

Set Free Prison Ministries

Rehabilitation by Regeneration

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

48th Anniversary
Since 1971



Dear Friends,

We would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving! This Thanksgiving is extra special one for us at Set Free as we reach another milestone and enter our 48th year of full-time prison ministry! Great is the Lord and great is His unwavering faithfulness!

Thanksgiving is a very special day for us to pause from the busyness of life and count our many blessings. Then we give thanks to our loving Heavenly Father Who is the source of every blessing. The Lord delights in those who possess a thankful spirit. Personally, I'm most thankful for our loving triune God. He is a loving Heavenly Father Who gave us the precious gift of His Son. I'm thankful for our Lord and Savior, Who gave His life for our sins and for His priceless gift of salvation. I'm thankful to our gracious God Who gave the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to reside in our lives, empower, comfort, and guide us through life as we journey onward and upward to heaven.



Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Psalms 103:1

Happy Thanksgiving 2018

I'm thankful for family, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, and a loving and active church. I'm also so grateful for the many challenges and trials over the years as they have built and strengthened my faith. Someone stated, "Trials are not enemies of faith, but God's opportunities to prove His faithfulness!"

Over the past 47 plus years we have been privileged and blessed to share the Gospel with tens of thousands of inmates on three continents. We have distributed many hundreds of thousands of Bible courses, Bibles, Christian books, and literature. Amazingly, everything including mailing and return postage was provided, totally free of charge!

This is truly a miracle of the Lord's faithfulness and His miraculous provision through His loving and compassionate people. It's no wonder that we continue to emphasize that Set Free is 100% the Lord's ministry. All glory goes to our loving God and Savior. We are simply His grateful blood-bought servants.

Today I was reviewing last year's Thanksgiving newsletter. I shared that last year we had over 3,850 active students and were receiving almost 600 new enrollments each month. One year later, we now have over 4,800 active students and are receiving almost 800 new enrollments each month!

The Lord is greatly blessing His powerful Word as, to date, 1,478 inmates have made professions of faith while completing their Bible courses! Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more (Romans 5:20). Satan's captives are being gloriously "Set Free". Our hearts are continually overflowing with gratitude to the Lord for the mighty and liberating power of the Gospel!

Our Set Free office is flooded with many hundreds of completed courses which need to be processed, graded, and additional new courses to be mailed out. At times, we can feel pretty overwhelmed. Someone has said, "We may at times get tired IN serving the Lord, but we never get tired OF serving the Lord". So true!

We are especially thankful for our 125 faithful volunteers who greatly assist with the heavy workload. They pour their hearts, time and energy into this ministry. Some are in their 80's and we could not continue to operate without their assistance!



Phil, Bob, Deanna, Marie, Heidi & Keith

Bob, Deanna and Marie are volunteers at Set Free's office and also correct Bible courses at home. Heidi & Keith are Set Free volunteer coordinators in Northern California. They lead a group which correct Bible courses and pray for inmates at their church (Rock Church) every Sunday.

We would greatly value your prayers as we minister to literally thousands of inmates every month. Additionally, we provide many thousands of Bible courses to those seeking spiritual help as they desire to change the painful direction of their lives.



Elizabeth, Amy, Concepcion, Laura, Sandy, Emily, Monica, Serena & Phil

They process and prepare Bible courses for shipping at Set Free's office.

Please pray for our escalating financial needs as the ministry continues to greatly snowball! What a privilege to share the message of God's loving heart and the priceless gift of salvation with those who are empty, lonely and hurting.

The loving participation of the Lord's people not only make this ministry possible, but continuously operational, and that, for almost five decades! To our miracle working God, be all the praise and glory!

Thank you for your prayers, kind generosity, and partnership in the furtherance of the Gospel. May our loving Lord continue to meet your every need and bless you and your loved ones at this very special time of the year! We appreciate you!

Because He Lives,

Phil Wagner
Ephesians 3:14-21

We at Set Free can never THANK YOU enough for your prayers and generous support of the Navigator Printing Project. Your eternal investment continues to make this ministry possible. We will have more information in the next newsletter.



Blessed to Be A Blessing

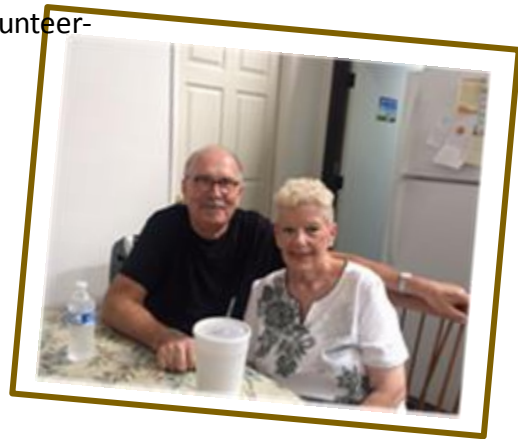
Serving God By Serving Others

-Carol Friedrich / Set Free Volunteer-

The inmate wrote, "I believe that God came to give me eternal life, but I don't know why I'm still in prison if my sins have been forgiven. Please don't feel I am innocent. I am ashamed." After already having spent eighteen years of his young life imprisoned, what could I – just a Set Free Prison Ministries "volunteer," possibly say to encourage this man? As on other occasions, I went to God in prayer and asked Him to "give me the words" yet again.

About three years ago my husband and I started as Set Free volunteers "grading" lessons. The inmates aren't actually given "letter" grades. "Answer Keys" are provided to the graders for each lesson. We don't come close to being Biblical scholars - more "encouragers." Most of these inmates have never picked up a Bible, much less studied the Word. Before each lesson I pray for God, through the work of His Holy Spirit, to help me encourage and uplift spirits. The time spent in reading through the inmates' lessons has turned in to a sort of "time of worship" for me. I can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and am SO touched when God takes me directly to Scripture passages meant for a particular inmate. These folks cease to be inmates to me – they are my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are also learning to spend time in God's Word. And, a great number are also searching for something to fill their empty hearts.

At times I have received, via Set Free, the nicest communications back from the inmates that greatly bless and encourage ME! And, just for the record, Set Free volunteers are kept VERY safe in any correspondence with inmates. Since most inmates are indigent, Set Free materials are free as well as the return postage. ALL correspondence is coordinated through the ministry site and NO personal addresses are ever given.



Both Harold and Carol have been correcting Bible courses at their home and serving at the Set Free office for 3 years.

I couldn't believe the blessings I was enjoying grading inmates' lessons. I wanted to do more. So, I asked if I could help "down at the office." I have a wonderful Set Free family. I love to watch Phil carry in containers of mail overflowing with letters and completed lessons, to hear him say, "This is a good problem."

I was working in the office one day when a man stopped by selling chocolate bars for a local charity. He had never been to the Set Free office before, but he related his experiences as a prisoner some years before and how his life was radically changed for Christ through Set Free's ministry. He encouraged us with his testimony!

Like many, I grew up in the church. I loved it when missionaries would show slides and or talk about their particular ministries. We used to enjoy a Missions Week once a year. I knew that my tithes and offerings were helping to support the missionaries' work and I'd be SO blessed to feel like I did have a part in God's "Great Commission" (Mark 16:15). I never have felt more apart of God's Kingdom work than when I get to open daily mail at Set Free. I LOVE to read inmate notes, cards, and letters! What a tremendous blessing to firsthand read how God is using the Set Free Prison Ministry to change inmate's lives for Jesus!



I have met believers who have told me they just can't "witness" because they are too shy or don't know what to say. The Set Free Prison Ministry is a perfect avenue – you are still using your words even though you are not speaking to a person "face to face." Phil has commented that people can become "Home Missionaries" through the Set Free ministry.

Jesus lived the example – "He went around doing good" (Acts 10:38). In Ephesians 2:10 we are told, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." I count it an honor and privilege to be part of the Set Free volunteer family and I can't wait to see where God continues to lead this wonderful ministry.

I was in prison and You came to Me.

Matthew 25:36

Thank you for this Bible study. I am grateful for all who provide and help us prisoners to learn and study God's Word. I thank God for that today. I have learned I have a purpose and that I can put the "old man" away and become a "new creation" in Christ. I am the black sheep of my family, but now I cannot wait to get out and teach my family about God's Word and pray together. Also, I want to teach the little ones about Jesus. He is amazing!
from McCarty/ KY

I thank God for this ministry, I did some of your Bible Study Courses while I was in prison many years ago. I was released and deported back to my country of citizenship Mexico. I was wondering if there are some free Bible study Courses available in Spanish for prisoners in Mexico, so we can share God's plan of salvation through Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. GOD Bless the U.S. and His ministry. Greetings and blessings to you all in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

from Gil/ Mexico



Letters from Inmates

Before I trusted Christ my life was a disaster. I did not have peace with anybody or myself either. All I liked to do was be into fights, carry a knife with me and hustle. I was a gambler, a drunk and a drug user all the time. I harmed many people. Then I was sent to state prison after receiving a 15-year sentence.

Randall is my roommate, a man of God. He reads the Bible every morning in silence. One day he asked me, "Do you mind if I read the Bible out loud?" I said, "Go ahead!" He read the Bible everyday. Then about 30 days later, God touched my heart. Randall said to me, "Why don't you try to change your life?" I said to him, "You know what, I have to do this, so I can have peace and change my life." That day I gave my life to Christ. God has shown me His glory and love. God is love. God blessed me through people that belong to Him. Even though I am now in prison, I have God's peace and love in my heart. I care for others and try to help them because God wants us to follow Jesus Christ as an example. **from Marco/ FL**

***Randall is one of Set Free's students and has completed many Bible courses. He is now in the advanced Navigator Discipleship Series.**

WE THANK GOD FOR YOU.



I wanted to say a big thank you for your prison ministries program. It is a blessing to souls in prison who need the Word of God in their lives. My husband is incarcerated, and he has found great pleasure in your Bible study program. If possible, I would like to join your Bible study program. Thank you again for distributing the Word of God.
from Miller/ FL

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