



Pastor Bob Hoekstra
Dini Hoekstra, Director

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY

P.O. Box 2868
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2868

www.chaplainray.com



Founders:
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra

September, 2014

Dear Friends of IPM,

Our great God and Savior sought us and found us when we had gone astray. *"All we like sheep have gone astray . . . for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Isaiah 53:6 and Luke 19:10). Now, for the rest of our days, He wants us to seek after Him -- getting to know Him more and more; serving Him day by day; finding Him as the source of every blessing and provision. This is the will of God for all who are in the so-called "free world," as well as for those who are behind prison walls.

How do we seek after the Lord? We seek Him in His word. Jesus taught that "*these are they [the scriptures] which testify of Me*" (John 5:39). We seek Him in prayer. *"The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth"* (Psalm 145:18). We seek Him with His people. *"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart"* (2 Timothy 2:22).

As we are seeking the Lord in His word, through prayer, and with His people, He supplies us with the strength we need for living each day and for serving our God. *"Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! . . . The LORD will give strength to His people . . . I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD . . . The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?"* (Psalm 105:4; 29:11; 71:16; 27:1). Many inmates are faithfully and fruitfully seeking the Lord in this manner behind prison bars.

(over please)

It is in seeking the Lord that true joy is brought into our lives. "Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!" (Psalm 105:3). King David declared: "The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!" (Psalm 21:1). The Apostle Paul exhorted: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). The Lord Jesus taught: "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). Our IPM Outreach Team has often witnessed this joy of the Lord in the lives of God-seeking prisoners.

May the Lord stir in us a heart like David: "One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple . . . When You said, 'Seek My face,' My heart said to You, 'Your face, LORD, I will seek'." (Psalm 27:4,8).

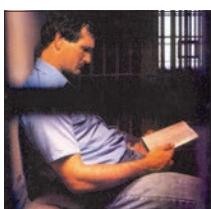
Reaching Inmates, as We Seek the Lord Together,

Dini Hoekstra

Dini Hoekstra

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

P.S. Our appreciation book for this month is a spiritual classic on seeking after the Lord -- [The Pursuit of God](#), by A. W. Tozer.



We seek the Lord
in His Word and
in His Presence,

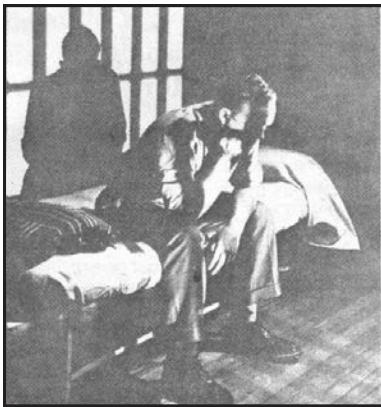


in Prayer,
and with His
People.



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.)



I Can Make It Through

I first want to say thank you for your continued support through encouraging words and godly wisdom that you have given. It is a vital key to building my faith in knowing that making it through is possible. The fellowship that is shared allows the testimonies and our life experiences to show the true power of our God in times of need.

I pray you will be encouraged by my letter and continue in His will.
David C., Virginia Prison

**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

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.

Please Help Me Secure Tozer's "The Pursuit of God"

Dear Dini, I hope you can help me secure A. W. Tozer's book "The Pursuit of God." I was saved 3 years ago when Christ Jesus found me a broken man without hope. Now my hope is that I may know Him more intimately.

Clay M., Florida Prison

Your Outreach to Prisoners Is More Valuable Than You Can Ever Know

Dear Folks, I am writing to thank you all for continuing the IPM ministry to those of us who are incarcerated and written off by the rest of society. Specifically, I want to thank you for distributing and making available that wonderful book by A.W. Tozer, "The Pursuit of God." I am currently reading it for the second time and it will be on my list of permanent property.

Your outreach to prisoners is more valuable than you can ever know. We know we are depraved sinners. We are reminded of it every day. Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that God loves us and forgives us when we are treated as non-entities, or worse less than human. Your ministry and others like it, assure us that there is still hope, and reason to carry on. You remind us that Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Luke 5:33).
Frankie A., Nevada Prison

I Had an Encounter with a Bible You sent to a Fellow Brother in Christ

Hello, My name is Cary C., from a Texas prison. I will add it is only by God's grace that I am here rather than dead in my sins. I was blessed with an encounter with a Bible you sent to a fellow brother in Christ. Would you send me the same Bible. It would tremendously help my personal growth in Christ. I desire to have a "sword" to help in times of trouble and testing. Thank you.

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

Dear Dini Hoekstra, My gift to help prisoners desire to seek the Lord Jesus Christ in an intimate relationship.

- Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners*.....\$ _____
- "Library of LifeChanging 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.)

Jesus Christ Invites Us To Seek Him!

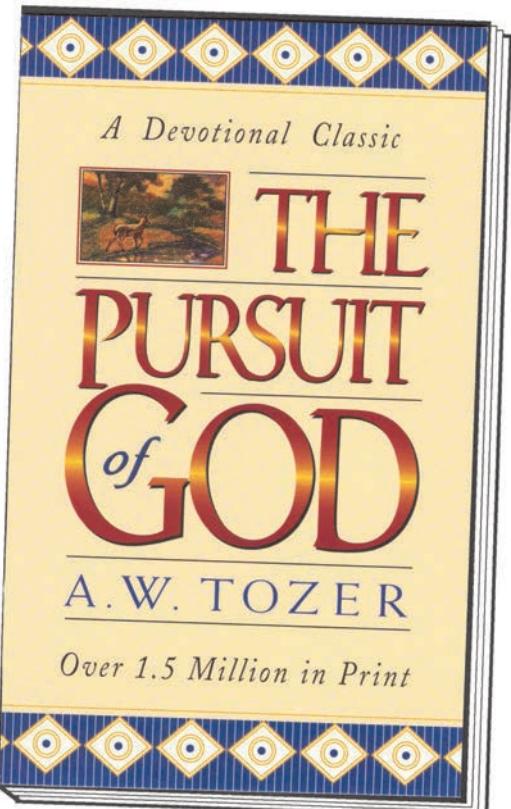
“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light’ (Matthew 11:28-30). Here we have two things standing in contrast to each other, a burden and a rest. The burden is not a local one, peculiar to those first hearers, but one which is borne by the whole human race. It consists not of political oppression or poverty or hard work. It is far deeper than that. It is felt by the rich as well as the poor, for it is something from which wealth and idleness can never deliver us.

“The burden borne by mankind is a heavy and a crushing thing. The word Jesus used means ‘a load carried or toil borne to the point of exhaustion.’ Rest is simply release from that burden. It is not something we do; it is what comes to us when we cease to do. His own meekness, that is the rest.

“Let us examine our burden. It is altogether an interior one. It attacks the heart and the mind and reaches the body only from within. First, there is the burden of *pride*. The labor of self-love is a heavy one indeed. Think of yourself whether much of your sorrow has not arisen from someone speaking slightlying of you. The heart’s fierce effort to protect itself from every slight, to shield its touchy honor from the bad opinion of friend and enemy, will never let the mind rest. Continue this fight through the years and the burden will become intolerable. Yet the sons of earth are carrying this burden continually.”

**“Such a burden as this is not necessary to bear.
Jesus calls us to His rest, and meekness is His method.”**

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail



Our Appreciation Gift for You

Our prayer is that you will discover with A. W. Tozer that to seek God does not narrow one’s life, but brings it, rather, to the level of highest possible fulfillment in Christ. So many prisoners will benefit from the above book. Thank You.

Yes, Please Send Gift Book

