



Greetings

It has been a beautiful spring here in Florida, with warm breezy days and unusually cool evenings. The events of the new year have been equally surprising to us, both personally and in conjunction with the Project, as you can see in our "Grateful" column. As a friend has shared, we know without a doubt that God is good and has a plan, even if He hasn't let us in on it yet!

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.

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
- Warehouse space urgently needed

FROM RAY

Incarceration has become a major American industry. A huge portion of our gross national product is being consumed by the unfruitful care and treatment of those behind bars. Every item we purchase includes additional costs because of unlawful behavior. Every American pays these extra costs; even our home insurance is affected. We can not close our eyes and pretend that the problem belongs to others; the problem is ours. The answers must come from us; we can not wait for our neighbor, or some agency, to provide a solution. The ball has been in their court for many years and the situation has only gotten worse. It is time for the mighty army of GOD to follow orders and "visit those in prison".

We know the answer to the problem, because not a single one of us can brag that we were without sin. We all needed to change. We could not change with our own power or ability. We needed Jesus, and so do those in prison. The answer is just that simple. Now, comes the work. It doesn't get done by magic. It gets done by our labor and the resources that God had given us. Waiting is no longer a luxury we can afford, time is running out. I don't know about you, but when I report in at the end of my tour of duty, I desperately want to hear my BOSS say "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

If you volunteer to go into prisons to work, that is good. If you send a book into prison, your work will be multiplied by a factor of thirty. One book will perform six weeks worth of full time ministry. Our tests show that a book will be read by 30 people, each person will need an average of eight hours to finish a book: that's 240 man hours or six weeks at 40 hours per week. Not magic, loaves and fishes.

The life of a person you will never meet could be changed by your action. All of the people surrounding that person will be affected by their change; their family, their friends, and the friends of their friends. There is no end to the ripples caused by a single act of kindness. By your donation to Prison Book Project, you can walk through the walls of a prison and tell a lost soul about the ONE who can give him peace. That's awesome!!!!

You can contact us at 321-269-4100, or P.O. Box 1146, Sharpes, FL, 32959, or by email at prisonbookproject@earthlink.net.

Letters

I am a recovering cocaine and "crack" addict currently incarcerated in ...Jail. During my incarceration, I have become clean and sober after over 25 years addicted. I also have been saved and found God to be the most peaceful experience of my life. I know without God, I could never have made it the last 9 months....All of your help is greatly appreciated.

Prisoner - FL

...thanks to God I have been saved for the last 2 years and I also thank him for the mercy of love He has had on my life. Now if you were to have asked me eight months ago about me to serve our Lord through sharing His Gospel to the congregation her in prison, I would have laughed in your face and told you, you were crazy! But God being Omnipotent in his almighty power has given me the opportunity to share His word behind a pulpit! Not only through His strength and his grace I share His word but I also translate from Spanish to English the Word of God! I humbly wanted to ask it if were possible if you could help us out with a good study Bible, concordance, Bible dictionary or any book or material on how to preach God's word? Any of these tools would help a lot, not only me but other brothers in Christ like myself that are just starting to serve in the ministry by stepping up and serving by bringing the gospel for the first time in their lives, Praise God!...we have many brothers here who are eager and thirst for God's Word.

Prisoner - CA

What an incredible gift from Prison Book Ministry

Prisoner - PA

Just the book I was looking for!

Prisoner - PA

We received your generous gift of BOOKS. Thank you so much for remembering the men in prison who hunger and thirst for the loving touch that can only come from our Heavenly Father and those faithful servants who obey His call to minister to those less fortunate.

Chaplain - FL

Thank you for sending the donated books via the **PRISON BOOK PROJECT** to our **Chapel**. These texts will be of great encouragement to the Body of Christ here at ...; they will reach out to the *unsaved* as they peruse through our Chapel Library books. Please know that we have your **organization** in our prayers....Well Brother Hall, I must close this **letter of thanks** but never my heart, until then, I remain-your brother working behind Bars.

Chaplain - OK

I am writing to thank you for the books you sent me. I appreciate them VERY much. The unit I am on does not have a library as it is a 'short term" facility (up to 2 years). The books you sent will end up being read until they fall apart beyond repair. Literally hundreds of people will probably read them. I thank you for the others who will read them as well. Please extend my most sincere thanks to the publishers who donate books to your project. Their donations are of tremendous value to those of us who could not otherwise afford or obtain them.

Prisoner - TX

Thank you for your prayers, love, and Christian supplies to this ministry. What a blessing and encouragement you are? Bless you so much?...They love to watch movies, any Christian movies in Spanish, even English-Spanish subtitled...Jesus Christ is the only answer! ...Praise the Lord; Sunday evening during our two church services **31** dear souls received Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour and many rededications!! ...thank you for being a blessing and your part in the ministry, we are praying for you. God bless you friends. ... P.S. please, pray for us as we accept another 1,000 inmates at our new facility next door. There will also be a new Christian library for the new prison. We will need more of your loving prayers, the Word of God, good Christian books, videos...

Chaplain - AZ

2006 STATISTICS THRU APRIL

574 boxes and 128 packages
37809 books
41 states
1277 responses

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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)

The Best Is Yet To Come

by Pastor Sandy Robertson of New Covenant Fellowship

In my Bible reading this week I came across one of my favorite verses. It says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9) It teaches us that our God is a God who delights to bless His children with good things. He enjoys surprising us when we least expect it.

An incident with my granddaughter will help illustrate this truth. Alexa turned eight on October 7th. I had an idea of how I would like to make this a very special day for her, one that she would remember for a long time: I would take her out of school and to Disneyworld for the day. I cleared it with her mother and we decided to make it a family outing, which would include my wife and daughter.

We headed out very early this Thursday morning. I suggested that we could save some time by getting breakfast at a drive-thru McDonald's. All my granddaughter knew was that Grandma and Grandpa had to go to Orlando and she was just "tagging along."

When we reached McDonald's, Alexa asked if we could eat inside the restaurant. This particular McDonald's had a Playland and she wanted to have some fun. We told her no, not this time. Like most eight-year-olds, she couldn't understand why not and she persisted with her request. Again we said no. "We are going to get our breakfast at the drive-thru and eat it in the car." By now she was quite upset and started to pout. She was definitely not a happy camper.

We continued on our journey and arrived on the west side of Orlando, close to the theme parks. My wife Beth gave me a wink and said that she needed to find a restroom. I replied, "There's the sign for Disneyworld; they'll have restrooms in there." Once Alexa heard that, you could see the wheels beginning to turn.

"Grandpa, now that we are already here, do you think we could go on some rides?" "Of course we can, Sweetheart, that was my plan all along. Happy Birthday!" We stayed late into the evening and a wonderful day was capped off with a spectacular fireworks display.

How many of us are like Alexa? Are we settling for McDonald's Playland when God has Disneyworld planned?

We forget how good God is. We fail to believe His Word and trust Him. Like selfish children, we impatiently make our demands of Him. We tell Him what we want instead of trusting Him to give us His very best.

Whether we need to trust Him in our personal lives, work, or ministry, let's continue to praise Him, refusing anxiety and diligently bringing all our needs and desires to Him with thankfulness—not with pouting or fear. (Phil. 4:6) The Bible says, "I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11).

Let's learn from Alexa; don't settle for second best. Believe that the best is yet to come!

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 2.1 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...

- Continued and improving health of our director and his wife
- Two new volunteers for bookkeeping and two more with ideas for fundraising
- 3 networked computers in our distribution center
- 10,200 beautiful leather-bound bibles worth \$308,000, suitable for gift presentation from Tyndale
- Generous financial assistance from the open house attendees to help send out those bibles
- God giving our volunteers the time and desire to be here

