

Set Free Prison Ministries

Since 1971

Rehabilitation by Regeneration

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

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold,
I bring you **good tidings of great joy**
which will be to all people..."

Luke 2:10

December 2022

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Set Free Prison Ministries! Thank you so much for your prayers and loving generosity which have made this prison ministry possible. We are so thankful to the Lord for you!

Christmas is a wonderful time of year to reflect on God's great heart of love in sending His only Son to earth on a rescue mission to be our Savior (Luke 2:10-11, John 3:16). Christmas is a birthday and the most celebrated holiday of the year. The Greatest Person who ever lived and walked this earth was born on this special day.

On the first Christmas, shepherds watching their sheep, were greatly frightened by a visitation of an angel of the Lord and a host of other angels. The shepherds were uniquely blessed to be the very FIRST to HEAR the Good News proclaimed that a heaven-sent Savior was born! Other than Mary and Joseph, they were the FIRST to SEE the Savior. Additionally, they were the FIRST to share the Christmas message with others.

But I don't think the shepherds had a clue when they gazed upon the Lord Jesus in the manger, that they were looking at both "the LAMB of God" Who would take away the sins of the world, and the "great SHEPHERD" Who would give His life for the sheep. But it would take more than the birth of God's eternal Son Jesus to pay for the sins of the world. God takes sin seriously. A holy God must punish sin. The wages of sin is death. To be the Savior of the world required Jesus' substitutionary death (Hebrews 2:9). **The eternal Son of God Who was made flesh in Mary's womb, 33 years later was made sin on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).** On Good Friday all our sins were placed on our sinless Savior. He took our punishment and died a substitutionary death. When He triumphantly shouted, "It is finished!" our sin debt was paid in full. Thankfully He rose from the dead after securing a blood bought pardon. It's available to all who, in repentance and faith, open their hearts and receive the greatest and most expensive gift

ever given – God's heaven-sent Son and Savior. It is free, but super costly. It cost God His Son and God's Son His life's blood (Romans 5:8-11).

The Christmas message, which the angels first proclaimed is Set Free's unchangeable message. We have continued to proclaim it 365 days a year for over five decades. **We would greatly value your prayers at this time. Every day that we operate a 100% free ministry to the destitute, is a miracle of the Lord's provision through the generosity of His loving people.** Thank you for your partnership in the furtherance of the Gospel and for being a vital part of Set Free —which truly is the Lord's ministry. May your heart experience God's love, peace, and presence this Christmas and throughout the coming year!

Because He Lives,



Phil Wagner

2 Corinthians 9:8,15

Christmas Card Outreach Project

We are so excited about the year that has gone by and the way it is shaping up as we approach Christmas. We have been busily involved in a major Christmas Card Outreach Project. Wonderfully, 118 volunteers from Set Free and an additional 122 volunteers from area churches participated in this project. They have written 3,510 Christmas cards filled with the Good News of the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas time is by far the saddest, the most depressing, and loneliest time of year to be locked up. The inmates' lives are in shambles, they have lost their freedom, and 85% never receive a letter or a visit from the outside world. To receive a personalized Christmas card with encouragement means so much to them. In November we also sent over 6,000 blank Christmas cards with the Gospel message to our students, so that they could write to their families, friends and loved ones. A big "thank you" to all who participated. Many lives have been impacted and you have lovingly helped to bring the message of God's love into hundreds of jails and prisons this Christmas (Hebrews 6:10).

Special Thank You for

- Providing Christmas cards- David and Helen Haidle, Bob and Deanna Keck and Calvary Chapel Corona.
- Coordinating- Ed and Falinda Pena, Keith and Heidi Baily, and Jenny Lumley.
- Participating- 120 volunteers from Magnolia Church in Riverside California, Calvary Chapel in Corona California plus Set Free's 118 Volunteers.

I was in prison and you came to Me.

Matthew 25:36

Thank you for keeping God's light on me in this dark place. My faith in the Lord grows every day and I just want to let you know I appreciate all the work that has gone into putting these studies together. **Oscar/Santa Ana, CA**

I received my December Today in the Word from you and was moved to tears by the inclusion of a Christmas card. A dear follower of Christ named Deanna took the time to hand write a message of prayer to me personally. I did not want this act of kindness and compassion to go without telling you how much it impacted me. I know this is a busy time of year for people, and to take the time to write that message to me, and likely countless others, is faith in action. I will be entering a specific prayer in my journal this evening thanking God for Deanna, for this ministry, and for His continued blessings upon it and all of you who dedicate time to us in prison. May God continue to richly bless you all and this very important ministry.

Ronald/Airway Heights, WA

This year to date, **1,601 inmates** have responded to the Gospel and opened their hearts to our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be all the glory.

My journey started long ago when I was in the worse possible shape a human can be in. God reached out a hand to save me from drowning in the hateful world I created for myself. God gave me a chance, and all God wanted was for me to practice the works of a righteous man and believe in His Son. It was only at that moment I felt peace. **Mark / Coldwater, MI**

Not many hours ago I thought death would be easier than life. For the past 15 years my head and heart were not on the same page. Praise God! Your team of believers has been a constant and faithful support in my growth and change. Thank you all for your dedication, faithfulness, courage, and tireless work for me, for us, in Christ. **Karl / Dixon, IL**

I am writing in regards to your Bible study courses. I just want to thank you also for helping folks like me and for bringing light into our lives when we are in this dark place. God bless.

Jason/ New Braunfels, TX