

PRAISE News

March 2024

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SIX READERS PER BOOK

By Merlin Carothers

There is nothing more exciting or inspiring to me than to see a person who has recently been transformed by our Lord Jesus.

We receive letters every day from people who say they have just read *Prison to Praise* and have experienced new life from Christ. We enjoy their words, but we do not have the joy of seeing them face-to-face.

I frequently meet people who say, "Twenty years ago (or 10 years or 5 years ago) I read *Prison to Praise*, and accepted Jesus as my Savior." Their joy is still obvious, even though they are telling us about something that happened long ago.

When I handed *Prison to Praise* to a man named Bob, I did not have an inkling of what was going to happen to him. He said he seldom read *anything*, but he accepted the book. In a few days we heard from Bob, and what a dramatic change there was in him!

Several of Bob's friends enthusiastically told me about the changes they had already observed. Bob had never read the Bible, but now he was sleeping as little as possible so he would have more time to "learn what God has written."

A newly born, radically changed man is a sight to behold! Converted, redeemed, and transformed by our Savior. The Holy Spirit turns men's hearts from darkness to light. Of course, a book can only introduce

a person to Christ, but it can be an instrument that God uses. God speaks to people through this one small volume in ways that are beyond my comprehension. Over and over, men and women say, "God spoke to me as I read *Prison to Praise*".

God doesn't speak to every person who reads *Prison to Praise*, but it's certain that many people receive a clear message from Him. When I hand a copy to a person, I often pray, *God, please use this to work a miracle.*

If we send out 1,000 books and only one person is transformed, it would be worthwhile. But I would be seeking other, more effective ways to share the Gospel. I'm committed to using whatever time, energy, and resources I have that will best lead men and women to accept Christ. When we send 100 books to the military or to prisons, chaplains tell us that an average of *six or more* people read *each* copy.

From twenty-five years of experience, we know that many individuals will accept Jesus as Savior because of each copy of *Prison to Praise* that we send. This inspires me to keep moving forward! Please pray and consider very carefully how many copies of *Prison to Praise* you can distribute or have the Foundation of Praise distribute for you. Each book has the potential to reach at least six or more people. For every 100 copies that you hand out, you will be used by God to speak to many hearts. What an opportunity! What a joy! With your help we can be used by God to accomplish His purpose toward our *Highest calling*. (Reprint from May 2002)

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES

By Mary Carothers



God has attempted to teach us His spiritual principles. We, on the other hand, keep asking for easy rules to follow.

For example, Peter's question, *Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother? Seven times?* Jesus' answer was, *No, seventy times seven.*

Now, did Jesus *really* mean for Peter to forgive his brother 490 times? No, of course not. What Jesus was trying to teach Peter (and us) was to have a heart that was in a right relationship to Him, so that forgiving would be a *natural response*.

Rather than trying to keep the "letter of the law" and keep track of how many times we have to forgive our brother, let's keep the "spirit of the law." Then it is a natural response to have a forgiving heart.

Sometimes we feel we should forgive only those who come to us repentantly and ask for forgiveness. But what was the example Jesus set for us? On the cross He prayed, *Father, forgive them . . .* Were they repentant? Not at all. Yet He forgave . . . and continues to forgive us. How often do we wrong one another – completely unaware we are doing so? More times than we could ever imagine. We are in

need of continual forgiveness, so let's be in an attitude of forgiveness towards each other. This was the spiritual principle Jesus was trying to teach Peter.

The "law" said to love our neighbors (that is, our friends). But Jesus said to love our enemies. He went even further: *Pray for them and ask God to bless them.* How ghastly! Doesn't Jesus know I would much rather ignore my enemies than bless them?

"Gee whiz, Lord, why should I pray for You to bless those people who hurt me? It doesn't seem fair! Why don't You *do unto them as they have done unto me?* But Jesus replies, *I'm concerned with your attitude of heart, my child. Make sure you are in a right relationship with Me and let Me take care of them.*

Now I ask you, have you ever been able to stay angry with someone when you sincerely and earnestly prayed for them? When we do, we begin to see them through God's eyes of love. Then the next step, forgiveness, is easier.

Let's ask the Lord to help us receive the *Spirit* of the Word when we read our Bibles. Remember, The "letter" of the Word kills, but the Holy Spirit gives it life (see II Cor. 3:6).

We sometimes know what we want.
God *always* knows what we need.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. (Matthew 6:8)



HAVE A
BLESSED AND
HAPPY
EASTER!

*He isn't here!
He is risen from the
dead, just as
He said
would happen.*

(Matthew 28:6)

PRAISES FOR PRISON TO PRAISE



Thank you for the *Prison to Praise* books you sent to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Books sent by the Foundation of Praise will enable us to help our inmates to grow in their faith. One of the greatest gifts we can give to someone is God's Word. Your book donation means a lot to us during these challenging times. We have limited resources since Covid and could not supply those we minister to if not for the generosity of your ministry and praise partners.

GARRY, NC



I thought you would enjoy reading this praise report from Gregg and the Good News ministry. I know the people involved in the ministry as I am a retired chaplain and know the person who took my place.

MARGI, WI

"My marriage fell apart and my life had spun completely out of control. Because of my drug dependency I became involved in criminal activity and found myself in jail. Someone slipped Prison to Praise under my cell door and as I read it, I knew I needed to give my life to Christ and made a commitment that regardless of what was going to happen, I was going to walk with Him. When I was released, I got involved with my church and a recovery program which have helped me stay on the right path. There have been obstacles to overcome, but I have Christ on my side."



I have been blessed by all of Merlin's books. I believe in all of Merlin's teachings and getting *Prison to Praise* out to as many prisoners as you can! KIM, NC

Thank you for the generous donation of *Prison to Praise* books you sent for the men and women at the Suffolk County Facility. So, in the name of all who will benefit from your books, thank you and we know that God will bless you as you serve His Kingdom!

SISTER MICHELLE, NY

Your book *Prison to Praise* is the best. I have been giving out this book for a long time. It has helped me, and my family learn how to truly 'praise the Lord.' Thank you for all you do to share the Gospel with the world.

SUSAN, TX

Praise God for Merlin and the books he wrote. I read them over forty years ago and one day the title, *Prison to Praise*, popped into my head and I am so thankful that it did. Praising God for all things is so beautiful and I am not alone because God is with me. I just wanted to say thank you. PAMELA, ME

THE FOUNDATION OF PRAISE

has received gifts IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Sandi Rauch

By her husband Bob
of Colgate, WI

Rev. Dave Bailey

By George & Gwen Dilworth
of Cape May, NJ

Harold Pawlik

By his daughter
Edee Pawlik
of Las Vegas, NV



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

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU!

You are beautiful. (Psalm 45:11)

You are lovely. (Daniel 12:3)

You are chosen. (John 15:16)

You are strong. (Psalm 68:35)

You are protected. (Psalm 121:3)

You are accepted. (Ephesians 1:6)

You are His. (Isaiah 43:1)



Regional Jail, Hays, VA
 Terrell Unit, Rosharon, TX
 State Hospital, Kaneohe, HI
 Metro Jail, Salt Lake City, UT
 Metro County Jail, Mobile, AL
 Jackson County Jail, Holton, KS
 Lower Buckeye Jail, Phoenix, AZ
 State Hospital, Chattahoochee, FL
 Correctional Institute, Muncy, PA
 Jail Ministry for Jesus, LaHarpe, IL
 Correctional Complex, Anchorage, AK
 Sandridge Secure Institution, Mauston, WI
 Correctional Institute for Women, Jessup, MD
 DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Decatur, GA
 Rankin County Detention Center, Brandon, MS
 Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility, Knoxville, TN
 Haywood County Detention Center, Waynesville, NC
 Edinburgh Correctional Facility, Camp Atterbury, IN
 Atlantic County Justice Facility, Mays Landing, NJ
 Suffolk County Correctional Facility, Riverhead, NY

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

“There is a ladder of praise and I believe that everyone, without exception, can begin to praise God right now in whatever situation they may find themselves ...

Praising God with a pure heart means we must let God cleanse our hearts from impure motives and hidden designs. We have to experience the dying to self so that we can live in Christ in newness of mind and spirit.”

From *Prison to Praise* MERLIN CAROTHERS



Go into all the World and preach the Good News to every creature (Mark 16:15 NKJ).



These are “Not for Resale” copies and this special does not apply to the Giant Print or Spanish versions of *Prison to Praise*. This offer is available through the month of March - while supplies last!

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

Shipping applies to one U.S. address. Please call (760)741-2755 for foreign rates or for additional shipping information.

BOOK QUANTITY	PRICE PER BOOK	TOTAL RETAIL VALUE	USPS SHIPPING	YOUR TOTAL COST
1000	.80	\$5,000	\$212.50	\$1012.50
500	.90	\$2,500	\$106.25	\$556.25
200	.95	\$1,000	\$42.50	\$232.50
100	1.00	\$500	\$21.25	\$121.25
50	1.25	\$250	\$12.25	\$74.75
25	1.50	\$125	\$8.00	\$45.50
10	1.75	\$50	\$6.00	\$23.50



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☐ Please send me _____ copies of *Prison to Praise* for the Total Cost of \$_____

I will distribute these books. Send them to me at the address below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Do not send the books to me. Use my donation of \$_____ to have the *Foundation of Praise* distribute for me.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON MARCH 31, 2024. LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE.

