



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

June, 2009

Dear Friends of IPM,

These are certainly days that call for much prayer. Economic distress is widespread. Radical terrorism persists. Rogue nations pose international threats. Political debates abound. Sacred traditions are challenged. The world is being shaken.

Nevertheless, our God rules upon His throne, and He invites us to continually seek Him in prayer. "*God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne . . . pray without ceasing*" (Psalm 47:8 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Our great God, the true ruler of all creation and over every nation, wants us to prayerfully turn to Him in all of these challenges of life.

In times of anxiety, the Lord wants us to pray. "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:6-7).

In times of great burden, the Lord wants us to prayerfully turn to Him. "*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved*" (Psalm 55:22).

In times of discouragement, when we are losing heart, the Lord wants us to pray. "*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint*" (Luke 18:1).

In times of temptation, the Lord wants us to pray. "*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit*

(over please)

*indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).*

In times when we are aware of the need for revival (individually or collectively), the Lord wants us to pray. *"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way . . . Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Psalm 119:37 and 85:6).*

In times when we face ministry battles, the Lord wants us to pray. *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak" (Colossians 4:2).*

When the signs of the end times are increasing all around us, the Lord wants us to pray. *"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter 4:7).*

Yes, the Lord wants us to pray at all times. *"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8).*

We praise the Lord for our ministry partners who stand with us in prayer. Let's be seeking the Lord earnestly these days for a multitude of inmates to come to Christ. Also, let's be praying for the spiritual growth of inmates all across the land. May the Lord use mightily every Bible and biblical study book that we send out!

Reaching Inmates Together through Answered Prayers,

*Bob Hoekstra*

Pastor Bob Hoekstra

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

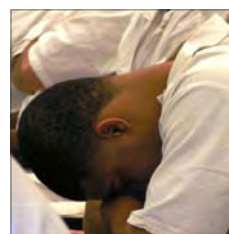
P. S. Our gift book for this month is How to Pray, by R. A. Torrey.



**"Pray without ceasing"  
(1 Thess. 5:17).  
Prayer promotes our spiritual growth.  
Prayer brings power into our work.**



**Prayer avails for the conversion of others.  
Jesus taught us in the Word to pray at all times.**



# INSIGHTS FOR PRAYER

## Receiving Mercy and Grace

*Prayer is the means that God has appointed for our receiving mercy and obtaining grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16 is one of the simplest and sweetest verses in the Bible. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Those words make it very clear that God has appointed a way by which we can seek and obtain mercy and grace. That way is prayer: bold, confident, outspoken approach to the throne of grace, the most holy place of God's presence. There our sympathizing High Priest, Jesus Christ, has entered in our behalf. (See Hebrews 4:14-15.)

Mercy is what we need and grace is what we must have or else all our life and effort will end in complete failure. Prayer is the way to obtain mercy and grace. There is infinite grace at our disposal and we make it ours by prayer. Oh, if we only realized the fullness of God's grace which is ours for the asking -- its height and depth and length and breadth -- I am sure we would spend more time in prayer. The measure of our appropriation of grace is determined by the measure of our prayers.

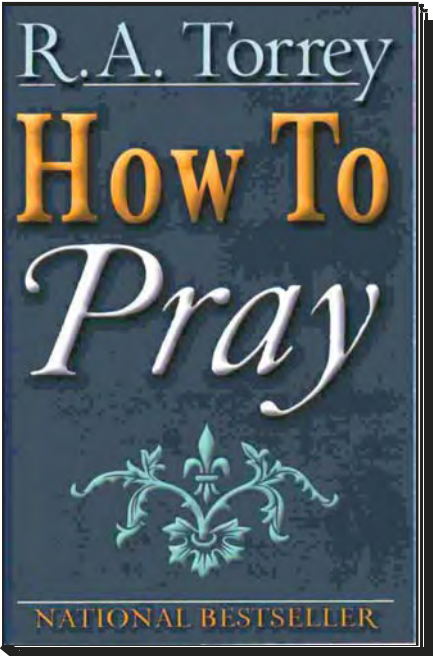
## Joy through Praying in Jesus Name

*Prayer in the name of Jesus Christ is the way He Himself has appointed for His disciples to obtain fullness of joy.*

He states this simply and beautifully in John 16:24: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Why is it that prayer in the name of Christ brings such fullness of joy? In part, because we get what we ask. But, that is not the only reason nor is it the greatest. It makes God real. When we ask something definite of God, and He gives it, how real God becomes? He is right there!! It is blessed to have a God who is real and not merely an idea. I remember once when I suddenly and seriously fell ill all alone in my study. I dropped upon my knees and cried to God for help. Instantly, all pain left me -- I was perfectly well. It seemed as if God stood right there and put out His hand and touched me. The joy of the healing was not as great as the joy of meeting God.

*May the Lord bless you for your prayers & gifts.*



## Freedom From Anxiety

*Prayer with thanksgiving, in every care and anxiety and need of life, is the means that God has appointed for our obtaining freedom from all anxiety and the peace of God which passes all understanding.*

"Be careful for nothing but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Just keep in constant touch with God.

Yes, Send Gift Book:



by R. A. Torrey

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 respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ and then become men and women of prayer.**

- 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*

## Thank You for Your Ministry and What It Means to Feel Acknowledged and Not Forgotten.

Dear Pastor Bob,

I am a born again Christian (John 3:1-21) and humbly request some of the literature you can provide such as a Bible dictionary/concordance. I got your information from our Chaplain.

I thank you for your ministry and what it means to me to feel acknowledged and not forgotten. Thank you for providing some tools to help keep focused on Christ, to not conform to the pattern of this world (Rom. 12:1-2), but to let our light shine before men (Matt 5:16) so they may praise God.

As you well know, prison can be a gloomy place and we need to be encouraged daily. I see prison as a mission field in enemy territory. I praise God for His hand in my life and allowing me to spread the Good News. God answers prayer! *Joshua H. California Prison*



Prisoner's Art

## I have 40 years – But I am really serving Jesus - Not Time.

Dear Pastor Bob, I want to thank you for carrying on the ministry to the prisoners your father, Chaplain Ray and Leola were so faithful to for so long and for the books. I am serving life (40 flat years) -- But I am really serving Jesus, Not Time. Nothing happens that God is not aware of and He is God, Who lead me out of the valley of the shadow of death that I walked through as I came to know Jesus here in early incarceration. I have been here 15 years. The Lord is everything He promises. He is so awesome. Today, prison I am in, but prison is not in me because of Jesus.  
*Mickey W., Texas Prison*

## Psalm 62:8

*“Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.”*

## Sent from God with Love

You minister to inmates I see and just between you and me: I'm thankful to be an Inmate with a knowledge of Christ that's making me love to do what is right.

Thanks to people like you, I've been given a chance to start anew.

You help with every book you send to bring us back from where we've been.

So keep up the good work for us, you see, cause we need people like you and me.

We all fit together in God's great plan to spread the Gospel in God's land.

Once again He's saying to you: Good job for the work you do. So for me, give yourself a Big Hug from above and just know it is sent from God with love.

*Nelda S., Texas Prison*

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

## Message or Prayer Request for IPM:

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