

Ministering to prisoners for over 50 years



February, 2024

Dear Friends of IPM,

God's word is powerful and able to change hearts and lives on either side of prison walls. We recently received a letter from Joseph S. in a Tennessee prison. Joseph wrote: "Thank you for the books and literature you send me. It helps me study God's word. I'm going all in on God's word. I can feel a change in my life."

Unlike man's word, God's word is alive. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Man's words are not life-changing nor life-giving. Only God's word is living, sharp, and powerful and able to discern the motives of the heart, whether they are fleshly-driven or spiritually-driven.

God's word is as relevant today as it was when it was written so many years ago. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105). No matter what the circumstance, or what the need, the word of God is able to instruct, reprove, and correct. His word is able to shine a heavenly light unto our path to show us where we are and which direction He desires us to go.

God's word is to be our daily, life-giving spiritual sustenance. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God...I am the vine, ye

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are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (Matthew 4:4; John 15:5). We are to live by every word God has spoken. For our spiritual vitality and fruitfulness, we must consistently be taking in the living word of God.

If we are feeding upon His word, whether inside or outside prison walls, His word is able to radically change our lives. May we all be like the psalmist who found his delight in God's word. "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

We give thanks to the Lord for all of our dear ministry partners. Your faithful praying and generous giving enable us to continue to reach prisoners with the life-giving, lifechanging word of God.

Proclaiming the Ability of God's Word,

Heid Joebstra Ceballos

Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is <u>Women of the Bible</u> by Colleen Reece.



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