

# PRAISE News

July 2023

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## BIG ISN'T ALWAYS BEST

By Merlin Carothers



A pastor told me his heart ached when he attended his church's annual ministers conference.

When the ministers

discussed their churches, one of the first questions they asked of one another was, "Is your attendance growing?" It seemed to my friend that many pastors had "big, bigger, biggest" attendance as their primary goal.

But it's easy to want bigger and more impressive things. It is easy to fall into the "bigger is better" syndrome. I have launched projects that I thought would be a great blessing to God's Kingdom. Then watched as my efforts fell flat. But then God would show me something else to do that would be more pleasing to Him. He hates pride and loves us too much to let us stumble into success.

Are you suffering from some defeat? Have you ever wondered why God hasn't come to your rescue? Usually it's because He has something better for you. God has plans for you. He doesn't want your success or failures to hold you back. He will put up the necessary roadblocks to get you to turn around and go in another direction.

When we fail to achieve our goals, in our life's work, or marriage, or parenting, God doesn't want us to be overwhelmed with discouragement. Rather, He wants us to believe that He is helping us.

God loves us too much to respond to our grumbling, complaining or self-pity. Get a pen and underline that last sentence – it's important. Believe it, and you can be spared hours, days and years of suffering! Much of my own suffering has come from my failure to believe that God was always working for my good. On each occasion I thought He must be ignoring my pain. But now I see that He was permitting me to fail so He could prepare me for something else that He wanted me to enjoy.

Psalm 127:1 says, *Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it* (KJV). We all want to build good things, and to do good things, but sometimes we labor to accomplish something God hasn't called us to do.

Sometimes He wants our hearts to be in "little things." He is more interested in our desire to please Him than He is any of the things we want to accomplish. Think of all the good things Stephen may have wanted to accomplish with his life. Yet, in God's plan he was permitted to be a martyr for Christ. God's plan is simple: "Do what you can. Leave all the rest to Me." (Reprint from October 1995)

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**



# FATHER FORGIVE THEM

By Mary Carothers



What a wonderful example Jesus set for us as He hung on the cross. We also are to forgive those who hurt us. We can't in our own strength, but with

the help of the Holy Spirit we can. In fact, one of the Holy Spirit's names is Helper.

The other day I was thinking of the Lord's Prayer where Jesus told us we must forgive others if we want God to forgive us. As I thought about Jesus' words, I prayed, "Lord, show me my heart. Show me where I may need correction, so I can be more pleasing to You." I never dreamed that I might be harboring unforgiveness. Not me!

One day while not thinking about anything in particular, the Lord showed me that I did indeed harbor unforgiveness toward someone. Boy, was I surprised! As the Lord brought this person to my mind, I felt long dormant feelings of anger and even frustration. How dare this person criticize another

child of God! Then I said, "Yes, Lord, You are right (as usual). I have held unforgiveness in my heart. Thank you for showing me. I'm sorry, please forgive me. Lord, I choose to forgive this person." Now, whenever the enemy tries to bring up my attitude of unforgiveness, I say, "Nope. I have forgiven him, and God has forgiven me. It's under the blood of Jesus." Then I say, "Thank you, Lord, for helping me to forgive. What a wonderful Lord You are!" And I begin to praise and worship the Lord.

Doing this makes the enemy's plans backfire. He hopes to drag me back into unforgiveness by causing me to doubt my decision to forgive. But I use it as an opportunity to exalt the name of Jesus.

Does the enemy ever try to drag you back into unforgiveness after you have determined to forgive someone? If he tries, just remind him that your sins are forgiven and begin to praise and worship Jesus for all he has done for us. It will silence the enemy (see Psalm 8:2), and you will have a joyous time with our wonderful Savior, Jesus!

## FOUNDATION OF PRAISE HAS RECEIVED GIFTS

In Loving Memory Of:

***T.J. Miller***

By his mother  
Vivian Miller  
of Stone Mountain, GA



***Husband Ron Whisler  
and mother Margaret***

By Ann Whisler  
of Oldsmar, FL

***Al Clairmont***

By Laurel Christiansen  
of Dannebrog, NE



***The Mooradian Family***

By Don Lupro  
of Murrieta, CA

***Jim Longacre, WWII Dad  
and Merlin Carothers***

By Lauree Morgan  
of Terrell, TX



# LETTERS OF PRAISE & THANKS

Thank you for the praise books you sent to our residents. They are receiving them with interest and enthusiasm. Hopefully the demand will increase, and I will let you know when we can use more books. **DIRECTOR, CORRECTIONAL CENTER, NY**

Thank you for the praise books. We have nearly 1600 inmates here and over 200 of them are active participants in our Christian Fellowship Group.  
**CHAPLAIN, CORRECTIONAL CENTER, VA**

Merlin's books and messages still have a profound affect on me and my daughters. Thank you for continuing to spread his anointed and beautiful messages from God.  
**CAROLYN, MO**

***Prison to Praise*** is the best book I've read in a long time. It is truly an amazing book and easy to read. It brought me to tears as I found my belief and joy in the Lord again.  
**WENDY, DETENTION CENTER, MT**

While in prison in 2020 I remember seeing a copy of ***Prison to Praise*** but it didn't really interest me. Now back in jail again I saw that book on the Chaplain's book list and asked to borrow it. I'm so glad I did. I couldn't put it down. I looked up all the scriptures and how I'm praising the Lord for all things. I was sorry to read that Merlin has passed on but so happy to know that he is in his heavenly place, and I look forward to the day I will meet him.

**STEVEN, PLACER JAIL, CA**

Thank you for the messages of praise and salvation and all the works of the ministry. May all these efforts plant seeds that will be fruitful and multiply.

**PAULA, CA**

Do you ever wonder what people do with Merlin's books? We started a little ministry of placing books and tracts in a laundromat that allowed a small display in their reading corner. As of today, we have over 1000 ***Prison to Praise*** and 400 tracts that have gone out from that one location. May the Lord richly bless you as you labor in the fields.

**TOM & CAROL, FL**

Thank you for your donation of praise books. You can rest assured that the books will be distributed and deeply appreciated. Our Spanish speaking inmates even more so since Spanish materials are harder to come by. Thank you again and please let your praise partners know that we are praying for them, and God bless them for their support.  
**CHAPLAIN, CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, NY**

I love receiving ***Praise News***. It lifts my spirits, and it is wonderful to know about praising the Lord. It really helps me get through the difficult times. I have been praising the Lord since the '70's. Thank you again for all you do for God's work. **MARIE, NJ**

God be with you as you bring so many blessings to others. I love the ***Praise News*** and I thank you for all you do. **VIVIAN, GA**

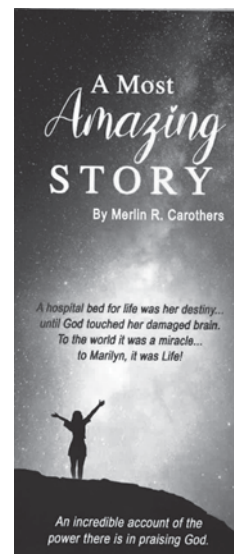




# ★ PRAISE TRACTS ★

A man stood on a corner giving out tracts. After months of seeing no results, he quit and dedicated his life to business pursuits. Several years later he passed the same corner and saw a young man giving out tracts.

He thinks people will be changed by what he is doing, he thought. I wonder how long it will take him to realize his efforts are useless? Curious, he spoke to the young man. "I admire what you are doing but I'm curious. Why are you giving out tracts on this particular street corner?" "Sir, years ago there was a man giving out tracts right here on this spot. He gave one to me. I didn't read it right away, but one day I did, and I accepted Jesus as my Savior and He has changed my life. Would you like to read a copy of the tract he gave me?" The man saw a reprint of the same tract he had once given to many people.



We know that some people who read tracts do not seem to benefit from it and others have found our tracts very helpful when sharing the message of praise and salvation.

We want to do everything we can do to enable you to help others receive God's free gift of eternal life.

## EACH SET OF TRACTS ARE AVAILABLE IN BUNDLES OF 50 PER TITLE!

Tracts (Bundles of 50) including shipping:

50 for \$9.00

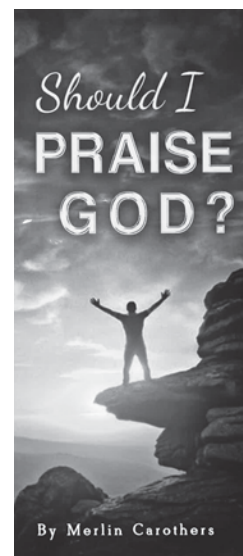
100 for \$14.00

150 for \$19.25

For credit card orders call 1-800-PRAISE1 (1-800-772-4731).

Shipping applies to one U.S. address.

For more information call (760) 741-2755.



We rejoice when we are able to provide **Prison to Praise** and the other praise books to those who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel. **If you are currently pledging to the *Foundation of Praise*, we are so very grateful and we thank you for your continued faithful support and generosity.** If you are not pledging, please pray and consider doing so for the remainder of 2023. Now more than ever we are in need of your monthly support.

We are praying and trusting the Lord to continue to meet our needs so that we can carry on the message of praise that Merlin began. Your monthly support will help us to know how many books we can plan on sending this year to our military personnel, prisons, hospitals and pregnancy centers.

Yes, I want to pledge to the **Foundation of Praise**. Enclosed is my first month's pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please send me monthly coupon reminders for 2023.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I am not able to pledge, but I would like to give a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.