



Pastor Bob Hoekstra  
Dini Hoekstra, Director

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## INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY

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Founders:  
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra

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Dear Friends of IPM,

We have written before about the work of the Holy Spirit. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . ."* (Acts 1:8a). This month we give attention to a wonderful companion theme - - *"waiting upon the Lord."*

Isaiah 40:29-31 reveals some aspects of this great truth. *"He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."*

Every Christian who truly wants to please the Lord is aware of the strength that is needed for such a life. Parents, facing the demands of family life, know it. Workers, facing the challenges of the workplace, know it. Certainly, inmates, facing the impossibilities of prison life, know it. People do not possess the necessary strength in and of themselves. The vitality of youth is not even sufficient. *"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall."*

The answer is found in the Lord, as we humbly admit our weakness and rely upon Him for His strength. *"He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength."*

This dependent attitude is here described as *"waiting upon the Lord."* To wait upon the Lord is not merely allowing

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time to pass. It involves expectantly looking to the Lord as time is passing. It involves hoping in the Lord as we face each day and each issue of every day.

Such dependence on God brings profound blessing into our lives. First, "*those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength.*" As we hope in the Lord, He is renewing our supply of strength. Then, "*They shall mount up with wings like eagles.*" As we look to the Lord, He lifts us up above the draining and discouraging circumstances of life. He enables us to maintain a heavenly perspective concerning earthly situations. Last, "*They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*" As we trust in the Lord, He provides us with spiritual endurance and perseverance.

This is the hope for strength that you and I need for effective service unto the Lord. This is the message of hope for strength that you are helping us send into prisons across the land.

Hoping in the Lord for His Supply of Strength,

*Dini Hoekstra*

Dini Hoekstra

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

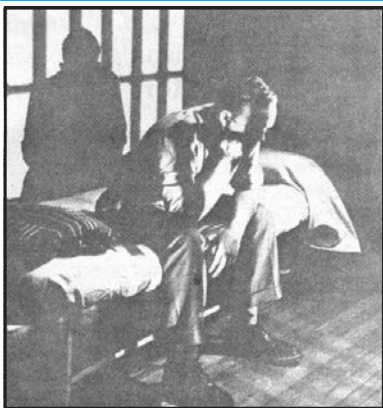
P.S. Our gift book for this month is Waiting on God, by Andrew Murray. This book will stir thanksgiving in your heart for the many blessings that result from placing our hope in the Lord.

**Hearing from the Lord and  
learning to wait upon God**



# LETTERS FROM PRISONERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED BIBLES, EDIFICATION BOOKS, OR INMATE TESTIMONIALS FROM IPM

(See reverse side where a sample book is highlighted.)  
The book is available to you as a free appreciation gift upon request.)



## Not Forgotten by IPM

Hi, I am Ernest J. (PA Prison). You sent me a gift of the Lord's Holy Word. You are reading this letter right now because I am thanking you for the gift. I figured it came just at a time when I really needed something. Now I enjoy the meditations on the Word and this is the reward you get for helping to lift and encourage someone else. We may be in jail, but our minds aren't. I thank God for all of you out there and your spiritual gifts as Christmas is approaching. Pray for me, please.

## James K. Gives Thanks to God for All That God Does for Him

Hello Dini, Greetings in the name of the Lord. I appreciated your letter and pray that God is blessing the International Prison Ministry there. As you can see, I have been transferred to another facility here in PA. We have a wonderful church and Bible study on a regular basis.

The Lord is taking care of me and I enjoy reading His Word daily. He is my light and my salvation and in Him I will trust. I know in the past I have counted on my own decision making, but now I find it a joy what God does for me when I put my faith and trust in Him. Jesus loves me and I want His will to be done in my life. He is closer than the closest brother. He is there in all times. Jonah tried to run from God, but God got his attention and put him on the right path.

I will continue to spread the Word to others. Thank you for your prayers for me in my daily Christian walk. God has a purpose and a plan for my life, a plan to bless and not fail. My hope is to work in the ministry field and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

May god bless you in all you are doing for the Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to spread God's greatest gift of love.

*James K., Pennsylvania Prison*

## A Day in the Life of a Prisoner Who Prays To Get Through

I received your letter today. Thanks for writing me. I had a rough day working in the kitchen. Everyone just wants to steal. I am different because I don't steal. So I pray for these men a lot. There were two fights and two got locked up in solitary. The devil is busy. Everyone are doing drugs at night. So I welcome your letters you send to me — also the testimony books. Don't have stamps so can't write much.

*Christopher N., Florida Prison.*

*IPM sent Chris another encouraging letter and some more testimony books. We encouraged him to read his Bible and trust Jesus to get him through.*

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

**God has a loving and gracious heart for prisoners (Isaiah 61:1).**

**At the request of many, contributions to IPM can also be made online at [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)**

It is the policy of I.P.M. to use each gift as it is designated by the donor. If any project is completed, any surplus will be used where it is needed most.

Dear Dini Hoekstra, My gift to help prisoners learn that waiting and trusting in God gives them His strength.

- Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- "*Library of Life-Changing books*" for Prisoners... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Support for Prison Ministry in Russia & India.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Use My Offering *Where Needed Most*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



**HERE IS ANOTHER OF THE OUTSTANDING BOOKS THAT OUR  
MINISTRY PARTNERS HELP US DISTRIBUTE TO PRISONERS.**

**(A copy of this book is available to you as a gift by requesting it in the box below.)**

**WAITING ON THE LORD GOD  
AS REVEALED IN HIS HOLY WORD**

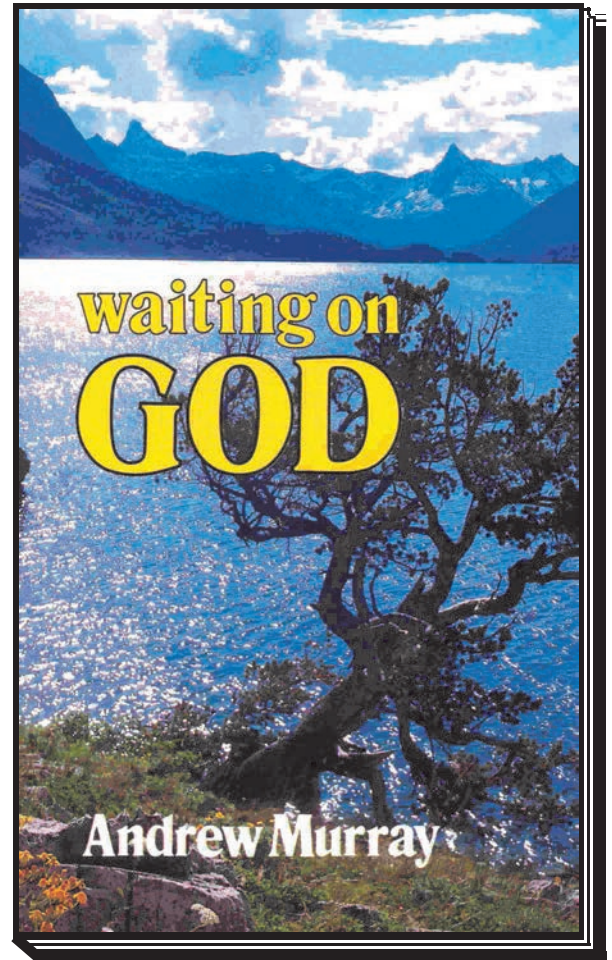
***THEY THAT WAIT ON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR  
STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EA-  
GLES; THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY; AND THEY  
SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT. (ISAIAH 40:31)***

Our waiting on God will depend greatly on our faith of who He is. God reveals Himself as the everlasting and almighty One. It is as that revelation enters into our soul that the waiting will become the spontaneous expression of what we know Him to be - - a God altogether most worthy to be waited upon.

“Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the Everlasting one, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? (Isaiah 40:28)” So far from it: “He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength (Isaiah 40:29).

Allow Him in His Jehovah-strength to carry you as you ride upon the wings of His omnipotence.

Andrew Murray encourages us to answer: “With such a God, so mighty, so faithful, so tender, my soul wait thou only upon God.”



**OUR APPRECIATION GIFT FOR YOU**

When we think of you, our friends and co-laborers, we experience the same response that Paul felt toward his ministry friends. “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil. 1:3-5). We remember you often in our prayers as God strengthens all of us.

*Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail*

Yes, Please Send Gift Book

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