situation similar to ours in here, I don't think the actual weight of our gratitude could ever be felt within their hearts. My appreciation is immeasurable. So immeasurable that I don't think any human heart could actually fathom the depth of it!!! All of you are literally lifeboats, from a sunken ship...the only means and hope, for my survival.

Sir, I am sure that the publisher's "sacrifice" is costly and therefore not cheap at all. In fact the cost of all those book's they donate, is worth a small fortune. But the book's cash value compared to the mental value and educational value, and spiritual value, for us prisoners is also immeasurable. I'm I saying that us convicts are worth more than those books? "No, not by any means at all." What I am saying is that the publisher's are cheating themselves within their hearts! Let me explain: They "know" what they're doing is charitable, and so therefore it is an act of Godliness. "Yes" they are building riches in heaven for themselves, and at the same time feeling good about themselves for their kindness, "But" it's more than just a kindness. You can build a lot of riches in heaven by donating items to the needy, and feel good about yourself for doing it. But it's more than that, that they're doing for us...therefore they've got reason to feel even better about themselves. "Example" and "Fact": Look at the live's of people, that their book's are helping and changing. For every one person that changes...numerous people are effected in a positive way. For one father's change, a whole family benefit's.

If not for these book's, we get out with the same nescience, ignorance, idiocy, whatever you want to call it, that we came in with when we came to prison. Only now, we would be more angry at society for putting us in here. Do we learn from our mistakes? "Yes"! But in the wrong

way. We either learn how to do our crime's better, or we learn new crime's while in here. "The system is a criminal breeding ground." You come in for one thing, and you leave here knowing how to do more than a handful of other things...illegal.

But we can beat this system, in a legal way. "Book's & Change"! And change comes from the book's. Because of these book's, when we get out...Children will have better lives, because of the education the childs Mother or Father got from your book's. Some of us will be forever changed spiritually and therefore saved from an unwanted dance in the abyss of eternal flame's. Some will turn from destructive behavior and drug abuse, into better people. More important...think about all the children out there that are being let astray: our change, our testimony, our "returned help" could save, and/or help hundreds, if not thousands of kids from the destructive path they are on, or heading towards.

I write poetry & music but I've made the decision to do that on the side. I want to dedicate the rest of my life helping kids that need guidance or a roll model...or a big brother, like the one I never had. I want as much positive education as I can get, so when I get out, I can be a drug counselor and professional speaker. Not only will that be giving back to the community, but it will be giving kids a chance to miss my lifestyle, and live the lifestyle I missed.

I've been in cars, in high speed chase's, I've been shot, I've been stabbed 3 times, once in the face. I've been jumped by other gang members. I've overdosed on drugs, more than just one time. I've held friends in my lap with some of my fingers in bullet holes, to stop the bleeding. I've kidnapped, home invasioned, and robbed drug dealers. I've been busted for possession for sales of cocain and crystal methamphetamines. I'm in prison now for stabbing a child molester 8 times. I can go on, but it's starting to sound like boasting. Am I boasting? "No, not at all." Boasting would be adding the fact that I never did society wrong! Everything I did, was to other outlaws, people that were not productive members of society. People from the underworld, such as other gang members. No, I am not boasting or bragging. If anything, "I am ashamed" because I am a father to an eleven year old beautiful daughter, that loves me...and ask's too many question! But I never lie to her, and I make sure she understands "why" I did the stuff I did. "Why" I "thought" it was okay to do it, and "Why" it was "NOT" okay to do it. She will be any thing she wants to be in life...except like me.

Anyways, I thank you again Ray, for getting me one more step closer to my goal, by blessing me with a thesaurus/dictionary and the other two spiritually inspiring books. My prayers are with you all, for your help and support. God bless you, and please remember...just a book or two, could change a persons whole life which in turn could have a positive impact on a lot of life's/live's.

Prisoner—CA

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)

To: touchinglives@prisonbookproject.com

To all who found this small prison in ...Vermont,
Thank you.

Donna... called me excited!! She doesn't get excited often.. ☺ About the Books and Bibles you sent to Dale Corrections facility. When I saw the things you sent I also got excited!! I do get excited often.. ☺

The women's prison here has stolen my heart. Although it is sometimes hard "plowing" there, it is one of the most meaningful ministries I am involved in. As associate Pastor of a small (by most standards) church, but large by Vermont Standards (we are rural) church, our members have donated over 100 beautiful **leather Life Application study bibles, NLT...** This facility is more of a holding facility for women until they are sentenced or those who are there for various mental issues. So there is a pretty large turnover of women. There are 3 of us from our Church who go in weekly for a Bible study and time of listening and prayer. Then 2 of us go in for a Christian addictions program biweekly.

The resources you have made available to us are much appreciated. Because of these books and Bibles we will be able to encourage the women to read and study about God and the things of God better. The trashy love novels will be replaced by life changing books for those who desire it. I have the Bibles to hand out and will be a "Good steward" of them. When you get discouraged, please remember how you will have impacted the lives of these women. Of course you may feel free to send more of anything you might think we could use to better equip the women. Once again I thank you for finding us and sending the materials. May God bless you and your ministry.

Pastor—VT

Dear Ray and friends of inmates,

Recently we received a letter from a female inmate who was thanking one of our chaplain/instructors for the things she had learned in his anger management class. She put what she learned into practice in her "pod" and with the women around her. "It worked! Other women often ask me how I am sitting here 4 months now and most days have such serenity about me. I tell them that looking around me there is so much anger and hatred. That nobody wants to be in jail but it is how they do their time while they are in here that makes a difference."

That's where you come in. The four large boxes of Christian books you recently provided for the inmates are resources that help them "do their time" well. Those who want help and have a teachable spirit eagerly read, study and apply what they are learning. The books you have provided, along with those in the past, are invaluable to those who are seeking a closer walk with the Lord. We are confident that they will bear much fruit. We join the recipients of them in thanking you for your generous contributions and for your investment in their lives. We especially appreciate the Spanish language books!

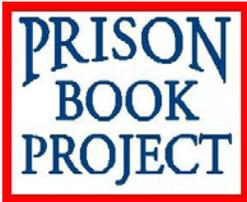
Chaplain—IL

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!



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Why Prisoners?

Around 2.5 million people are in American prisons and 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.

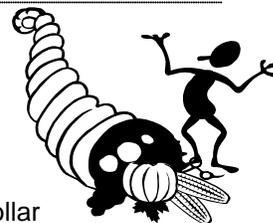
Consequently, our goal is to reach the prisoners who can be impacted with God’s gift of salvation by offering literature that can change their lives forever. More than 95% of inmates will be released eventually to be our neighbors!!! The re-incarceration rate after two years for the general prison or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

When it seems like there are a million things that you are grateful for, where does one start to express that gratitude?

How about the great-great grandmother on Social Security who never fails to send a ten-dollar bill to us every month? Or the elderly lady in a wheelchair who salvaged books from the trash after the people cleaned the house of her deceased neighbor, and then gave us a baggie with \$10.00 in loose change to pay for our gasoline when we went to pick up the books?



2006 STATISTICS

4000 + boxes and packages
 150,000 + books
 50 states
 5000 + responses

We are grateful that Baker Books, Bethany House, Revell, Chosen Books, and Harper San Francisco have joined the team. We are thankful for all the other publishers who are so generous with their material. We thank all the writers who send books to us from their own resources. We thank God for the encouragement that He sends to us in the midst of a sea of discouragement. Most of all, we thank God that He doesn’t give up on us.