

PRAISE News

December 2022

Foundation of Praise • P.O. Box 2518 • Escondido, CA 92033-2518 • 760.741.2755 • www.foundationofpraise.org



Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. You will receive every blessing you can use! (Ps.81:10).

What incredible potential God has given us!

How long has it been since someone asked you if you are going to Heaven, or to attend church with them? If it has been a long time, there are many people just like you. It has been years since some folks have been approached by anyone showing concern for their eternal future.

Why are we so unconcerned or afraid to speak about our faith? We can easily say, "How are you today?" but fail to ask really important questions. For some reason we often aren't being the witnesses for Christ that He asked us to be.

Many people who attend church, first did so because someone invited them! If we never invite people to our church, is it because we are afraid? Do we feel incompetent or incapable of being a good witness for Christ and His church?

In some countries anyone who tries to tell others about Jesus becomes a target for police investigation. Neighbors are asked, "Are they having an illegal church service in their home? Are they trying to indoctrinate their children about a religion that is not sponsored by the government?"

It is dangerous to talk about Jesus or the Bible in much of the world. Such people are called fanatics.

OPEN YOUR MOUTH

By Merlin Carothers

Our enemy wants us to keep them – and us – quiet.

"Religion is a private thing. Don't bother other people. Don't offend anyone. Don't make people think you are trying to act holy." These are the kinds of thoughts our enemy tries to put into our minds.

We are often afraid even though we have almost nothing to be afraid of! We can weep over our failures, as Peter did, or we can let people know that we believe in Jesus. God's promise is still valid, *Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.* Even if we do not know what we should say to people, when we open our mouths, we may be surprised at what the Holy Spirit will say through us! Joy comes to those who are obedient. *You will receive every blessing you can use!* What amazing promises God gives us!

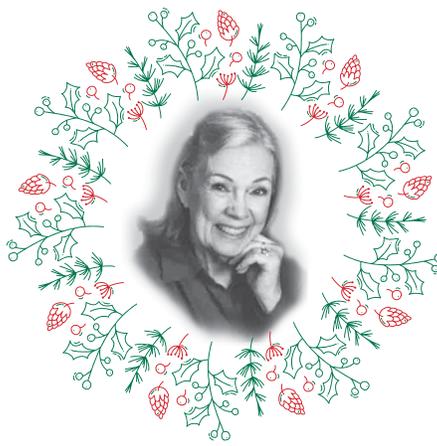
We can be creative. When we hear, "How are you today?" we can say, "I'm happy because I have found a marvelous church. People there really love one another. Would you like to visit it?" And as this is the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus, add to your greeting, "Jesus is the reason for the season", or anything to show the joy we have in Him!

Let's aim to reach as many people as we can for Christ and God will reward every seed we plant and bring us great joy.

(Reprint from December 2005)

Good
TIDINGS OF
Comfort &
JOY





PERSEVERANCE

By Mary Carothers

One night long ago, near the little town of Bethlehem, shepherds were in the field, watching over their sheep. There is

no evidence that it was any different from other nights. Perhaps they had a small fire and were sitting around it. Some might have been dozing, while others were alert, listening for sounds from the sheep that might mean trouble.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared. With the sound of his voice and the glory shining all around, they were instantly wide-awake. No more sleep that night for any of them! Their immediate reaction was fear, but the angel's first words were, "Be not afraid". God had good news for them! The angel told them of the Savior's birth in nearby Bethlehem. Then he told them how to find the Lord. He would be wrapped in the clothes that babies wore at that time, lying in a manger (where cattle fed). But the angel didn't tell them which manger would cradle the Christ Child, or even behind which inn it would be found. Can you imagine how many mangers there might have been in Bethlehem at that time? The town was so crowded there had been no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn. People in that day traveled on donkeys, camels, etc., so there would also have been many animals there.

The shepherds received no instant solution to their search for the Christ Child. The Lord was to be found only by those who persevered in seeking Him. The shepherds had to search for Jesus. They probably looked in many stockyards, barns and caves before they found the one that held the Lord.

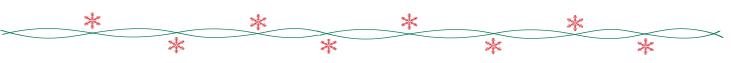
The Christian life requires perseverance. The "race" that Paul talks about in Hebrews 12 is a marathon race, not a 50-yard dash. It requires patience and endurance. Did you know that Romans 5:3 tells us that trouble can produce perseverance? That certainly is not one of my favorite verses! I would much rather receive the answers to my prayers quickly and easily. But that's not the way God usually deals with me. Hebrews 10:36 tells us that we need to persevere

to receive God's promises. And James 1:3 says that the testing of our faith produces perseverance.

The shepherds had great joy when they found the Lord. They praised and glorified God. What a blessing to be chosen to be the very first people to see God's Anointed One. And just think--they might have missed that special blessing if they had not persevered in searching for Him until they found Him. Jeremiah 29:13 tells us that the Lord is found when we search for Him with all our heart.

Do you need help from the Lord? For physical healing? Finances or broken relationships? In coping with grief or insecurity in your life? God does not hide Himself from us, but He is found when we seek Him with all our heart.

Let's make a decision to learn to persevere. Not only will this honor the Lord, but it will also be a blessing to us. Can you think of a more blessed gift than to someday hear Jesus say, You have persevered and endured...Well done... (Rev. 3:3 and Matt. 25:23). In the meantime, let's give Jesus the Christmas present of maturing in Him.



- County Jail, Laurens, SC
- County Jail, Boulder, CO
- Houston County Jail, Dothan, AL
- State Reformatory, Granite, OK
- Pettis County Jail, Sedalia, MO
- Jail Ministry for Jesus, LaHarpe, IL
- McLennan County Jail, Waco, TX
- Bingham County Jail, Blackfoot, ID
- Finney County Jail, Garden City, KS
- Todd County Jail, Long Prairie, MN
- Bertie Correctional Inst., Windsor, NC
- Department of Corrections, Atlanta, GA
- Adobe Mountain School, Phoenix, AZ
- State Supported Living Center, Mexia, TX
- Orange County Jail Ministry, Orlando, FL
- Jackson Correctional Inst., Black River, WI
- Silverdale Detention Facility, Chattanooga, TN
- Rivard Juvenile Detention Center, Harvey, LA
- Salvation Army Services, Rancho Palos Verde, CA
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Dept., Cleveland, OH
- Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, Eagle River, AK

Your faithful support has enabled us to send free praise books to the following facilities!



PRAISE AND THANKS

I have read *Prison to Praise* not once, not twice but four times and chapter seven touches me every time. **STEVEN, CUYAHOGA JAIL, OH**

Thank you for all you do to spread God's Word around the world.

So glad that someone told me about praise ten years ago.

CHERYL, NY

I am a Christian believer and the whole praise concept had eluded me before I read the praise books. They have changed my whole outlook on life even here in prison. I found the books in the prison chapel, and I don't know who got it there but praise God for it! **NATALYA, TACOMA CORRECTIONS, NY**

Thank you for your generous donation of books. Merlin's books have been a beacon of hope and light, especially to those prison. These will certainly be of encouragement to the men at Larch Corrections. **CHAPLAIN, WA**

I received *Prison to Praise* and I loved it. I've put everything in God's hands to work good for me. **ANGELA, SHELBY JAIL, TN**

Thank you for the books you sent to the Bethesda Mission and for remembering those in need. So many have begun to experience the power of Christ's love for the first time. **SCOTT, PA**

My faith has gone to a whole new level because of Merlin's books!
CARLA, OH

Thank you very much for the *Praise News*. I love reading the letters. Thank you also for continuing with the work of the *Foundation of Praise*.
ELAINE, ND

I truly benefit from the *Praise News* and usually pass them on to others. – certainly, never throw them away as they are "food for the soul". **MARYJANE, IN**

JUST A REMINDER

Year-end contributions to the **Foundation of Praise**, per the IRS, must be mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2022 to receive credit as a 2022 tax-deductible gift.

THE FOUNDATION OF PRAISE

has received gifts In Loving Memory of:

Willis Lee Kent
of Lewistown, MT
By his wife
Dianne Kent
of Kings Mountain, NC

Michael Hall
By Linda Robertson
of Spotsylvania, VA

David Lester
By his wife
LaVonne Lester
of Manteca, CA

**Peter & Ethel
VanDenBerghe**
By their daughter
Marie Martin
of Corvallis, OR

Nora Lechner
By Jean Stanbery
of Dallas, TX

Harold E. Keller
In memory of his birthday
By Ruth Keller
of Sebring, FL

The Mooradian Family
By Don Lupro
of Murrieta, CA

*Our loss is Heaven's gain!
Our prayers are with
those who loved them.*

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS



#1 COMPLETE SET OF PRAISE BOOKS AT HALF PRICE AND A FREE PRAISE JOURNAL

Includes fifteen of Merlin's books: *Prison to Praise, Power in Praise, Answers to Praise, Praise Works!, Walking & Leaping, Bringing Heaven into Hell, Victory on Praise Mountain, More Power to You, What's on your Mind?, Let Me Entertain You, From Fear to Faith, You Can Be Happy Now, Secret Sins, God's Secret Weapon, Amazing Power of Faith* and a **FREE Praise Journal** for a total cost of \$83.50 (includes shipping - a value of \$168).



#2 THE BIBLE ON PRAISE

When Merlin searched for Bible verses that spoke to him of giving praise to God, he was surprised that there were so many in both the Old and New Testaments. The more he read and meditated on them, the greater his joy became. This little booklet of sixteen pages will truly bless those who read it.

- Buy 1 copy for \$6.50 including shipping
- Buy 2 copies for \$9 including shipping
- Buy 5 copies for \$17.50 including shipping
- Buy 10 copies for \$29.50 including shipping
- Buy 25 copies for \$67.50 including shipping

This year, instead of sending out greeting cards, write your message on the inside cover of the *Bible on Praise* where it will be enjoyed by friends and family. God's own words will be read over and over by those to whom you send this booklet. The front cover was painted by Merlin and mailing envelopes are included.



#3 BUY ONE - GET ONE FREE

When you buy one item from the enclosed order form you will receive a second one of equal value **FREE**. This includes the books, CD's and DVD (Tracts and the *Bible on Praise* are not included with this offer). You can choose as many items as you want, then select your second item of equal value free. **Shipping is not included on the buy one get one. To determine your shipping cost please see the enclosed order form.**

For credit card orders please call 1-800-PRAISE1 (1-800-772-4731). Shipping applies to one U.S. address. For additional information please call (760) 741-2755. **These offers will expire on December 31, 2022.**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ THE BIBLE THROUGH IN 2023?

We will send you a free copy of the Bible Reading Chart upon request. You may also download a copy from our website at www.foundationofpraise.org. We hope you will value it enough to place it in your Bible – and use it daily! *Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4).

