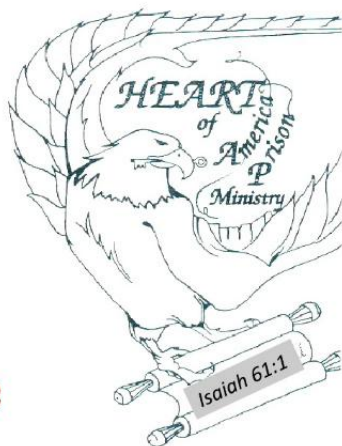


2002

NEWS From Our Office



The HEART Journal

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners ..."*

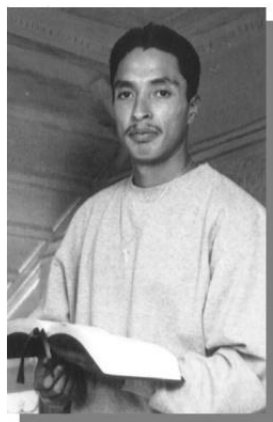
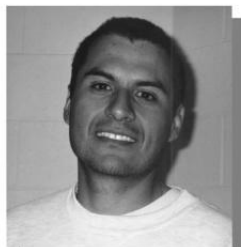
Dear Partners,

Jesus must be delighted as one-by-one His people have stepped forward to give Bibles to lonely discouraged prisoners. In the early years we did not dream that one day thousands of inmates would be filled with the light of Christ through receiving a Bible from Heart Ministries.

Most prisoner reform programs simply don't work. Unless the heart is changed and the mind renewed by the Lord, old habits stay with us all. Once we are willing to submit to Christ and be obedient to His loving leadership, our actions change. The teaching in this issue, entitled **"There is a Key to Every Healing,"** reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. But teaching and discipleship are needed as are learning tools and intercession.

There is a key to every healing (of the heart and mind) and **you are a direct part of this blessing to inmates.** Thank you for being involved in this potent mission field. With great delight we share with you **amazing testimonies of transformed lives in this Journal.**

Heart Ministries stands firm in the midst of an ever growing waiting list of Bibles, including our numerous Spanish Bible requests. Testimonies continually arrive



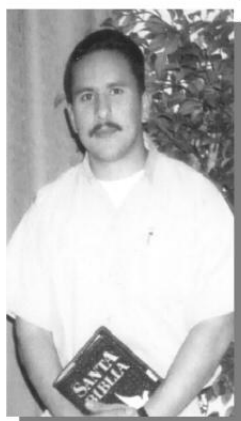
Inmates share their amazing stores of transformed lives.

from new believers who have received Bibles. And mail is arriving from new prison locations.

We're pleased to let you know that we will now touch base with you on a monthly basis with a short **HEART NEWS-**

LETTER. You'll receive a teaching written by a current or former incarcerated Believer, plus quick ministry updates and testimonies of the wonderful work Christ is doing behind bars.

The HEART JOURNAL is now an annual report giving you an overview of the ministry, along with the year's review, and plans for the future. Included are many heart-warming testimonies of inmates whose lives have been radically changed for Christ. The center section is always entitled, "The Church Inside," and is reprinted to be mailed directly to prisoners.



When you most need encouragement, perhaps you can pick up your Journal and read a real story of the miracles God can do with anyone. Our hearts are filled with gratefulness and united with you in Christian love.



Susan and Tom Hairabedian

Susan and Tom

EDITOR'S NOTE



Reading and editing inmate testimonies often leaves me greatly humbled. If you're like me, it is easy to think of an inmate as a criminal and those of us on the outside as law-abiding citizens. According to the law of our land, that may be so. But what of the law of our Lord? What of those of us who break His laws?



Elaine Hart

Incarcerated Spiritually

The Lord tells us that as Believers we are free in Christ. We are however to walk in that freedom. As I consider the plight of a prisoner, incarcerated with little ability to affect that sentence, I have to ask, *do I walk in Christ's freedom or in the sentence of sin* that the enemy speaks over my life? Am I in bondage to sin? Incarcerated by agreeing with sin? Will I be a "repeat offender" forever, or am I willing to be healed?

Walking in Freedom

When we sin, we need to be healed in order not to repeat that sin. Yes, our precious Lord extends His grace, to cover our past, present, and future sins. But, what about walking in that freedom and in the mighty authority God gives us? What of overcoming faith and obedience for the pulling down of strongholds? What is the key to break out of our own prison and become a mighty warrior, full of faith, sharing God's healing presence wherever we go?

The Spiritual Key

A wonderful teaching is enclosed entitled, ***There is a Spiritual Key for Every Healing***. The keys to becoming spiritually liberated are addressed in this article and I trust you will be blessed as you read it. Every follower of Jesus Christ is invited to be an overcomer, set free of besetting sins, healed of that which hinders.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but our mighty for the pulling down of strongholds..."

The Loving Gift of a Bible



Two million people whom God created for good works are incarcerated for not understanding and receiving God's love. The Bibles you so lovingly provide for the discouraged and lonely equip them with the mightiest tool, for pulling down strongholds.

The love of God truly transforms lives and you are part of spreading His mighty love.

Coffee Table Journal Reading

Will you keep The HEART Journal close by over the next few weeks, taking time perhaps each morning, to read an inmate's testimony of his or her transformed life in Christ? **These transformed lives are miracles!** God is at work behind bars!

Your prayers are coveted, more than you can imagine, for this ministry and for the Believers trying to live for Christ behind bars.

Elaine

**There is a Spiritual Key
for Every Healing –
page 14**

What do you allow to
come into you and
take root, the things of
God or the things of
the world?

Visit us on the Web!
www.heartmin.org

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt. 11:28)

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Just Learning to Walk



I am so grateful to have received the Bible you sent me. In fact, I made a beautiful box to keep it in at the cabinet shop where I work. Please thank the generous people who donated my NIV Bible. It has been much easier to read and understand than the King James version.

William O'Steen

Studying has actually become enjoyable. I realize that it is a step-by-step project and I must crawl before I can walk. I'm still crawling, but **I'm finally learning how to walk with the Lord every day.** It is tough leaving everything behind, but I guess that is true for everyone. **One of my greatest blessings is the Holy Spirit has taught me how to forgive.** Forgiveness is from the heart of the Lord.

There are some great soldiers for the Lord here. God continues to give us opportunities to learn of Him and live for Him. Together we are the body of Christ. And I now know that I am a completely new creature in the eyes of the Lord. **Thank you for your interest in a man just learning to walk with Jesus.**

William O'Steen
South Bay, Florida



Living Proof God Lives

Anway you look at it, I am living proof God lives. He is a changer of lives and now I am alive in Him because of His son, Jesus the Christ! I can truly say I am one of the rescued as the Lord has used this time of my life to save me from myself.

Before I came to prison I was addicted to drugs, alcohol and sex for close to twenty-four years. Think about that, twenty-four years! It's because of Jesus and people who love God (like those at your ministry), I am free from these vices and now live a life lead by the Holy Spirit. The Living Insights Bible y'all sent me has blessed me with a greater knowledge of God's word. Reading and studying His word has helped me grow closer to our Lord Jesus!

I give thanks to our Father in Heaven for you all at Heart of America Prison Ministries.

James Landry
Dallas, Texas

Heart Of America Prison Ministries JOURNAL

The HEART Journal is published annually and **The HEART Newsletter** is published monthly. They are written specifically for partners of Heart Ministries, to increase awareness of and desire to implement Isaiah 61:1.

The Church Inside (center section of The HEART Journal) is sent directly to inmates with whom we correspond, to encourage them in the Lord through testimonies of other prisoners.

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Your contribution places you on our mailing list. If you know

someone who would like to receive *The HEART Journal* and newsletter, or *The Church Inside*, send a request to:

Heart Ministries, P.O. Box 1685, Independence, MO 64055

Heart Ministries is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization.
EIN: 36-4154994

Publishers: Tom and Susan Hairabedian

Editor: Elaine Hart

Contributing Editors: Nanette Flynn, Jeff Gay, Diana Bailey, and inmates and ministry partners

Cover Graphic Artist: Koren Emerson

JOY ON AN INMATE'S FACE

By Susan Hairabedian
Heart Ministries Staff

Recently I received a letter from an inmate that touched me deeply, as many of these letters do. He knows first hand what your gifts are doing. Here's what he wrote:

*"During the time I have been in prison I've witnessed the wonderful results of your ministry. **The joy on an inmate's face as he receives his Bible would simply melt your heart.** I wish I could share with your supporters the moment when a long awaited and prayed for Bible arrives at a prison mail call! It is a highlight in the life of an individual here.*

There is little that an inmate can own and be proud of — your leather Bible rates at the top of the list. My Bible was taken from me upon my arrival. I was told it would be sent home, along with the pictures of my children that were inside the cover. It has been months now and my family has not received my Bible.

When I received my own leather Bible from your ministry, I felt like a child at Christmas who couldn't wait to open a special gift. I remember lying in bed that night with tears in my eyes.

You cannot fully ever appreciate the value of something until you have lost EVERYTHING! In prison, you HAVE lost everything. You are only allowed what the prison issues you and precious little from the outside world. Little things mean an awful lot behind walls, and your Bible is a HUGE thing!! At eleven cents per hour, I could not have afforded it. It is my most precious treasure."

That letter describes what we have heard again and again. Thousands of Bibles have been sent into prisons since we began this ministry and we can only imagine the joy on so many lonely faces.



Susan Hairabedian

"For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13)

My primary focus in this ministry is getting Bibles into inmates hands. This past year, we spent over 70% of all donations solely on purchasing and mailing Bibles to spiritually hungry incarcerated Believers. The Word of God is a divine power given to us by the Lord to use for His glory. People simply cannot be changed except from the depths of their being by the Word of God. Thank you for partnering with us in this regard.

Once again, Jesus is visiting the men and women behind bars when you send in a gift of a Bible or a Bible study course. God bless you richly.

Susan

BIBLES SENT: Bibles have been sent to the entire waiting list of over 200 inmates, reported to you in the last journal .



BIBLE WAITING

LIST: Our current new waiting list is 223 inmates.

BIBLE VIDEOS: Heart Ministries videos that teach the gospel are in almost every federal prison in America.

BIBLE STUDY COURSES: 70 inmates are in hopes of receiving a Bible Study Course.



HEART Partners

Church Resources

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." (Heb. 13:3)

Reverend Dan Bohler and Susan Hairabedian initiated a partnership between his church and our ministry, that has blessed us immensely. Dan is the Pastor of Agape Harvest Fellowship in Blue Springs, Missouri. We are grateful for the spiritual covering that God has given us through Dan and his ministry. We are also able to send our Bibles into prisons through the Agape Bookstore. We want to thank Dan, his wife Shirley, his staff, and especially important, his church, for their prayers and financial and practical support.



Labor

Many volunteers give of their time to Heart Ministries. The Lord has brought these ministry partners from all corners of the United States and all walks of life. There are translators and writers, workers finishing the Heart Offices, attorneys donating legal services, and countless hours given to data entry, communicating with inmates and chaplains, handling accounting, editing, printing, mailing Bibles and materials,. The list is endless and we are grateful for these willing partners.



Funds for Bibles

The Lord placed a call on my life early on and I spent years avoiding it. As a result of a dear friend's imprisonment, I became involved with HEART and came back to God. I now volunteer my time to help within the ministry which is particularly gratifying.

The testimonies we receive from prisoners reminds me that I am helping to reform people's lives. I have found no greater satisfaction in this life. One of Jesus' commandments to us is to share the Gospel with all the world. It makes sense to reach out and rehabilitate the souls in our prison system. Most of them will be out and living among us in the next few years. I would rather have them living as disciples of Jesus rather than minions of Satan.



Another way I have found to contribute is financially. This is part of my tithing plan, for I know God has called the Body of Christ to share our resources for the work of His kingdom. I believe with all my heart that Heart Ministries is being used to build God's kingdom behind prison walls.

I invite you to join us in spreading the Good News of Jesus' saving grace. Whether it be financial, time, prayer or correspondence, the Lord will bless you beyond measure.

Jeff Gay
Heart Ministries Volunteer

Linking Hearts with Those Who Care for the Prisoner



****A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"**

Heart Ministries Web Site!

By Diana Bailey
Heart Ministries Team

Hello dear friends of HEART,

I am Diana Bailey and I work on the Heart of America Prison Ministries web site at www.heartmin.org. What a delight it is for me to be part of this entire "cyberspace for Christ" project! By profession I am a web site marketer and am gratified to see that our web site is starting to show up on search engines. This means more people are learning about the great ministry that you and other supports have brought about through Heart Ministries.



Diana Bailey,
Web Site Coordinator

I invite you to go to the site for a visit. There you will find inmate testimonies, Gospel teachings – often written by Christian prisoners – and many of our Newsletter and Journal articles. Something new to our site is the **Intercessory Prayer line**. Here you can post a prayer request or pray for the requests from other visitors. Our Heart prayer warriors are assigned to pray for the posted prayers on a rotating monthly basis. This section is a vital part of the web site.

As a partner of HEART, would you consider emailing this web site link to friends and family to help us share Heart Ministries? There are people, groups, and churches actually looking for ways to minister behind bars and you might provide a link! Recently a church that wanted to become involved in a



"As you've done it unto the least of these my brethren you've done it unto me.." (Matt. 25:40)

prison ministry without having to start their own, found it easy to refer to the web site to take a look at Heart Ministries. They were able to better understand the overall vision and goals plus they read many testimonies of inmates deepening their walk with the Lord. That church ended up donating \$500!



www.heartmin.org

I'd like to post to our web site any **praise testimonies** from prisoner's families and friends so email me your story. There are many ways to get involved and I invite you to contact us.

Thank you for helping us to keep this website alive with hope and encouragement.



Bulletin Blunders



The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off--let the Church help.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be

Ministry Outside



Prison Walls

By Kathleen Wingo
Heart Ministries Supporter

*M*y Dear Friends at HEART,

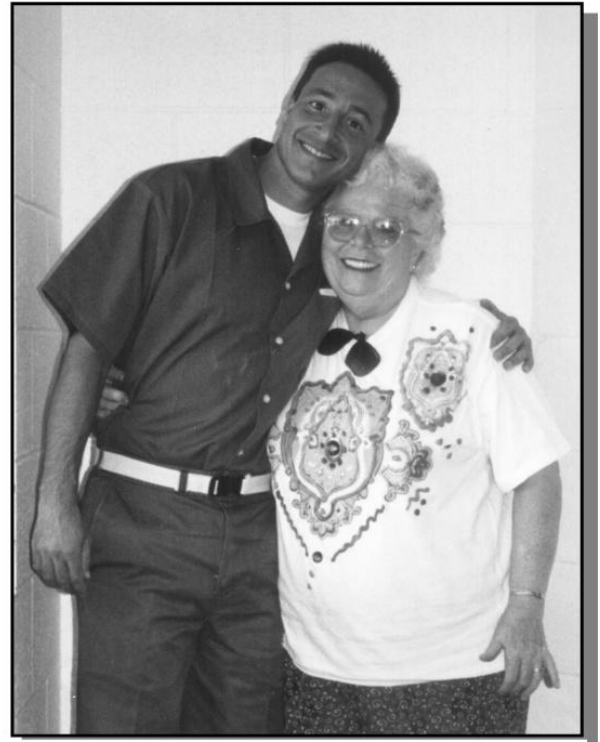
Just had to let you folks know how far-reaching your ministry has become and all the lives it is touching outside the prison walls.

I met a young man many years ago through a mutual friend. As it turns out, he ended up in prison not too far from my home. When I found out, I determined that I should go and visit him when his family and friends could not. I went as an act of kindness and obedience to Jesus' words in Matthew 25:36 and Hebrews 13:3 (*"Remember those in prison as if bound with them."*) and you cannot imagine the result! My life and my physical health have dramatically improved. Let me explain.

I've had **sleep apnea and narcolepsy** for many, many years and these conditions definitely affected the quality of my life. I was also involved in a car accident, resulting in **back injuries**, leaving me in severe pain. I went to the doctor three times a week for eight months – then he cut me back to twice a week. I ran up over **\$23,000 in doctor bills!** And still didn't have the relief I desperately sought.

Meanwhile, you all at Heart Ministries received the gracious donation from Charles and Frances Hunter Ministries of many tapes and books about healing to send into the federal prison facilities. My friend in prison studied this material and took Jesus at His word that we should heal others (Mark 16:18). My first visit was very enjoyable but not long enough (1 ½ hours!). We prayed together and through the power of God, **Jesus healed me of the awful pain in my sciatic nerve.** I marveled all day as I bounced around with absolutely no pain! **The pain is gone** out of my sacroiliac – so I was able to close the case on my accident and get on with my life.

Again and again in my prison visits my friend laid hands on me in the Name of Jesus and the power of the



HEART contributor, Kathleen Wingo, and an inmate who believes in the healing power of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit. **God has completely healed me** from sleep apnea, narcolepsy, and even a fear of heights.

I was encouraged by two things he did. First, he called on the Lord to heal me. Second, he taught me that I could be used of the Lord to heal others. He had you folks at HEART send me the "Healing" book that HEART makes available to anyone for the asking. [Editor's note: See page 9.] I read it, carry it with me, and have since laid hands on two different people and witnessed the power of God Almighty.

The first woman had bad chest pains, difficulty breathing and had to be on medication. Last week she said that since I laid hands on her in the name of the Lord, the pain has lessened and her lungs are so much better. She no longer needs medication!

The second woman **had** lymphoma. A couple of the lymph nodes were swelling in her lungs and causing pressure on the heart where she could not breathe well. I could not go anywhere because of shortness of breath and she was using oxygen. She couldn't even walk across the room and was expecting to die!

(Continued on page 9)

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9)

(Continued from page 8)

The Lord has healed her as well! She told me that the doctors took x-rays and could not find the lymph nodes that were swelling against the heart. They're gone! Praise God!!

I just wanted to thank you for your ministry and let you know that God is touching many people outside of prison through your efforts. He is using the prisoners to reach friends and families everywhere. May God continue to bless your efforts.

[Editor's Note: HEART has a limited number of the "Healing" books available on a first-come basis.]

FREE HEALING BOOK

Write for your
FREE copy
today!

FREE BOOK! Healing by Charles and Frances Hunter

**Hunter Ministries
63 pages * Limited Supply**

**Write to: Heart Ministries
P.O. Box 1685
Independence, MO 64055**

*There is a spiritual key
to every healing*



INMATE LETTERS

*Grateful hearts and Humble requests...
For HEART Bibles*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I just wanted to thank you for the beautiful new Master Study Bible. I greatly appreciate the gift, and it will be cherished and used for a lifetime. It came just before Christmas and it is the best gift I could have asked for. Thank you very much and may God bless you all for the work that you do.



Don Mueller,
Waseca, Minnesota

I'm writing a little note to say thank you for the Bible I received. It is the most beautiful and educational Bible I've ever seen and I am encouraged to

read the word more often now. I am closer to God when I read His Word and I'm so proud of my new Bible. My deepest appreciation and thanks.

Cuthbert Moona
Ft. Worth, Texas

You have blessed me incredibly! The Bible you sent is beautiful and the quality has touched me deeply, I humbly ask you consider another act of kindness. The prisoner in the cell next to mine has been attempting to read a little paperback Bible that he was given. He has terrible eyesight, and he's not going to receive glasses for another year. He is so excited to read God's word and get to know Jesus, but to do so he is forced to use a magnifying glass.

Is it possible that this man who can't see well, be put on the waiting list for a big print Bible?

Please know that upon my release from pris-

(Continued on page 10)

Linking Hearts with Those Who Care for the Prisoner



Inmate Letters!

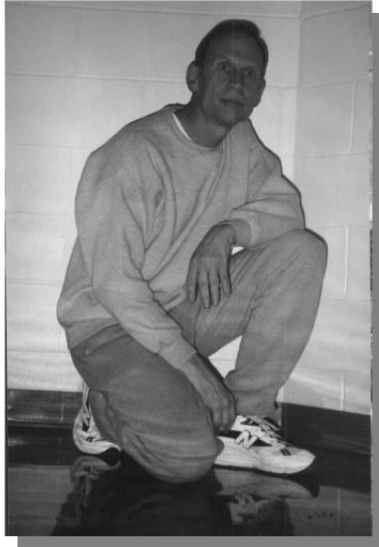
(Continued from page 9)

on, I would like the privilege of contributing to your ministry. I cannot imagine a more worthwhile effort, because I have seen the incredible joy on inmate's faces that have received a Bible from you.

Thank you for thinking of some of God's children who are frequently forgotten.

Scott Stansfield, Flor-

ence, Colorado



Scott Stansfield

The Lord is bringing me closer and closer to Him. I feel that the Lord has something for me to do in this life and I am filled with anticipation. Could you all join me in praying for my family and friends? And that I can get a Bible because I am seeking to know more about God. Thank you.

Bobby Johnson, Florida City, Florida

I received your letter and thank Jesus that my number on the waiting list for a bilingual Bible is coming (#48). That comes at just the right time, since very shortly I will be deported to my country. I'm going to start a new life in Christ Jesus there as I have here. The Lord has prepared me all these years in prison for this moment. I'm thankful to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all He has done for my family and me. I was dead in my trespasses and sin. Now I'm coming out of prison alive, a new creature in Christ with much to live for! Please pray for me that I stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. And pray that through my testimony my family will come to Christ and know Him personally. May God bless your ministry and your life abundantly.

Ambioris Sanchez, Republica Dominicana

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The bilingual Bible was sent before Ambioris was deported.]

I am a brand new Christian! Praise the Lord! I am in prison and have not the money for a good Bible. I am hoping y'all could send me a Bible to study. Although I can't afford to buy one, I can mention y'all's good hearts in my prayers and ask Jesus to bless you for the good things you do.

Thank you very much in advance. I will use the Study Bible a LOT. I am an ex-gang member and am praying for the gang members here. I have a lot of respect from them and they are listening to my testimony—And I believe Jesus is working through me to help them find Him. I'd really be blessed by your prayers, as well. Bless you!

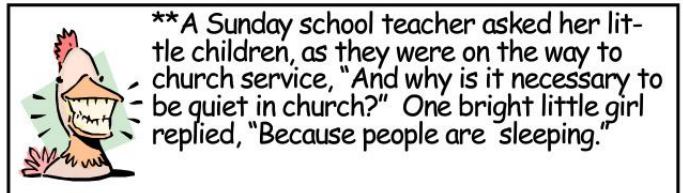
Kenneth Humphries, Texas

I do not know your names but God does. I know that He is, as I am, well pleased in what you all are doing in getting Bibles to ones like me that are in prison. If everyone that has received a Bible from you is as happy as I am, then there are a lot of joyous people.

Would you thank those involved in this ministry for their concern for the souls of inmates? My prayer is that when this life is over that we all will be praising Him together.

Collis Whorley, Clio Alabama

I believe in the power of prayer as you do at Heart Ministries. Thanks for letting me give you my prayer requests. First, God gave me the gift of healing and I don't know how to use this gift that God gave me. Do I pray for every sick person or should I wait for them to ask me to pray for them? Please, pray that God gives me a spirit of wisdom to learn how to work for Him. Also, will you pray



*"Devote yourself to prayer,
being watchful and thankful." (Col. 4:1)*



for my wife and daughter for protection and for a closer walk with the Lord? Finally will you pray for the chapel here and for our spiritual growth? May the Lord bless you and keep you safe from all the worldly things.

Roberto L. Dosa,

Oakdale, Louisiana

*Roberto Dosa,
P.S. I know I was #202 on the waiting list for a Spanish-English Bible. Could you check to see if it has been mailed? [Editor's Note: We were able to mail Roberto his Spanish-English Bible.]*

We serve an awesome God who truly looks out for His kids! I received notice from our mail-room that the Bible you had purchased for me had been returned to the distributor. I was so disappointed but I knew God was in control. So I notified you of the return and thanked God for your attempt. Here's what God did: just a week ago I was called to the chaplain's office where I was given the most awesome NIV Living Insights Study Bible. The chaplain wasn't even sure where it came from, but I knew it was you all. I'm so grateful to the Lord for all the fruitful servants He has used to minister to my wife and I during this time. Bless you!

Craig Palmer, Cameron, Missouri

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE A BIBLE TO A PRISONER?



Heart of America Prison Ministries exists primarily to provide Bibles to prisoners. We are able to purchase leather-bound Study Bibles at a discount (approximately \$25 depending on availability), delivered to the prisoner's cell. These Bibles retail from \$35 to \$54 if purchased at your local bookstore.

The kinds of materials prisoners are allowed to receive is very restricted; however, Bibles sent directly from the publisher or a bookstore, to the prisoner, are allowed to pass through unhindered.

100% of your gift is tax deductible. 90% of contributions pay for:

*** Bibles to reach the lost and tools (scripture teaching videos and Bible study courses) to teach those who are saved

***Communicating with those who support HEART to give them updates, allow them to hear testimonies, and hopefully to keep the ever-present needs of the inmates in the forefront of their minds.

HOW DO I GIVE?

- ◆ Make your check payable to Heart of America Prison Ministries.
- ◆ Use the return envelope in this journal, or mail to:
Heart Ministries, PO Box 1685
Independence, Missouri 64055
- ◆ You will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Questions? Call our office: (816) 257-1822.



Linking Hearts with Those Who Care for the Prisoner



BIBLE WAITING LIST

By Nanette Flynn
Heart Ministries Team



Nanette Flynn

I want to extend a special thanks to all of you who sacrificially gave after reading our last issue of the Heart Journal. Almost 250 inmates received a Bible!

One of my jobs at Heart Ministries is to read the requests for Bibles and materials. It is heart-breaking when a lonely inmate hungers for Jesus Christ, and has to be put on a waiting list to learn more about Him. Then, when we are able to finally fill that request, I can hardly describe the joy I feel. The following letter of gratitude is a sample of so many we receive, and I hope you will read it realizing it is really written to you.

God multiplied your seed and just in the last four months our list has grown with requests for Bibles from prisons we have never reached before. **You** make this possible. Praise God for He is good.



— DID YOU EVER WONDER? —

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?



To Each of You at Heart Ministries,

I was incarcerated and believe it or not, I said "mercy!" The mercy of the Lord allowed me to leave the darkness of the fleshly world. It took hitting the bottom first, but the victory in my daily life is all that matters now.

The day the Lord called me, my blindness went away and the sorrow started to come out of me. Convicted of my sin, I cried. When I asked for forgiveness, I really cried. For the first time, I felt the heavy burden lift off my shoulders, like a child in the arms of the Lord. An indescribable peace filled me. I knew I was born again and was now a child of God.

I love him so much, I can't stop and I don't want to. Even when I am weak and the enemy tries to break me away from the Lord, if I just trust God He gives me the victory. Please thank the kind supporters who provided me a leather Bible. Since I became a believer, I can't live without my Bible for it is the breath and bread of life.

Mauricio Saldarriaga, Coleman, Florida

Inmate Waiting List for Bibles

Please take a moment to pray for
the following inmates across
America awaiting Bibles



Brenda Echevarrio FL
Roberto Dosa LA
Jerrill Murray SD
Jose Pina LA
Adrian Brito LA
Bernard Duggins FL
Reyes Juarez LA
Darnell Little AL
Phillip Robinson MA
Bruce Strickland AL
Daniel Keihn SD
Joan Loper CA
Valerie Mercadel TX
Tyler Mills MN
Lois Yarbrough TX
Steve Barrett MO
Diana Canady TX
Gregoory Carter FL



Jessy Cedeno FL
Greg Christenson PA
Michael Clarke SD
Earnest Cummings FL
Randy Dahl SD
Douglas Evans Jr. AL
Jake Faulkerson SD
Mike Folder IL
Jeannetta Heberlein TX
Gregory Hipps PA
Tony Jackson CO
Basil Kyles PA
Natalie Leath TX
Joyce Lewis TX
Mary McBride TX
Toney Lementruis CO
Johnnie Vixamar



*"With man this is impossible, but with God
all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26)*

Waiting List for Bibles continued

TX	E Malina FL	FL	Bobby Powers FL
Antoinette Washington TX	Richard Mendez FL	James Showell FL	Edwin Marriott HI
Clint Wilkins SD	David Merrimon SD	Jose Garcia TX	James Maxwell AL
Jerry Wood SD	Michael Metz AL	Vernon Bunn AL	Terrance Fuller FL
Hector Alvarez LA	Leon Moton AL	Katherine Swann CA	Artie Jones FL
Deweykyle Easterling AL	Virginia Murray CA	Angela Williams FL	Timothy Glover FL
Ricardo Montero LA	Terry Page FL	Marlene Zuber FL	Charles Glaze FL
George Tolbert OH	James Pate AL	Tasheba Buckles FL	Carmen Hernandez CT
Goldie Williams AL	Cheryl Poindexter CA	Maria Anaya FL	Braulio Romero FL
Francisco Hernandez LA	Balfour Riley LA	Victoria Larry FL	Nicasio Guillermo TX
Gumecindo Zarate TX	Charles Robinson FL	Dennis Pierce AL	Marco Perez AR
Juan Albarado TX	Juan Sanchez FL	Walter Jones FL	Andres Pedro LA
Kevin Banks AL	Willie Scott AL	Jerardo Saavedra TX	Clayton Reeves TX
Romero Braulio FL	John Seymour FL	Elias Bueno TX	Alberto Torres AR
Roy Britt TX	Jackie Shafer CA	Gerardo Pacheco TX	Sandra Miller FL
Robert Brown III AL	Alphonso Singleton OH	Jose Garcia LA	Maria Glass FL
Alton Buchanan AL	Gladys Smith TX	Thomas Miguel FL	Michael kelton AL
Roderick Callins AL	Marcellus Sullivan FL	Russell Nye TX	Jackie Shafer CA
Charles Campbell FL	Roderick Taylor FL	Ed Lund CO	Alfredo Camacho LA
John Carter FL	Shell Terry FL	Manuel Chavez CO	Timothy Wooten AL
James Chavers AL	Jesus Truyillo LA	Michelle Richter FL	Anthony West AL
Henry Church FL	Anthony Wesr AL	David Daughteman OH	Marvin Toledo AR
Ronald Clark FL	Walter Wheeler TX	Jenny Ellis IL	Jody Kulling FL
Brian Collins TX	Lee Williams FL	Brian Collins TX	
Kevin Conkle AL	Christina Zamora CA	George Taggart FL	
Fundador Cotts MI	Michael Fairchild SD	Edward Payne TX	
Michael Davis FL	Thomas Guske TX	Michael Rush TX	
John Dixon PA	Robert Johnson AL	Miguel Tomas FL	
Ariel Donzalz TX	La Chancha Mitchell TX	Debra Heabertin FL	
Reece Drinze CA	Dennis Paul AL	Twain Henley TX	
Jeffrey Spohn TX	Billy Piatt OH	Ennis Miles TX	
Julius Duncan FL	David Scott AL	Russell McMillan FL	
Vince Dye OH	R.L. Sims TX	Shirley Nellon CA	
Jose Angel Garcia TX	James Tucker AL	Denise Booker CA	
Chester Garrett AL	Danny Weaver AL	P. Galvin CA	
Charles Glaze FL	Jeffrey Rivers TN	Jose Collazo FL	
Arismendy Guerro AZ	Hugh Thompson FL	Jose Lopes MA	
Travis Henderly OH	Luis Dominquez TX	Teresa Paynotta VA	
Michael Howell AL	John Sasnett FL	Mike Fulcher VA	
Travis Hull FL	Kathy Corneliussen FL	Ronald Smith CO	
Kenneth Humphries TX	Heidi Pinto FL	William Wilbanks FL	
Reginald Irish FL	Nathan Legette FL	Gregory Lopez FL	
Willie Jones FL	Donald Filmore FL	Richard Penderglass FL	
William Karabin FL	Richard Freeman TX	Vezonica	
Henry Kelly AL	David Sinuefield AL	Mugullanes CT	
Steven Ligon AL	Leonard Gonzalez Sr. SD	Maztha Estrada CT	
	Robert Broomfeild	Patricia Tooke CT	
		Leonard Reip FL	
		John Sasnett FL	
		Scott Stanley FL	

Linking Hearts with Those Who Care for the Prisoner

THERE IS A SPIRITUAL KEY FOR EVERY HEALING

THE HEART JOURNAL



The following article was written by an inmate who ministers the Gospel within the prison system and who regularly contributes teachings for the HEART Journal. Edited by Heart Ministries Editorial Team, the complete teaching can be obtained in Spanish or English by writing Heart Ministries. This teaching can also be found on the HEART web site: www.heartministries.com.

Recently the Lord gave me a dream with a message concerning healing. He said, "There is a spiritual key for **every** healing." He emphasized strongly the word **every**. Then He said the following words:

"For **ALL** who ask receive...not 70% or 80 or 90 or 95%, but **ALL** who ask believing, receive...**ALL** who seek shall find, and **ALL** who knock, the door shall be opened unto them... for I am no respecter of persons and My word is true **ALL** the time... there is a spiritual key for **every** healing."

Not only physical healings but healings of past hurts and wounds, deliverance from emotional torment, restoration of marriages, financial situations...

Suddenly, several Scriptures began to pass through my mind one after another. One dealt with **forgiving others**, another with **fasting**, and others with **obedience**

and **proper giving**. The list went on and on as the Lord, by His grace, pried open my mind and filled it with **spiritual keys** to unlock the door for healings to enter into various people's lives. As the above Scriptures and keys were given, I also received a face to accompany each one. I realized that **healings** the Lord spoke of were not only physical but also healings of past hurts and wounds, deliverance from emotional torment, restoration of marriages, and a number of other things, including financial situations.

"For **ALL** who ask receive...not 70% or 80 or 90 or 95%, but **ALL** who seek shall find...for I am no respecter of persons...there is a spiritual key for **every** healing."

The Lord then showed me a picture of the Body of Christ. It encompassed multitudes in need of healing, including many couples and ministers through whom the Lord's hand of healing often flowed. The spiritual key for every healing need was shown clearly. What was surprising was the fact that, in some situations, it wasn't the one in need of healing who had the key, but the minister. The door for healing was shut because the minister wouldn't exercise **his** use of the key.

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom. 12:2)

This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting...

For example, the Lord put a verse of scripture (almost like a label or a tag) above one minister's head that read Mark 9:29:

*This kind can come forth by nothing, but by **PRAYER** and **FASTING**.*"

I knew instantly the way to unlock healing in this specific situation. **The minister had to use his key by committing himself to prayer and fasting** in behalf of a dear woman and her husband. But, he refused. Instead of admitting his shortcoming, he offered some theological excuses to the couple, and then just shook his head. I saw the couple walk off confused, disheartened and even feeling a little condemned. I felt anger toward the minister. Then I realized that I too had probably withheld the spiritual key for another's healing. I was guilty of refusing to **deny the flesh**, having failed to spend proper time **praying and fasting** for others' healing, marriage restoration, deliverance, and the like. I was no longer angry, but convicted of my own sin.

Another couple came forward and the label (or tag) appeared above the husband's head, "Mark 11: 25-26": *"And when you stand praying, **FORGIVE**, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your*

trespasses."

Instantly I knew the **key** to his wife's healing lay in his willingness to **forgive** a person against whom he was harboring ill will. Again, it wasn't the individual needing healing who held the key in this situation, but the man to whom she was married. The Lord quickened me to two passages of Scripture:

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall become one flesh...And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it...that there should be no schism in the body" (Gen. 2:24, I Cor. 12:26,25).

I began to examine myself, searching for any **unforgiveness** or **ill will** I'd held against others. I realized that my unwillingness to forgive **might** be related to a loved one being unable to receive their **healing key**, which had been in my hand the whole time!

With this, I began to see the individual members of the One Body of Christ far more closely related to one another than ever before. Then, this scripture came to me:

"For as the body is one, and hath many mem-
(Continued on page 16)

Spiritual Key for Every Healing



(Continued from page 15)

bers, and all the members of that one body, being many, are **one body**: so also is Christ...If the foot shall say, *Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the Body?*" (I Cor. 12:12-14).

With this, I realized the responsibility we have **one towards another** as the One Body of Christ, and vowed a deeper commitment and conscious awareness to love **all members** equally. Another verse came to mind, confirming the importance of how **we all receive** from the Lord (our Head) **through other members** of His Body (His joints and ligaments):

"From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth (health) of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).

Love



The Apostle Paul's words to the Church at Galatia rang in my spirit, **"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"** (Gal. 6:2). This is not only a biblical principle, but also the very fulfillment of the law of Christ for every believer. Just as I began to ponder this, I heard another verse from the same passage, **"But each man must bear his own burden"** (Gal. 6:5).

BUT EACH MAN MUST BEAR HIS OWN BURDEN

Suddenly, I was shown a scene of innumerable people within the Body of Christ. They were walking around with tags of Scripture and labels of personal sins above their heads. At this, I realized that we are not only responsible to provide, when possible, the **spiritual keys** for others' healings, but we also have a responsibility for our own. **"For each man must bear his own burden."** *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful*

(Continued on page 36)

KEYS:

a phrase used by Jesus to describe the authority given by Him to His disciples



In ancient times a key expressed the idea of authority, power, or privilege. Even today, keys represent access, privilege and enfranchisement. So Jesus' words to Peter that He would give "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:19), indicate more than a gift to Peter of authority or the power to bind or loose. These words speak to all saints for all time who know and confess that Jesus is Christ. The idea in "to bind and loose" stems from Aramaic words which relate to excommunication and reinstatement, or the determining of objects as being either clean or unclean. In essence, they have to do with access and acceptability, or the opposite.

The general Protestant view of this text is that the church is the agent of this power or authority to bind or loose, either through its official leaders or through all believers. This authority or power awaits appropriation, not with arrogance or smugness, but with a humble yet bold spirit of faith. We have been given access to kingdom authority through Christ the King. This awaits application in prayer and ministry, in faith and forgiveness — advancing the church against hell's dark powers and seeing the church built up by the release of divine grace and power.

—from Hayford's Bible Handbook, © 1995 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.



The Church Inside

Welcome to "The Church Inside!" Heart of America Prison Ministries brings you "The Church Inside" Newsletter. Written directly for inmates by inmates, we hope you are encouraged and that you will pass this along when you're finished.

In the next few pages you will read testimonies from people who came from the depths of despair into a powerful truth that changed their life. That Truth is Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 teaches us to "Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not unto our own understanding; but in all our ways acknowledge him and he will direct our paths." The word "ways" means "a road, a course, or a mode of action." And acknowledge is translated "know" often by firsthand experience and "direct, intimate contact."

We bless you and the plans God has for you. Many supporters of Heart Ministries are praying for you, that your path will be clear, that you will have firsthand experiences with Jesus, and most of all, that you will know Him intimately.

He loves you so much! Be blessed. And as always, we would appreciate hearing your testimony, of the wonderful work of Jesus Christ in your life.

Crazy Catfish
By David Clark

When I came to prison I thought all was lost

until I met a man nicknamed "Catfish." My eight-year sentence seemed short compared to his life; but I still hated everything and everybody around me. Catfish amazed me with his easygoing attitude, and then he made me angry when he talked about Jesus.

"Get lost," I told him, but Catfish was a little crazy and just kept hounding me about Jesus. Eventually God stilled my heart and told me to just listen. In my past my family had laid the groundwork for Jesus to get my attention. Thank goodness for a praying mother, grandmother and aunt!

I finally listened. Not only did I listen, but soon found myself crying, praying and simply asking God and Jesus to enter me. Immediately after that, I was told about Heart Prison Ministry. You folks sent me a study Bible that enabled me to get to know my new friend Jesus. I now am fully armored to face every day here in prison. I have the sword of the Spirit and God's armor so I know all is not lost, in fact it is



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Crazy Catfish

(Continued from page 17)

just beginning. Now Psalm 150 holds a new meaning to me. Pretty neat, huh?



After Catfish led me to the Lord, Jesus led me through the veil of tears to the joy I now know as my Savior. Thank you Jesus and thank you to the folks who donate the money and time to your ministry. They need to know how they helped me and save many other lives in the prison system. God is holding a great place in Heaven for them, for Catfish, and now for me! I now spread the news of Jesus, just like that crazy Catfish!



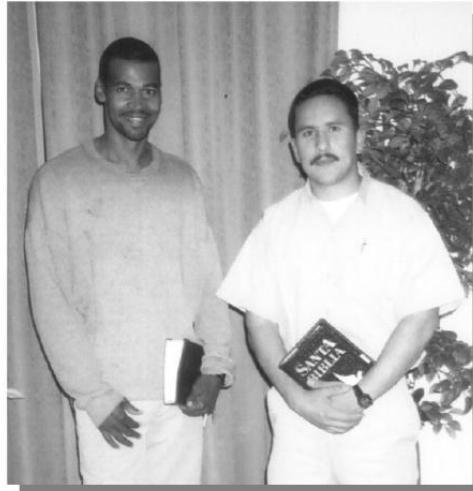
The Day God Spared My Life

By Manuel Acosta
Forrest City, Arkansas

First of all I would like to thank you for the beautiful Bible that I received and also for your wonderful ministry.

Originally from Mexico, I've lived in the United States fourteen years. I am serving five years in federal prison - due to my sinful ways - but more importantly **I am serving Jesus with all my heart.** By the grace of God, two years ago in a prison cell, I surrendered and gave my life to the Lord. The Lord has been good to me in the midst of it all and I want to share this with you.

I could have died in my sins and been in a worse place than prison!



Manuel Acosta (on right) with brother in the faith and celly, "Agustin" from Colombia

Eventually things will fall apart when you use drugs. I start using when I was a teenager, and I also tried to live responsibly. That didn't work. I worked hard at many jobs, got an education, and was trained in computers, but I also used drugs. God blessed me

with a wonderful family and the ability to learn and better myself for my family, yet I continued to use drugs. I went to church on Sunday, and was back at my habit on Monday.

During this time God dealt with me. I was arrested. Praise the Lord. Sometimes I wish I could find that sheriff who arrested (rescued) me and thank him. What seemed a tragedy to others was a blessing to me (Rom. 8:28). The cycle had stopped.

Long ago I could have died in my sins and been in a worse place than prison! The Lord allowed me to truly live and now my life is incredibly different. I will spend the remainder of my sentence soaking up the Word and preparing for whatever ministry the Lord has for me. (2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16,17; Heb. 4:12)

When I look at my past (which I don't do except when I'm witnessing to someone), **I am amazed at how much the Lord loves me.** God continually shows me, day after day, that I am not alone, as long as I am standing on the Rock, in the light. He is my daily bread of life, my Comforter, my only way.



I THOUGHT IT WAS TOO LATE ...

By Frankie Delise
Danbury, Connecticut



Frankie Delise doesn't care why or when or how you come to him as long as you come.

A twenty-five year sentence left me bitter. Bitter that this was my first offense. Bitter that my sentence was for a nonviolent crime. Bitter that murderers and child molesters can get less time than I received. I was just bitter.



Forgiveness

I always thought it was too late for God. I began to read the Bible and even started going to church sometimes, then realized I have much to be thankful for. I have been blessed. Many do not have an "outdate," but I do. God has provided for me and I can honestly say that where at first I didn't even have that mustard seed of faith, I do now. I'm definitely not where I could be but God is working in my life and for the first time I honestly believe that there is a God. I didn't believe when I was free; but now that I'm behind bars, I have learned differently. My entire life is changing and I'll always appreciate the Bible you sent me.

✝

**"Help!" is a good prayer.
"Save Me!" is another good
one.**

*"Guard my life, for I am
devoted to you..." (Ps. 86:2)*

HOPE on Death Row

By Max Soffar
Livingston, Texas

Thank you, Heart Ministries, for writing to me. Please thank all those who helped me receive this beautiful Bible!!!!

I am a Jewish man who has been on Texas death row for twenty-two years. I have been witness to over 250 plus executions in my years here. God has kept me safe and blessed me very much. Being Jewish and on death row reminds me of my Savior, whom I read about in this wonderful Holy Bible that you sent to me.

I accepted Christ long, long ago, but it wasn't that way when I was free. Jewish folk await the Savior and my family raised me that way. I read the Bible and saw the truth with the help of some people on death row. It is very hard here, living in this situation with death all around and evil and hate thick in the air.

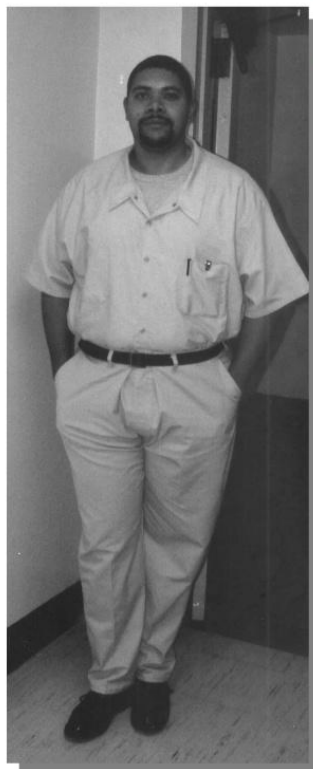
The peace within sometimes is lost in the screams and pain and yelling and fear. The Bible that I received from you...takes the horror and pain away. Thank you for caring!!! God bless you all.



"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go."
-Abraham Lincoln

I Was a Police Officer

By George Sierra
Springfield, Missouri



Alex Sierra

Back home in Chicago I was a police officer. Police should act right, but not in my case. I was always doing wrong. I didn't go to church and I ignored God. I mistreated people and I thought that my badge held all the power I would ever need. Boy was I wrong.

Upon my prison arrival I felt confused, lost and very alone. No one would accept a police officer. But the day arrived when an amazing thing happened. I met up with a group of men who would meet in a closet for prayer every night at 9:15 PM. I went just to see what it was all about. After a few days, they asked me if I was saved. This left me with my mouth open.

I told those men that I was baptized and believed in God, but I was not sure of being saved. They were so caring, explaining about having a personal relationship with Christ versus just knowing about Him. It was then that I prayed the sinner's prayer. For the first time in my life, I actually felt loved. Now I appreciate the love from my Christian family, but most of all I found the true power of Jesus Christ. My badge along with everything else in life is just material. I

"I thought
the badge
held all the
power I
would ever



THE CHURCH INSIDE

can't take any of it with me, but the love of Christ will always be with me. **I love God for doing the one thing I never did for others and that is give a second chance.** I want to thank all of you for your continued support to inmates.



Serving Him, Not Serving Time

By George Garett
Daytona Beach, Florida

Sitting in a county jail I prayed for the Lord to change me. I needed His power to quit using drugs and to serve Him. Being afraid is not fun, and that's the way I felt when I faced sentencing. I was scared. Only then did I get serious about my life and God. I prayed that He would take control and use this time to mold me into the man He created me to be.

Going to court four different times to plea bargain for less time, I was continually turned down. On my fifth visit to the courtroom the prosecutor amazed me when she said to plea to the mercy of the court and she would suggest five years. With a quick prayer I agreed and the judge gave me four years. God has been good to me.

Now I'm in wonderful Bible studies, learning His word daily. I believe God is working in my life to help me mature so I can give Him Glory and be a solid witness to His grace. I hope to help others get to know Him, His word, and **what a blessing it is to serve Him and not time.**

Thank you for being obedient to our Lord's command to share the Gospel. Words can't describe how I felt when my Bible arrived from you. In prison when you have very little, any gift is meaningful. **But a leather Bible is beyond what I expected** and all I can say is it is a blessing. I will keep it until it wears out or someone really needs it even more than I do. And I will definitely keep praying for your ministry.



BUENO GRACIAS

We've seen a major increase in the number of Hispanic inmates requesting Bibles and the Correspondence Course in Spanish. Here are sample letters we receive from inmates, asking or thanking us for Bibles.

Little Spanish Spoken Here

By Guadalu Gurrola

Menard, Illinois

Translated by Vanessa Vaughn

Thank you for remaining in contact with me. I have the beautiful Bible you gave me. I'm grateful for all the good people who support Heart Ministries.

When I was in a federal prison in Louisiana, I met a friend from Columbia, South America who had received a Bible that you had given him and when he told me that it was in English and Spanish I told him to ask you to send one to me and it was through those means that I received a Bible.

I am very thankful {to be} with God because very little Spanish is spoken in this prison where I am now and it is for that reason this Bible has been a great help. I study the Bible half an hour daily or throughout the day.

My testimony is that a man gave me the gift of looking at life differently and for that reason I realize God's plan for me and everyone. To those who invoke His holy name is eternal life. God bless you.

Estimado hermano

en la fe: Aqui le saludo nuevamente. Primeramente para darle las gracias a dios



Thank you to Santina Mercuri and Vanessa Vaughn for translation work. The Spiritual Keys for Every Healing is available in Spanish.

"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged... (Matt. 7:2)

por ministerios como Heart of America. Por apoyar a nosotros los presos; pero ahora libres en el espiritu. Ayadandonos con Biblias y material de estudio biblico para continuar hacia adelante estudiando la santa y bendita palabra de dios.

Mi nombre es carlos manzanares llevo cinco anos-dos meses encerrado pues cai marzo del 1998 el Senor Jesucristo hizo un cambio grande en mi vida; Y de ese tiempo para aca es lo que llevo estudiando la Santa Biblia; Que como dice el Apostol Pablo: Aprovechando bien el tiempo porque los dias son malos.

Gracias hermano, ya que me mandaron; y del ministerio _escrita por David Hairabedian. Mi idioma original es el espanol. Asi de que english-estamos aprendiendo. Que dios les continue bendiciendo grandemente es nuestra oracion.

Carlos Manzanares

Hola queridos hermanos. Les habla Francisco Martinez. Ispero que alrecibir esta Varta Se encuentren bien bendecidos Amen Disculpe las molestias de de cirles que un hermano ma comunico de un curso biblico bueno la berdad si estoy muy interezado Parel Curzo Para tener mas Conocimien lo en nuestra Seguir el camino de la verdad.

Yo me congrego con mis hermonos en la iglecia de la prision tombien en los estudios biblico quiero comonzar a saber lo que Dios tiene para mi on lienda que el leine un propocilo por el cual tenemos uno vida diferentey pensando en Dios hablando Caminando Como lo hacia el en lonces aci podemos agradar al Padre celestial. Bueno es una parte de lo que e a prendido De Dios y Cuando Puedan mandarme el estudio en lonces aprendere mas De elrey de reyes y senor de senores.

Bueno gracias les doy por lomarmera en cuenta de la que quiero hacer para la gloria y honrra de nuestro Dias. Amen Los agradezco Comocho Carino queridos hermanos me des pido de usdedes.

La paz cea con vasotros. Amen

Martinez Francisco



HEALED WHILE PRAYING FOR ANOTHER

By Daniel Kowalski,
Florence, Colorado

The leather Bible you were so kind to send me is beautiful. I call it "**my treasure!**" Since receiving it, when I ask God for direction, he often answers through the Bible.



Prayer

Being incarcerated and simultaneously coming to know the Lord has been an amazing experience. **I am now happier IN PRISON, than I was before on the outside** having money and all I thought made me happy. Recently I attended an informal bible study that was being held in the chapel. My life was changed that evening and I feel privileged to share this with you.



Daniel Kowalski

dealing with lustful thoughts and a lustful spirit. We prayed for his release from the powers that had kept him from success on his own.

Another inmate mentioned that one of the brothers that was with us that night had been almost crippled with arthritis in the knees and severe back problems. I remember thinking, "I can relate to his pain because I have suffered terribly for

eighteen years with severe knee pain and two herniated disks in my back". I have been unable to find relief while trying to sleep and jogging or running has been impossible.

We laid hands on this brother, asking God for an immediate healing of his knee and back problems. During the prayer of agreement for his healing, I prayed silently, "Lord, I really believe that you can cure this brother's afflictions if that is your will. Would you cure **MY PROBLEMS** at the same time?" I believed without question that the Lord could do this, but I didn't expect it to happen to me!

My healing arrived while I prayed for someone else's healing.

As we prayed, I felt a warm tingling in my knees and back. On the way back to my cell, I mentioned in jest that I had "accidentally" gotten the other inmate's healing. I went to bed and for the first time in longer than I can remember, I slept wonderfully all night. The next day, I felt totally different, as if my back and knees were not my own. It was then I realized God had healed me!

Amazed, I went out to the track to verify what God had done. I attempted the impossible: running! **I ran a half-mile with NO PAIN.** I walked another quarter of a mile, crying all the way at the love God had shown me by healing my knees and back. I ran **ANOTHER** quarter mile—just because I **COULD!!** I was pain free at last.

The Lord truly **DOES WORK** in mysterious ways. We should be ready for **ANYTHING** that God is willing to give us if we will just operate in faith.

Later I was given a copy of a healing teaching that I understand is in this issue of the Heart Journal. The teaching is on **SPIRITUAL KEYS** for every healing and I learned first hand when I was healed. In Luke 5, I read about Jesus teaching and Pharisees and doctors of the law were there **and the power of God was present to heal them.** But not one of them got healed! I asked why and realized they were too busy bickering amongst themselves and questioning the Healer's authority.

"...and the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick..." (Luke 5:17)

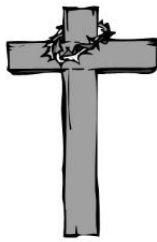
I've learned not question God's ability or His authority, and if God's power is present to heal, God will take it from there. I learned that we often hold the keys to the healing of others in our own hands, but the question is, do we care enough to bring them to God?

I have received so much. First from my treasured Bible you provided which allows me to learn the truth. And then that God still heals today. I really believe there is a spiritual key to being healed.



If You Will Just Hearken...

By Jason Dorame
Blyth, California



There are a lot of people like me who say, "I was raised in a Christian home." Isn't that sad? Well, I was. I was a "good kid," filling my time with baseball, skateboards, and trying to surf. Why then, did I get caught up in the world that offered drugs, sex, punk rock, and violence? I strayed from everything that was right. The violence escalated and the hunger for money increased. Gang involvement was the next step, then crime and finally in and out of jail.

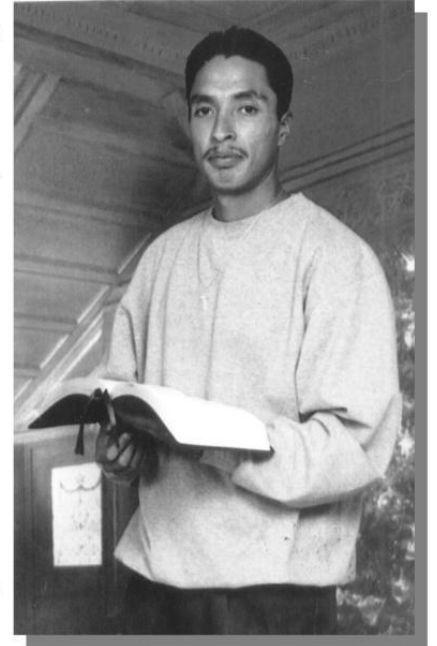
The evangelists came to share the Gospel with me. "If you will just hearken..." but I shunned them. Again and again the Lord sent His servants to me. While I fought the court system to stay out of prison, my stubborn pride fought to keep me from God. I never listened to the Gospel, I lost the court trial and received a thirteen-year sentence.

My life flashed before me when I realized I was not going to see freedom for a long time. At my wits end, I finally started being truthful and realized I could not change by myself. Simultaneously a Christian brother named Philip who had approached me before sentencing, once again asked if I would consider following Jesus.

I honestly could not say no to Jesus again. None of my deci-

sions had been right before and somehow **I knew this was the only way.** I trusted Jesus with my life that day and have never looked back. That was five years ago. My testimony is that my life, my thoughts, my desires, and my love for worldly things are gone. Jesus is real. "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Ps. 84:10) I know it was His blood.

One more thing, the gift of the Bible you sent me touched me deeply. The quality stunned me, but what is most important is what it contains. It affected my walk by making me realize there are many loving brothers and sisters in the Lord who will do all they can to spread Christ's love. I've come full circle because now I too am trying to uplift hearts as I share the word and the love of Christ. My testimony is that **if they will just hearken, their lives will never be the same.**



Jason Rey Dorame



DELIVERED!



THE CHURCH INSIDE

The Devil Had Possession of Me

Robert Michael Saf

Florence, Colorado

I'm writing from my office in the prison law library. No, I'm not a guard, lawyer or warden. I'm an inmate finishing up the last few months of a life-long sentence in crime. And if you're reading this, you'll be happy to know that **for the first time in 38 years I'm finally free.** Free of the pain and constant torment I've brought on myself by turning my back on God.

At age six, the devil took possession of my heart and soul. For the next three and a half plus decades (until God visited me in the middle of the night and called me back to Himself), I was a drug smuggler, drug user who denounced God and Jesus Christ on a daily basis as I wallowed in my sin (and my family prayed for me through the battle).

Recently I was awakened at 2:00 AM by a male voice saying, *"Someone has been praying about you...are you ready?"*

At the age of six, the devil took possession of my heart and soul.

I thought about the words I'd clearly heard. Why would someone pray "about" me and not "for" me? I thought that maybe I was losing it but finally realized this was real. This was something like I'd never experienced before from drugs or my dealings with Odenism (worship of Oden,

Thor and Tyr), meditation or the White supremacy groups I'd been involved in.

Returning to bed, the voice returned instantly, as if he had been waiting for me. I looked at the clock on my locker to make sure the whole thing wasn't just a weird dream. Sure enough, now it read 2:10 AM. Yeah, I was wide awake...and possibly losing my mind with just a few lousy months left on my sentence. Over and over the words went through my mind: **"Someone has been praying about you...are you ready?"** I laid

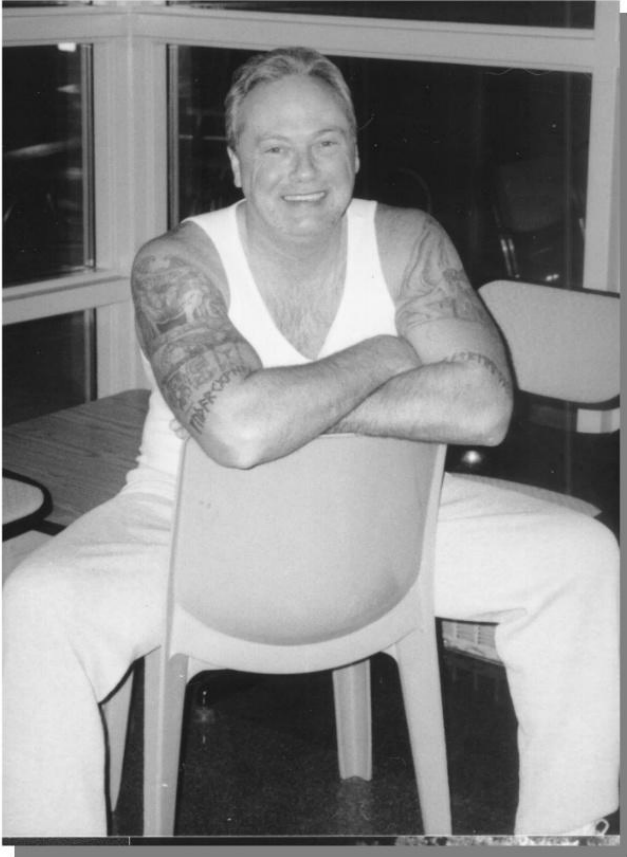
awake until about 4 AM thinking on these words, and then awaking a short while later I knew I'd heard something very real. How could it be? I decided not to tell anyone.

Shortly thereafter I saw a Christian on the compound who taught a Bible study that (surprisingly) I had recently attended. (I still have no idea how I ended up in a Bible study.) I said, "Hey, you've been praying about me haven't you?!! Quit it!!" He just smiled and went back to his workout. And I was still confused. I was actually afraid to hear that voice again and because I couldn't sleep, I folded my hands and really prayed for the first time in my life. I asked God to give me a sign, which made me feel foolish because I knew I was unworthy.

When I awoke an hour later, I was refreshed and full of life. My head didn't hurt, my eyes were clear and I felt good! But why? Nothing had changed since awakening two nights ago and my shallow mind still wouldn't accept what had happened. Now is when it really gets weird, or should I say, things finally became clear.

I was sitting at this very typewriter when that Christian guy who teaches the Bible study came in to do some typing. He's different than anyone I've known in prison. He walks around the compound helping people, praying for them and all around enjoying himself as if this were some kind of vacation instead of being sentenced to a place of punishment. I stiffened up and tried to pay him no mind, but that doesn't work with him. So I spilled my guts and he didn't quiver or even smile. He simply said that God comes to visit him often too, and it's throughout the Bible. I shook it off and tried another approach. "I think I'm losing my mind. I'm hearing voices." **He went to the library and returned with a Bible, then showed me several places where God has come, in the middle of the night, talked to people, and didn't identify Himself.** He showed me the story of Samuel, who God spoke to

"You show me the path of life ..." (Ps. 16:11)



Robert Michael Saf

more times than I can count. Once, I was even a passenger in an automobile accident and woke up as they were zipping the body bag over my head (the only survivor in either car), never knowing why God spared my life. I was a womanizer, liar, thief, and drug trafficker and worshiped false idols. The only thing the human race was here for was my pleasure and amusement. I've denounced God daily for the last 38 years and simply lived an unforgivable life, or at least so I thought until I heard from God in the middle of the night.

Today I walk in the light. And I know that whatever you've done, God loves you and is ready to forgive you. Just ask, from your heart, and you too will be born afresh into the Kingdom of God. "I came to seek and save that which is lost," Jesus said, and He found and saved me!

*I've ... simply
lived an
unforgivable
life, or at least
so I thought...*

three times before Samuel was told by Eli the Priest that it was God (I Sam. 3). Then he showed me the passage in Job 33:14-16:

*I've been shot,
stabbed,
beaten half to
death more
times than I
can count.*

"For God does speak, although man may not perceive it, in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, as they slumber in their beds, he may open their ears and seal their instructions, to turn man from wrongdoing, to keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from going down to the pit...God does this oftentimes with man."

With these words of comfort and confirmation, I had new hope and began to read the Bible with an open heart for the first time in my life. Within three days, **I gave my life (spirit, soul and body) to Christ.** You know, I've been shot, stabbed, beaten half to death



HEAVENLY MATHEMATICS:

1 cross

+ 3 nails

4 given

That's the whole gospel
message simply stated.

REAL FREEDOM



THE CHURCH INSIDE

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ... that Christians are just nice people who go to church on Sunday and stay out of trouble? Often a Christian's life doesn't seem appealing, and you might find yourself saying, "No thanks." It may even seem that you live in the 'real world' and Christianity isn't going to solve your real problems.'

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED ... the interest so many people have in the supernatural (i.e. psychics, New Age, etc.)? Why do you suppose that is? **God planted in each of us a desire for Him, the one-true super-natural God.** Without him we feel empty, inadequate, full of shame, and a constant need to fill that void. Have you reached the 'end of yourself' yet, where no matter what you do, something is missing in your life?

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED ... that Jesus spent most of his time with twelve men who had no place in society, and **those who offended much of society?** His disciples began to preach and perform miracles that only God could do. And the downtrodden found what they had looked for all their lives. In one of Jesus

Christ's first sermons, He said, *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed..."* (Luke 4:18, 19).

HAVE YOU EVER RECOGNIZED ... that Jesus suffered the full punishment for your sin and God offers you the GIFT of a complete pardon, if you:

1. **Admit** your spiritual need for Jesus Christ because you are a sinner. (*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Rom. 3:23)
2. **Believe** that Jesus Christ died for YOU, as payment for your sin that would have kept you eternally separated from God. (*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Rom. 6:23)
3. **Receive** Him as Lord and Savior of your life and be willing to **turn** away from your sin. He will help you! (*"I can do all things through Christ who*

YOU Can Ask Jesus to be Lord of Your Life



"God, I want to experience Your love and freedom. The Bible says that if I accept Jesus as my Lord and believe in my heart that you raised Him from the dead, I will be saved."

"I believe that You are God and that by Your power You raised Jesus from the dead. I believe that by that same power,

You can forgive me and make me a whole person inside. I believe that by that same power You can give me a peace that passes all understanding. Forgive me for everything I have done against Your will."

"Thank You for forgiving me. Thank You for loving me. Thank You for saving me. And now, beginning this very second, I am saved! Send me Christians who will teach me, love me, and help me in times of trouble."

"I love you. In Jesus Name, Amen."

MY WIFE KEPT PRAYING

By Asberry Scott
Capshaw, Alabama

Most of my life I focused on being in control. My friends and family – especially my grandmother – told me to turn over control of my life to Jesus, but I didn't have room for two gods. I chose crack cocaine as my god. I believed that I was in control but anyone who has recovered from a crack addiction knows differently.

Since being incarcerated, I've developed a personal relationship with Jesus. I lost my freedom but gained true freedom in Christ.

Through Him I have true life, a purpose, and most of all joy. **I am under God's construction now.** The old man is dead; all things have become new in Christ Jesus. Have you heard the saying, "Once a crack addict, always a crack addict?" Well, I testify today that Satan is a liar because through the blood of Christ Jesus I am healed.

Having a praying wife is the greatest blessing of my life, other than knowing Christ. I made the world my god and my wife just prayed. Again and again she asked God to save me and then waited patiently, believing. The reward to waiting was my salvation and subsequent love for our Savior. We now are husband and wife, in love with Jesus Christ!

I am very grateful for the Bible that I received through your ministry. It has been a true blessing to me as well as others with whom I share the Word of God. Thank God for caring people like you.



Asberry Scott and family

*"So then faith comes by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17)*

He Knows Your Breaking Point

By Arnold Cook
Moorehaven, Florida

I am thirty-one years old and am currently incarcerated in a Florida prison for drugs. I believe in God and His awesome power for I know that it is through His grace that I still draw breath. The Bible that your ministry gave me has been an enormous blessing. I remember asking the Lord to speak to me through His Word and I immediately read:

"Are you at the brink of despair, thinking that you cannot bear another day of heartache? As difficult as it may be for you to believe this today, the Master knows what He's doing. Your Savior knows your breaking point. The bruising and crushing and melting process is designed to reshape you, not ruin you. Your value is increasing the longer He lingers over you."

I read that, broke down, and just cried a soul-rocking cry. I could have cared less who saw me, because God touched me. Since then I have changed from the inside out. My Heart Ministries Bible has changed me forever. It is perfect. Chapter outlines are informative and just help me understand. The concordance is a wonderful blessing, and the insights move me most. My prayers are for your ministry.



Arnold Cook and his mom



SERVING GOD AFTER SERVING TIME

By Hal Bradley
Seattle Washington

One day while I was in prison I went into the chapel to see about obtaining a Bible. I came upon a small group of inmates gathered around a table studying the Word. The chaplain was not available, but an inmate wrote my information down and contacted Heart Ministries for me. Little did I realize that from that moment, God was going to change my life dramatically.

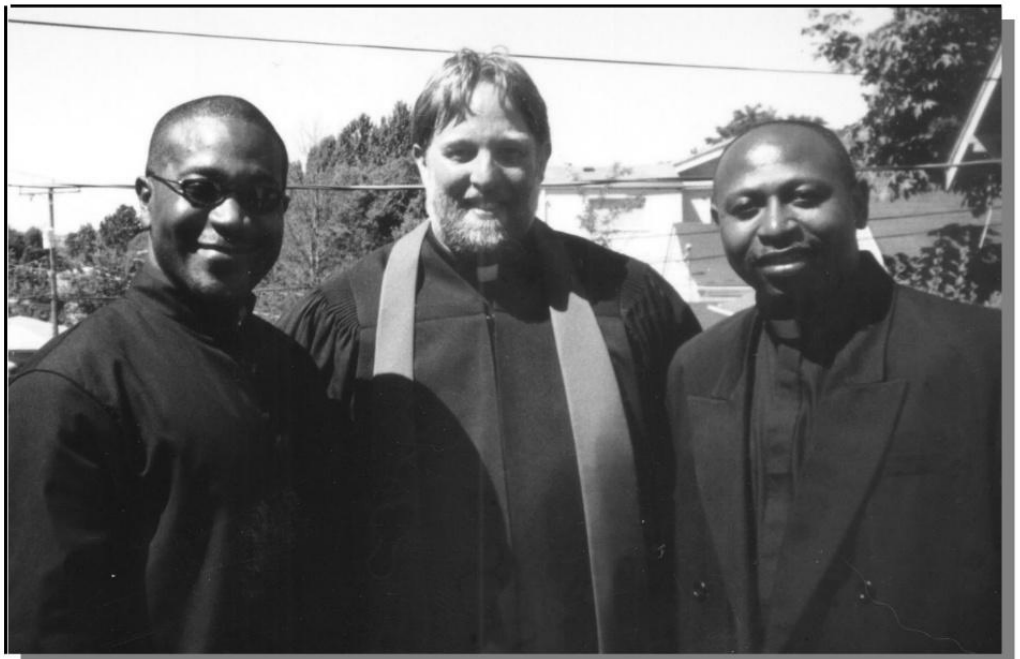
Within a few months after arriving at the Institution I fell sick with a liver disease prompted by the hepatitis "C" virus. I was flown to a Medical Center for federal prisoners in Springfield, Missouri where I was to undergo a year of chemotherapy treatments in an attempt to beat this illness and not die in prison. The prognosis was not good, but my love and faith in God kept me positive and desirous to maintain my studies and to be faithful to the calling I had received: to become an ordained minister and serve Christ forever. During the time of my treatments, I became a hospice volunteer and also continued on in my seminary studies. Over the course of the next year and a half I served as a counselor to many dying inmates and was blessed to be in the presence of several as they went to be with God. All the time I would sit in those "dying rooms," my trusty Bible from your ministry would be with me, bringing comfort and encouragement not only to myself, but to the men who heard the Truth.



One day while returning from the ward, I spotted a familiar inmate walking in the corridor towards me and as he got closer I realized it was the man who got me the Bible. I was overjoyed at seeing my brother in Christ and couldn't wait to share with him all God had done in my life since getting that treasured gift. From then on, we made it a point to get together in the chapel or on the exercise yard to discuss the Lord and the opportunity in the institution so full of suffering, to bring forth God's love and healing.

A "prayer team" of inmates would often be seen in the wards laying hands on the sick and dying, praying over them and sharing God's love and His Word. We who were Hospice Counselors would hear from our own patients how encouraging my friend's work for God was to them, and we would see incredible changes in them.

My time came to depart the institution as I was miraculously healed myself. Five years later, I still have no trace of the virus, constituting a complete recovery through God's healing touch. I was blessed to immediately begin teaching hospice classes at the next facility I went to, and the moment finally arrived when I was headed home. Upon my arrival to



Hal Bradley with two ministers from their church's 31st annual convention

"Encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near" (Heb. 10:25)



Obedience

the halfway house I was immediately given the opportunity to serve God on the outside. What a joy this was, to see my time inside begin to bear fruit outside.

Since that time God has been so faithful. I was ordained, designed outreach services for my church, service in a hospice capacity at the local hospitals, and have walked among the homeless and destitute for the past three winters now. I've been blessed to maintain studies towards my eventual goal of getting my Doctorate in Divinity, which I accomplished in April of last year. I hold a masters in Metaphysical Sciences which allows me to minister Jesus to those trapped in New Age philosophy. I offer a Christian prayer service online in the metaphysical community and am currently enrolled in Masters Divinity School completing my Chaplain's Certification. My eventual goal is that the Lord will bless me with a hospice for the homeless and the destitute.

I still practice out of that same Bible Heart Ministries gave me over seven years ago. In the front, is a message from that dear brother who got it for me, saying: "To brother Hal...a new life ahead." Thank you, and God bless you all..

Jesus said that you can tell what is in a person's heart by listening to what that person says. He used the word "heart" to mean a person's true character and feelings, If someone frequently gossips, lies, and speaks negatively about others, you have a pretty good impression of his character. Likewise, you can easily guess the character of a person whose words are encouraging, kind, and truthful.

People can't see your heart, but they can see (and hear) what your heart produces. It's like the fruit on a tree. You know what kind of tree you're looking at by the fruit it produces. Jesus said, "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good. Make a tree bad, and its fruit will be bad" (Matt. 12:33). Make it our goal to produce good fruit by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"A good person produces good words from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil words from an

evil heart." Matt. 12:35



More Bulletin Blunders

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

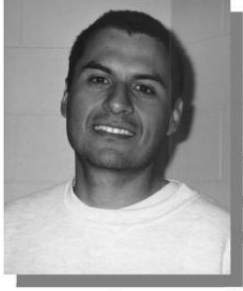
The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



Freed from the Devil's Grip

By Jose Quiroz
Florence, Colorado



Jose Quiroz

Growing up, I thought I had the perfect parents. We went to mass and "Catechism" classes, had family cookouts and even Bible studies.

We were taught to pray to statues of saints and ask forgiveness of our sins from a priest. I thought that was normal until things fell apart. My parents started having problems and soon my Dad began drinking. They lost interest in God and church activities, so I began to question God. Things got worse and I blamed God for everything.

At the age of 13, a **friend introduced me to Satanism**. He told me about this demon I could ask for anything and he would give it to me. Next thing I knew, I attended satanic sacrifices and read the satanic bible. I spun out of control, no longer caring about anything. Then I had my first encounter with a demon face-to-face.

After waking up in the middle of the night, I saw a huge demon staring right at me. I thought it was an illusion. "*No more satanic services,*" I thought, "*and this will go away.*" Little did I know that by inviting Satan into my life I had become one of his little slaves during those satanic services. He didn't torment me much early on because he knew I didn't have a personal knowledge of God, plus I was doing his work and blaming God for everything.

The relationship between my parents was getting worse and I was a troublemaker at school. As long as

I blamed God, Satan seemed to leave me alone. But the day came when I was arrested on drug charges and sent to federal prison. A year later, a prisoner introduced me to Jesus Christ. He told me about a Savior who died for me on a cross. I brushed him off as a 'scared to be in prison religious fanatic.' Well Jesus didn't go away and eventually I was born again!

Shortly after the miracle of being saved, I was baptized. I felt good, clean and new for the first time in my life; however my problems weren't over. That night I had another visit from the same demon that I'd seen seven years earlier. Although many years had passed and I now knew Christ, fear literally gripped my heart. Face to face with a demon, I knew this wasn't an illusion or a dream. I was wide-awake and he

was angry at me. I started to pray and the demon went away, but then returned, again and again and again. As long as I didn't study the Bible this demon left me alone. For the next year, I stayed away from God's Word and prayed just a little, scared this demon would return.

That same year, I was sentenced to eleven years. Then worse news: my brother was shot. On my knees, I prayed, desperately asking the Lord to help my brother, and I heard a voice tell me to "*trust in the Lord.*" Peace filled my soul and after a few days, my brother was out of danger. I thought it was interesting that at this time a different voice tried to accuse God saying, "*God wanted your brother shot and to be in this condition.*" I didn't buy it this time. There was no peace and I simply refused

*I attended
satanic
sacrifices
and read
the satanic
bible.*

"... offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God ..." (Rom. 12:1)

That night, I received another visit from this demon. Before going to sleep, I had prayed to get back on track with Jesus. I was awakened suddenly, gripped with fear and something was pressing me down on the bed. I was pinned down and couldn't move. I knew this was the demon trying to stop me again from my relationship with Christ. So, with fear inside me, I stopped praying and just hoped God would take care of everything. Several years passed by and then I finally asked God for a second chance, asking him to show me what I needed to do to be free.

***As long as I
didn't study
the Bible,
this demon
left me
alone.***

One night I had a dream. The Lord showed me a Christian guy who lives here and is always praying with other guys. In the dream, he laid hands on me and I choked, vomiting while he commanded Satan to come out of me in Jesus' name. As I woke up, I felt like I was still vomiting, but then it went away. I absolutely knew God had given me the answer for my deliverance.

A few days later, this same Christian Brother was down the hallway talking to another person and I overheard him saying, *"I don't know why I'm led to share this story with you, but I have to share it."* He told about a spiritual battle he once had where Satan appeared to him in a prison cell. Jesus delivered him from a demon's grip and he's been free ever since. I knew this was a confirmation. I approached this Brother telling him of my dream and dilemma. He just smiled with the love of Christ and told me we would soon get together and God would set me free by the power of the Holy Ghost.

I began attending the nightly prayer circle where I'd first seen this guy praying and started to feel a little better, although the tormenting dreams continued. One night I went to his cell with another guy from the

prayer circle. They prayed over me and suddenly, my left hand became tight and I shook as they commanded a spirit to come out of me in the Name of Jesus. I couldn't talk and felt like I was going to vomit. They told me to call on Jesus. It was difficult to get the words out at first and I fell forward out of the chair on my knees. They continued to command Satan to loose hold of me and finally I was able to speak, calling on Jesus. They led me in a prayer, denouncing Satan and commanding him to depart my life once and for all and never to return. **Something left me and a peace filled me through and through. I was finally free!**

One of the brothers here gave me a discipleship tool from your ministry called, The Bondage Breaker by Neil Anderson. I've been reading it and the Bible and understanding for the first time in my life the liberty we have in Christ and full authority we have over Satan in Jesus Name. I have learned from experience that we don't have to be tormented by the devil, and the Blood of Jesus really has set us free. Amen.

***They told
me to call
on Jesus.***





Pray in the NAME of Jesus.

Put on your spiritual hard hat or "CAPP" each day by remembering what the NAME actually means:

C = character

A = authority

P = power

Direct Your Correspondence to

Heart Ministries at the address below, attention:
Susan Hairabedian – for prayer and Bible requests
Nanette Flynn – for Bible Study Course information
Jeff Gay – for Video Teachings in your Library
Elaine Hart – to send us your testimony and photograph for "The Church Inside" and to be placed on the mailing list

From the Staff of Heart Ministries, we say "encourage one another daily" (Heb 3:13). As you walk with Christ behind bars, please know you are an encouragement to those of us on the outside. Many people on the outside are prisoners (of deceit, bitterness, poor health, unforgiveness, religion, etc.), and need to receive the same freedom in which you already walk. Your testimony is an en-

Write Us and Tell Us Your Testimony

You are welcome to write us anytime, here at Heart Ministries. We would enjoy hearing your testimony, learning of your growth in the Lord, and how we can pray specifically for you.

Want to Receive Your Own Copy of "The Church Inside?" Take a minute to write us and send us your testimony. We will in turn, put you on our mailing list, and we may be able to share with others what the Lord has done in your life. You may also send a picture for possible reproduction in "The Church Inside." Heart Ministries provides leather Bibles to inmates in need.

We are based solely on donations, so please pray that heart's are touched on the outside for those behind bars.

Write to Heart Ministries, PO Box 1685, Kansas City, MO 64055



God's Wings

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had! gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." (Ps. 91:4) Being loved this much should make a difference in your life. Remember the One who loves you, and then be different because of it.

“... And it shall be done for you as you have believed ...” (Matt. 8:13)



Inside Faith Affects Outside Family

One of the great rewards for the Heart Ministries staff, is to see the way an inmate's growing faith in Christ affects their families and friends back home. We praise the Lord that the good news is reaching outside prison walls in this way.

Although our primary ministry is directly with an inmate, there are special times when we feel led by the Holy Spirit to send materials that minister to an inmate's family. Such was the case with the following letters of testimony. George Serrano's letter prompted us to send him a children's Bible that he could read to his kids when they visited him in prison (his testimony follows). On another occasion, we were asked to send a video about Jesus to the family of an inmate named, David Mikel. We sent the video to David's family and we've printed his follow-up letter.

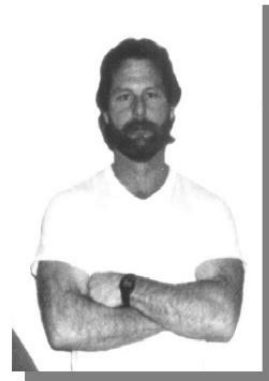
May the Lord bless these inmates as they grow in their knowledge of His Word and continue to share the Lord with those they love outside prison walls.

Dear Heart,

I want to thank everyone who had a part in sending The Jesus Video to my two little ones. I especially thank the Lord for using a friend of mine here who has been a blessing to me here at the Camp.

I called home and talked to my daughter, Brittany, who is 11 and my son, Dylan, who is 7. They told me about the healings and how Jesus cleansed the temple and Zaccheus climbing the tree. They even took it and let other children watch it in children's church. It was such a blessing to have my children talk about Jesus. I really believe we've got to "plant the seeds" while they are young.

Thanks for the seeds you all planted.



David Mikel
Florence, Colorado

Dear Heart Ministries,

Every Sunday here at the prison-visiting park, my wife and I share the Bible with the kids. I also

give my son and his friends here (other prisoner's children) homework. But please understand that it's Gods doing because God is the only one at work. My wife and I know that God is using us.



The reason for the letter is because I need a Big Picture Bible. I would like to show my kids pictures as I read to them. My prayers is that you would bless us with a nice "Big Picture Bible." Your brother in Christ,

George Serrano
South Bay, Florida

George Serrano was raised by his mother after his father left the family. Grateful that she at least cared enough to send him to church with a neighbor, George learned at ten years old that there was a God who loved him and cared about his life.

Later he realized that knowledge of God wasn't enough. As he told us, "I *thought* I was a Christian because I knew *about* God." Without an actual relationship with the Lord to stabilize Him, He drifted into drugs and eventually stealing. Things worsened until his family actually took out an insurance policy on his life because of the slim chance they gave him of survival.

It was during George's second prison term for robbery, during a time of deep depression, that a series of events began to draw him closer to God. George's wife brought his newborn son for him to see. Different chaplains told him things like, "Hold on Son, God isn't finished with you yet," and "God has something for your life, Serrano." One chaplain simply told him, "Start studying the Word of God, George."

He began reading the Bible a chaplain had given him and his depression lifted. Jer. 18:1-6 became the light of his soul and spirit.

George began to share his new found understanding

(Continued on page 34)

Inside Faith Affects Outside Family

(Continued from page 33)

for life with God. Many thought he was crazy but he knew he was simply a man who had been blind and ignorant but now could see. The Lord has healed his heart, mind and soul and as a result, his wife has grown in the Lord.



It is possible to change when you have a relationship with Jesus Christ and begin to trust Him with every issue in your life. George now looks forward

"The word which came from Jeremiah from the Lord saying, Arise and go down to the potters house and there I will cause you to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house and there he was making something at the wheel and the vessel that he made out of clay was marred in the hand of the potter. So he made it again into another vessel as it seems good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter? Says the Lord. Look as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand O house of Israel."

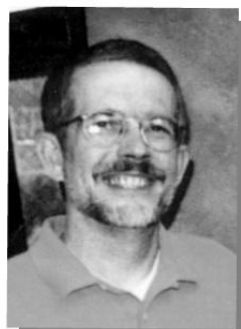
to living a life with Christ and especially to sharing this love with his family.

It is possible to change when you have God on your side and you have made up your mind to trust Him.



Weeds Everywhere

By Jeff Gay
Heart Ministries Staff



Jeff Gay

Gardening is a passion of mine. Often the Lord gives me life lessons as he did this past season with my blackberry patch, I once again was given a life lesson. Blessed with an almost perfect combination of factors to grow blackberries, I found that the only weak link in the chain is me (the human).

Blackberries (like our Father) are very forgiving plants, thriving under even the worst of circumstances. However, when mulched, and pampered, they produce prolifically and life is just a lot better in the berry patch. (For those agriculturally disadvantaged, mulching is the process of placing a layer of organic material on top of the soil around the plants.) The mulch performs a number of vital functions. It protects the soil, keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It helps moderate the soil temperature to keep the plants more comfortable and preventing damage to the roots. The other primary function is to keep water in the soil and prevent the weeds from growing and competing for water and nutrients.

Done early in the season, it is a simple and quickly completed task. However, when I procrastinate I'm left with a monumental task. My berries last summer were overgrown with grass two feet tall and weeds over my head, with stalks an inch thick. What I could have completed months before in two days (in pleasant spring weather) ended up taking two weeks in punishing heat (See Eccl. 3 for wisdom of timing).

"... offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God ..." (Rom. 12:1)

When will we learn?

I promise I had good reasons for not doing my mulching earlier. I had to edit this; I had to read that. I didn't want to miss the latest movie. I worked so hard I deserved a break. In any case, the time had come to pay the price for my neglect. And the sentence is hard labor. Additionally, the harvest was reduced and next year's will most likely be affected as well.

How often have I neglected taking care of God's business? Oh, I have all kinds of reasons and excuses, but are any of them really acceptable to God? As human beings, we tend to resist many things that require effort. Our flesh desires to take the easy way out. Unfortunately, far too many of us neglect our relationship with God. (See Luke 9:59-62 concerning procrastination)

We put off praying, saying we'll get to it later. We put off tithing, citing too many other pressing needs. We fail to care for our fellow man; someone else will do it. We don't read our Bible; we don't have time.

Our flesh desires the easy way out.

You have been deceived!

These are lies given to us by Satan. He can indeed plant seeds of doubt in our hearts, but they grow only if **we** nurture them. Remember, Satan is the father of lies. He seeks only to misdirect and deceive us. While he can produce flashy magic, miracles flow only from God.

Prayer does indeed take time. Could you spare ten minutes a day? When I start my day with prayer, I find my day is filled with a greater sense of peace. I keep a prayer in my heart all day, praising the Lord and His goodness in all I do. I soon find myself wanting to spend more time in prayer and worship.

The Bible is quite clear on the subject of tithing (See Lev. 27:30-33 to learn more about tithing). We are to give one-tenth of our income to the Lord. The amount is not what is important. The percentage is. It is a matter of obedience. And, the Lord does bless obedience. I also believe we are also expected to give one-tenth of our time to the Lord's work as well.

This contribution can take many forms, but we are called to do it. Can you imagine what a world we would live in if every person devoted fifteen hours every week to God and caring for our fellow man (See 2 Cor. 8:10-15 for Paul's thoughts on service)?

As we tithe according to God's law, prosperity and blessings are unlocked in our lives and the Lord sees to it that we are provided for (See Matt. 6:25-33 to learn about God's bounty). In the same manner, **we are blessed when we tithe our time.** God will see that we have time to accomplish all that is truly needed. However, we may have to turn off the TV once and a while to discover what is truly meaningful in life (See Mal. 3:10 for God's promise of blessings for tithing).

Don't neglect your spiritual mulch

What is spiritual mulch? It's the Word of Almighty God. If we will liberally apply the Word, it will literally mulch our souls. It protects our spirit, moderating the extremes of the battle raging for our minds and souls and prevents excessive swings in any direction we may be pulled. It will prevent damage to our body and soul and keep Satan's pesky little seeds from taking root. And it will smother his lies and allow the true fruit of God's spirit to flourish in us.

There you have it. Do it the easy way and let the Lord protect and nourish you with His wonderful mulch, otherwise you'll battle Satan's infernal weeds all your life. I don't know about you, but I've got some weeds to take care of!



THERE IS A SPIRITUAL KEY FOR EVERY HEALING

(Continued from page 16)

and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). "For if we would judge ourselves we should not [have to] be judged" (I Cor. 11:31). "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep [have died]" (I Cor. 11:30).

NUMEROUS LABELS AND TAGS OF SIN

In the innumerable sea of souls I saw, I remember several of the various tags of Scripture and labels of sin. One was labeled **fault-finder/complainer** (Jude 1:16). Another read **disobedient to parents** (II Tim. 3:2). Yet another read **half-hearted/lukewarm** (Rev. 3:2). Other labels included the sins of **pride, jealousy, anger, resentment, bitterness, vanity, self-indulgence, lust, gluttony, witchcraft, judgmental, critical, robs God, forsakes fellowship, double-minded, legalism, and even religion**. The labels were numerous and covered everything under the sun. Many contained more than one label and verse. Some had so many they just seemed to overlap and could hardly be read, while others literally looked like inkblots. Just as I felt the latter was without hope, the Lord reminded me of the power of His Blood to cleanse **ALL** sin. Then I heard the words the dream began with; "***There is a spiritual key for every healing.***" Again, He emphasized **every**. With this, I woke up.

AFTER AWAKING

After awaking from the dream, I pondered all I had been shown and my heart became even



more convicted and broken before the Lord. His desire is to heal his people in **every** situation. However, in many cases, His children have missed the **key** to unlock Heaven's door. In some situations, it is another member of the Body who holds the key, but refuses to exercise it in behalf of the person in need. As in the earlier examples, the minister who was unwilling to **fast and pray** for one of the sheep under his care or the husband who was unwilling to use his **key of forgiveness** so his wife could be healed. In other situations, it is the individual who holds the key to their own healing, deliverance, marriage restoration or miracle. But they are **unwilling** or **unaware** of how, to exercise

For most people it is simple repentance that will unlock the door.

the use of the key they possess. For most, it is **simple repentance** that would unlock the door. For others, they must release what they are holding on to before they can receive the key that God **wants** to give them. **It isn't that God is withholding anything from any of His children, it is His children who are refusing to take and exercise use of the keys that He has already provided for them.** Two more verses came to mind:

*"As his divine power has given to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue: Whereby are given to us exceedingly great and **precious promises**: that **through these** you may be partakers of the divine nature,*

Knock and Keep on Knocking

having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Pt. 1:3-4).

-and-

*"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you should come short of it. **For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it**" (Heb. 4:1-2).*

I realized that God's provision for healing has already been made. It is for **ALL** of his children who will *exercise their keys* by taking God's precious promises and *mixing them with faith*.

ASK AND KEEP ON ASKING... SEEK AND KEEP ON SEEKING...

Again, I remembered the words with which the dream began. "For **ALL** who ask receive...not 70% or 80 or 90 or 95%, but **ALL** who ask believing receive...**ALL** who seek shall find, and **ALL** who knock the door shall be opened unto them...for I am no respecter of persons and My Word is true **ALL** the time ...*there is a spiritual key for every healing*." Knowing this message was based on Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew, I looked it up and began to study it afresh:

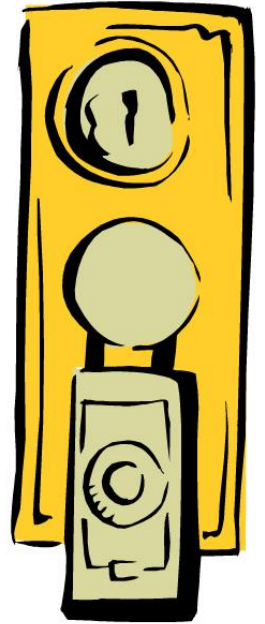
*"**ASK** and it shall be given you; **SEEK**, and ye shall find; **KNOCK** and it shall be opened. For **everyone** that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his*

son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him" (Matt. 7:7-11).

When taking a closer look at this oft quoted passage from the words of Jesus, one discovers that the words, **ask**, **seek** and **knock** are all in the present imperative tense in the original Greek. This indicates a command to do something now, with a constant, repeated action in the future until given the requested response. Hence, the passage could better be translated, "Ask, and **keep on asking**, and it shall be given you; seek and **keep on seeking**, and ye shall find; knock and **keep on knocking**, and it shall be opened. For everyone that asketh [and keeps on asking] receiveth; and he that seeketh [and keeps on seeking] findeth; and to him that knocketh [and keeps on knocking] it shall be opened."

I began to realize that many of God's children (myself included) often give up too soon in prayer. We haven't understood the Biblical examples Jesus provided for us in the Gospels. For example, in the **parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge**, Jesus

(Continued on page 38)



THERE IS A SPIRITUAL KEY FOR EVERY HEALING

(Continued from page 37)

taught this:



Prayer

*"Then He spoke a parable to them, that **men always ought to pray and not lose heart**, Saying; There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, **Yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me**,' Then the Lord said, 'Hear what the unjust judge said. **And shall God not avenge his own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?** I tell you the truth that He will avenge them speedily. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?**" (Luke 18:1-8).*

This **persistent widow** Jesus spoke of is a perfect **role model** for 21st century believers.

- "Men always ought to pray and not lose heart...because of her continual coming I will avenge her."
- "Ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking..."
- "Let us fear lest a promise being left to us, any of you should come short of it."
- "As His divine power has given to us all things..."
- "The same word was preached unto us as unto them, but it profited them nothing, not being mixed with faith in them that heard



it."

"There is a spiritual key for every healing...for ALL who ask receive... not 70% or 80 or 90 or 95%, but ALL who ask believing receive... ALL who seek [and keep on seeking] shall find...for God is no respecter of persons and His Word is true ALL the time..."

A second example in Scripture is the story of the gentile woman who sought Jesus for healing in behalf of her daughter who was possessed with an evil spirit:

*"And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.' **But he answered her not a word.** And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, '**Send her away, for she cries out after us.**' But He answered and said, '**I was not sent except to the house of Israel.**' Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' But He answered and said, '**It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.**' And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the Masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her and said, '**O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.**' And her daughter was healed from that very hour" (Matt. 15:22-28).*

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire," was the response she received from Jesus when she **persevered in prayer**. It's interesting to note that she received four negative responses before finally

"...and the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick..." (Luke 5:17)

receiving healing for her-daughter on the **fifth** petition:

"Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But he answered her not a word And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries after us." But he answered and said, "I was not sent except the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the Master's table." Then Jesus answered her and said, "O woman great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire."

Ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. For **ALL** who ask receive...not 70% or 80 or 90 or 95%, but **ALL** who ask believing receive...**ALL** who seek [and keep on seeking] shall find, and **ALL** who knock [and keep on knocking] the door shall be opened unto them...for I am no respecter of persons and My Word is true **ALL** the time...**there is a spiritual key for every healing.**"

There is a spiritual key for every healing. Some keys are in your hand and can be used for you, or another member of the Body of Christ. Some keys are in the Lord's hand, and He's waiting for us to come and ask Him for it. In some situations, He may require us to give Him something in exchange for use of the key. It may be confession of sin, forgiving someone who has wronged us, or letting go of what we've been holding on to so our hands (and hearts) can be

free to receive the key of healing He so eagerly desires to give. **He may require us to lay something at His feet.** (Not that He needs anything, but that we need to give or relinquish). It may be fasting (or a change of diet, giving up foods that have been harming our bodies). It may be our time or just sitting at the Master's feet in silence.

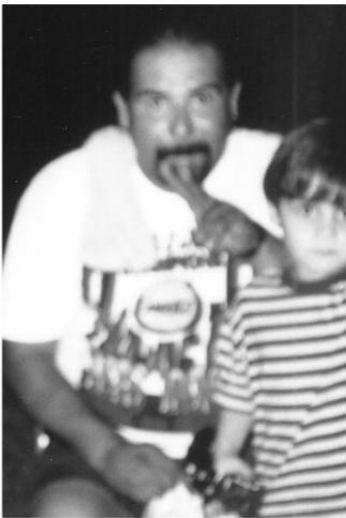
We, like the Gentile woman above, may not receive our answer from the Lord instantly. Jesus may not even answer us a word right away. Other ministers we approach for prayer and healing may even tell us to go away. At first, we may even hear Jesus respond that we're not deserving of the children's bread (although this isn't usually the case). But eventually, as is His nature and character, He will respond favorably and avenge us of our adversary, deliver our child from sickness, bondage or demon influence, restore our marriage and the like. Remember, even when He told the Gentile woman "no" and called her a dog, he healed her daughter when **she persevered**. Jesus not only healed her daughter, but also praised her for her faith! "Men ought to pray always and not lose heart." **There is a spiritual key for every healing.** "Ask and keep on asking...for He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him...you will find Me when you search for Me with **ALL** your heart!" God's delays are not God's denials. Don't lose heart. Don't give up hope. Your healing is on the way!





Inmates Whom God Has Blessed Abundantly!

The Bible you sent me has helped me tremendously to search and know the Word of God. My study has just started four years ago. But I have so much to learn. I am able to read and do my Bible studies at least an hour a day. I'm pushing myself and striving to devote more time to my Lord and Master.



Norbert Valles with son, Christopher

I have recently rededicated my life to Jesus and am striving to do His will. The Lord has blessed me abundantly in the last four years, even though I lost my mother, which was a terrible blow in here. I have been granted parole this year and I'm looking forward to

finding a church to attend. There is so much joy in my life, even in prison, and I want others to experience the same. Thank you for the Bible and may the Lord bless each and everyone doing His work.

Norbert Valles, Florida

I used to steal, drugs, pornographic materials and

PRAYER TEAM

Are you an intercessor? Do you need prayer? Please complete and return the enclosed Prayer Card. We believe there is power in the prayer of those in agreement. We want to pray for you and we appreciate your support as requests for Bibles increase.

curse. Now God has turned my life around and I do not want anything to do with that stuff. My family suffered because of my actions and because of this I am especially glad my life is turned around. I attend church with my brothers in Christ and I hope my testimony will help others. Thank you for sending me a Bible Study and I look forward to receiving the next course. I'm committed to the Lord with all my heart and soul.

Francisco Velazquez, South Bay, Florida



Jamaica Carter

My studying is going so well! I try to study the Bible you gave me every day, and I've gained great insight on whom Jesus is and who I am in Christ. Before receiving this Bible I was dealing with a lot of issues regarding; loneliness, love, confinement, and about

Jesus. Now I understand that He loves us all and anything is possible through Him. Where there is Jesus, there is liberty!

Jamaica Carter, Ohio

My life has changed since I have been in jail. Please pray that God will lead me in the paths of righteousness for the rest of my life.

William Crowell, Ft. Worth, Texas

"You show me the path of life ..." (Ps. 16:11)



IN MEMORY OF ...

Contributions are occasionally made to purchase Bibles for prisoners in memory of loved ones who have passed on to be in the presence of the Lord.

We remember:

Robert W. Keithley

Vivian Moad

Frank Marchese

Larry Ream

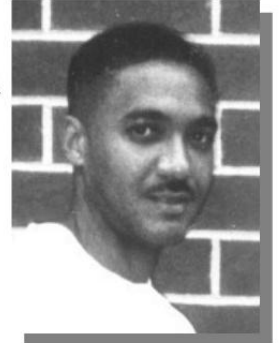
The Truth Opened My Eyes

By Ignacio Eugenio
Ft. Dix, New Jersey

To all the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The faithful people at Heart Ministries sent me a Bible and I was so thankful. Without waiting I started studying and God has blessed me richly through His Spirit in Jesus name. The word of God has opened my eyes to see the truth, and I believe I have been set free (John 8:32) even though I am behind bars. Freedom in Jesus is wonderful and something very few people throughout the world have.

I was facing a life sentence but with God's mercy I was given ten years and three months. **I'm studying my Bible as much as I can so when I am released I'll be a new man in the**

Lord. My wife divorced me while I was in prison, but I am trusting that God will provide a woman of the Lord for me one day. The four-year Bible course I've completed has helped me develop faith that God is in control of everything in my life. When I am out I will continue my daily studies to remain strong in the Lord and I know He will provide.



Ignacio Eugenio

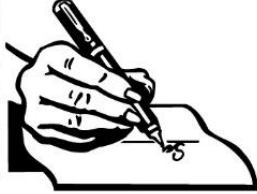
Grace to all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. There is hope for all people in Jesus name. I know. God saved me and I am now in Christ. Bless you all.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32



Writing to Inmates

Prison inmates have been isolated from the “outside” and love to receive your encouraging letters. Heart Ministries has a few important guidelines listed below with reference to writing inmates. You are welcome to contact inmates whose testimonies have appeared in this Journal. Simply contact our ministry for the necessary information.



DO: Get the inmate’s address and prison number from Heart Ministries, then send your letters with the prisoner’s full name and number.

DO: Know that all mail is opened and read by prison guards before release to the prisoner.

DON’T: Enclose stamps, hard-bound books, metal or spiral bound materials binders, cash.

DO: Know that prisoners are not allowed to communicate with other prisoners outside their prison. If your letter contains other prisoner’s addresses it will be returned to you.

DO: Use discretion and sensitivity to the prisoner’s already difficult situation. They know they made a mistake! They need your encouragement and prayers.

God bless each of you who care deeply and give so selflessly from your hearts to inmates!



You Don’t Say...

*You can’t get ulcers from what you eat – you get ulcers from what’s eating you.

*Sign at church: You are not too bad to come in. You are not too good to stay out.”

*You can’t shake hands with a clenched fist.

*The only way a lazy person succeeds is when they try to do nothing.

Prison Statistics

DID YOU KNOW?

...About 840,000 people in prison need a drug treatment program and about 120,000 are getting it.

...Inmates actively involved in prison chapel programs are four times less likely to return to prison.

...In 1999 more than 6.3 million people were under some form of correctional supervision including probation, prison, jail, or parole.

...Women make up 22% of the nation’s probationers and 12% of the parolees and 5% of the inmates.

...68% of inmates are 35 years of age or younger.

...According to a 1991 survey, 28% of inmates have a college education.

...Among the 5.3 million convicted offenders, 36% were drinking alcohol at the time of their offense.

...Over the past decade, the rate of incarceration increased from 1 in 218 United States residents to 1 in 147.

...In one year 62.5 % of people released from prisons (in 11 states) were rearrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within three years, with 41.4% returning to jail.



"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:3,4)

HEART MINISTRIES

Statement of Faith

The following is a statement of our position of basic Christian doctrine. As once stated by a great missionary, "There are certain basic Christian truths about which there must be agreement. On all other doctrines there should be liberty. In all things there must be charity [love]."

It is our resolution to take an uncompromising stand on the essential doctrines of the faith, and extend "the right hand of fellowship" to all who hold to them.

It is also our resolution to protect the liberty of Christians who hold different perspectives on the 'non-essential' doctrines. Christ came to set the captive free, and in so doing He reaches into every culture, demographic and Bastille of sin with His unconditional love, breaking chains of bondage and bringing hope, healing, deliverance and freedom everywhere His light penetrates darkness.

For some, darkness is changed into His glorious light quickly; for others, the change comes slowly over time, much like a dimmer switch. As we are all coming out of different degrees of darkness, and at different rates of growth, let us exercise love one towards another as together we come fully into the light and clarity of the One who gave His life for us all. With that being said, the following is a statement that we at Heart of America Prison Ministries hold uncompromisingly to in our mission to share the love of Jesus Christ.

—We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authori-



tative Word of God.

—We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

—We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth according to the Scriptures, in His sinless life, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

—We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

—We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

—We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of eternal separation from God (or damnation).

—We believe in the unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of race, color, language, or past lifestyle.

OUR



THE HEART JOURNAL

Behind the scenes at Heart Ministries is a dedicated staff working countless hours – mostly volunteer – investing their lives to bring the gospel to inmates. To see yielded hearts, submitted to the Lord in prayer, fasting and obedience, is to see qualities precious in God's heart.



DIANA BAILEY Web Site Director

— Diana works with the development of web sites in San

Diego. She has given countless hours to create and maintain the HEART web site (check it out: www.heartmin.org).



KOREN THERSON Graphic Design

— Koren has been with Heart Ministries since its inception.

She creates

the HEART Journal covers. *"I believe in the need for prisoners to be in touch with people on the outside who love the Lord and sincerely care about the inmate."*



NANETTE FLYNN

Coordinator of Bible Studies and Intercession

— Nanette is re-

sponsible for our Correspondence Course for inmates, newsletter and inmate data bases, intercession, and assisting with production of the HEART Journals. *"The Lord has given me freedom from spiritual bondage and I am excited to witness the workings of the Lord's miraculous powers with others."*

JEFF GAY Director of Video Programs, Publishing and Newsletter Editor

— Jeff coordinates HEART's video

programs and strategic alliances. He develops print materials and edits the monthly HEART Newsletter. *"I have found this endeavor to be very rewarding and thank our Lord for the opportunity to serve in every capacity."*



SUSAN HAIRABEDIAN

Vice President — Susan heads up daily operations which includes staff organiza-

tion, inmate correspondence, Bible ordering, distribution, and finances.

"It has been a wonderful walk with God to see lives changed through this minis-

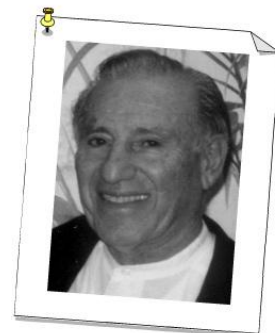


try. I am looking forward to seeing what He has for us next in this work."

TOM HAIRABEDIAN President

— Tom

oversees the Board of Directors, legal matters, and overall vision for the ministry. *"I love Jesus Christ with all my heart and I care greatly about the incarcerated."*



ELAINE HART Journal Editor, Accounting

— Elaine edits

the HEART Journal and coordinates contributor data bases and ministry accounting. *"It is a high and humbling privilege to*



Heart of America Prison Ministries

be a part of Christ's work in the huge mission field behind prison walls. "

*"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters ." (Ps. 55:1)*

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

The newest member of our team, board member Wallace Vaughn. He is an ordained minister through World Harvest Ministerial Fellowship.

Wallace teaches and preaches the uncompromised Word of God in jails and in other venues of evangelism through the ministry he founded, Wallace W.

Vaughn Ministries. He currently leads a weekly service at the Kansas City Community Release Center in Missouri and monthly services at Boonville Correctional Facility in Missouri.

Wallace is a walking testimony of the awesome power of God. He started out as a lieutenant in the Army Reserve, having graduated with honors from a top Military Academy. On his way to a promising career, he succumbed to the lure of making some easy cash on the side and was trapped into a horrible life of bondage to crack cocaine. For five years, he was homeless and strung out on drugs and alcohol.

God is good and faithful. Eleven years ago, Wallace wandered into a church one Sunday morning after having slept all night in his car. He wasn't looking for Jesus, he was looking for a free meal. But Jesus was looking for him. Wallace was prayed for that morning and was **INSTANTLY** delivered from drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. Not one drop has crossed his lips since that day.

God delivered Wallace and restored what the devil had stolen. One week after surrendering his life to Jesus, Wallace was hired as an assistant manager handling thousands of dollars a day. Not bad for someone who was a crack addict the week before. Wallace kept that job for five years. Eleven months after being homeless, he purchased his first home. Shortly thereafter, he went back to college, earned a degree in Mathematics with a 3.8 GPA, and now is a college math professor as he pursues



Newest board member Wallace Vaughn
and wife Jennifer

his Master's degree in Mathematics. **SAY AMEN SOMEBODY!** With great delight, we welcome Wallace and his wife, **Jennifer to our team.**

We are grateful for the translation work donated to our ministry by Vanessa Vaughn and Santina Mercuri. Both of these women have a heart for the hurting and lonely and a

TRANSLATORS

deep desire to be involved in service activities.



Santina Mercuri

Vanessa Vaughn



Donna Wright

DEVELOPMENT

HEART Ministries has been blessed with another tremendously talented volunteer named Donna Wright. Serving as Development Coordinator, Donna is now researching ministry funding and will develop and target proposals as she contacts grantmakers. She has a background working with non-for-profit organizations on grants and will focus on HEART's structure, finances, planning, vision, project purposes, need, accountability, and probable impact. We are grateful for Donna's expertise and welcome her to the Heart Ministries family.

The Staff of Heart of America Prison Ministries

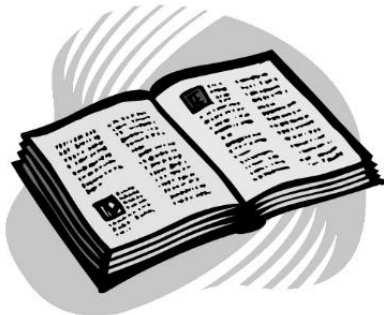
OUR MISSION OUR HISTORY

BEGINNINGS

The Heart Of America Prison Ministries seed was planted in 1991, when an inmate received a gift of a Bible while in prison in Colorado. Upon receiving this gift, he asked the Lord if he could be used this way for other prisoners.

In 1994, after being transferred to a prison in Miami, Florida, he was not allowed to take his Bible. He asked a friend to send him another. When he received it, a beautiful leather bound study key Bible, he felt compelled of the Lord

to give it away. The prisoner he gave it to then came to Christ.



Tom and Susan Hairabedian learned of the

impact a few letters, a few dollars, and a leather bound Bible can make in an inmate's life. Armed with this knowledge, Heart of America Prison Ministries (HEART) was birthed. HEART continues today, equipping men and women behind prison walls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and support materials including study courses, books, and videos.



BIBLES TO REACH

Our primary purpose is to reach prisoners with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To do this we distribute leather bound study Bibles that often become vital lifelong companions to the incarcerated. Many inmates are imprisoned for lengthy periods, and their Bible is their most **cherished** and **used** possession. **Study** Bibles equip an inmate who has limited resources for in-depth study and **leather** Bibles are durable. We believe providing a quality Bible encourages and honors a believer behind bars with our best.

TOOLS TO TEACH

HEART provides discipleship materials to aid inmates in their spiritual growth and to equip them to lead their neighbors to Christ. These materials are secured at publisher's cost or supplied free of charge and include Bible study courses, discipleship videos, and books.

PUBLICATIONS TO INFORM

The HEART Newsletter is written monthly and includes teachings, inmate testimonies and brief ministry updates. *The HEART Journal* is published once a year as an annual report of ministry structure, activities and inmate testimonies.

The HEART Web Site serves to communicate our mission electronically. All communication venues are in place to increase awareness of the opportunity to support HEART financially and through prayer. Contributors are automatically placed on the mailing list.

We rejoice at the opportunity to provide an avenue through which the inmate's testimonies will glorify Jesus beyond the prison compound.

...equipping men and women behind prison walls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

ADMINISTRATION

The ministry is set up as a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization. We are governed by a Board of Directors and a volunteer staff coordinates day to day operations.

Heart Ministries activities include:

- ◇ correspondence with inmates and their families
- ◇ processing requests for Bibles, videos, study courses, and other materials
- ◇ publishing newsletters, journals and teaching materials
- ◇ maintaining the HEART web site
- ◇ coordinating ministry intercession and financial support.

STEWARDSHIP

HEART maintains a high standard of financial responsibility, striving to keep all costs to a minimum, to maximize the dollar for direct ministry.

2001 Income and Expense

\$21,298	Income
\$20,564	Expense

Expense Detail

\$13,628	Bibles and Teaching Materials
\$1,464	Charitable Donations
\$1,878	Postage
\$2,190	Printing and Video
\$947	Supplies and Services
\$120	Travel
\$337	Telephone

Donated Rent, Utilities, Salaries



TITHING

We believe everything we receive comes from the hand of the Lord; therefore, we tithe from the increase to this ministry, as the Spirit leads.

Lives Invested to "bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners ..." (Is. 61:1)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH HEART

Write:

Heart of America Prison Ministries
P.O. Box 1685
Independence, Missouri 64055



Call: (816) 257-1822

E-mail:

Web Site and E-mail:
www.heartmin.org



Please stand with us in prayer that our administrative needs are filled, that donations come in to fill Bible and teaching tool requests, and for wisdom and strength to complete those tasks the Lord sets before us (Col. 1:9-14).

HEART OF AMERICA PRISON MINISTRIES

"Though the prisoners may be bound, the word of God is not bound." (2 Tim. 2:9)



New Office !

Heart Ministries has been finishing their new offices with new walls, wiring, storage and more. Thank you for your prayers and support as we have expanded and moved into our new ministry home. Our post office box and telephone



number remain the same (816-257-1822).



We appreciate the work many of our volunteers do from their home offices. Their tireless efforts along with the generous contributions of each of our supporters are allowing inmates throughout our nation to receiving the Word of God. All praise to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply,

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

(Mt 25:39-40)



God bless you richly.



Regeneration

HEART'S aim is not rehabilitation, but regeneration - helping inmates be what they never were. The re-arrest rate for former prisoners is 68 percent.

Without a transformation in prison, an inmate is likely to be a repeat offender. The prison population is increasing by more than 1,000 a week. It has doubled between 1988 and 1998 and is a ticking time bomb in our society. Fifty percent of the nearly two million inmates in our prisons will be out soon. Regeneration is a miracle, and God is still in the business of doing miracles, through His people.

The Impact of Giving

The human impact of the saving work of Jesus Christ is amazing in the lives of these inmates and often in the lives of their devastated families. Lives have fallen apart not only by their own mistakes, but by this present evil age as well. Jesus restores lives. He is our Redeemer, and every human being has the blessed hope of one day singing, "I KNOW That My Redeemer Lives." Thank you for the blessing of your interest in and support of *"The Church Inside."*