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Dear Friends of IPM,

Over the years we have seen many wars and witnessed increasing unrest among nations. As Christians, we need to be aware that all around the world another battle is raging: a spiritual battle for the souls of men and women. It takes place from prison cells to offices to homes. In this most serious of all battles, victory is fully available in Christ—for the inmate, for the worker, for the family member—for whomever will seek the Lord.

Our enemy is the devil and his army of demonic forces. *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:11-12). The goal of the devil is our spiritual destruction. *"The thief commeth not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."* (John 10:10). Our enemy wants to use the values of this world to ensnare us. *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"* (1 John 2:16). The result is that prisons are filling up, businesses are compromising, and homes are falling apart. If we had to face our spiritual foe alone, by our own meager resources, we would certainly fail.

In spite of the threatening and impressive tactics of our enemy, victory is available. We can trust in the power of the Lord. *"...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"* (Ephesians 6:10). We do not have to be our own protec-

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tors. We can be protected by the armor of God. *"Put on the whole armor of God."* This armor is made up of the resources of God that are available to all who believe in Christ, His truth, His righteousness, His gospel, His Spirit, His word, and His salvation. These spiritual realities are experienced through prayerful dependence upon the Lord. *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints"* (Ephesians 6:14-17).

Whenever we are trusting in the Lord to work these blessed realities in our lives, we are actually standing in the victory that is ours in Christ. This will bring victory into our daily lives, whether in prison, at work, or at home.

Proclaiming the Victory that is Ours in Christ,

Dini Hoekstra

Dini Hoekstra

(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM team)

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is a [Sampling of the various Biblical Pamphlets we send to inmates.](#)

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" -Ephesians 6:11

