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# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Chaplain Ray

November, 2022

Dear Friends of IPM,

The Lord wants to use all of His followers as His instruments of ministry. Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is called to ministry. Our ministries will include common aspects (such as praying, worshipping, giving, witnessing, edifying one another). They will also be uniquely related to individual spiritual gifts (such as teaching, administration, helping, counseling, exhortation, etc.). God Himself has established the means by which each of us can be equipped for ministry.

The word of God is the primary instrument that is to be used in our lives to equip us for ministry. *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As the inspired word goes forth, it provides the spiritual benefits of teaching, warning, restoring, and training in godliness. This is the process that wholly outfits believers for every area of appropriate spiritual service.

As we habitually come to Jesus through His word, we are shaped for the spiritual service that the Lord has for us. *"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 2:4-5). It is through encountering Jesus in His word, and fellowship with Him, that our lives are impacted for usefulness in His service.

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Furthermore, preparation for ministry cannot take place on the basis of human resource or by religious procedures. 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 makes this very clear. *"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament (covenant); not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."* The Holy Spirit can impart to us the fully sufficient resources of God for the ministries to which we are called. Any other approach to ministry will always leave us striving in spiritual deadness under the bondage of religious rules and regulations.

Every follower of Jesus Christ can become fully equipped to minister effectively, whether ministering to those outside or inside of prison walls. Praise the Lord that this equipping must be a work of God on our behalf! *"Now the God of peace...make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen"* (Hebrews 13:20-21).

Looking to the Lord to Equip us for Ministry,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. This month marks the 25th anniversary of Chaplain Ray's "home-going." Our appreciation gift this month is God's Prison Gang, by Chaplain Ray.



*"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God"*  
- 2 Corinthians 3:5