



Free Discipleship Tools for Prisoners



A Letter **MELTS** a Cold Heart?

July / August 2011 **Loaves & Fishes** Report

This afternoon I finally decided it's time to reach out to our donors and prayer supporters again, especially since I missed last month.



Then a letter landed on my desk from Jerry Conway, a prisoner and acquaintance from New York.

What he said really touched my heart and I decided to share part of his letter with you:

"I would really enjoy corresponding with other Christians. I am not allowed to correspond with other inmates at other prisons and other inmates aren't allowed to correspond with me. Most prisons don't allow inmates to correspond with each other.

"You just don't know how good it feels to get a letter from someone. I watch the mailman pass by my cell everyday, and everyday I think maybe he will stop and give me a letter. It's not just me, Lavern, a lot of guys in here have nobody and it's hard to walk this road alone when you think nobody cares.

"I read your article in Volume 8, Issue 1, 2010 about "Discover a Friend Who Really Loves You" and you're right, Lavern, Jesus is the best friend anyone could have, but it takes a strong heart and mind to set behind these walls and feel Jesus' love without some encouragement and inspiration. Sometimes when people feel rejected and unloved, it's hard to even believe that Jesus will love you.

"It's hard for someone in the free world to understand what it's really like in prison, but I can truly tell you, Lavern, that when that mailman walks by and puts a letter on your cell door, it's one of the happiest moments of your life. I've seen grown men cry like a baby when they got a letter. I've seen cold, cold hearts melt like butter from a card or a letter."

[flip to the other side]

[starts on the other side]

We can teach the prisoners how much Jesus loves them and wants to be their intimate friend, but many of them will never find that without encouragement from personal connections. Yes, God can give grace in a lonely situation, but it takes “a strong heart” to sit behind those walls and know God all alone.

Let’s rise up and visit those in prison. Have weekly or monthly visitation in prisons and jails. Get in touch with a prisoner (or maybe a few) and send them greeting cards and hand-written letters.

The opportunities we have in our local jail to preach and visit with the men is amazing. As Jerry says,

it’s hard for someone in the free world to understand what it’s like in there.

Most prisoners are behind bars because they’ve seriously messed up their lives. If Jesus made “failures” his top priority, shouldn’t we be doing the same?

You can start today by asking us for a prisoner to write to. We’ll send you his/her letter, mailing address, and some guidelines to follow. We only ask that you encourage your new friend and show them the love and truth of Jesus.

For the Kingdom,
Lavern Gingerich

Keeping You in the Loop...

Loaves & Fishes Magazine

We are beginning to prepare the next issue of *Loaves & Fishes*. I had hoped to start before this, but have been very busy this year working on our “Resource Kit,” a packet of literature and resources for new or potential donors.

Now my mind and schedule is more clear to move ahead with the new issue, and just yesterday I sensed the Lord giving me another confirmation for the theme I was inspired to use earlier.

Please pray for Anthony and me as we seek the Lord’s direction and move ahead in this project.

Resource Kit

We’ve had some takers for our literature packets, which we have renamed to “Resource Kit.” If you can help us spread the word, we will be glad to send you either complete kits or individual pieces in the amount you can use.



We have the ministry presentation booklet, *3 Marks of an Effective Missionary*, *Loaves & Fishes* samples, inspirational bookmarks, and more. These resources are available free of charge for the glory of God.

To order these resources, use the resource order form. Or if you picked this up at your church, contact us using the information at the bottom of this sheet.

Special Need: Presentation Speakers

We’ve done some presentations in churches, and it’s obvious that sharing at events is one of the easiest ways to raise awareness for this ministry.

We are praying for a team that can travel and share presentations in churches. It could be a couple young men with a zeal for God’s work or even a married couple that’s not tied down with family and business.

Lighthouse would cover the travel expenses and provide the equipment and literature. The schedule would depend on how many churches and groups we can book, hopefully at least one or two trips a month.

Who will fill this needed position? Please pray with us and let us know if you or someone you know could be a good fit.

—Lavern Gingerich

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eNews: To receive e-mail updates and prayer requests, send your request to enews@lighthousepublishing.org.

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Donations

Donations to Lighthouse Publishing are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Our goal is to publish *Loaves & Fishes* every quarter. Each issue costs roughly \$30,000. This would equal 350 people each giving just \$1/day.

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