

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

*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

The Lord's will is for His followers to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This involves learning to think God's way, whereas we had formerly filled our minds with man's way of thinking. Erica, from a Virginia prison, recently wrote: "Please pray for the renewal of my mind."

Before we came to the Lord Jesus Christ, our thinking and reasoning were vain and empty. Now that we are new creatures in Christ, the Lord desires to renew our minds as part of His sanctification process in our lives. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Romans 12:1-2).

Instead of having the world shape us by external pressures, we are to have our lives made increasingly and genuinely new by the renewing of our minds. This process is an internal working of God. It involves the Lord giving us, through His word by the work of His Holy Spirit, an entirely new way to think. Then, the more we learn to think the Lord's way in all areas of life, to that degree we will have our lives transformed. In this process, God is developing within us a new heavenly set of understandings, and values, and priorities, and resources for living.

It is in lives that are on the altar of God that the renewing of our mind will be occurring. *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are*

(over please)

bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God redeemed our lives by the precious blood of His dear Son. We now belong to the Lord. When we view our lives as our own, we do not pursue earnestly after the mind of the Lord. Only in wholly surrendered lives can the renewing of the mind occur.

What a glorious truth that Christ lives in us and His Spirit dwells in us. His Spirit takes the word of God and unfolds the thinking of our Lord for us. As we embrace God's way of thinking more and more, we are transformed to walk in the newness that is ours in Christ!

Like Erica, in a Virginia prison, may we desire for the Lord to renew our minds to align with His. We thank the Lord for all who partner with us as we share God's love and truth with needy souls behind bars.

Looking to the Lord to Renew Our Minds,

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 a [Collection from J. Vernon McGee](#).



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- Romans 12:1-2