

# Hope

by Bobby Davis

## Behind the Walls

Each week, 3ABN's Pastoral Department receives hundreds of letters from inmates seeking for answers to their Bible questions, or who hope to receive a Bible. Their letters are carefully read and answered by a wonderful group of ladies whose dedication to the Lord is truly amazing.

### From the Beginning

"Our prison ministry began with Mama Grace Yost, who sent out one Bible and a hand-written note," says J. D. Quinn, 3ABN's Pastoral Department Manager. "She used her own funds to purchase Bibles, then passed it on to Karen Owen, who led us through a transition period. Now 3ABN Prison Ministries Coordinator, Linda Taylor\* and her faithful team have taken this ministry to new heights. They send each inmate their own Bible with a letter welcoming them into the family of God. They're truly a special team of faithful soldiers in God's army!"

Linda says her team feels blessed as they read hundreds of letters each week. "There are 2.3 million people in prison here in the U.S.," she says. "They're there because of things that happened in their life; and although I don't know what I would have done if those things had happened to me, *I do know* what God asks us to do for them. We send them a Remnant Study Bible with commentary by Ellen White, and they write back and say, 'For the first time, I can really understand what God's Word is saying!'"

"Last year, we sent out about 12,000 Bibles—at a cost of approximately \$144,000. At one point, we had to stop because we ran out of funds," she explains, "and it broke our hearts. I'm so grateful for the generosity of our supporters that has allowed us to send Study Bibles again."

### Working With Others

Linda's passionate about her work. "I know they're searching for the Lord, and while we can send Bibles and answer letters, we can't visit them in person. We'd love to hear from other prison ministries, because then we could connect prisoners to someone who would visit them on a regular basis. *They need to know Jesus. They need to know they're not trash.* God doesn't throw them away. If He forgave the wickedness of King Manasseh in 2 Kings 21, He can certainly forgive any prisoner today!"

### Letters of Thanks

Prisoners who receive a Study Bible are often quick to write back. "I want to thank you for my Remnant Study Bible and the Steps to Christ book you sent me," writes a man in Arizona. "I am enjoying both tremendously! I've used my Study Bible every day since receiving it. My studies have not only increased in length, but in understanding and motivation to study more. Reading Scripture every day helps me to keep going and to try harder to walk with Him (Colossians 2:6)."

Another prisoner writes, "I got the Bible you sent me yesterday, and oh my, it was an Ellen White Study Bible. I have been wanting one of those, and have written to almost 20 prison ministries for one. But then my chaplain gave me a list of places to write, and lo and behold, praise my Lord and Savior, He must have heard my prayers! I watched 3ABN when I had a cellmate with a TV, but now I'm on 23-hour lockdown and will be for the next few years because of the trouble drug abuse got me into with prison gangs. However, I can sit here alone, reading my awesome Study Bible. Thank you!"

### Christian Programs

3ABN and Dare to Dream Network have worked long and hard to bring Christ-centered programming to those who are incarcerated. "When I read what Jesus said in Matthew 25:36, 'I was in prison and you came to me,' I always think, *That's someone's son or daughter who needs to be reached with the gospel!*" says 3ABN Dare to Dream General Manager, Jason Bradley. "Some don't make it out alive, and they shouldn't have to worry about being lost for eternity; so we've been trying for many years to bring Dare to Dream and 3ABN programming into the prisons. A lot of them have totally shut down any visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prisoners are hungry for Christian programming, and 3ABN can introduce them to Jesus. Time is coming to a close. We see the signs of Jesus Christ's soon-coming all around us, and people need to know Who to stand for—and Who to stand with!"

The Lord is eager to reach His children in prisons and jails. They are souls Jesus died for, and He will surely bless every effort to reach them. Thank you for your support of 3ABN's prison ministry. ☺

\*A pseudonym.

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