

IPM INTERNATIONAL
PRISON
MINISTRY
ISA 61:1
PO BOX 1088
CHULA VISTA, CA 91912-1088
chaplainray.com

*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



December, 2024



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

Dear Friends of IPM,

This month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the greatest gift God has given mankind. Our God is a giving God with a loving heart. *"For God so loved the world that he gave"* (John 3:16). The Scriptures are full of the many wonderful things the Lord gives to His people.

The Lord gives us protection. *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust"* (Psalm 46:1; 91:2). God promises to be our refuge and our fortress. He promises to never leave us nor forsake us.

The Lord gives us strength. *"The LORD will give strength unto his people...I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness"* (Psalm 29:11; Isaiah 41:10). God is all powerful and more than able to uphold us and strengthen us.

The Lord gives us peace. *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27). Unlike what the world has to offer, the peace that God provides is genuine.

The Lord gives us provision. *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus...Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"* (Philippians 4:19; Ephesians 1:3). The Lord not only promises to supply our needs, but He has already blessed us with spiritual riches to live a life of spiritual abundance through Him.

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The Lord gives understanding and wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally...he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding" (James 1:5; Daniel 2:21). In this life we face times of uncertainty and perplexity. The Lord promises to give us the wisdom and understanding we need through His word.

Of course the greatest gift of all is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and the free gift of eternal life through Him. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This gift can never be earned or deserved, but only freely received.

Praise God for all the wonderful blessings He freely gives to those who trust in Him. Praise God for the precious gift of Jesus Christ! We thank Him and praise Him for all who partner with us in sharing His love and truth to those behind bars.

Celebrating the Gift of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

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 Cross is God's Christmas Tree by J. Vernon McGee, and The Story of Jesus.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."
- John 3:16