

# Set Free Prison Ministries

Since 1971

## Rehabilitation by Regeneration

If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

October 2018



Dear Friends:

**Thank you** for your faithful prayers and partnership in the furtherance of the Gospel. Our Lord is faithful and continues to bless the prison ministry. We are greatly encouraged with wonderful opportunities to expand our "in reach efforts" as we reach behind prison walls with the message of God's love and grace.

Our newly formed partnership with Moody Bible Institute in Chicago has resulted in our monthly new enrollments increasing from 500 to almost 800! The most exciting news is that from the first of January this year through September, 1,257 inmates have made professions of faith while completing their Bible courses!

Our loving Lord said, "There is rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repents!" We too are rejoicing over the many new names written in Heaven! To God be all the glory! The prison mission field is truly white unto harvest. Monthly, literally thousands of Bible courses flow out of our Set Free office. They bring hope to Satan's enslaved captives with the offer of forgiveness, liberation, and a blood bought pardon from the nail pierced hands of our Lord Jesus Christ! For the past 47 years our unchanging message is freedom from sin's penalty, power, and diabolical enslavement. "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed. You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32,36 and 14:6).

For almost 40 years we have enjoyed a close working relationship with the Navigators. Over those years we were greatly privileged and blessed to receive



*I was in prison and You came to Me.*

**Matthew 25 :36**

special permission to print over a half million Navigator Bible courses in English, Spanish and Russian, totally royalty free. But major changes transpired in 2014 when, for economic reasons, NavPress Publishers merged with Tyndale House Publishers in Illinois. Both are first class evangelical organizations, highly respected with worldwide impact. The Lord has blessed this new alliance and it has worked out well. But with that said, and the new structure, NavPress could no longer grant us special permission to print the Navigator courses. Tyndale House Publishers is now printing and marketing all NavPress Publications and in total control of handling special printing project requests.

Tyndale House Publishers was founded by Ken Taylor. He was the author of the best-selling "Living Paraphrase Bible." Tyndale House currently publishes the popular "New Living Translation Bible." Many years ago Ken graduated to glory. I was blessed to personally know him. He had a great heart for the furtherance of the Gospel. In the early 70's while I was serving as Staff Protestant Chaplain in Chicago's infamous Cook County Jail, Ken provided us with many hundreds of "Living Paraphrase Bibles" to distribute to the inmates, totally free of charge.

For many months we had been seeking special permission to print another 125,000 Navigator Bible courses without results. We were completely out of some very critical courses at the early part of our curriculum. It is not an exaggeration to say that we had an extremely serious situation with far reaching and eternal implications. Many thousands of inmates' lives were hanging in the balance, one way or another, if permission was granted or denied. Not only would our Set Free office have been crippled and adversely impacted, but many other prison ministries which we network with and supply Bible courses to in the U.S. and Canada would be affected.

**But thankfully, a major breakthrough transpired which began with an invitation from Emmaus Correspondence School to participate in a prison conference in Dubuque, Iowa.** I graduated from Emmaus Bible School in 1971. I was asked to share the history of where, when, and how the prison correspondence ministry began almost 50 years ago. We flew into Chicago on a Saturday with plans to stay there for several days before driving to Iowa. Our time in Chicago was truly amazing and we experienced the Lord's leading from start to finish. He surprised us with totally unexpected important meetings and key contacts were made which will count for all eternity.



Phil sharing the history of the Prison Correspondence Ministry and how it expanded nationally and internationally.

Before leaving Mr. Elwell's office, he handed us a three-year contract granting us permission to print the Navigator courses "royalty free" until December 31, 2021! Additionally, the contract states upon expiration, this permission may be renewed by NavPress and Tyndale House Publishers upon written request. Wow! We were so excited. It was almost like an out of body experience—whatever that may feel like! ***"The Lord is truly able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us"*(Ephesians 3:20).**

On Sunday morning we visited a church I attended for 12 years while living in the Chicago area. What a joy to personally meet Bruce Everhart who is one of the Vice Presidents of Moody Global Ministries and is also an elder of that church! We had spoken on the phone a number of times discussing the details of establishing a new partnership with Moody Bible Institute and Set Free. Moody asked us if we'd be willing to assume responsibility for mailing from our office, "Today in the Word," which we agreed. It is a powered packed daily devotional with in-depth teaching and helpful suggestions for personal application. Moody has now transferred all their inmate contacts to Set Free for us to service.

As a result, we have received many hundreds of new requests to be enrolled in our Bible courses. **The Lord has greatly blessed this new partnership with scores being saved and caused our ministry to literally snowball.** Thanks to our meeting with Bruce, Moody has now increased the number of monthly devotionals we receive from 2,100 to **4,000!** Our students love them and are making great progress in their spiritual knowledge and growth and our Bible course completion ratio has dramatically increased!

*The highlight of the trip was a totally unexpected early morning surprise phone call from Tyndale House Publishers. James Elwell, the Director of International Publishing wanted to meet with us. We had an incredible meeting and found that we had many mutual friends and contacts dating back to the early 70's. We enjoyed reminiscing about our times and the conversations we had with Ken Taylor. We also shared how Ken's faith and vision challenged and impacted our lives.*



### NOT JUST NUMBERS

Set Free currently has **4,722** active students who are completing our Bible courses.

January through September 2018, **1,257** inmates made professions of faith.

Behind the statistics are precious souls. They will live for all eternity - in one of two places. (John 3:16-18).

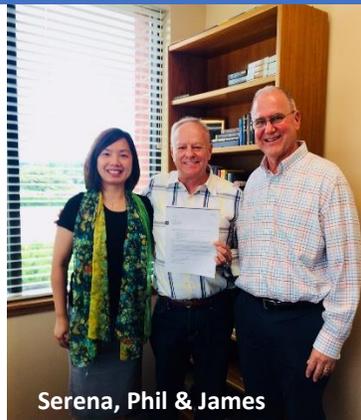
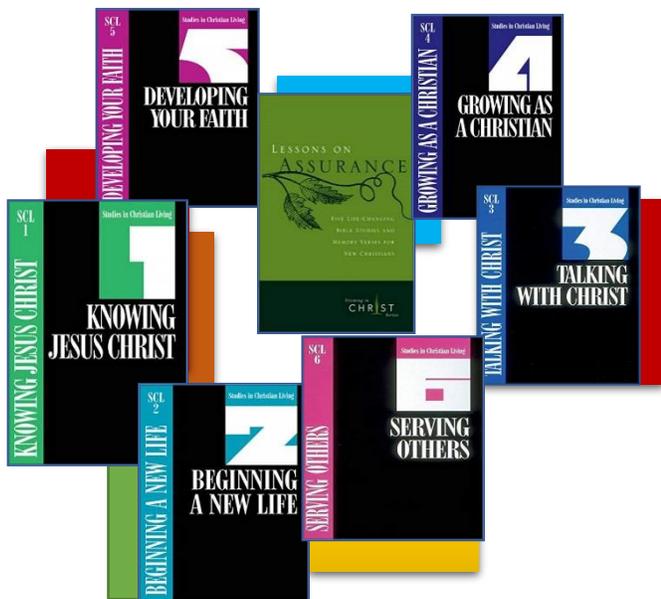
The last several weeks we have been getting bids to print 125,000 Navigator Bible courses. The retail cost of the Navigator Bible courses are \$5.99 each. With tax and shipping costs, the print run would exceed 3/4 of a million dollars or \$750,000. We will be able to print them for \$0.35 each which includes all costs including shipping. This is a discount of \$5.64 per course and a savings of over \$705,000. Plus, we will be able to print them on lighter weight paper, resulting in an additional savings of many thousands of dollars in postage! We are rejoicing as we diligently strive to make every dollar of “The Lord’s money” stretch to the maximum. We currently are completely out of several critical courses which are at the beginning of our curriculum. The Lord did a mighty miracle through our new permission and “royalty free” contract which was graciously granted by Tyndale House Publishers.

We now need another miracle and we greatly would appreciate your prayers for the Lord’s provision through His compassionate people. After praying, if the Lord enables and moves your heart to participate, **please designate your gift for “Navigator Printing Project.”**

## SPECIAL PRINTING PROJECT

### 125,000 BIBLE COURSES

#### Studies in Christian Living Series



Serena, Phil & James

**With God**  
all things are  
***POSSIBLE.***

*Matthew 19:26*

No gift is too small, “as little is much in the hands of the Lord” and He knows how to multiply our loving generosity. The Lord has already begun to touch hearts and we have received several designated gifts.

**We are 1/3 of the way with 2/3 still needed.** This is a wonderful opportunity for those who can assist, to reach hundreds of lives with the Gospel and also help with the discipleship process through the Bible courses their gift provides. We love to be able to say “Yes” to the many thousands of requests we receive from destitute inmates and prison chaplains requesting free Bible courses. What a blessing to be able to sow liberally. When we do, we already have God’s promise of a bountiful harvest of precious souls (2Corinthians 9:6-15)!

Last month we began our 48th year of full-time prison ministry. Set Free is 100% the Lord’s ministry. **Every day we operate is a miracle of the Lord’s provision.** Thank you for your part in this miracle. We are thankful to the Lord for you, your prayers, and partnership in the furtherance of the Gospel. May our loving Lord continue to meet your every need and bless you for your kindness.



Because He Lives,

Phil Wagner  
Psalms 102:18-20

All Believers are Christ’s  
Witnesses. We are  
Challenged to Do the Work  
of an Evangelist and  
Commissioned to Share the  
Gospel with a Lost Word.

*(Acts 1:8, II Timothy 4:5, Mark 16:15)*



RETAIL PRICE \$5.99    TOTAL    \$748,750

**SET FREE SPECIAL PRINTING PROJECT \$0.35    TOTAL    \$43,750**

# HOW CAN I UNDERSTAND

## Unless Someone *Guides Me?*

### The Ethiopian Eunuch & Philip the Evangelist

(Acts 8: 26-40)

**The** Ethiopian Eunuch was a God seeker who came to Jerusalem to worship. As he was returning to Ethiopia, he had a Bible in his hand and was reading Isaiah, Chapter 53. This is by far the clearest prophetic chapter in the Bible and goes into great detail portraying Christ's death and resurrection. But the Ethiopian was still confused and could not understand what he was reading. The Lord who searches the heart is also a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him. He sent Philip to explain the passage to him. Philip asked the Ethiopian, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I understand unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:31)

Today there are many thousands of inmates who have Bibles in their cells and much like the Ethiopian Eunuch, they cannot understand it. This may sound surprising but over the past many years I have learned, that very few people are saved by reading only the Bible. That's also my testimony. I even purchased a simplified Bible translation. But as hard as I tried, I could not understand the Bible prior to my salvation. Godly teachers provide spiritual guidance and insight to help us understand the Bible and, most importantly, how to apply it to our lives.

The Bible says, "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to Him, nor can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned." In addition to that, the Bible also declares they are spiritually blind and dead in trespasses and sins. In their unsaved condition, they do not have the Holy Spirit residing within to illuminate the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 2:14, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, and Ephesians 2:1-3). The ministry of the Holy Spirit to the unsaved is to convict them of their sin, their need of a Savior, and perform the miracle of the "New Birth" to those who respond to the Gospel (John 3:3-21, 16:7-11). The Lord blessed the seeking Ethiopian Eunuch by sending Philip, the Evangelist, to guide him, explain the Scriptures to him, and to bring him into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

*All Gifts Are U.S. Income Tax Deductible.*

Our loving Lord came to seek and to save the lost. There are countless thousands of inmates behind prison walls who are seeking spiritual guidance and help to change the direction of their lives. So many come from the most terrible backgrounds imaginable. The Lord desires for them to be saved as He saved the Ethiopian Eunuch. They need to be reached with the message of God's love and grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Sadly, so many Christians lack opportunities to reach the unsaved with the Good News of the Gospel. Thankfully, we can help rectify that situation.** We have literally thousands of opportunities open to us to share the Gospel with those seeking answers and help for their troubled lives. The Bible courses that you supply are spiritual guides which clearly explain the message of salvation through our Lord's substitutionary death and resurrection. They bring the same message that Philip, the Evangelist, brought to the Ethiopian. We would greatly value your fervent prayers for the Lord's provision. **If the Lord leads and enables you to make an eternal investment in this project, many lives will be wonderfully impacted by the mighty power of Gospel. We urgently need to get the printing presses rolling!** Thank you again for your partnership in the Great Commission and your heart of love for the Lord and the lost.

#### *Letters from Inmates*



Thank you for providing we inmates and me personally, an eternal peace that can only be obtained by knowing Jesus Christ. Thanks for showing us how to study God's Word and how to honor God and how to love Him. Thank you for helping me build a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. Mainly, thank you for not seeing me as a criminal, but a brother in Christ. I can honestly say I love you all in Jesus's name. **Gustavo / CA**

I really enjoyed doing this study. It's very clear and easy to understand. I look forward to learning more of God's precious treasures through these insightful lessons. What a blessing you are to people like me who have no way of communicating with others. Solitary confinement is the most dreadful punishment in some ways and a blessing in other ways. Jesus and His disciples understood this lonely life and you do also. Thank you. **Chad /GA**

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone at Set Free for making these Bible studies possible. I have really gotten a lot out of these studies. I look forward to getting my booklets back so I can look over them again and be more prepared to share what I have learned. Again, I wanted to say thank you so very much. **Leslie/ FL**