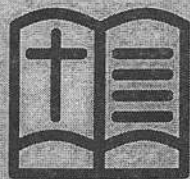


Heart of America

Prison Ministries

Volume III, Issue 2



The HEART Journal

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

NEWS FROM THE HEART OFFICE

This is our eighth newsletter - now called The HEART Journal - and as always, we want to:

- ✓ Bring you up to date with progress here at Heart Ministries.
- ✓ Share the powerful testimonies of those in prison who are affected by this ministry.
- ✓ Thank you for your involvement -- your love, concern, giving, and prayers for Heart Ministries.

Take a minute, won't you, to **meet our staff** (page four). We are grateful for those who volunteer countless hours to take the gospel behind prison bars. You are a part of this ministry team and we thank you as well.

The **HEART** web site is newly updated (www.heartmin.org). Now our doors are open to those throughout the world who have a heart for prison ministry. We're

Our primary mission is to reach prisoners with the gospel of Jesus Christ through personal, leather bound Bibles. Broken lives throughout the nation are being mended by the outreach of HEART, made possible by you and all our Ministry Partners.

working hard to keep up with the 'mountain' of mail we receive from inmates. Our partner mailing list is growing. Ninety-nine inmates are participating in our **Bible Study Course** and our goal to have **discipleship videos** in every federal prison library by the end of this year is on schedule. We've been busy!



Susan and Tom Hairabedian

We are trusting the Lord for provision that will enable us to fulfill the plans He has given HEART. **Supplying Bibles to the many inmates on our waiting list is first on our agenda.** Our Bible Study Course will expand as will our Video Outreach Programs. We also hope to have updated equipment and

an office (maybe outside our home), which will allow us to become 'normal' people again!

Your faithfulness in prayer, petition, and giving are impacting many lives for Christ. This journal is our "thank you" for what you are doing for these people behind bars.

Susan and Tom

Publishers

EDITOR'S NOTE

Your prayers, letters, and love are expressing the heart of the Father to lonely souls throughout our land. We thank you!



Elaine Hart

Our Father's plan is for believers to represent Him as a lover of mankind. Jesus loved. He taught us to love. Jesus went into the world to preach the Gospel, and He taught us to do the same. Our Lord ministered to the lonely and broken-hearted, and we have this same opportunity with Heart Ministries. **A miracle happens behind prison bars when the love of God reaches an inmate. Minds are renewed, hearts set on fire, and lives are lived for Jesus Christ!** What a privilege to work along side of you to express the heart of the Father.

The Lord blessed this ministry with a vision entitled, a "**Tree of Books**," (shared in its entirety - see page 12) which gives us a clear calling. We are at the small sapling stage, but our steady growth is producing a strong tree with many branches. **Please pray** for the growth the Lord has shown us and pray that the enemy's lumberjacks cannot stunt our growth.

Dramatic testimonies arrive daily from inmates being set free and growing in Christ (see pages 14-27). How joyous it is to see many of these believers now ministering to their fellow inmates.

Renewal. Regeneration. It can happen. Be encouraged! Lives are changing for Christ!

Elaine

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Your contribution places you on our mailing list. If you know someone who would like to receive The HEART Journal, send a request to: Heart Ministries, P.O. Box 1685, Independence, MO 64055

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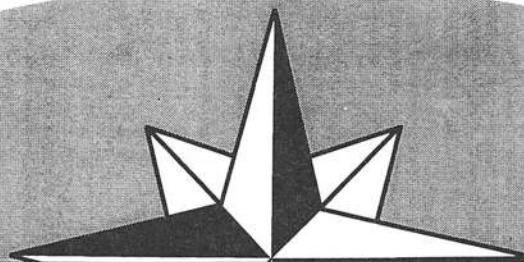
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Special points of interest:

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Every Federal
Prison page 8
- ✓ A Father's Per-
spective page 25

**Visit us on
the Web!**
www.heartmin.org



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6 - Bible Distribution -- Hundreds of Bibles are reaching the lost as well as those Christians desperate to study God's Word.

7 - Bible Study Course -- Spiritual study tools are not always accessible in prison. Inmates are being discipled through the HEART Bible Correspondence Course.

8 - Video Outreach -- Prisoners are witnessing to other inmates through the help of discipleship videos. This means one less offender and one more redeemed soul to be released back into society.

9 - Bilingual Needs -- Believers behind bars who do not speak English need our help. See how HEART is meeting these needs.

25 - A Father's Perspective -- The amazing journey having a son behind bars.

Teachings to Help Us Grow in Him

12 - The Tree of Books -- The vision that has served as a guide for Heart Ministries. Lumberjacks will come, but through prayer, the Tree Of Books will continue its growth nation-wide.

Testimonies of Transformed Lives

"They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony." (1 John 4:4) Be blessed as you read the amazing testimonies of inmates who have been set free in Jesus Christ.

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THE HEART TEAM

The Staff of Heart of America Prison Ministries

Heart Ministries

***B**ehind the scenes at Heart Ministries is a dedicated staff that works countless hours, year in and year out, investing in the lives of others. All work to date has been volunteer. A tremendous amount of effort goes into administrative work on a daily basis. To see yielded hearts, submitted to the Lord in prayer, fasting and obedience, is to see qualities precious in God's heart. We thank the Lord for these invested lives.*

KOREN ELIZABETH EMERSON has been involved in prison ministry for ten years. She says, *"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."* With a B.Sc. degree in landscape architecture, Koren was an architect in San Diego for ten years until opening her own business dealing in rare and collectible books. She donates her graphic design skills to create the HEART newsletter covers. Koren grew up, as she puts it, *"basically as an atheist until accepting Jesus during my college years."* Since 1981, Koren has taught Sunday school, helped plant a new church, served on ministry teams locally and in national outreaches and international conferences. *"These ministry conferences are powerful, with many people receiving Christ, getting healed, and being set free from bondage. This is my hope for prisoners throughout the land."*

NANETTE FLYNN quotes Eph. 4:12 (Living Bible) *"Why is it that He gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, in building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity."* Nanette's basic responsibility for HEART is Bible Correspondence Course Coordinator where she facilitates a discipleship study program for inmates. She assists in office administration, daily mail, Bible distribution, and mailing list maintenance. Married with an eighteen year old daughter and a thirteen year old son, Nanette has a deep love for the Word of God. She recently left a teaching career of fourteen years and is excited to see what the Lord has in store for the next part of her journey. *"The Lord has done miraculous things in my life in the past year and I count it a blessing to be able to share in the work that the Lord is doing here at Heart of America Prison Ministries."*

JEFF GAY was born in 1952 and, except for four years in the Coast Guard, he has lived his life in the Kansas City area. Though he has worked a variety of jobs, Jeff is primarily a retail manager. He has extensive background in the convenience store business and is presently working for Blockbuster Video. Jeff became involved in HEART through a dear friend who is incarcerated in the Federal Prison System. Jeff tells us, *"I have found this endeavor to be very rewarding and thank our Lord for the opportunity to serve in my capacity as Video Programs Coordinator."* Jeff has helped the video operations branch of HEART grow dramatically in a short period of time. He develops print materials and works in strategic planning for the ministry. (Jeff bakes a 'mean' chocolate chip cookie too!)

CAROL GRAY was born and raised in Missouri. She lived in Wyoming, Washington, and Australia before recently moving to Blue Springs, Missouri. Raised in church with involvement in several denominations, she says, *"At age forty-five I recognized a void in my life and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior through a program on the Trinity Broadcasting Network."* Since Carol's association with Agape Harvest Ministries and Pastor Dan Bohler, she feels the Lord is bringing her life into a closer and more steadfast walk with Him in an endeavor to live Christ-like. Through this association Carol became acquainted with Susan Hairabedian and the Heart Ministries. *"I am excited about being involved in a ministry where God humbles men and uses them to reach lost souls."* Carol helps with administrative work in the HEART office.

SUSAN BERWIN HAIRABEDIAN was born on Long Island in the state of New York. Growing up there, Susan left at age twenty-three when she moved to Phoenix and met her husband, Tom. They have two sons and a daughter. Their youngest son became involved in Heart Ministries through a journey that included time behind bars, *"getting to know Christ."* Susan says, *"It has been a wonderful walk with God to see lives changed through this ministry of Bibles, videos, and study programs. I am looking forward to seeing what He has for us next in this work."* Susan serves as Vice President, heading up daily operations which includes staff organization, inmate correspondence, Bible distribution, and ministry finances.

"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)



THE STAFF OF
HEART OF
AMERICA PRISON
MINISTRIES

LEFT TO RIGHT
JEFF GAY,
SUSAN
HAIRABEDIAN,
ELAINE HART,
DAVID
HAIRABEDIAN,
TOM
HAIRABEDIAN,
NANETTE FLYNN,
(NOT PICTURED:
KOREN EMERSON,
CAROL GRAY,
DIANA BAILEY)

TOM HAIRABEDIAN - Tom was born in Los Angeles to Armenian Immigrants and his father was instrumental in founding the Armenian Apostolic Church there. *"My father was killed in 1932 and mother raised our family alone through the depression. She spoke five languages, three of them fluently and she was an inspiration to me to keep learning."* Determined to earn a good education, Tom received his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Missouri. He spent years diving and coaching and continues to compete in Master's Diving Meets worldwide (he has numerous gold medals). With a love for the Lord and His Word, Tom is an ordained elder and teacher who has ministered in the body of Christ for years, particularly to young people. *"I love Jesus Christ with all my heart and I care greatly about the incarcerated."*

ELAINE HART learned of Jesus Christ from two committed parents at an early age. Baptized at eight years old, Elaine walked in many ways before, as she puts it, *"God sent a messenger to me in Honolulu, Hawaii who opened my heart to Jesus, His Word and His heart."* Since that time, Elaine has grown closer to the Savior, continuing her quest for His heart, and enjoying numerous opportunities to serve the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost. A twenty year corporate

background has helped Elaine focus on young adults with a focus on writing, training, encouraging, and organization. She served as CEO of Youth America, VP of National Spirit Group, has worked in the NBA and NFL, and has moved into ministry work both with youth and with Heart of America Prison Ministries. Elaine edits the HEART Journal and Newsletter and assists with ministry finances.

DIANA BAILEY - Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Diana moved to San Diego seventeen years ago (and would never go back to the cold). She and her husband have three married children and are the happy grandparents of four. At fifty-two years old, after eighteen years working as a women's counselor, Diana changed vocations and now works with the development of web sites. Diana and her husband had been involved in New Age for over ten years when they met, and actually met in an AA meeting. *"What a blessing fifteen years ago when we both became Christians. It was then that we begin to fight for our family on a spiritual level."* Those years of spiritual battle were alive and wonderful in once sense and they are now born-again and serving the Lord. Diana serves as our Web Site Coordinator and has made outstanding improvements in this area.

BIBLES

REACHING INMATES ACROSS AMERICA

By Susan Hairabedian

I received a beautiful letter from an inmate last week thanking us for his leather bound Bible. He writes that it arrived on his 53rd birthday and it was the best birthday he ever had. Thanks to one of you for donating the funds for this gift.



Susan Hairabedian

Another young man wrote who had been on our waiting list for a Bible.

He told us that during his wait, he found his other Bible which was lost while he was being transferred from one facility to another. He asked that we take him off our list and put another person in his place.

Hundreds of Bibles are reaching the hands of inmates who have recently come to know Christ. Others are lost and lonely, and have yet to accept Christ in their life, but now they have a Bible in their possession. Seeds are being planted, souls are being won.

Have you ever considered the needs of an inmate in America who only speaks a foreign language? How would you study God's Word without a Bible you could

read? Here in America, we are finding a surge in requests for bilingual Bibles to our great delight. More and more people of Hispanic background are coming to the Lord yet there are few Spanish Christian

materials available to inmates. Our predominant requests are for English and Spanish Bibles but we also supply have supplied Russian, Indonesian, and Chinese requests to name a few.



LEATHER BOUND STUDY BIBLES

SENT OUT IN 2000

410 Bibles have been mailed in 2000

345 English Bibles have been mailed (84%)

65 Bilingual Bibles (15%)

INMATES WAITING FOR BIBLES

131 waiting to be sent

Our days here at HEART are busy, including:

- Bible requests and thank you letters arrive daily and touch our hearts deeply.
- Donations come in that allow us to fulfill Bible requests for waiting inmates.
- Prayer partners intercede for inmates
- Prisoners contact us from facilities nationwide.
- Volunteers tirelessly give of themselves packing Bibles, answering mail, grading Bible Study Courses, duplicating videos, updating mailing lists, and communicating with supporters.

Thank you for the part you play in this vital work of the Lord. The gratefulness of an inmate who has just received his Bible is overwhelming as you can read below:

"Thank you so much for trying to get a Bible to me. The first Bible you sent me was refused by the institution because I didn't follow procedures. Isn't it ironic that this institution allows unlimited pornography, yet, I cannot receive a free Study Bible; I must pay for it. Thank you for your prayers. My wife, Julie, and I have a growing desire to work with inmates and new releases once I am released."

-- Craig Palmer #535470
WMCC, 609 E Pence Rd.,
Cameron, MO 64429

"Hello, I'm writing to you wonderful people to let you know that my Bible arrived today. What a great gift it is, especially since it arrived on my birthday. Praise God. Not only is it a beautifully made Bible, but its true greatness comes from within, where it is full of the Word of God. Thank you for the best birthday present that I have ever received in 53 years of life. And God Bless all of you for compassion, concern and dedication."

-- Peter Cooper #49257-198,
F.C.I. Medium P.O. Box 26040,
Beaumont, TX 77720

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him" (Lam. 3:25).

BIBLE STUDIES BEHIND BARS

By Nanette Flynn



Nanette Flynn

Many of us walk into a Christian Book Store and just purchase materials that help us grow spiritually. Books line our shelves, many we've never read. Spiritual teachings are on the radio and television. We can attend any church we want, call any of our friends for encouragement, participate in a Bible study or just get together for fellowship. **Not so with the inmates.**

In the last year the Lord gave HEART the vision and the tools to encourage inmates to study the Word on their own. How? We implemented an excellent Bible Study Correspondence Course and results are good.

Courses consist of twenty lessons each. Students are able to check their work at the completion of the lesson to make sure that they are on track. A **Rewards Incentive Program** encourages each participant as they work diligently to *'rightly divide the Word of Truth'* (2 Tim. 2:15).

The Lord promises we reap what we sow. Good seed produces good fruit; and bad seed produces bad. Pray with us that the seed of Truth will take root and that the enemy cannot steal what has been planted.

Inmates often write to express gratitude for these study tools. They also request the Bible Study Course as in these next letters:

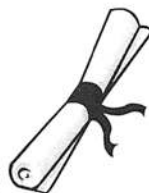
Current Enrollment

60 students enrolled in English Course 1
16 students enrolled in Spanish Course 1
23 in Course 2

- ◆ Chaplains have an average of 500 to 1500 prisoner's needs to meet, making it nearly impossible for them to minister one-on-one to these hurting individuals. For this reason HEART has begun a Bible Study Correspondence Course to help 'new born lambs' grow into 'sheep.'
- ◆ Completion certificates and incentive "rewards" are awarded after each phase of the five part course.
- ◆ The rewards program includes a Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Vines Expository Dictionary, Haley's Handbook, and a Greek/Hebrew Study Key Bible for those who complete all five phases.

"I have been saved for two years and long for a Bible and study course. Is it possible for me to obtain this through your ministry? I want to learn more about Christ. I can't wait to bear fruit and eventually become a minister. Studying will help me know God more intimately, learn of Him, and pierce my heart to live His way."

"I received the Bible Study and letter you wrote me. Thank you for those encouraging words. I've been trying for three years to stay in the Word of God and so far, I'm up to the third lesson. God is revealing His will for my life and teaching me patience, as I wait for my next Bible study."

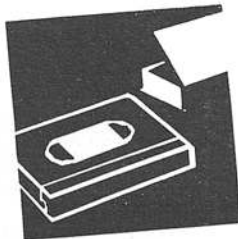


We praise God for these wonderful results, and thank you for your generosity in giving and praying. You have made this new branch of Heart Ministries possible and it is bearing much fruit.

VIDEO PROGRAMS

Helping Chaplains Reach Inmates with the Gospel

By Jeff Gay



Jeff Gay

It has certainly been a busy year here at the Video Programs Branch of HEART. Thus far, with your generous support we have been able to ship 1179 videotapes. Approximately 85% of these were Spanish language tapes. Many ministries in the United States donate English material into the prisons, but few Spanish tapes are available. We are attempting to fulfill this vital need.

It is a blessing for these warriors in Christ to have this Bible College level material available to help them grow up in the Lord and continue the battle for souls. **Every soul they reach in prison is one less offender and one more redeemed soul to be released back into society,** (and about 80% will be released over the next ten years).

We have received a donation from Abide in Him Ministries in North Carolina. Brother Lyle Colwill has graciously allowed us to reproduce a two-tape series, "Intimacy with the Father." This is a series of eight one-hour sessions dealing with the following subjects: Surrender, The Father, Discipline, Our Inheritance as Sons and Daughters, Mercy, Rejection, Positive Confessions, and Touching Him. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity, Brother Lyle.

We are continuing the search for video teachings to share with our prison population. We look for

Heart Ministries

ward to the day when we will be able to produce our own. In God's time, all will be revealed and accomplished.

Our goal remains placing materials in all Federal facilities this year. With your help and prayers, the Lord will reap a mighty harvest within prison walls from HEART Video Programs. God blesses you richly for your support in His battle for souls.

"Our prayers were answered to find video programs in Spanish. These video tapes will be put to great use and will be deeply appreciated by the many Spanish speaking inmates at this institution." -- Chaplain, Texas

"Thank you for this wonderful and needed gift. Our Hispanic inmates are very grateful. Pray for God's peace here. Our prison is filled with hateful and violent inmates." -- Chaplain, Colorado

"May this letter serve as a thank you and an open door communication among your ministries and this congregation. We truly appreciate the thirty videos you donated to us. The Spanish speaking congregation was in need of video teachings and you have met that need. We have a three day viewing policy for videos and we have twelve TV/VCR units to check out. A group or single person can check out a video of his choice and the Spanish speaking congregation is one of the regulars to take advantage of this privilege. Thank you much for your support." -- Chaplain's Clerk, Texas

"Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord. God is good!" -- Prisoner, Washington

"...that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" (Col. 1:9)

BILINGUAL BLESSINGS

How does a non-English speaking inmate study God's Word if only English Bibles are available to him? That is the dilemma that has caused us to search and secure Bibles in foreign languages for a number of our brothers behind bars.

Ministry leaders, Susan and Tom Hairabedian's son, David, was prompted by the Lord to learn Spanish years ago. He did, and was shortly thereafter transferred to a facility where Spanish speaking inmates outnumbered English! Praise God that language was no barrier as he shared the Gospel with fellow inmates. Through this outreach he discovered a need for Christian materials in non-English languages (particularly Spanish) within the prison system.

Bilingual Christian study materials are seldom available to the non-English speaking body of believers behind bars.

HEART supplies inmates with bilingual Bibles in several languages (Russian, Chinese, Portuguese) plus discipleship videos in Spanish. Reports are exciting of God's Word going 'into the world' in this regard. Please pray for our brothers (and sisters) in Christ who have need of study materials in their own languages.

*** "I just received the Bible "Biblia Bilingue." It is the most beautiful Bible I have ever dreamed of having. Using the Bible will be so helpful when I return to my country. I do pray for the ministry and I pray to meet you on "that day."

*** "I am an inmate studying to be a pastor. My great desire is to be able to minister to the Hispanic population, who currently have little Christian resources be-

hind bars. Would your ministry be able to assist me with an English/Spanish bilingual Bible?"

*** "I'm fifty years old, saved about one year, and since giving my life to Christ I can hardly believe the new person I've become. I prayed for help to stop smoking, and the next day I could not stand the smell of the smoke. Praise the Lord! I used to ride with an outlaw motorcycle club, and was horribly prejudice. But the Lord changed me into a loving person, and looking back, I cannot believe I was ever like that. The population here is 80% Spanish, so I

am learning that language in order to share the Gospel with all. I really need to see both versions of the Bible and that's why I am requesting a Spanish/English Bible."

*** "Please I am hoping this letter will find favor in your hands. I am a Chinese citizen. I don't speak good English, very few. I've come to find Jesus in prison and it is a wonderful feelings. I've accepted Him as my Lord and personal savior and I have peace in my soul than never before. Please may I ask you to help me to get a Chinese bible so I can read and have the full understanding? May God bless you for your patience and consideration to this request as well as all the help you offered to the children of God around the entire nation. Please I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible as you can."

Zhang Zhi Zhong, (Massachusetts)

After receiving his Chinese Bible from HEART:***
"Many thanks for such a great effort in purchasing for me a Chinese Bible. By God's grace the Bible has arrive me safely. The new revelation and understanding I am getting cannot be express in words. I will thank you all for such a great love and concern for the people of God. I am believing that God will open door for me to get the few Chinese nationals here to understand the freedom in Christ Jesus. Please you all keep me in your prayers. God bless you all." -Zhang Zhi Zhong

THE TREE OF BOOKS

By David Hairabedian



David Hairabedian

Heart Ministries' beginnings are 'rooted' in a vision of the Lord, given to David Hairabedian several years ago. As our cover illustrates, and the following vision explains, God called forth "A Tree of Books" ministry unto inmates.

We ask you, our Ministry Partners, to pray over this vision as several of you did when we first printed it. Pray that God's plan for growth is unhindered, that "lumberjacks" cannot stop the growth, and that God's desire for His children behind bars is fulfilled.

- Editor

The scene before me was pitch black. Suddenly I heard a Voice from Heaven speaking these words, "OUT OF DAN COMES THIS!" My entire body shook as the words were spoken and out of the blackness before me unfolded a beautiful mountain scene on a brilliant day. At the base of the foothills a Giant Right Man's Hand appeared. Then, as quickly as it had appeared, a small sprout of a tree (like a sapling) sprung up through the ring finger of the Giant Hand. It appeared to be about four feet high and immediately began to stretch forth its little branches towards the noon day sun.

THE LUMBERJACKS WILL COME

At this my eye caught view of two lumberjacks off in the distant foothills carrying long handled, single bladed tree axes. One of them spotted the small sapling and got the attention of the other. He pointed at the location of the tree and both nodded in agreement. They began out of the foothills towards the newborn tree, walking stride by

stride together as if one man. I was amazed at the perfect unity demonstrated in their walk and the distance they were able to cover so quickly together. At this the Great Voice spoke again saying, "LUMBERJACKS WILL COME TO TRY AND CHOP THE TREE DOWN!" Hearing these words I became sorely afraid for the tree and myself. I pulled my own hand back and hid it behind my body and much to my surprise the Giant Hand also disappeared.

The two lumberjacks walked on to the scene where the Giant Hand and small tree had been. They looked at each other, then around the area, shrugged their shoulders and walked off in opposite directions. The scene remaining was the beautiful mountain view in the middle of the day with no Giant Hand, no small tree and no lumberjacks. At this the Voice spoke again and said, "THE TREE WILL ONLY GROW IN THE LIGHT! YOU MUST PUT THE TREE IN THE LIGHT FOR IT TO GROW!" Still afraid that the lumberjacks might return I hesitated at first, but then a calm assurance came over me and I put my right hand back out. Simultaneously the Giant Hand appeared in the scene and so did the sapling. Immediately it began to stretch forth its little branches towards the noon day sun again.

AS HIGH AS THE MOUNTAIN IN SHALL GROW

The scene changed and I was terrified. A huge tree was erupting out of the ground before me and shooting up towards the heavens. (It looked like something out of the Jack and the Beanstalk story.) My body was pushed backwards by the force of the tree's sudden growth and it almost knocked me down. Something seemed to hold me in place on the backs of my heels and the Voice spoke again saying, "A TIMBER ... A TALL TIMBER ... A TALL GREEN TIMBER ... A TALL GREEN STRONG TIMBER ... AS HIGH AS THE MOUNTAIN IT SHALL GROW!" As soon as the Voice stopped speaking the scene changed back to the calm mountain scene with the Giant Hand and the small tree stretching its branches towards the noon day sun. The Great Voice

The Vision for Heart Ministries

spoke again saying, "THIS IS WHERE IT BEGINS!" I stood

peering at the small tree and could not fathom how this could be. At this, the previous scene of the tree's furious growth returned and knocked me backwards on my heels again as the force of its huge branches flew out of the earth traveling towards the sky riding upwards on the tree's thick trunk. Again the Voice spoke saying, "A TIMBER ... A TALL TIMBER ... A TALL GREEN TIMBER ... A TALL GREEN STRONG TIMBER ... AS HIGH AS THE MOUNTAINS IT SHALL GROW!" Being shaken by the scene I could do nothing but hold on as the tree continued to grow with great fury before my wide open eyes. Then the scene changed again.

MATURE CHRISTIANS

This time the scene was calm and tranquil. A giant tree with deep roots and spreading out in all directions stood before me as I watched from an observers view. I could not see the top of the tree because of the many branches and green foliage blocking the view above. Birds of different kinds could be seen resting in the tree's boughs, while others were flying in a carefree manner from one branch to another. Men and women were walking around and talking to one another beneath the tree's extensive shade. Each of them had an unusually bright countenance. As I pondered this it was instantly made known to me these were Christians. They seemed to have a maturity about them not yet present in my own life, and I desired this. Some seemed to be talking about spiritual things, while others were discussing things as they pointed to a clipboard in their hands. Still others seemed to be quite busy about

kingdom matters. Each seemed to be content beneath the great tree's covering and an unusual peace emanated from the scene, producing the same peace in my own being as I watched.

LUMBERJACKS ONE IN PURPOSE

Just as I began to fully drink in this much needed peace, my eye caught hold of the two lumberjacks standing off in the distance again. This time they were much closer than before, and carrying the tree axes in hand. From looking at them I could clearly see they were one in purpose and looking for an opportunity to get at the tree with their axes. The Voice then spoke again saying, "THE LUMBERJACKS WILL COME TO TRY AND CHOP THE TREE DOWN, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO NOW. THE TREE HAS GROWN TOO STRONG, AND TOO MANY PEOPLE SURROUND THE TREE FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO DESTROY IT!" At this I noticed a frustration on the faces of the lumberjacks, and at the same time I could clearly see an equally pronounced look of determination. They seemed to

be talking over some type of plan or strategy, and I knew I had to keep a watchful eye out for these two in the future.

At this I saw two men walk up towards the base of the tree joining the others who were walking about beneath the tree. Those Christian's countenances were not as bright as the others. They appeared to be less mature in the Lord at this stage of their walks. **Both were looking up into the tree's many branches as if expecting to resolve something.** This puzzled me. I glanced back towards the two lumberjacks for a second and saw they were still entrenched in their plotting, when the Great Voice spoke again saying, "THOUGH MEN WILL COME TO TRY AND CHOP THE TREE DOWN, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO, FOR NOW MANY,



"Though men will come to try and chop the tree down, they will not be able to..."

THE TREE OF BOOKS, continued



Heart Ministries

MANY PEOPLE SURROUND THE TREE, FOR IT IS A TREE OF BOOKS!" At this I was dumbfounded! "A Tree of Books" I thought. Before I could ponder it the Voice spoke again saying, "PEOPLE WILL COME TO THE TREE IN HOPES THAT A BOOK WILL FALL FROM ONE OF THE BRANCHES FOR THEM!"

BOOKS FALLING FROM THE TREE

Then a book fell out of the tree and into one of the two less mature Christian's hands. He looked at the book, his face filled with joy and he looked up at the other man with whom he had come to the tree. He smiled, looked back down at the book and walked off while reading the cover, almost skipping as he went. The man remaining looked up at the tree with an expectant resolve as if he now knew he too would find what he was looking for.

"GOD, I DON'T WANT TO BE A WRITER!"

At this the vision ended and I woke up! Suddenly I became angry. "Tree of Books!" I thought. I hated books! I hated to read! And the very thought of this tree in some way being related to my own hand scared me! This meant the possibility of God calling me to be some sort of writer. I hated to write and I told the Lord I didn't want to be a writer. The Lord spoke back, in what I experienced as an audible voice, that shook me on my bed saying, "JUST AS IT WAS TOLD UNTO JOSEPH, IT SHALL BE DONE!" Before I could recover to think, the Holy Spirit spoke from the depth of my belly and out of my mouth in the tone of an obedient servant saying, "Yes Lord!" At this I cowered on my bed while thinking, "Who is Joseph?"

RESENTMENT AND REBELLION

Then I began to reason with God, while inwardly I was full of resentment and rebellion like the Prophet Jonah (Jonah 4:1-3) and wanted to run from the word of the Lord (Jonah 1:1-3). I confess now that I even began to think of different ways I could convince God there was a better man for the job. Not unlike Moses in his disobedient exchange with God when he objected five times to the call of ministry (See: Exodus 3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10, 4:13),

I objected as well. I even went to the extreme of looking for a new convert who could take this position for his own life, thus releasing me to do something else for God. Something I actually liked.

Prior to coming to prison I had read less than a dozen books (and the Bible wasn't one of them). Each of these was something absolutely unavoidable for a school project. God in His omniscience, knew the best place for me at age 25 was locked in the hole of Leavenworth Penitentiary with no TV, no telephone and nothing else to do but read and write. Like Jonah, I too had been swallowed up and stuck in the belly of the whale (Jonah 2:17). I have since learned from experience, that as in the book of Jonah, it is far easier in the long run to obey than rebel.

INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

The Bible has much to say about trees. Instead of going into all the accounts of this, I will try to do a synopsis for those, who like myself prior to prison, don't like to spend more time than is necessary in the reading department. At the same time, I want to give each reader enough scriptural basis for the interpretation as encouragement in their personal walk with Jesus Christ.

The book of Isaiah refers to the believers as "*trees of righteousness, a planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified*" (Is. 61:3). This is the scripture Jesus Himself quoted when he began his public ministry (Luke 4:18).

Trees in the Bible are symbolic of people (Jer. 17:8-9) as well as nations (Matt. 24:32). They can be symbolic of groups of people (Judges 9:9-15) or kingdoms (Dan. 4:1-34). Jesus declared in the book of Luke: "*What is the Kingdom of God like? And whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of a mustard seed, which a man took, and cast it into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it*" (Luke 13:18-19).

For purposes of the vision I submit that the tree is sym-

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)

bolic of a ministry. A Biblical account of a similar vision was given to King Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel: *"Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw and beheld a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of the earth. The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow (shade) under it, and the fowls of Heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it"* (Dan. 4:10-12).

King Nebuchadnezzar wasn't faithful to give God the glory for the great tree's strength and growth, so God commanded the watchers to cut the tree down (Dan. 4:14). I believe this is what has happened to many great ministries within the Body of Christ over the last decade. May we not make the same mistake in the years to come in our own lives, businesses and individual as well as corporate ministry work for the Kingdom. Lest we fall into the same judgment of King Nebuchadnezzar and become like "the beast of the field" for seven years until we acknowledge that the Most High God reigns and He alone is to be praised. The Bible admonishes, *"Therefore, let him who thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall"* (I Cor. 10:12).

Jesus declared in the book of John, *"I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it that it bringeth forth more fruit"* (John 15:1-2).

Jesus goes on to state, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

THE TREE SYMBOLIC OF CHRIST

I submit that the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden is symbolic of Jesus Christ Himself. The giver of all life. Jesus declared, *"I am the Way, the Truth and the*

Life" (John 14:6). Given this fact, I fully believe the tree in the vision is symbolic of one of the many ministries Jesus Christ is birthing today. **The great tree's branches represent the numerous people who participate in the growth and development of this ministry through outreach to the lost, as well as behind the scenes work, which is equally important.** I also believe, and therefore submit, the tree in the vision has its sole source of life in Jesus Christ. And although it may have begun to sprout out alone who can sustain it, cause it to grow and protect it from the lumberjacks.

The more mature Christians represent the fruit bearing branches. While the less mature Christians represent those God will send to the tree to receive ministry food that will help mature them in their development in Christ. Hopefully they too will become fruitful branches thereby, and take part in this, or another ministry God will graft them into for His eternal purposes and glory.

THE TWO LUMBERJACKS

I believe the two lumberjacks (as revealed to me during the vision) are symbolic of two groups of people who will try and oppose the work of the cross and this ministry. The first being those involved in Satanism, and the second being those bound by the Religious Spirit.

THE SATANIST

This group will use witchcraft, whoredomes and every evil thing to destroy the work of God. They operate out of the **lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life** (I John 2:16). The Bible warns that this spirit will rise in influence and power during the last days (II Tim. 3:1-3). Ever having a form of godliness, but denying the power (of the cross) thereof (II Tim. 3:15). The Bible goes on to state: *"Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth"* (II Tim. 3:8).

Who were Jannes and Jambres? The only men who withstood Moses with Egyptian names were Pharaoh's

(Continued on page 21)

NEVER WILL I LEAVE YOU

By Christopher
Armstrong

Everything in my life used to be 'great.' Money and sex were my gods and I served them diligently. Only when my world closed in on me did I learn my gods were false.

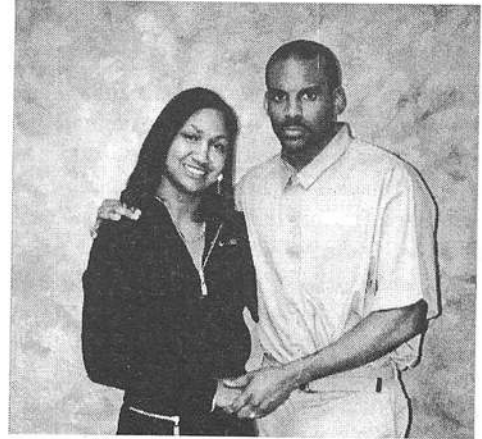
Unknown to me, the police had a warrant out for my arrest. Then, there they were, crashing down my door, arresting me, and yet I still looked for my false

gods to help me. I assumed my case would be prosecuted in municipal court where I would face six months imprisonment. That didn't happen. My case was turned over to the U.S. Attorney's Office and I faced a minimum sentence of 55 years for drug and gun charges. Where were my false gods? **Denied bail, and declared 'a danger to society,' the truth finally became clear: my god's were fake.**

Facing mountains of evidence, I knew I was at a dead end and in serious trouble. There, **God reached into my mind, opened it, and for the first time my heart began to cry out for God in the Name of Jesus.** What a miracle!

God became real to me, unlike my false gods. I spent my evenings with other believers in Bible studies. My days were filled with private time, studying God's Word. He promised, *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"* (Heb. 13:5), and He told me to *"seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Matt. 6:33). I became a new creation in Christ, **transformed through study, prayer, fellowship, and hearing from God.**

In court, I saw the police officers who had arrested me. Instead of my old ways of confrontation, I simply told them I had changed, my anger was gone, and I now knew Jesus loved me and them. That didn't go over well! They could



Christopher and Jerry Armstrong

not understand a transformation had taken place in me. One officer even commented that I would be in jail for the rest of my life. He said I was, "... talking this Jesus stuff; let's see if Jesus gets him out of this."

"I faced 55
years. Where
were my false
gods?"

Learning to trust God in all things hasn't been easy. After lots of fasting and prayer, my case was dismissed, before trial, in a miraculous way. Then the government appealed and I was denied bail and had to stay in jail pending the appeal. Eventually we won our appeal, yet the government went to the Supreme

Court! Back and forth it went over four years ending in a new fifty-five year sentence! I can honestly say Jesus was with me every step of the way.

The decision of the Supreme Court shook me up, but I didn't lose faith. My relationship with Jesus had grown to the point where I knew He would never leave me nor forsake me. I continued to pray and seek God, and eventually, God allowed me to plead out to a ten year sentence. I'm now scheduled to be released this year, as a responsible citizen, governed by Jesus Christ.

- Christopher Armstrong



(Note: Christopher was recently released from prison, is living with his wife, and attending church in Inglewood, California.)

God Heals and Restores * By Steven Barrett

At four years old I first asked my parents about God. Fifty-five years later, I'm still seeking God. I know He loves me. I also learned there is a big price to pay from those times I strayed from Him.

Growing up my parents drove me to different churches because I was keenly interested in seeking God. **I studied the holy books of every major religion**, and eventually came to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Over the years, Jesus has been incredibly good to me, even when I strayed. Although I am paying a price for my sins, I am thankful Jesus paid the ultimate price.

My testimony is He loves, He protects, He heals and He restores life. Most incredibly for me, he has healed me, time and again, and it is my prayer that my testimony will be an encouragement to you.

In 1978 doctors told me I would never walk again. They also said I would not work in my field of inspecting nuclear power plant parts. They didn't know what the problem was (at that point) and ended up fusing my heels and my ankles. What the doctors said I couldn't do, **God said I could.** I learned to walk again as well as return to work!

Ten years later I was an ultra-sonic test inspector for Kaiser Aerospace, almost an engineer slated to take over as manager of quality control. But that changed when once again I got sick and doctors replaced my right hip. They found I had been gamma-radiated in 1976 which caused a blood disease called hemochromatosis (iron overload). A biopsy showed my liver was 92% dead because of iron saturation. **Why I was alive they didn't know, but they said I would soon be dead.**

The doctors began a twenty month phlebotomy treatment, removing one quart of blood every month. Twice a week I was extremely ill because of my liver, and the doctors said that all my other internal organs had to be similarly inundated with iron. By this time, my other hip and knee

needed replacing and I was home, waiting to die.

Doctors said he was dying, that no one could endure those conditions and live.

Adding insult to injury, the government disavowed any responsibility for the radiation and subsequent operations and disability. I couldn't live on \$6,000 a year, and it was then I made a wrong and terrible decision to transport controlled substances. As a result, I was headed to prison.

Three days before my report-in date, I caught pneumonia and went into a coma that lasted twenty four days! I was in critical care, hooked up to a heart monitor and life support tubes, with a temperature of 106. The first couple of weeks my heart rate more than doubled and again my diagnosis was, **"He is dying. No one can endure those conditions and survive."** Well, praise God, I woke up twenty-four days later.

I joined Christian groups when I arrived at the medical center for federal prisoners. After many hands of healing were laid upon me and through much prayer, God **completely restored my liver.** And, after ten years of one quart of blood being removed every month, He fixed my blood problem and they have not taken blood from me in 3 ½ years! Thank you, Lord.

Jesus removed the hemochromatosis from my body, further confounding my doctors. And after years of pain and suffering He removed four huge and painful internal hemorrhoids **overnight.** He allowed me to regain seventy pounds of muscle, let me walk, even though both hips and one knee had been replaced and both ankles and heels are fused.

God heals and restores. His love is great for us, even when we stray. I thank Him for so many things, including the great blessing from your ministry when you sent me a beautiful blessing. God bless you all.

- Stephen Barrett, #88943-011
USMCFP Springfield, PO Box 4000
Springfield, MO 65801-4000



GANGS, VIOLENCE AND DRUGS

By Lester Dixon

I am writing you in hopes
of receiving a Bible. More

importantly I want my testimony to be a blessing to those
who have the same struggles I have overcome in Christ.

In my younger years it seemed God had a plan for my life,
because I often 'preached' in front of the mirror. While
'preaching' one day I had an encounter with the Holy
Spirit. After sharing this experience with my mother, she
warned, "You better not be playing with God." **I became
fearful. I ran away from Him instead of to Him.**

My mother was a loving, God fearing woman who
brought me up in the ways of the Lord. She died when I
was thirteen. With little guidance thereafter, I ended up in
a gang by age sixteen. I built a reputation of violence and
drug dealing. Later I left the gang but **I continued to deal
drugs to support my drug and alcohol habit. I was
hooked.**

⇒ Saved!

⇒ Changed!

⇒ Dedicated to
Christ!

When I was at my lowest, I prayed
that God would deliver me from
this life. God heard my plea but
not how I expected! I was **ar-
rested, incarcerated, and that's
where God was for me. Prison!** I
spent most of my life running
from God and there He was, in
jail, waiting to receive me with
open arms. Here in prison, I've

finally been delivered from a life of destructive habits.

**God has placed His merciful hand over me time and
again throughout my journey.** I was sent to a hospital
after suffering a silent heart attack. The doctors found
muscle and tissue damage and were preparing me for sur-
gery. During the preparation time I prayed and fasted for
God to heal me and show me the way I should go in my

life. **God delivered me again. The surprised cardiolo-
gist informed me surgery wasn't necessary.** He told
me to continue whatever I was doing. Praise God.

My life has continued strong in the Lord. As I've re-
mained faithful, the Lord has promoted me to a position
of leadership. He has allowed me to conduct a Bible
study five days a week, and participate in study groups
and several correspondence courses. Our Monday night
service, which is the talk of the compound, has experi-
enced a move of God. Men are being saved, changed,
and lives are being dedicated to Christ.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Please keep the believ-
ers here in your prayers, that we may continue to
win lives for Christ.



- Lester Dixon #310608-026
Federal Prison Camp, Terre Haute, IN 47808

GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

By Kevin "Biggie" James

God works in mysterious ways. Two days
before I was to be released I got into a fist-
fight with an inmate who was a friend of mine.
Soon after, we were both placed in the hole. Just
that quickly, I lost my out-date.

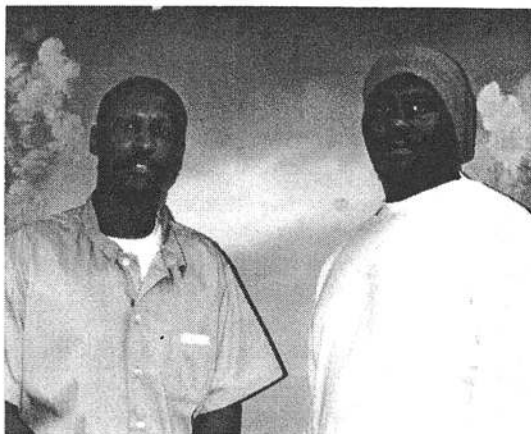
As I sat in my cell I couldn't help but browbeat
myself. I thought of several different ways I could
have handled the situation better, that would have
allowed me to go home. I felt bad about how
everything occurred.

As the day rolled by slowly in the hole, I felt
myself becoming unglued. My spirit was weak and
my morale was low. As I laid in bed I heard
inmates yell to one another from their cells. One

DIVINE APPOINTMENT IN 'THE HOLE' By "Chatt" Evans

I am a born again Christian, doing time in Minnesota for drugs and guns. In this final year of my 93-month sentence, I want to share one of the many blessings I have received from the Lord.

My faith is being tested as I grow closer to the Lord Jesus. Recently I was put in the Special Housing Unit (the hole) for something I did not do. I understand that believers suffer persecution and I've learned it can be a joyful blessing to be a part of Jesus'



Torra "Chatt" Evans (left) and Kevin "Biggie" James

suffering. A friend of mine named Kevin James was put in the hole at the same time I was, and a strange thing happened. Kevin asked the guard if we could be cellmates, and amazingly, the guard said yes. I was reminded with God that all things are possible.

Kevin wanted to know about Jesus. Obviously this time in the hole was a divine appointment because Kevin received the gift of salvation. Imagine, set free from the bondage of sin while in solitary. He became a new man in Christ Jesus. Satan meant for it to be bad, but our Lord made it good, like in the book of Genesis (Gen. 50:20). But where sin abounds, grace did much more abound (Rom. 5:20). What a joyful blessing that was to spend time in the hole with our Lord Jesus, and my new brother in Christ.

- Torran "Chatt" Evans, 14407-074

FCI Waseca

PO Bx 1500

Waseca, MN 56093



day I heard Torran Evans' voice, a born again Christian friend of mine. He was always full of peace when I saw him on the compound. Always happy, always smiling. Here he was in with me.

That peace was something I wanted! I asked him if he could move into the cell with me. The guard allowed it, and then **I asked him if he could teach me about the Bible**, so that I could get the full understanding of what God wants from me.

To make a long story short, I ended up asking

forgiveness from my friend who I had fought. From that day until today, I've had the peace I was looking for. The Lord allowed me to go to the hole and I thank Him. Now I am on track to reach my heavenly home. God does work in mysterious ways! My testimony is that He can take the worst situation and have it turn out for the better. Praise God!

- Brother Kevin James

(Editor's note: Kevin James was released from prison after his commitment to Christ and is serving the Lord while living with his family in Nebraska.)



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."

GOD HAS SET ME FREE

- By Carl Farrar

Lost ... traveling a road of drugs, alcohol, stealing, lying, hurting family and friends. At the age of forty two I could see no end to my anger, hurt and frustration. I was empty and beaten.

On a small hill of grass in a Florida prison recreation yard, I was led to leave those years behind. On my knees, I cried out to God for peace and forgiveness. Through his mercy and the wonderful blood of Christ Jesus, I was saved!



Gone are the twisted roads of a hard heart and the hate filled grudges against everyone and everything. Through God's saving grace, I have found the love needed to forgive myself. Through God's love I've found I can love and have peace and joy, even in a prison. God has set me free!

I wonder no more at the things that have filled my life. Everything that happened has brought me to this point, and it was here that Christ Jesus could lead me. He is the Way and I follow as a little child with faith, trust, and joy that I will never be lost again. My Father in heaven loves me, and His son, Jesus, is working inside me. Glory to God who is great enough to give peace and hope to every man, woman and child in this world. If

Land of Plenty Good

By Charles McNeil and Michael Hayden

Deep in the cornfields of Southern Minnesota lies a sleepy little farming town called Waseca. The Minnesota Lakota Indians named it *Waseca* many years ago.

Translated, the name means: a land with plenty of good things. When the farming went bad, the people turned to a federal prison for relief.

Inside the prison fences live a thousand men facing various degrees of agony and despair. Their freedom, but a memory. Their families, but pleasant thoughts of times past. These circumstances created fertile ground for the harvesting of souls, but as with the farming, the good was hard to find.

That is, until **God brought together a group of faith-seeking men to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.** With whatever they had to work with, following wherever God would lead, the CrossRoads Band was born. The name CrossRoads was chosen because it is symbolic of the nature of their plight: **all in prison, all in need, and all looking for a way to spread the Word of God.**

The challenges were many. First they had to define a common goal, and learned that was to praise God. Next, they needed to define a style of playing music that would work for the entire group. Finally, there was the conflict of personalities – no one was at their best. **They sought God's help. It was in this light that the miracle began to manifest itself in the form of a sweet-sounding Gospel Band.**

Standing tall, ironed and pressed, shoes shining like glass, faces glowing like candles, they rise each Sunday morning and sing praises to the glory of God. In the beginning, the gathering was small. A feeble lot, weak and humble, sharing what little spiritual food there was, and leaving hungry for God's inspiration.

The CrossRoads musical ministry began to fill the seats of the chapel as well as the hearts of the inmate



CrossRoads Praise and Worship Team, FCI Waseca

Back row (l-r) James Javens - keyboard, Michael Hayden - vocal, Charles McNeil - vocal, Mack Stovall - vocal, Anthony Alexander - group director, Fitzgerald Wade - vocal, Keith Prost - soundman; Front row (l-r) Rufus Guy - vocal, Ronald Hick - bass guitar, Joseph Terry - vocal, Dewayne Smith - utility man (all instruments), Elmer Soto - guitar; Seated and up front (l-r) Dovell Willis - drummer, Terry Walker - vocal

congregation with the Holy Spirit. **Men who came to hear the music heard the word and left the services with changed hearts.** The chaplain began to give fresh fire to each of his messages as if they came from God Himself. They touched lives and saved souls. Those saved soon brought others, spilling the seating into the aisles. Even increase the seating was taken quickly by the growing attendance.

God's Word has no bounds. **News of God's anointing inside the prison has spread to the outside community.** Word of the CrossRoad's inspiring music, along with the joy and peace it can bring to troubled lives, is bringing people to Christ. These men, even with their own heavy burdens, are lifting others on high.

God has reclaimed this land that was meant for evil. In a way no one could ever have imagined, He has taken the least of these and used them to once again turn this land into the land of "Plenty Good."

- Charles McNeil #07868-041 and
Michael Hayden #08109-031

MINISTERING TO THE PRISONER'S FAMILY

By Jaime Briseno

Editor's Note: As you read this testimony, we want you to know about a sprout growing off the video branch of HEART's "Tree of Books." As you can imagine, a prisoner's family is left behind, often with few resources. We have begun sending the popular Jesus Video to families of inmates. These videos are available in both English and Spanish and are shipped post paid with a personal letter from the prisoner to their loved ones. The total cost is about \$8.50.

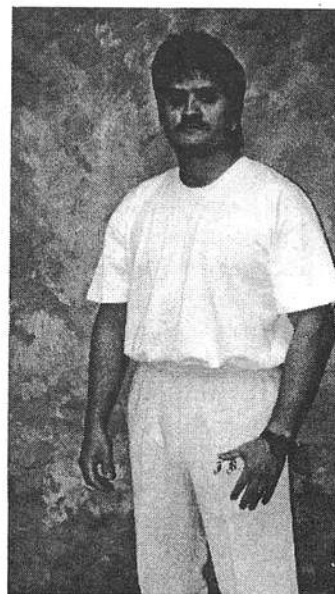
I am grateful and thank God that HEART sent my wife and two children the Word of God in our native language (Spanish) with the Jesus Video.

I want to say to all of you, "Praise God," because He moves the hearts of people who are blind. My wife received the videotape you sent her and to my great surprise she liked it very much. She cried as she learned how Jesus Christ was crucified for her. Then, while she was watching the movie she had a visit from a couple of friends who watched it with her. Afterward, they asked if they could borrow the video to watch at their house. Finally, another neighbor borrowed the Jesus film from my wife's friends. **Altogether, at least ten people in three families were reached with the message of Christ from the video you mailed my wife!**

Hoping that my wife's heart would be touched, I never imagined that others would be affected. Even my nine year old daughter watched, loved it, and said she was very sad when they beat Jesus. She cried when He was crucified. How thankful I was to tell her how Jesus gave His own life to save us all.

With all my heart **I pray that God will continue to open my family's eyes to know there truly is a sov-**

ereign and merciful God. I pray God will provide for my family a way to keep sending material. Thank you for the joy of knowing that my family is listening to the message of God. I'm really grateful for the video tape you sent to them in my name.



- Jaime Briseno, #08474-112
FCI Waseca PO Box 1500,
Waseca, MN 56093

(Editor's Note: Jaime is from Mexico and serving a 135 month sentence for being a drug courier. He received Christ a little over two years ago. He also received one of HEART's leather bound bilingual Bibles last year. He reports that he is learning more about Jesus, learning to be a better husband and father, and improving his English as he reads the Word of God with the bilingual Bible).



WE ARE ALWAYS IN THE FORGE, OR ON THE ANVIL; BY TRIALS GOD IS SHAPING US FOR HIGHER THINGS.

- HENRY WARD REECHER

THE TREE OF BOOKS, continued



(Continued from page 13)

magicians in the book of Exodus. Moses cast his rod down and it became a serpent (Ex. 7:10). Pharaoh's false miracle workers cast their rods down and they became serpents as well (Ex. 7:11).

The battle didn't end there, however, because God's power is always greater than the devil's during a power encounter. The Bible goes on to declare that Moses' rod swallowed up the magicians' rods (Ex. 7:12). I submit that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecc. 1:19). We are heading for some end times power encounters with the devil's princes that will be in comparison with the days of old. In fact, we are already seeing a rise in the spirit of witchcraft in this nation with the psychic lines advertised on television. Ten years ago this spirit was still in hiding, but today it parades itself openly.

The Bible gives the believer some words of encouragement concerning these times in the book of Isaiah and Daniel: *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him"* (Is. 59:19). *"And, such as do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flatteries: but they that do know their God will be strong and do exploits"* (Dan. 11:32).

The spirit of witchcraft will continue to rise as the end approaches and so will the power of God because God shall lift up standard against him. Moreover *"they that do know [are intimate with] their God will be strong and do exploits."* (And I can assure you that the men and women the devil will be pouring out his power upon will be intimate with him as well). **True power with God is born out of relationship and not just knowledge.** The question for the end times is not whether these things will happen, because the Bible clearly says that Satan will be given *"all power to perform false signs and lying wonders"* (II

"And they were astonished at his doctrine; for his word was with power." (Luke 4:32)

Thes. 2:8-12). The question is more personal than that. The question is which side are you going to be on? *"I wish you were cold or not, but because you are lukewarm I am about to spew you out of my mouth,"* declares the Lord (Rev. 3:15-16).

THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

As discussed briefly in the preface, **the Religious Spirit manifests in the same manner as the spirit of the Pharisees and Seduces.** (Although when confronted with this fact they will adamantly deny it, *"turn and rend you"* (Matt. 7:6) and *"call you a heretic"* accusing you of *"doing miracles by the prince of devils"* (Matt. 10:25). My advice concerning these people is, *"Let the dead bury the dead"* (Luke 9:60).

True power with God is borne out of relationship and not just knowledge.

This group manifests in diverse ways and what is most grieving about them is **they, like the Apostle Paul prior to being born again actually believe they are doing a work for God.** More sadly, however, this type of Christian is very often born again before succumbing to this seemingly wise serpent. **Their works to further the gospel are born out of The Tree of**

Knowledge of Good and Evil, instead of the Tree of Life. The former of which, as indicated by the book of Genesis, produces a harvest of death, while the latter, through Christ alone, produces life everlasting.

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter of rebuke to the Christians at the Church of Galatia saying, *"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that you should not obey the truth..."* (Gal. 3:1).

The Galatians had fallen into legalism. They wanted to perfect themselves through the law. **Many churches preach a similar gospel today, proclaiming church traditions over the doctrines and simplicity of Christ.**

THE TREE OF BOOKS



Paul declared to the Christians at Corinth: *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"* (II Cor. 11:3). **This religious spirit not only opposed Jesus during his ministry and the Apostles of the first century Church, but also opposes the ministries in the Body of Christ today.** Paul gave some accounts of how this spirit works within the Body when writing his letters to Timothy: *"Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: of whom you beware of also; for he has greatly withstood our words"* (II Tim. 4:14-15).

What had Alexander the coppersmith done? Some insights come from Paul's first epistle to Timothy: *"holding faith and a good conscience; which some having put away [rejected] concerning faith have made [suffered] shipwreck. Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme"* (I Tim. 1:10-20).

Other Biblical accounts of the religious spirit "eating away at the church" can be found as follows: *"And their word will eat as doth a canker [gangrene]: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred...and overthrow the faith of some"* (II Tim. 2:17-18).

Beware of this type of Christian, the Bible admonishes. They will "chop down your faith" and keep you from experiencing the true power of the Kingdom of God in the here and now. They talk a good game and their words "eat at your faith," but they have no **"life changing" power** in their own lives. Paul declared to the Corinthians: *"For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power"* (I Cor. 4:20).

Jesus told the blind Pharisees who had rejected his ministry, his miracles and his work on the cross: *"Ye do err in not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God"* (Matt. 22:29). And finally the Apostle John records in his letter to one of the churches he helped plant: *"I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes; who loveth to have the preemi-*

nence among them [among the congregation members] receiveth us not" (III John 1:9).

Diotrephes had opposed the Apostle Paul and began preaching another gospel than that of the Apostles. The gospel of back biting and slander instead of *"righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost"* (Rom. 14:17). **Why did he fall prey to this spirit? Because he loved to have the preeminence or position of authority above all.** Do you know of someone who has fallen prey to this device? I can tell you from experience, *"This kind can cometh forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting"* (Mark 9:29).

John goes on to write: *"Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church"* (III John 1:10). **This is the type of lumberjack that will come posing as a Christian, working hand in hand with the Satanist to chop down the tree with their axes of slander, strife, false doctrines and the like.** We must beware of them, because Jesus alone is who we are to fix our eyes upon (Heb. 12:2).

WHO IS JOSEPH?

The Bible records that Joseph was a dreamer of dreams (Gen. 37:5-11). His brothers hated him because of his prideful dreams and sold him into slavery for twenty pieces of silver (Gen. 37:23-28). God's hand of favor was upon Joseph and he was placed in Potiphar's house to serve as a slave (Gen. 39:1). Potiphar's wife looked upon Joseph and wanted to lie with him (Gen. 39:2-6). Joseph refused to sin against God by committing sexual sin and Potiphar's wife became angry at Joseph (Gen. 39:7-8). She lied against Joseph and reversed the story. Joseph went to prison on false rape charges.

While in prison God began to teach Joseph how to

interpret dreams (Gen. 40:5-13). In the process Joseph tried to use this gift to deliver himself from prison (Gen. 40:14-15), asking the Cupbearer to remember Joseph (Gen. 41:30). God delivered Joseph from prison in a miraculous way, and fulfilled the calling and purpose of Joseph's life given in the dreams some thirteen years prior (Gen. 41:37-44). Joseph's brothers came to Joseph for help at the sovereignty of God (Gen. 42:1) and he helped them (Gen. 45:1). He forgave his brothers and God's Kingdom was advanced (Gen. 50:10-20).

Although I still don't full understand this portion of the experience when God spoke, "JUST AS IT WAS TOLD TO JOSEPH, IT SHALL BE DONE!", I do believe God. Moreover, there are several things that have happened to me during the last seven years that are similar to Joseph's experiences.:

- 1) God sent me to prison;
- 2) God has made me a dreamer of dreams;
- 3) People have mocked me and sold me out for 20 pieces of silver from within the family of God over some of these dreams;
- 4) The Lord has graced me with the ability to interpret the dreams He gives to others;
- 5) I've experienced the temptress while under the authority of a female staff member and had to run like Joseph;
- 6) I've made the mistake of trying to deliver myself from prison and God hasn't yet (smile);
- 7) God has given me great favor throughout my time in prison from the day of this vision.

OUT OF DAN COMES THIS!

Dan was one of Joseph's eleven brothers who sold him into slavery. The name Dan means, judge, judgement or justice (Gen. 49:16). When I came to prison I was brought to justice before a judge and he pronounced judgement upon me. Out of judgment and justice the Lord has birthed this: The Tree of Books Ministry, known under the corporate name of Heart of America Prison Ministry. Amen.

I THOUGHT I WAS IN CONTROL

By John DeLong

The reason I am writing to this Ministry is to just tell how coming back to prison (that's right, back) has finally lead me to accept the

Lord Jesus Christ into my life. I am living proof that if we want to make it on the outside, and succeed in never coming back to prison once we are released, then the only way is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I was out of prison for eleven years. I never thought I would have another prison number. I attended church once in a while with my wife and daughter and several times I felt God really speaking to my heart. **Each time, I rejected His call.** I thought I had everything under control. Later I came to know that without having Jesus Christ in our hearts and in our lives we are not in control of anything. **The devil is a liar and he wants us to live for him so he can destroy our lives.** Believe me, fellow brothers and sisters in prisons, accepting Jesus into our lives is the only answer.

I am living proof that if we want to make it on the outside, and succeed in never coming back to prison once we are released, then the only way is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I recently finished my first HEART Bible Study course and I'm on the waiting list to receive the next one. Thank you and may God bless you.



- John Al. DeLong, #371538 3 B 149
WCI PO Box 120, Lebanon OH 45036

LETTERS TO HEART



Heart Ministries

APPRECIATION and BIBLE REQUESTS

Like the persistent widow, I continue to petition you for a bilingual Bible. I am a student at Faith Farm Ministries which is a self supporting "city of refuge" for men who have had a drug problem. The program is a Christ centered regeneration program that lasts six to eight months (once you exit prison). After graduating from Faith Farm, I am enrolling in Bible College in Lakeland, Florida God willing! Although I've been a convicted felon and will be 57 years old by the time I graduate, I believe God can still use me to make a difference in the life of somebody somewhere.

- Florida inmate in newly released program

Thank you and all the people that had a part in sending me this NIV Living Insights Study Bible. I am so proud of my new Bible. Thank you all for your help in walking a life as a Christian.

- Donald Frederick

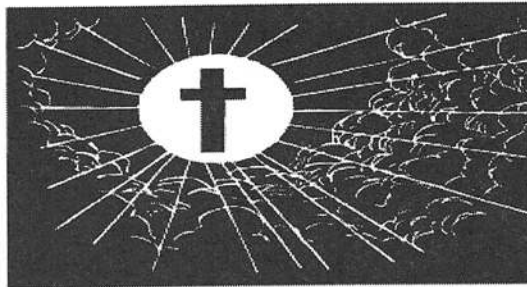
I have just received the study Bible, "The Living Insight," you sent me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you as much as you have blessed me. 2 Thes. 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all."

- Michael Giesy #889007 2E 29
PO Box 718501, Moore
Haven, FL

I praise God for all that He does in our lives. I would like to thank you for the Living Insight Bible which I received last night.

It is such a joyous occasion when a Christian receives a "sword." I will continue to praise God and keep your ministry in my prayers continuously.

- David Wein #784302
3D209B, Moore Haven Correctional,
PO Box 718501, Moore Haven, FL
33471



Jesus Christ can change the worst person completely around. I know. I will soon be leaving this establishment as a better and new man. I will never forget you people for being there when I was in need. Thank you for encouraging me. May our wonderful Lord and Savior have His loving hands around your ministry.

- Ron Loop #10581-073
PO Box 1500, Waseca MN 56093

I have just recently received a Bible from you. I'm sending you \$2.50. I know it is not much, but I'm a child of God and I want to at least send you 10% of what I have just unexpectedly received from my

mother. I have been sharing God's Word with her ever since I got saved. The Lord brought us back together and after the life I've led before I got saved, it is a miracle! Praise God. Bless you,

- Gene Church
Warren Correctional Institute

A FATHER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Tom Hairabedian

It has been over eleven years since my son, David, was sent to prison. At the time I couldn't believe what was happening. As a father, my natural impulse was to fix (or at least want to fix) the situation; however, there was nothing I could do. I was totally naive about the laws of the federal courts. David didn't want me to know that he had strayed so far from how he had been raised. He just assumed that whatever was happening could be fixed. What a difficult time it was.

David went to prison and Sue and I went to church. During the first hymn we both wept.



David and Tom Hairabedian

Day by day I came to understand the complexity of the situation. My son deserved to go to prison, but his sentence was seven times more severe than the precedent set in this type of case. It was devastating. And we waited.

I always felt it would only be a short time and an appeal would bring out the truth and set him free. But, five appeals for a hearing over the course of ten years were all denied. And we continued to wait.

In the early years of confinement, David had a marvelous spiritual encounter with the Lord, and has been a changed man ever since. I was thankful that he came full circle

back to the Lord which gave him the strength to endure. He has ministered to countless fellow inmates, organized Bible studies, laid hands on the sick and they recovered, and learned and taught the Word of God. What a blessing for a son to minister in the lives of others. What a blessing our son has been to us.

The only recourse for his case is a Presidential Pardon. I believe it is well deserved. God loves our son, even more than we do. So we celebrate the man he has become, and we wait.

PRACTICING RELIGION

By Samuel Diamond

My life included many things before God, including being born to a sixteen year old single parent, being raised by my grandmother, rebelling and moving into a life of drinking, drugs, and sex. By sixteen I was hooked on heroin, joined the army, and remained high for years.

I committed my life to the Lord and in the same year both my parents

(grandparents by birth) contracted Alzheimer's. I took care of them, with help from my birth mother. It was the grace of God that my birth mother and I were both saved during that period. Even though my heart had changed and I was going to church, my habit of survival through drugs continued. I thought I could get away with the old behavior, but I learned God will not allow it.

Before I just practiced religion, but now I have a real relationship with Him. The Word of God is life and I will serve others by loving the Lord with all my heart.

I thank God for your ministry, and look forward to receiving my Study Bible when money is available. I pray the Lord will allow you all to continue being a blessing to those of us behind bars. (Mal. 3:17)

By sixteen I was hooked on heroin.

GOD'S TIMING IS PERFECT

By Les Williams

My name is Les Williams and I

am a born-again Christian. Everyone in my family was a Christian. I first dedicated my life to Christ at the age of seven and I participated in Sunday School, choir, and other church activities. Somehow I left my church roots as a teenager and began experimenting with drugs, alcohol, and sex. I was serving Satan instead of Jesus Christ.

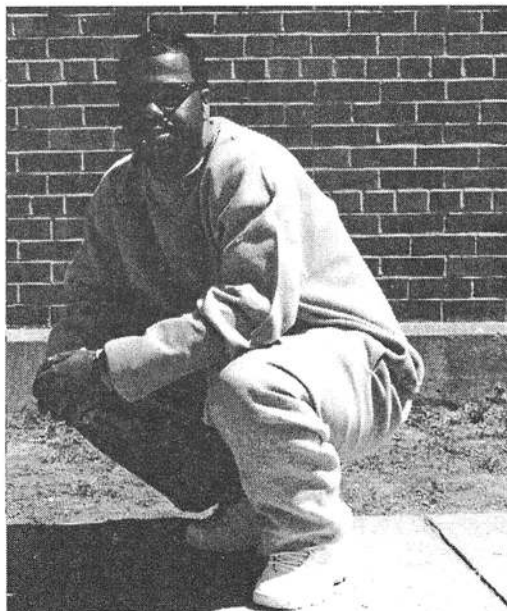
When I was incarcerated for selling drugs I didn't know how I was going to make it. **Before turning myself in to federal authorities, my mother prayed with me and gave me a Bible to read.** I poured my heart out to God and asked Him to please forgive me and give me the strength and guidance to make it through these trials. I started reading in Matthew and read through the New Testament. The Word of God started to sink in and life seemed better.

Since then, I have had an inner peace and joy that I could only receive from my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. During my time in jail, I shared different scriptures with my fiancée who later accepted Christ and was baptized. One night when I called home, my three year old son said he wanted to say his prayer for me. He and his mother pray together every night before they go to sleep. It was a simple prayer like, *"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep... In Jesus' name, Amen."*

That made me feel really good to know that my fiancée was teaching him about Jesus Christ.

I was
serving
Satan
instead of
Jesus
Christ.

Heart Ministries



Les Williams

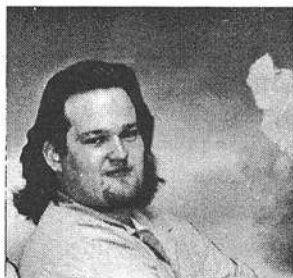
Also during my incarceration, my father was having heart trouble. He was in and out of the hospital, so I went to my Christian brothers and they prayed with me. Since then he has been doing a lot better. Also my aunt was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor in her shoulder. As before, my Christian brothers prayed with me for her before she went to get the tumor removed. She went back two weeks later and the doctors couldn't find a trace of the tumor. God has been blessing my family and me in many ways.

Another praise report is that I had been waiting to get into a drug rehab program that eventually can shorten a sentence by eighteen months. I had been praying and waiting to get into the program for about nine months, but each time the list came out, I wasn't on it. I became discouraged and I was losing my faith. Satan tried to cast worry and doubt in my mind, but I just kept praying. Finally they had one more class that was going to start that would put me home around Thanksgiving. A few days before the

"Let Us Pray"

Joseph Terry

Editor's Note: Joe is a Christian songwriter and a worship leader at the prison where he resides.



MY SPIRIT HAS BECOME DRY BECAUSE IT
FORGETS TO FEED ON YOU.
-- JOHN OF THE CROSS

list was going to be posted, I had my family members, my fiancée, and my Christian brothers pray with me and for me. I felt in my heart that God has already heard and answered my prayer, but Satan was really working on me. I felt a break-through coming and praise be to God, I made the class. Out of that situation, I learned to wait upon God because His timing is perfect. I am a witness to that because I am eligible for the full eighteen months off my sentence and I'll be home by the end of the year.

We serve a good God and I love Him with all my heart, mind, and strength, and I love my neighbor as myself. Thank you, Father God, Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit, for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you shall do. Amen



- Les Williams, #04051-025
(soon to be released)
FCI Waseca PO Box 1500
Waseca, MN 56093

Testimonial Song By Joseph Terry

If, long ago, you asked me if I prayed, My answer would have probably been, sorry, not today.

But something happened to the man I used to see each day. I've come to know the Savior, so Brother, let us pray.

Let us pray, let us pray, let us fall down on our knees, Before the precious Lamb of God, together as we sing.

Let us pray for all that He has blessed us with each day. A song, a prayer of thankfulness, together let us pray.

You see, I'm not the man I was, my sins were washed away. A child of God, He died for us. My brother let us pray.

My life is now a testament as I go through each day. To walk with my Lord Jesus who taught us how to pray.

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed by thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, Lord teach us how to pray.

-Joseph Terry
#12328-030
FCI Waseca
PO Box 1500
Waseca, MN 56093

OUR MISSION OUR HISTORY

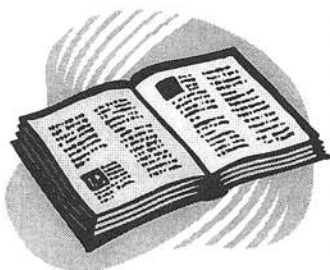
Heart Ministries

BEGINNINGS

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

In 1994, when David was 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 subsequently became armed with the knowledge of what impact a few letters, a few dollars, and a leather bound Bible can make in an inmates life, and 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 by distributing leather bound Bibles. Many inmates are imprisoned for lengthy periods, and their Bible is their most cherished and used possession. The enemy enters prison gates with pornography and many distractions. HEART provides durable, first class Bibles that will last a lifetime and will equip our brothers and sisters for spiritual battle.

TOOLS TO TEACH

HEART provides discipleship materials to aid inmates in their spiritual growth and to equip them to lead their neighbors to Christ. Literature is secured at publisher's cost or supplied free of charge and includes:

- 1) Bible Study Courses
- 2) Discipleship Videos
- 3) Books

NEWSLETTER TO INFORM

The newsletter is written to inform supporters of the ministry taking place behind prison walls and to increase awareness of the opportunity to support HEART. We include testimonies, statistics, and reports of the HEART administrative focus and the support of our financial donors and prayer partners. Newsletters are published bi-monthly and our News Journal twice a year. 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 day to day operations are coordinated by Susan Hairabedian.

This work includes correspondence with inmates and their families, processing requests for Bibles, videos, study courses, and other materials; publishing the HEART newsletter, and coordinating ministry finances. Volunteers assist with office administration and the newsletter.

STEWARDSHIP

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

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.

IN MEMORIAM

People often prefer to express their appreciation of their loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord by donations "in lieu of flowers". If you'd like to donate Bibles to prisoners in the memory of a loved one, please note your donation as such, include the name of the deceased, and we will include them on our "In Memoriam" page.

INMATE BIBLE REQUESTS

Heart Ministries has a policy regarding Bible requests for inmates. We ask that inmates write a request for their own Bible, including their testimony with request.

PRAYER TEAM

Are you an intercessor? Please complete and return the enclosed Prayer Request Card. We believe there is power in the prayer of those in agreement. We have witnessed tremendous miracles through prayer and appreciate your support as requests for Bibles increase.

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).

CORRESPONDENCE WITH HEART

Write:

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



Call: Susan Hairabedian (816) 257-1822

E-mail:

Susan and Tom Hairabedian:
Tommhair@aol.com
Elaine Hart: chartbeat@aol.com



Web Page: www.heartmin.org

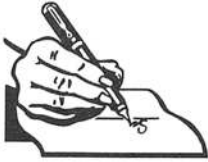
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Heart Ministries

****PRAY**

****ENCOURAGE**

****FINANCIAL SUPPORT**



WRITING TO INMATES

Prison inmates have been isolated from the "outside" and love to receive your encouraging letters. A few guidelines:

DO: Send your letters with the prisoner's full name and number. Be sure to include your return address so they can write back.

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.

You may write any prisoner whose prison number is listed with their name and address.

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



REGENERATION

HEART'S aim is not rehabilitation, but regeneration -- helping inmates be what they never were. The rearrest 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. 50 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.

AT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT WE SHALL
NOT BE ASKED WHAT WE HAVE READ
BUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

-Thomas a' Kempis

SPREAD THE GOSPEL THROUGH GIVING YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS



Hear of America Prison Ministries exists primarily to provide Bibles to prisoners. We are able to purchase leather bound Study Bibles for \$20 total cost, including shipping and handling, 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, books such as these Bibles, sent directly from the publisher to the prisoner, are allowed to pass through unhindered.

IN MEMORIAM

Contributions are occasionally received to purchase one or several Bibles for prisoners in memory of loved ones who have passed on to be with our Lord. In memory of the following Saints, we have

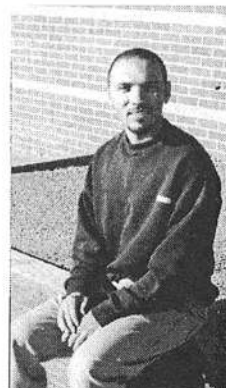


Wanda Nalivaiko

Rosa Dell Dhein-Hamilton

May God bless you to continue to sow "seed" that souls may be added to the Kingdom. May He bless each and everyone of you for your sacrifices.

-Thomas Palmer Sr.
#07889 24. FCI Florence
P.O. Box 6000 Unit



We welcome and appreciate your financial gifts. 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, and
*** Corresponding with supporters through our newsletters.

HOW DO I GIVE?

- ♦ Simply send your donation to Heart Ministries (just \$20 puts the Word of God in an inmate's hands).
- ♦ Checks are payable to Heart of America Prison Ministries.
- ♦ You may use the return envelope included in this journal, or mail to:
HEART Ministries
P.O. Box 1685
Independence, MO 64055

HEART OF AMERICA PRISON MINISTRIES

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

Our mission is to provide sturdy, leather bound Bibles to the prisoners of this land.

There are nearly two million men and women behind bars in the United States, Federal and State combined, with another three and a half million on probation, parole, supervised release, home arrest and work release.

More than 50% of these are non-violent drug offenders. Many of these are first offenders, serving ten year, non-paroleable sentences under the mandatory minimums imposed by Congress in the Federal System.

This same sentencing is being used by many of the fifty states.

This means offenders will serve 85% of their sentence, or eight and a half years on a ten year sentence).

When men and women receive a sturdy, leather bound study Bible it is something they not only cherish, but it causes them to feel accepted.

These Bibles have study helps, maps, commentaries, concordances, and dictionaries, all which enable inmates to study for hours in their cells alone if necessary.

Lives are transformed by the Holy Spirit through the Word in these otherwise lonely prison cells.

God bless you.



"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."
(Matt. 25:39-40)*

Heart Ministries

P.O. Box 1685 * Independence, MO 64055
www.heartmin.org * (816) 257-1822

