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Ministering to prisoners for over 50 years



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

Praise the Lord we serve a God who is able to reach us in the lowest of places. Jeffery B., from an Illinois prison, recently wrote: "Thank you for being here for men and women that have hit the bottom, which is right where Yahweh is waiting for us."

When we are at our lowest, when all hope seems lost, when we have reached rock-bottom, Jesus is right there waiting for us to cry out to Him. *"I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon (lowest pit)...out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD...Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low..."* (Lamentations 3:55; Psalm 130:1; 142:6). When we cry out to Him in faith, He hears our cry and extends His loving-kindness toward us. *"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth"* (Psalm 145:18).

Sometimes we have to be brought to our lowest before we will even cry out to Him, because *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble"* (James 1:6). Many inmates have shared with us that it wasn't until they were brought to the lowest place of their lives, in a lonely prison cell, that they were willing to cry out to God, and it was there that they came to the realization that they truly needed a Savior. No matter how deep the pit, God is able to reach anyone. Corrie Ten Boom used to say, "There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still." Chaplain Ray would also say, "Never give up on any prisoner. Where there's life, there's hope."

Praise the Lord that He is able to bring us out of the lowest, deepest pit. *"...I waited patiently for the LORD; and*

(over please)

he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock" (Psalm 40:1-2). There is hope and deliverance in Jesus Christ. He is able to put our feet upon a rock and establish our lives in Him.

It is never too late to call upon the name of the Lord. Many inmates, like Jeffery in Illinois, can testify to the truth of the following verses: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him...Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 10:13).

What a privilege to serve such a Savior! What a blessing to partner with those who have a heart for prisoners as we shine the truth and love of Jesus Christ into the deepest, darkest pits.

Serving our Wonderful, Life-Giving, Gracious Savior,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is Corrie Ten Boom Speaks to Prisoners with Chaplain Ray.



"...I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry..."-
Psalm 40:1