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*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

April, 2023

Dear Friends of IPM,

This month, as we celebrate Easter, let us remember how essential the resurrection is to the Gospel. As we reach out to a hurting and dark world, especially those needing God's love and truth behind prison bars, we want to be proclaiming our Risen Savior.

The importance of the resurrection cannot be overstated. *"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching in vain, and your faith is also vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14). If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, our preaching and witnessing would be empty. If Christ were still in a tomb, His salvation message ended in failure, not victory. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, our faith would be futile. Jesus is the object of our faith. If He is not alive, our trusting in Him would be fruitless.

If there was no resurrection, we would still be dead in our sins. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...And if Christ be not raised...ye are yet in your sins"* (Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:17). Our only hope of forgiveness and eternal life is anchored in the resurrection of our Lord. *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"* (John 11:25).

Praise God, our Lord is not in an ancient tomb. *"But now is Christ risen from the dead...And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead"* (1 Corinthians 15:20; Romans 1:4). Jesus rose victorious over sin and death, bringing everlasting righteousness to all who believe. Our preaching and witnessing

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is not in vain; our faith is not in vain; we are no longer dead in our sins!

What are we to do with such great news? The Lord wants His followers to proclaim this great resurrection Gospel to others. How do we do this? Just as the Apostles and the early church were empowered by God's grace through the Holy Spirit, so we are to seek the Lord for boldness and the filling of His Spirit. *"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all"* (Acts 4:33).

The resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is central to the Gospel we are called to proclaim. Every year, more and more inmates answer the Savior's call and trust in Him as their Risen Lord. As long as He enables, IPM we will continue to proclaim this Good News to those behind bars.

Proclaiming Our Risen Lord,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is [Power Through Prayer](#), by E.M. Bounds.

P.P.S. Please see our update on Prison Ministry in India on the enclosed page.



"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"

- John 11:25