



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



Founders:
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra

July, 2009

Dear Friends of IPM,

The month of July provides a prime opportunity to celebrate the birth of our nation and reflect upon the multiplied freedoms we enjoy. Sadly, some citizens of our country take these freedoms for granted. Others think that these freedoms are merely the result of human ingenuity. The truth is that God has greatly blessed America by providentially developing in our land the rich liberties that we possess.

In our early American history, we typically had political leaders who were well aware of the connection between political freedoms and our commitment to God and His truth. Our first President, George Washington, was one of the many early leaders of our nation that understood this vital connection. In his "Farewell Address," President Washington stated: "Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports . . . the mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity."

Does this not remind us of the critical role of every true believer, every Christian family, and every Bible-believing church in our nation? Yes, we Christians appreciate national freedoms. Yet, we know such blessings ultimately stand upon even greater freedoms -- spiritual freedoms. *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed . . . Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be*

(over please)

not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Romans 8:2, John 8:36, and Galatians 5:1).

Let's be personally familiar with such great truths of spiritual freedom from sinful indulgence and from legalistic self-righteousness. Also, let's be seeking the Lord to manifest these truths in our daily lives. Then, let's be praying for our political leaders. *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).*

Let's pray that our political leaders will be good stewards of the freedoms God has blessed us with in America. Let's pray that they will personally honor and rely upon the Lord and His foundational spiritual truths. Let's also be praying for inmates -- that multitudes will come to know true freedom in Christ, even though they are locked behind prison bars.

Praying for a Spiritual Awakening of True Spiritual Freedom,

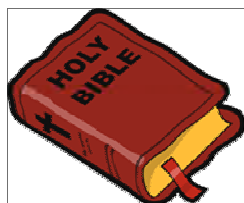
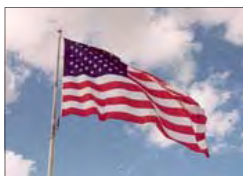
Bob Hoekstra

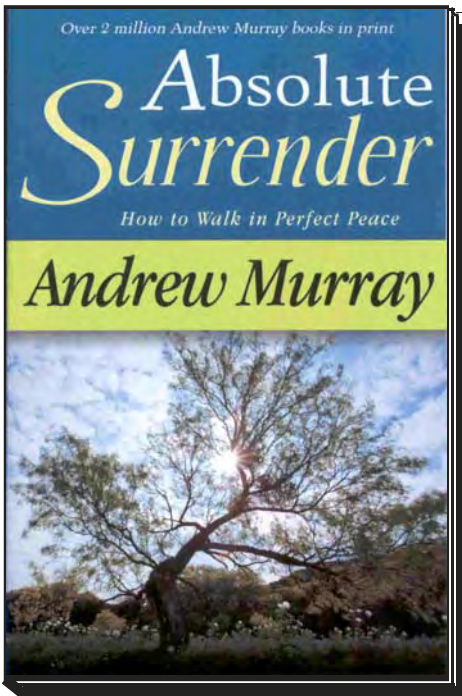
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(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM Team)

P. S. Our appreciation gift for this month is Absolute Surrender, by Andrew Murray. This is a new book for IPM. It is an outstanding book about yielding to God for the ongoing work of His Spirit in our lives.

Proclaiming True Freedom in Christ to those Locked behind Prison Bars.





Our Appreciation Gift for You.

Surrendering to the Lord for the full work of His Spirit is the path to true freedom in Christ for every Christian.

Prisoners are well acquainted with bondage and the desire for freedom. Many, many of them have truly found freedom in Christ while in prison.

We pray God's mighty blessings for you as you stand in His freedom.

Delivered from the Spirit of Bondage into the Spirit of Liberty

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:24, 25).

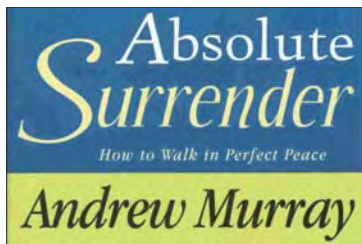
You know that the wonderful location that this text has in the epistle to the Romans. It stands here at the end of the seventh chapter as the gateway into the eighth. In the first sixteen verses of the eighth chapter, the name of the Holy Spirit is found sixteen times. You have there the description and promise of the life that a child of God can live in the power of the Holy spirit. This begins in the second verse: *"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death"* (Romans 8:2). From that, Paul goes on to speak of the great privileges of the child of God who is to be led by the Spirit of God. The gateway unto all this is found at the end of chapter seven: *"O wretched man that I am!"* There you have the words of a man who has come to the end of himself. He has in the previous verses described how he had struggled and wrestled in his own power to obey the holy law of God, and had failed. But in answer to his own questions, he now finds the true answer and cries out: *"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."* From that he goes on to speak of what that deliverance is that he found.

I want, from these words, to describe the path by which a man can be led out of the spirit of bondage into the spirit of liberty.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to enable you every moment to remember Jesus, and to trust Him.

The Holy Spirit is necessary for every believer, every moment of the day. Praise God you have Him, and that He gives you the full experience of the deliverance in Christ as He makes you free from the power of sin.

Yes, Send Gift Book:



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

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

Dear Pastor Bob, My gift to help prisoners find true liberty in Christ Jesus.

- 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*

INMATES FINDING TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Rocky Roads

Jesus walked down
many Rocky Roads
For this is how the
story is told.

Now He walks on
streets of gold and
Now we walk on Rocky
Roads.

For He knows if we
stumble we will fall
Then Jesus will pick us up
for He loves us all.

Rocky Roads are not
that great and it sure will
be nice standing at
Heaven's Gate. And when
they open the Gate with
all my surprise, I will see
people I loved with tears
in my eyes.

For the One I spent a
life time to see He is
looking and smiling
right at me.

*Written by Lonnie W.,
Michigan Prison*

Thank you for the books and
cards. I am a new brother in
Christ. I am doing a life term for
3rd Strike-nonviolent crime, but
instead of blaming God for all
that goes wrong in my life, I give
thanks for all that He does in my
life. **Colin S., California Prison**

Jesus Did Not Do the Crime, But He Is Here Doing the Time With Me.

Dear Pastor Bob, I have received three yellow envelopes. One contained a Bible, one contained a Bible dictionary/concordance, and one contained a book about "Murf the Surf" and a small book about being saved. I know that I am on the right path. I choose to be with God because it pays to be with Him. He didn't do the crime, but He is here doing the time with me. About two weeks ago, a couple of inmates I met while in jail got into a fight with two other inmates here in prison. The reason I know I am on the right path is because I chose God and did not go along with the former jail inmates and fight the prison inmates. I chose to hang out with my Christian brothers. It is marvelous how God works. He is showing me that I made the right choice. I thank God every day for everything He does for me and for blessing me. One of those blessings is that I found you and your ministry. Thank you for the things you do for us here in prison. You are such a great support. God bless you and the people around you.

Arnulfo V., California Prison

"If the Son shall therefore make you free, ye shall be free indeed . . . Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (John 8:36 and Galatians 5:1).

My name is Ralph, and I am incarcerated in a Texas Prison.

It has been a year since I gave my life to the Lord. I was the lowest of the lowest, a heart of stone and no remorse. But God, the Potter is shaping me and molding me daily. He has broken that heart of stone and given me a heart of flesh. Everyday He changes me a little more. Thank you, Jesus, I give you all the glory and honor. Please send me some books to help me in my spiritual growth. Thank you so much.

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

Message or Prayer Request for IPM:
