



Pastor Bob Hoekstra  
Dini Hoekstra, Director

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## INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY

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Founders:  
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra

January, 2016

Dear Friends of IPM,

This January marks a new beginning for many people, including prisoners. It is such a joy and a privilege to be given another year of opportunity to follow the Lord Jesus and praise Him for all He is doing in and through our lives as we continue to trust in Him day by day.

Our Theme verse for IPM is Isaiah 61:1. *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."* Every aspect of this wonderful verse has implications for our lives in general, as well as for prison ministry in particular.

This is a prophecy about the Messiah. It is a declaration of the mission and the ministry of Jesus Christ. The title, Christ, means the Anointed One. The eternal Son of God would become a man and function on earth as a humble servant (see Philippians 2:5-8). He would minister by the empowering of the Holy Spirit upon His life. We are to live for the Lord by the empowering of the Spirit. Every Christian who serves in prison ministry needs to do so by the enabling work of the Spirit.

By the power of the Spirit, Jesus went about *"preaching good tidings to the poor."* He proclaimed the gospel to those who were spiritually bankrupt in the sight of God. Every person on this planet stands in this same desperate condition before God. All of us who believe in the Lord Jesus can be empowered by this same Holy Spirit to get this same glorious gospel of salvation to guilty souls, whether in prisons or in the so-called free world.

(over please)

Jesus was also sent to *"heal the brokenhearted."* Sin leads to broken hearts. Sinners' hearts get broken by the conviction of their transgressions. Loved ones have their hearts broken as they observe the consequences of sin. Those who are sinned against are often left with broken hearts. When sin leads to imprisonment, hearts are further broken. Jesus heals broken hearts when people turn to follow Him. He forgives and comforts and restores.

Jesus was also sent *"to proclaim liberty to the captives."* Sin brings spiritual bondage. Jesus brings spiritual freedom. The enemy of our souls wants to ensnare people. The Lord wants them to know the truth of His salvation *"that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will"* (2 Timothy 2:26).

Finally, Jesus was sent to proclaim *"the opening of the prison to those who are bound."* Of course, the ultimate prison being described here is the spiritual bondage of sin and guilt. What a glorious message we have. We can proclaim Jesus as the One who opens that prison of spiritual bondage, setting people free to know the Lord, to love the Lord, and to serve the Lord.

Please pray for us at IPM as we reach out to thousands of prisoners in 2016. May we all be guided by the truths of Isaiah 61:1 and empowered by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Proclaiming with You Spiritual Freedom through Jesus Christ,

*Dini Hoekstra*

Dini Hoekstra

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

P.S. Our gift book for this month is From Crime to Christ, outstanding testimonies of spiritual freedom through Jesus Christ!



### ISAIAH 61:1

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me; because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."*

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

**(See reverse side where a sample book is highlighted.)**

**This book is available to you as a free appreciation gift upon request.)**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR RECENT DONATION OF BOOKS**

Thank you so much for your recent donation of books to the women within the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. They were not forgotten at this Christmas Season. We love receiving your books and appreciate the spiritual reading material. We are very grateful for your ongoing and continued thoughtfulness.

Will you remember us in your prayers, as we pray for you? As always we are very thankful for your wonderful generosity. Thank you for your faithfulness. May God continue to bless you and your prison ministry.  
Chaplain Mary Collins.

**BUT GOD!**

I am writing to ask for books. I am in prison serving a life sentence. That turns out to be a blessing because I would be dead by now in the free world. But God saw fit for me to come to prison so I would have a chance to see myself and know I needed a Savior.

In Christ,  
Jerry W., MS Prison

**I KNOW GOD IS WITH ME!**

I thank you for the most encouraging letter and the wonderful Bible. I do appreciate the goal plan. It is hard here in prison to keep striving to know God better. Yes, I try very hard to lean upon Jesus. Satan is working hard to keep me from serving God with my whole heart, my whole soul, my whole mind and my whole strength. But I am not giving up. I know God is with me even when I stumble. So I get up and brush the dirt off and keep going.

With much Christian love,  
Phillip G., California Prison  
“The Lord is my helper and I will not fear.”

**YOUR LITERATURE HELPED ME TO PRAY ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

Dear Pastor Gali, I am Suvarna, I am here in prison. I read your literature in this prison. Your literature helped me to pray according to the Word of God which is strengthening me. Now I want to be a witness for God.

Please pray that I may walk in the Light of the Word of God. Please send your new literature. Thank you.

*Suvarna Raju, Central Prison, South India.*  
Pastor Gali is an IPM Ministry Partner in India

*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 know that Jesus forgives sinners and transforms lives.

- Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- “*Library of LifeChanging Books*” for Prisoners ... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bibles & Books for Russia & India Prisons.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 as a gift  
by requesting it in the box below.)

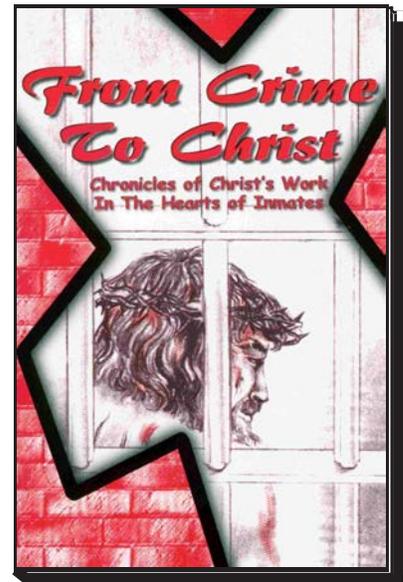
## JESUS, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, FORGIVES AND TRANSFORMS

Chaplain Al Gibbons compiled *From Crime to Christ* and subtitled it “Chronicles of Christ’s Work In the Hearts of Inmates.” Each testimony is one that starts with a totally broken and messed up life often beginning in childhood. There is a stark difference between the before Christ and the after Christ. Some were so filled with hate that even a mother might give up on them humanly speaking. Christ never gives up. He sees the beginning and the end. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11). Jesus loved us while we were yet His enemy. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6).

“On February 2, 1990, I got on the concrete floor of that cell and got real with God! I had read the scripture which says, ‘come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.’ I needed rest! What He has done and is doing for me each day, He wants to do for you.” (Rickie S.)

“I met a volunteer chaplain who visited cell to cell in my building. He would drop off those Chaplain Ray books, pray with me, even when I didn’t ask, and tell me Jesus loved me. I have been blessed to meet Christian people who care about me as a person. Since I gave myself to Christ, I may be in prison, but prison ain’t in me. Today, I am a different person, thanks to God’s love.” (Gary E.)

*“He hath sent Me. . . to proclaim liberty to captives, and the opening of the prisons to them that are bound” (Isaiah 61:1).*



One of Chaplain Ray’s favorite sayings was: “From Crime to Christ.” The important part of that saying is “To Christ!” We believe that the Lord will use *From Crime to Christ* in a special way in your life and in the lives of thousands of prisoners.

*Your prayers and gifts are Blessing prisoners with God’s Word.*

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

**YOUR MESSAGE OR PRAYER REQUEST FOR IPM:**

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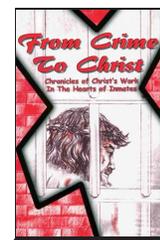
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Yes, Please Send Gift Book



Compiled by  
Chaplain Al Gibbons

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY