INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY

PO BOX 1088 CHULA VISTA, CA 91912-1088 chaplainray.com

Ministering to prisoners for over 50 pears



Chaplain Ray, Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

Praise the Lord He has brought us into another new year! The Lord is faithful to lead and guide His people as we look to Him. We recently received a letter from Daniel N., in a California prison, Daniel wrote: "I want to live my life by God's will and allow God to guide me where He wants me to go."

As godly living develops, we experience a growing interest in walking in the ways of the Lord, desiring Him to guide our lives. David had such a yearning in his heart toward the Lord. "Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day" (Psalm 25:4-5).

The Lord unfolds His will to those who entrust their lives to Him. Those who place their lives under the sovereign care of God enjoy the great privilege of having the Lord God almighty governing the very steps that they take day by day. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8).

The Lord promises to lead and guide us when we fully surrender to Him. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). We are to trust in God completely with a fully surrendered heart. We are not to rely upon ourselves. The Lord calls us to acknowledge Him in every aspect of our lives. He then promises to direct our paths according to His perfect will.

As the Lord leads and guides us, He does so for our good and for His glory. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:2-3). The Lord is our Shepherd and He knows our needs and what is best for us. He knows when to lead us to green pastures and still waters. He knows how to lead us into righteousness and godliness. He calls us to look to Him, trust in Him, completely surrender to Him, and follow Him. This is not only for our spiritual growth, but for the sake of His name — that He may receive the honor and glory.

Like Daniel expressed in his letter to IPM, may we also have a desire to live according to God's will, allowing Him to lead and guide us. We praise the Lord for all that He has accomplished through IPM in 2024, and look forward to all He desires to accomplish in reaching needy and hungry souls in prison in 2025. We thank Him and praise Him for all who partner with us in sharing His love and truth to those behind bars.

Trusting in the Lord to Lead us and Guide us,

Heid pebstra Cebillos

Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is <u>Holes in Time</u> by Frank Costantino.



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