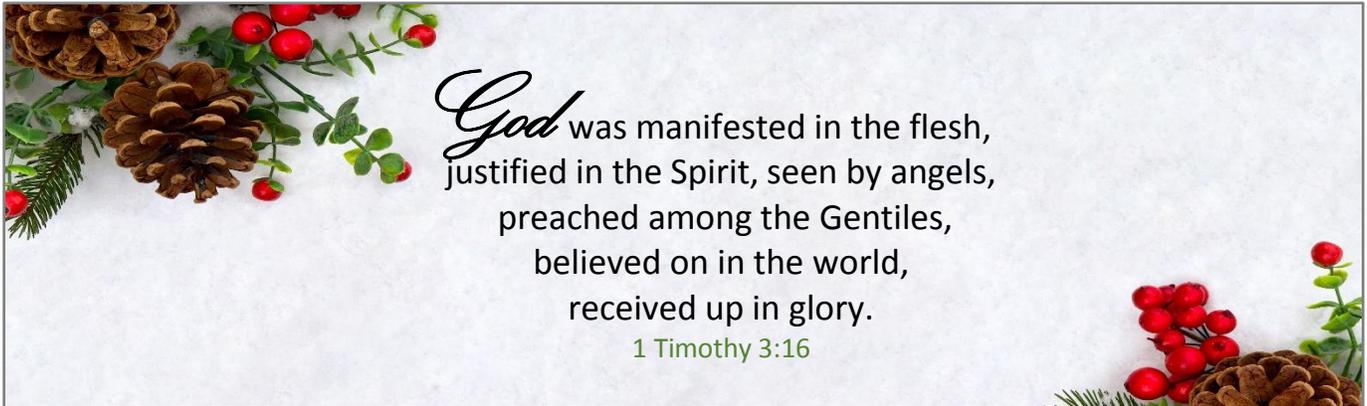


Set Free Prison Ministries

Rehabilitation by Regeneration

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

48th
Anniversary
Since 1971



God was manifested in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit, seen by angels,
preached among the Gentiles,
believed on in the world,
received up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:16

December Newsletter 2018

Dear Friends,

I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! What a wonderful time of year to celebrate God's love and the greatest and costliest gift ever given —our Lord Jesus Christ! Our salvation cost God His Son and God's Son His life's blood to pay for our sins on Calvary's cross (2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18). What a loving God we worship and an incredible message of Love, grace and forgiveness that we are blessed to share with an empty hurting world.

As we at Set Free look back over 2018, it was truly an amazing year. We were blessed with incredibly answers to prayer and experienced the Lords guidance and miraculous intervention at super critical times. He continues to make it clear that "Set Free" is His ministry. The most wonderful miracle break through was receiving a three-year (renewable) contract from Tyndale House Publishers and the Navigators to print the highly effective Navigator course curriculum totally royalty free. This would enable us to print 125,000 Navigator courses which would cost approximately 3/4 of a million dollars for under \$45,000. But we needed a second miracle to make that happen. That's a mountain for us as we operate a totally 100% free ministry to the destitute.

The Holy Spirit impressed on our hearts that we have a miracle working God with a proven track record.

He has miraculously opened incredible doors and provided for the needs of "Set Free" for the past 47 years. Additionally, we have His precious promises from His word that "nothing is too hard for God and with God all things are possible" (Jeremiah 32:27, Luke1:37). The eternal Salvation of souls and God's glory was at the very heart of our request. We went to the Lord in prayer and asked Him for a second miracle — His provision for the printing project. Then, we sent out a newsletter asking for prayer and shared the opportunity to make an eternal investment in the salvation of souls.



We are so excited to receive our shipment of 125,000 Bible courses. Please join us in praising the Lord for His miraculous provision through His compassionate people.

Today, our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy to share with you, that huge need has been met! The Lord answered and wonderfully provided through His loving people. **We can never thank enough everyone who prayed and sacrificially gave to make this second miracle happen!**

As 2018 rapidly comes to a close we are grateful for the Lord's amazing faithfulness as we have entered our 48th year of full-time prison ministry. We would really appreciate your continued prayers for our ongoing and escalating operational expenses. Last year at this time we had 3,800 active students. We now have 4,800 active students and are receiving 800 new enrollments monthly. Each day we operate is a very real miracle of the Lord's provision through His loving people. Please pray we would be able to finish 2018 completely in the black and also be in a strong position to further the Gospel in 2019.

Thank you for your partnership in the Great Commission and making an eternal difference in the lives of inmates, family members and society. Please know how much we appreciate you! We love sharing the Christmas message and the greatest news in the universe 365 days a year!

Wishing you a very Happy New Year and God's blessings on you and your loved ones!

Because He Lives,



Phil Wagner

Isaiah 9:6
John 3:16-18

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Bible Correspondence Ministry

- Why It Is So Effective -

Being involved in prison and chaplaincy work for almost 50 years, I have greatly benefited from being on staff and working behind prison walls. I have learned a great deal by trial and error, personal observation, and how things operate inside a correctional setting.

While serving as the official staff Protestant Chaplain at Cook County Jail in Chicago, the use of Bible correspondence courses was by far, the most effective part of my total chaplaincy program. Many years ago in a prison, they used to have one full-time Protestant and one full-time Catholic chaplain. Volunteer chaplains who belong to other religions and cults would have

opportunities to conduct services on the weekends. Things have greatly changed over the past many years. Today, the current trend in correctional institutions is to hire one "Religious Coordinator." His primary responsibility is to schedule services for all religious groups during available time slots. There are some but very few religious coordinators who are truly *Born-Again* evangelical Christians. Sadly, most have the conviction that all roads lead to heaven. They have become all things to all groups, embracing mostly everything and standing for nothing. To me, they often resemble JELL-O nailed to a wall.

Thank You



The Lord is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

Many smaller jails do not have a staff chaplain to minister to the inmates because of budget limitations. Below, I have listed a number of challenges that religious volunteers often encounter while ministering in jails and prisons.

- 1) For volunteers to be eligible to enter a prison and conduct religious services. They must undergo an extensive background check to receive clearance.
- 2) Once security clearance is received, there needs to be an available time slot to conduct services.
- 3) Most meetings are conducted in small rooms like the size of a classroom and only a limited number of inmates are allowed to attend. This is due to racial and gang tension as violence can erupt at any time.
- 4) Religious meetings stretch security. Inmates must be escorted to and from different areas of the compound to attend the services. A deputy is required to stay in the meeting room during the services to ensure the safety of the volunteers and inmates.
- 5) Less than 5% of the prison population is able to attend all of the combined religious services.
- 6) Services can be cancelled at any time for any number of security reasons. This happens all too frequently. To be quite frank, religious services are often considered by many to be an unwelcome interruption in the staff's busy schedule, unimportant and a waste of time.
- 7) Many inmates feel very uncomfortable attending the services. They are often ridiculed, harassed, considered weaklings and taken advantage of.



Faith comes by hearing,
and hearing by the
Word of God.
Romans 10:17

Faith Book-THE BIBLE !!-



The Powerful Advantages and Effectiveness of the Bible Correspondence Method

- 1) The use of Bible courses has the potential to reach 100% of the prison population.
- 2) The inmates can study in their cells or Day Room when it is most convenient, especially if they have a work schedule.
- 3) In church services, words spoken in the air are often quickly forgotten. But, with the Bible courses, they can read and review until they understand and make it part of their lives.
- 4) The Bible courses, booklets and books we provide at the beginning of our curriculum, make the Gospel-crystal clear.
- 5) Once saved, our extensive Bible course curriculum instructs the new believer on steps to Christian growth. Christlike character qualities, doctrinal grounding, principles of discipleship and methods of evangelism are also taught. Our goal is not only to evangelize but to present everyone mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28).
- 6) Our students receive encouragement and personalized instruction from our dedicated volunteers who grade their courses, share Scriptures and also pray for them.
- 7) Students receive Bible course certificates for each course they complete. They are very proud of them!
- 8) Our students also have opportunities to share the Gospel, evangelize, and distribute our postage paid enrollment cards to other inmates. Yesterday-in one day, we received 125 new enrollment cards!

There are strict requirements for the privilege of mailing Bible courses and Christian literature directly to inmates. Individuals are not allowed that privilege. Drugs could be injected into the pages of the booklets and the inmates would then chew the pages and get high. I know, it sounds totally gross.

For the privilege of mailing literature personally to inmates you must be an officially approved publisher or distributor. Thankfully, we are both. An ongoing and major expense of the ministry is the high cost of mailing and return postage.

For our Set Free office, it is over \$4,000 a month. But, it's well worth it as we can minister directly with the inmates and know they receive the courses. **Satan mistakenly thought he had his deceived captives safely isolated from the Gospel. He was wrong.** Without jeopardizing security, the Lord guided us and we found the correspondence ministry to be by far- the most effective method to reach the largest number of inmates with the mighty power of the Gospel!



January through November 2018, 1,669 inmates accepted the Gift of God, Christ Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Today, multitudes of inmates are being "Set Free", liberated, and are turning from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God that they may receive forgiveness of sins... To God be all the glory! (2Corinthians 4:3-4 and Acts 26:18)

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Your faithful prayers and kind generosity make this ministry possible. Thank you for encouraging us and being a wonderful blessing.

SENDING GOD'S LOVE AND HOPE INTO PRISONS

Write A Christmas Card to An Inmate

The Christmas season is the most depressing time of year for those behind prison walls. This year, we were blessed to receive a donation of 6,000 Christmas cards from "Heart Gifts" in Oregon. This enabled us to send blank Christmas cards to our students. They were able to mail a Christmas card to their family or a friend. This year, the Lord impressed on our hearts to write personalized Christmas cards to the inmates. We took a small step forward. Heidi and Keith, Set Free volunteer coordinators from Rock church in Northern California, hosted a "Write a Christmas Card to An Inmate" event in their church. They have written 500 Christmas cards to our students. They prayed for each student, and also shared Bible verses with them. Please pray with us that those who receive the Christmas cards will be encouraged, feel God's love and have hope during the Christmas season. Prayerfully and Lord willing, we would love to have more churches involved next year. Our goal is to be able to send personal Christmas cards that bring God's love and hope to thousands of inmates next year. Christ's love is the cure for hurting hearts.

Letters from Inmates



I am a student from Set Free. I enjoy my studies very much. They have helped me through many trials and tribulations. I encourage any one I speak with to try and take Set Free Bible study courses. I work hard on each course and always practice what the lesson teaches me. I have been incarcerated for 13 months now. I have made a commitment to starting my life over clean. I just received my one year chip of sobriety in N.A. classes that I have been attending. **Since taking Set Free Bible study courses, my life has changed. God has given me hope for my future.** Your courses have encouraged me to maintain a healthy life style. I promise I will continue to stay in my word and fellowship every chance I get. Thank you so much for your help. **Courtney from FL**

I'm in jail due to my attribute of Al-Islam. Yes! I am Muslim at this time but I feel very abandoned, betrayed by family members and still seeking for the truth. I pray and hope that I will receive the following: joy, kindness, prayer, miracles, blessings, deliverance, teaching, counseling, and the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the proofs to show that I am on the right path. Please provide me and my family members Bible study courses in English. I hope this is the right way to go and that my research leads my spirit in the right direction. **Charles from GA**

I want to thank you for your Bible lessons you sent to me. I really enjoy and get a lot out of them. Thank you for sending me "Today in the Word" and two Christmas cards. I sent them to my family members who I know will enjoy them. Your ministry does a lot for me and others. It is making a difference, I am so grateful for your ministry and the loving kindness you show. **Thank you for the time you give and all you do. God is using you for good to share His Word and made a difference in many lives.** I will do my best to hold my head up high and look at the brighter side rather than the negatives. May you have a Merry Christmas. Thank you for all you do! **Larry from IA**

I would love to participate in one of your free Bible study courses with my mother if possible. Nothing would make her happier than sharing the joy of the Lord with me and allowing us to grow closer together even though we are so far apart. Thank you and God bless. **Jody from NC**

You make a difference in my life today by providing Bible studies. I'm grateful for you all at Set Free Prison Ministries. **Felix from CA**