



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,

This month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"* (Matthew 1:23). God with us, Emmanuel. What a glorious name!

In what ways do the Scriptures show that God is with us? First, He came to earth to be born into humanity. *"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."* (Philippians 2:7; John 1:14). Our omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Creator humbled Himself to come to live upon this earth in a human body to dwell with mankind and to offer Himself as the only perfect and sufficient sacrifice for our sins.

God is with those who humbly call upon the name of the Lord, as He takes up residency in their hearts. *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him...That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Revelation 3:20; Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27).

God is with us as we seek Him through His word and through prayer. *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth...And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart"* (James 4:8; Psalm 145:18; Jeremiah 29:13). As we come to the Lord through prayer and daily seek Him through His word, He promises to draw near to us and reveal Himself more fully to us.

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God promises to walk with us every day of our lives. *"The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge...for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"* (Psalm 46:7; Joshua 1:9; Matthew 28:20). Throughout our lives He promises to never leave us nor forsake us.

Finally, He will be with us throughout all eternity. *"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord...And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"* (1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:3).

What a marvelous God we serve! Emmanuel, God with us! He came down to earth to dwell with humanity as a sacrificial lamb. He comes to dwell in our hearts by faith. He promises to draw near as we seek Him in His word and through prayer. He promises to never leave us nor forsake us. We will live forever with Him throughout all eternity. What rejoicing this brings to our hearts, whether inside or outside prison walls!

Serving Emmanuel, God With Us,



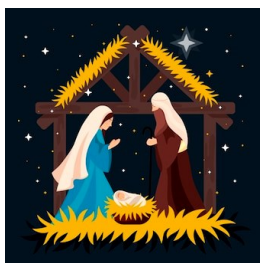
*Heidi Hoekstra Ceballos*



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is What the Bible is all About by Henrietta C. Mears.



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- Matthew 1:23