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*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

How vital it is for God's people to keep our eyes upon the Lord. It is important that all believers understand and walk in this truth, whether inside or outside prison walls. We recently received a letter from Michael C., in a Texas prison that touches on this point: "I thank you all very much for all the material you send me. It helps me keep my mind and eyes on my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

When we start out the Christian life, we must look unto Jesus. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). This simple but powerful statement shows the plan of salvation. We must look to the Lord and to Him alone. We must place our faith and trust in Him and Him alone.

Day by day, as we live the Christian life, we must continue to look unto Jesus. "...let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2). Living the Christian life is like running a race. When our stamina is fading, our temptation is to focus attention in any direction but the one that will supply the needed endurance. We must always be looking to the Lord. We must look away from other things that can easily distract us and keep our eyes locked on Him.

Also, day by day, in the midst of our battles, in the midst of any circumstance, we can be kept in perfect peace by keeping our minds focused on the Lord. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). When we focus our minds upon the Lord through prayer and through reading His word, He prom-

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ises to give us His perfect inner peace, a peace that the world could never provide.

As we are keeping our eyes on Jesus, we are also to be looking for His glorious appearing, when He returns for His people. *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13). He is our blessed hope. We are to expect and prepare for His return. This is the promised hope we are to live in day by day. What joy should fill our hearts as we look forward to the day when we shall see Him face to face!

Like Michael in Texas, may we all desire to keep our minds and eyes focused on the Lord Jesus Christ, our wonderful Savior! We praise the Lord for all who partner with IPM as we continue to provide inmates with Biblical materials that help them keep their hearts and minds focused on the Lord.

Keeping Our Eyes Upon Jesus,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is Victory in Christ, an audio CD study by Bob Hoekstra.



"...let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2