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50th Anniversary



Chaplain Ray

August, 2022

Dear Friends of IPM,

Liberating captives was (and is) the ministry of Jesus Christ our Savior. In referring to the Messiah to come, Isaiah prophesied: *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek...to proclaim liberty to the captives...and the opening of the prison to them that are bound"* (Isaiah 61:1).

Prisoners are a notable group in Isaiah's prophetic description of Jesus' ministry: *"to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."* Our Lord wants to liberate such captives. Initially, He wants to free them from the bondage of sin and guilt. Then, He wants to increasingly liberate them from bondage to ungodly thinking and worldly living. At times, the Lord even sets them free from prison itself. Yet, even when He leaves them in prison to serve Him there, such redeemed prisoners are truly free in Christ.

My grandfather, Chaplain Ray, through the years of his prison ministry, spoke of such liberated captives. He often reflected upon the many prisoners he knew who were more liberated spiritually than many Christians in the so-called "free world." Over the years, our IPM ministry team has witnessed the same reality on numerous occasions, while ministering the word of God in prisons and jails.

This spiritual liberation comes from the ministry of the word of God into people's lives. Jesus declared this grand reality, *"...and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). The truth that liberates lives is the truth of the word of God.

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This liberating truth is experienced by those true disciples of Jesus who habitually receive the word of God into their lives. "...if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31). When people consistently take in the message of the scriptures as the true word of God, the word goes to work effectively within their hearts, liberating them from that which has bound them. The word of God is unique and powerful. It is not at all like the mere religious words of man. God's word has a radical, life-changing message. It offers the help of God for the needs of man.

Multitudes of prisoners come to Christ every year. Those who earnestly get into the word of God become gloriously liberated. They become set free from the lies of the enemy, the bondage of sin, and futile perspective of ungodly thinking. It is the Lord's desire that all of His followers, whether outside or inside prison walls, continually feed upon the life-changing, life-giving, liberating power of God's word.

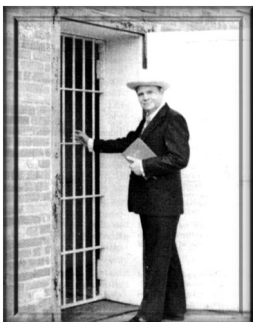
Proclaiming God's Word to Liberate the Captives,

Heidi Hoekstra Ceballos

Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is The Monty Lewis Story, as told to Joanne Jacquart.



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