



Free Discipleship Tools for Prisoners

"It is because of ministries such as yours that we are able to minister to almost 2,000 men here at Jackson Correctional Institution."

Ron Evans, Senior Chaplain • Malone, FL

What Written Words Can Do

September 2012 Loaves & Fishes Report

Missionary stories often involve answered prayers and brushes with death in foreign lands or starving children being fed. It's easy to get an emotional response when you talk about preaching the Gospel to the uncivilized or saving the lives of children with bloated stomachs. These are vital missions, yet we can't neglect the burden God has put on our hearts for the less-glamorous mission of the printed word.

We're excited about written words at Lighthouse Publishing. Here's why:

Written words let the reader live a thousand lives. Someone who reads books can learn a lot about other places, cultures, and people. Written words take us back in time and broaden our horizons far beyond what personal friendships can.

Written words never give up. A book or tract doesn't need courage or perseverance to keep sharing its message. You can get angry at the message or throw it away, but written words relentlessly make their point.

Written words never change their mind. You can argue or disagree with what you read, but you can never change the "mind" of written words with debates. Through the Spirit of God working in the reader's heart, this silent messenger can "win the argument" and bring the person to Christ or a better understanding of truth.

Written words make new impressions while the world sleeps. When you distribute a personal

letter, a book, or any kind of written message, it's hard to tell what its final destination will be. We have heard stories of how a copy of *Loaves & Fishes* magazine ended up under a bunk or pillow and at just the right time, another prisoner found it and was transformed. It's likely that *Loaves & Fishes* is often making impressions and drawing prisoners to God in the dark hours of night while we are in bed sleeping.

Written words are accurate. How often have you been listening to a story and someone else disagrees with a few of the details? It's hard to remember exactly what people said and did a couple weeks ago. But written words accurately preserve the message intended by the author, even under heavy use.

Written words can be duplicated. Once the editing and design of a new book or magazine is finished, it's easy to duplicate the original a million times with 100% accuracy. Whether for good or evil, written words are influencing billions of people and shaping the coming generations.

Printing gives us leverage. This leverage multiplies the effects of our Kingdom investment. Written words cannot replace relationships and leading others to Christ on a personal level, yet personal relationships will never be able to achieve the level of massive influence the printing press and other technology have.

Even if you burn one copy of *Loaves & Fishes*, there are likely still hundreds of thousands more copies circulating among prison bunks, libraries, drawers,

and trash cans. (Yes, some people discover *Loaves & Fishes* for the first time in trash cans.)

What Is Our Strategy?

There is one thing we have in common with the devil, false religions, and ungodly men: We are using printed literature and technology with strategy and vision, and successfully influencing minds and hearts. Who is winning the battle for influence? Usually those with the biggest team, the most money, and the biggest audience.



Obviously we are promoting a vastly different message. We are not looking for the biggest audience or to make the biggest splash. However, we have found an open door for using written words in the prisons and jails of the USA, and the opportunities are bigger than what we've been able to handle financially.

The next issue of *Loaves & Fishes* magazine is ready to print, and we'd really like to do it yet this fall. The printing will cost around \$16,000 to make 90,000 copies. The postage should be close to \$9,000.

We are deeply grateful for our faithful supporters. Some of you pray, some of you send donations, some of you have volunteered your time. I sincerely wish each of you God's blessings and grace as you seek to work for the Father until the night comes.

For the Kingdom,
Lavern Gingerich

Anyone need some bookstore furniture?

We closed our bookstore a few years ago and still have the racks and shelves in storage. We would make a good deal with someone who could put them to good use. Contact us for more information.

Written Words Transform Lives

"I attended a retreat called Kairos. At the end of the four days, I found the *Loaves & Fishes* on my bunk and Jesus was giving a young man a hug. The young man looks like when I was younger. The picture gave me hope and knowing that someone still loved me.

"After many years of sexual abuse from my dad and physical abuse, it seemed I had a reason to end my life. In 2011 I was faced with three deaths in my family to cancer. The picture to this day still gives me hope and knowing someone still loves me."

Donald Waller

"I love your magazine. I never really understood much about God till I started reading your magazines. I'm 18 and could be serving awhile behind these bars, but right now I'm reading your volume 3 issue 1 from 2005 and also God is helping me walk through this rough time. This is my first time behind bars and hopefully my last thanks to the help of your magazines."

Guner Loughrey

"I'm writing to thank you for the recent shipment of *Loaves & Fishes* magazines. I have received them in perfect condition and all will be used for the discipleship of the men here. Thank you for your generosity and concern for the incarcerated."

Michael R. McComb, Chaplain

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

facebook.com/loavesfishes

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 equals 350 people each giving just \$1/day.

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