



Free Discipleship Tools for Prisoners

"Donations like your publication are a vital part of our chapel's ministry."

William Ohl • SCI • Mercer, PA

The Sacrifice of Giving

January 2013 Loaves & Fishes Report

In a land of indulgence, credit cards, and Santa Claus, it's easy to think of giving in a negative light. Yet we know that God is the author of giving and showed us how to give by sending His Son to redeem us from sin. What a pure, sacrificial gift!

We are called to follow that example: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16, ESV).

Today there are millions of men and women locked up in prisons and jails across this country. Many of them are living in darkness and their hearts are full of anger, violence, and hate. Satan and his demons have turned thousands of people into wild "animals" and there may be no point of return for those. It breaks my heart to see this happening in our prisons.

Thankfully, most prisoners haven't gone that far, and many are still searching for truth. Some are full of regret for the crimes they've committed. Some are lonely and hurting in their relationships. And others have almost given up on life and face a dark, hopeless future. Most prisoners struggle with deep emotional pain.

None of us are immune to this kind of pain. Except for the grace of God, I would go crazy if I had to live among long rows of bunk beds for 20 years or be locked into a box made of concrete and metal for 23 hours a day. From the outside, it's easy to think that prisoners have it easy and cost too much to keep, but a taste of prison life might change our perspective.



One small gift of love can ease the pain and brighten the night of a struggling soul.

Only one thing can bring light into their darkness and heal their pain: the love of God Himself. Many of these prisoners will never know God unless you and I show them love—a hand, a prayer, a Scripture, a word of hope—yes, a gift.

Satan and his demons do not love each other or the people they control. They can only hate and bring oppression, death, and misery. One small gift of love can ease the pain and brighten the night of

continued on back

"Thank you for everything you do for us..."

"For caring about prisoners. For thinking about us. Your magazine is excellent and your work is noticed and appreciated. Do not get weary. Things are happening because of your magazine! People are getting closer to Jesus because of what you do. Keep looking up. Do not be discouraged. You get people to Jesus and that's what matters"

Mark Chapman, Wende Correctional Facility, Alden, NY

a struggling soul. What you have to share may not look like much, but if your brother has a lack and you have extra, your willing gift in the name of Jesus will bring new hope and joy into his life.

So how can we take the sacrifice of giving into the prisons? The prisons and jails of our country usually provide at least the basics necessary for physical survival, but like we shared, there are many other needs waiting to be met.

This is why we are passionate about sending literature into prison. Letter writing and local jail ministry are also a good way to reach out.

The *Loaves & Fishes* magazine is our main focus here at Lighthouse, and we publish a new issue about every 6-8 months. Between the issues, we get hundreds of requests from chaplains and inmates for back issues, Bibles, bookmarks, tracts, calendars, etc. Even when you don't hear about the big mailings, people are being touched on a weekly basis and you are part of the team that makes it possible.

News Updates

- **Selling Equipment:** We have outsourced the printing of several issues of *Loaves & Fishes*, but just recently decided to make it a permanent decision by selling our printing presses. This move is giving us more room and time to pursue our vision as a ministry with limited

staff and space, besides some cash to put toward more literature.

- **New Designer:** We've hired Matt Feener to design *Loaves & Fishes* and help with various other tasks so that I can spend more time writing and raising awareness for the ministry. Matt works from his office in Georgia.
- **Cutting Costs:** We are trying to make *Loaves & Fishes* a quarterly publication, so we decided to go from 64 pages (plus cover) to 48 and use a cheaper paper. This will save us about \$4,000 in printing plus a chunk of postage because of the weight difference.
- **New Issue of *Loaves & Fishes*:** We are doing final review on the new issue, and it should be in production soon. We hope to mail it in January. It's hopeful that we will have the funds to mail them once they are printed.

Our goal is to reach a quarterly publishing schedule with *Loaves & Fishes*, and I am excited about the new year ahead and the impact that we can make for the Kingdom of God together.

May your zeal be stirred for the sacrifice of giving in the prisons of the USA!

For the Kingdom,
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 equals 350 people each giving just \$1/day.

Contact Information

Lighthouse Publishing
14377 Old State Highway 28
Pikeville, TN 37367
Phone: 423-447-3567
E-mail: info@lighthousepublishing.org

LighthousePublishing.org