

Progress and Sunshine

March 17, 2014
Loaves & Fishes Report



Free Discipleship Tools for Prisoners

In January we mailed the subscriptions for Issue 25, the latest issue of *Loaves & Fishes* magazine. With the recent changes in our mailing process, our singles list is down under 3,000 subscribers, so this presort mailing was a breeze. We packed the bulk subscriptions one evening with volunteers from Allegheny Valley Mennonite Church and several from our church.

I was too busy that evening to take very many pictures, but here is one with all the bulk packages containing 89,000 copies of *Loaves & Fishes*. It's a little hard to see, but there are eight large bins here, each the size of a pallet. The mail truck could only hold seven bins, but one of them was only about half full, so we were able to combine them into seven.



ISSUE 25 BULK SUBSCRIPTIONS

Later that day, the postmaster told me with a chuckle that the truck driver barely made it up the mountain to Johnstown because of all the weight! It sounds like we'll be seeing a larger truck here next time.

Including the single subscriptions and the 7,000 extra copies we printed for inventory, the entire printing took 8 pallets and weighed 10,000 pounds.

Thank you again for making issue 25 possible through your prayers and financial support.



Loaves & Fishes
ISSUE 26

Coming Up: Issue 26

Our burden for the new issue is that readers would open themselves to Jesus, the light of the world—not like the Pharisees, who rejected the light when confronted with their sin, but like the woman caught in adultery, who embraced the light and found mercy and healing.

Issue 26 opens with an article about Jesus the light of the world and explains how following Jesus is the key to walking in the light. Mike Fisher's article on the first Christian martyrs is a good reminder of the commitment that's required if we are to follow Jesus. "The Man With the Saffron Robe" is a practical lesson in living out Jesus' command to love our enemies. The Bible study outline on Jonah emphasizes the folly of running from God's assignments. An interesting mix of testimonies and poems from prisoners, puzzles, and other regular columns round out this issue nicely.

It looks like we will be on track to get Issue 26 ready to print by the end of March; to stay on a quarterly schedule, they have to mail out in April. We have the funds to print this issue, but we're lacking several thousand dollars to mail all the subscriptions.

I invite you to help us reach this goal by sending your donation to the address on the back of this newsletter.

—Lavern Gingerich



As tulips and sunshine cheer the heart...

Kind Words From Readers

Thank you for the prayer and financial support that you have given to Alabama Prison Ministries and Liberty Theological Seminaries International in 2014. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and you have made it possible for us to change lives of people through prayer, evangelism, discipleship, and after care... May the Lord cause you to reap bountifully above all that you can ask or think.

Chaplain Steve Walker, Union Springs, AL

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you... for all of your efforts, time, and inspiration that you're able to give us through your issues of *Loaves and Fishes*. It has truly been a blessing in my life and helping me grow in my faith and relationship with Christ.

*Aerial N. May, Ohio Reformatory for Women
Marysville, Ohio*

For a man that gets no mail, *Loaves and Fishes* is a very wonderful blessing and treat to read. I feel the Holy Spirit and see God's love in what you are doing. When you get this letter please send prayers back; these are hard times for me.

*Rick Hampton, Washington State Penitentiary
Walla Walla, WA*

Thank you very much for *Loaves and Fishes* mini magazine! It reminds me of a work of art and helps me keep my mind set in Jesus and spirituality. Keep me in your prayers! ...God be with you all forever!

*Paul Eugene Roberts, California Medical Facility
Vacaville, CA*

You are doing a great service for not only me, but many others as well. I share my volumes with all my Christian brothers to help you with the costs of such a wonderfully written magazine. I really enjoy the testimonies and poems. God bless you all at *Loaves and Fishes*.

*David Mills, Central Valley MCCF
McFarland, CA*

I viewed an issue of *Loaves and Fishes* when a brother in Christ gave me Issue 24... I have just started a 33 year prison sentence; I am 59 years old, and will more than likely die in prison, so I need all the encouragement that I can get. I look forward to receive your next quarterly issue, whenever that may be. God bless all of you and your ministry of *Loaves and Fishes*.

*Christopher Mims, Scotland Correctional Institution
Laurinburg, NC*

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