



Pastor Bob Hoekstra

**A Personal Message  
From  
Pastor Bob Hoekstra, Director  
INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY**

**P.O. Box 2868 Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2868**

**IPM Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)**



**Founders:  
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra**

May, 2009

Dear Friends of IPM,

While thinking and praying about this month's letter, three matters have repeatedly been on my mind -- our families, our nation, and the gospel.

Concerning our families, this month and next month, our holidays honor mothers and fathers. These roles are biblically strategic in God's plan to touch and shape hearts and lives. *"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also . . . And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"* (2 Timothy 1:5 and Ephesians 6:4).

It is a heavy blow to a family when the mother or father end up in prison. Still, incarcerated parents can have a godly impact on their families even from prison. If parents in prison turn to Christ, seek the Lord daily in His word, pray for their family regularly, and communicate with them the truths they are learning in God's word, God can use them greatly.

Concerning our nation, we are in great need of a spiritual awakening. Our nation is in spiritual decline. The quality of family life is diminishing. Many churches have become religious entertainment centers, instead of houses of worship and edification. Standards of ethics and morality are widely compromised.

The wonderful Christian heritage that God graciously gave to our forefathers is being wasted away. Godlessness is

(over please)

rampant. *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD . . . Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Psalm 33:12 and Proverbs 14:34).

It is time for all of us to seek the Lord in earnest and persistent intercession for our nation. Believing inmates can be very instrumental, as they cry out for the Spirit of God to be poured out across our land. *"Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you . . . For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring"* (Proverbs 1:23 and Isaiah 44:3).

Concerning the gospel, everything needed in lives and families and nations begins here. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Romans 1:16). The good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection unleashes the power of God into people's lives -- unto forgiveness of sins and transformation of lives -- for Jews and gentiles, for those on the inside of prisons and those on the outside.

Proclaiming with You the Gospel of Christ unto Salvation,

*Bob Hoekstra*

Pastor Bob Hoekstra

(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM Team)

P. S. Our appreciation gift for this month is a classic IPM "LifeChanging" testimony book -- *Jewels for the Journey*, by Jack ("Murf the Surf") Murphy. Jack is a fruitful example of the power of the gospel working in and through a life!



**"Thank you for all that IPM  
does for the men and women  
behind fences, walls and bars.**

**The Holy Spirit is Moving.  
Carl D., Florida Prison"**



# A Classic IPM “LifeChanging” Testimony Book

(through which the Lord has been pleased to bring a  
multitude of inmates to His great salvation)

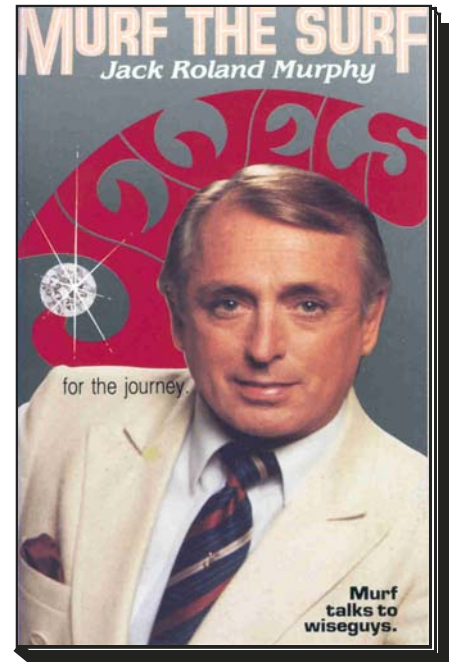
*JEWELS For The JOURNEY, Jack “Murf the Surf” Murphy*

“Murf always had a plan.” When one plan failed, he made another plan until his plans to fulfill his own desires lead him straight to prison. Even though Jack was shocked to be in prison, he made his plans and worked all the programs in prison. However, deep down he knew his plans were not working. Jack realized he was a “dead man walking.” When he looked into the mirror, he saw no light in his own eyes nor did he see any light in the eyes of other inmates. But God had a better plan for Jack Roland Murphy, “Murf the Surf.”

“Over the following months I witnessed more lives changing. God was definitely alive and real. I knew that I wanted my life changed as well.”

“That Sunday as I entered the chapel, my soul was crying, ‘Help, Lord, I want whatever you have for me.’ When the opportunity to receive Christ was made at the end of the service, I went forward. I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and to come into my heart. Trusting God’s Word, I made a commitment to follow Jesus. I was now saved! Born again! Eternal life with the Father and Son were mine! The Holy Spirit was now dwelling in my heart!”

Murf, wrote in the introduction of “Jewels for the Journey”: “It is my sincere hope that wherever the reader of this book is at, whether you are headed into the jungle of darkness and the world of the walking dead, or, if you are now on solid ground and experiencing the New-Life, the Sonshine Adventure, that something shared within these pages will draw you closer to the Truth and Light that you, and all of mankind, search for.”



Chaplain Ray chose “Jewels for the Journey” for an introduction book for prisoners’ first time letter asking for information.

IPM has received thousands upon thousands of letters from prisoners expressing their gratitude for how “Jewels for the Journey” helped lead them to salvation in Jesus Christ and they ask for a Bible and other books.

May the Lord continue to bring a spiritual harvest through “Jewels for the Journey” by pouring out His spirit upon the heart of every inmate who reads its gospel-filled pages.

*Thanks be unto the Lord for your faithful prayers and gifts.*

Yes, Send Gift Book:

**MURF THE SURF**  
*Jack Roland Murphy*

**JEWELS**  
**for the Journey**

*Murf talks to wiseguys.*

It is the policy of I.P.M. to use each gift as it is designated by the donor. If any project is completed, any surplus will be used where it is needed most.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY  
Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

**Dear Pastor Bob, My gift to help prisoners hear that God has a better plan for their life just as Murf heard and believed.**

- Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners* .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$54.00 for a *Library of Life Changing Books* .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bibles and Books for Russia & India Prisons* ...\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Use My Offering *Where Needed Most*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: *International Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 2868, Costa Mesa, CA 92628*



As the cloud moves through the craggy tops of the mountains so the Holy Spirit moves in hearts to heal wounds and give guidance. Many prisoners are aware of the Holy Spirit moving in their lives.

### 17 Years Ago, My Mother Was In Prison For A Year.

Hello, my name is Paul S. I have received the book that you sent me. "Where Flies Don't Land" and I have read it. I really did enjoy the book. Could you please send me any other books or information that can help me learn about the Lord and help me become a better Christian. 17 years ago my mom spent a year in Marysville Prison in Ohio. She read your books and still has them and reads them today. That is how I got referred to you. I do not have a Bible. I borrow another inmate's when I can. But I try to read as much as I can when I borrow it. I believe Christ is what I need in my life.

*Paul S., Ohio Prison*

*IPM promptly sent Paul a Bible and other books plus a letter. Holy Spirit loving Paul.*

## The Holy Spirit Is Moving!

Dear Pastor Bob, Well, I want you to know that the Holy Spirit is moving in and through you. When I received your letter, it was right on time (perfect time). Yes, I am lonely and I feel all alone, even though I know God is here with me. He will use this situation to show me His will. I want to thank you for all you do for me and for the men and women who are behind the fences, walls, and bars. There are a lot of us here. What Satan means for bad (evil) God is going to use for good. He is working in me and through me right here, right now. He will guide me as long as I open His Word daily and seek what He is trying to show me. If I am not powered up in His Word and repented of my sins and walk by His Spirit, I am useless. But when I am powered up, sanctified and the power of the Holy Spirit is guiding my steps and my spiritual eyes, then my brother, let me tell you, God uses me right here in this place that breeds hate, intimidation and where Christians are looked upon as weak. Your letter was so perfect and I know that I know, that I know that God used you to send me this letter. Thank you for being right where God needed you to use you to help me.

Thank you for the greeting cards you sent. My loved ones know that they are in my heart and on my mind because of your cards. Even my Dad, who is not a Christian, likes the pictures. Please pray for his salvation, my marriage, for the Brothers here who are continuing to surrender ourselves to Him daily. You, your family and your continuing ministry is always in our prayers. We have a prayer circle every night with guys in the dorm. It is actually an awesome thing.

Your brother in Christ, *Carl D., Florida Prison*

*"Even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him: for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:17)*

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

### Message or Prayer Request for IPM:

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