

# PRAISE News

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



## Heaven Bound?

By Merlin Carothers

I've asked thousands of people if they expect to go to Heaven. Some of them have said, "Yes."

My next question

is often, "Why do you believe you will go to Heaven? Many times, their answers have been: "Because I try to keep the Ten Commandments." Or, "I try to live a good life." Or, "I attend church and try to treat everyone fairly."

There is a big problem with those answers. God has clearly taught us that no one will ever get to Heaven because they are good enough – because no person is good enough to receive the incredible gift of eternal life.

So few people understand what it is that God requires of us, that we do indeed have much work to do. Jesus' last command to His disciples was: *Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation* (Mark 16:15).

Despite all the sermons that are heard, and all the books that are read, too few people understand the simple truth of John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

God has already decreed that people are incapable of keeping His law, and therefore, completely unsuited to live in Heaven. So, God made a plan that



solved the problem. He offers to give us the pure righteousness of Christ as a free gift. *And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own... but that which is by faith in Christ* (Philippians 3:9).

But we must first confess our own unworthiness – our sin nature – and then fully trust in Christ to forgive us and make us clean in His eyes (see I John 1:9).



If you have not been believing that Jesus is your Savior, there is something very important for you to do. Believe that He now gives *you* the *free gift* of eternal life.



You are a treasured possession of God's, and He wants to bless you and help you to convince others that His plan is the only possible path to Heaven. You and I can be His messengers. He will give us all the ability that we need in order to share the Good News with others.

Lack of enthusiasm can be a stumbling block. I pray that this article will be God's way of supplying you with that spark of zeal that will keep you busy for the rest of your life.

Ask your family, friends, and others this simple question, "Are you going to Heaven?" Don't make the mistake of assuming that they already know the correct answer. If they *do* know the answer, your question may inspire their confidence. If they *don't* know the correct answer, you will have the great joy of telling them how to have faith that Jesus is their Savior.

(Reprint from August 1996)



# The Beauty of the Beast

By Mary Carothers



On a coast-to-coast flight I was reading a Christian novel. The main character was hunting – in order to destroy a beast that was

terrorizing people in a local town. After wounding it, he approached the beast to finish the job. But as he drew near, he found himself drawn to it. He even began to make excuses for its behavior in his mind. Standing beside it, he finally realized that he actually loved this evil creature. Sound weird?

I thought so too, until I realized the creature represented sin. I was still confused, until it suddenly dawned on me that all too often, we love a particular sin in our life and – just like the man in the novel – we make excuses for the sin and try to justify ourselves.

For example, if we feel unloved and unappreciated in our marriage, we can easily try to justify adultery. Or, if we have a financial need and are unable to earn a decent salary, we can be tempted to steal. How about wrong attitudes? The enemy of our souls makes it all too easy for us to harbor resentment, bitterness, unforgiveness or envy.

In the novel, the beast that represented sin could not kill its victim until the particular sin they indulged had control of the person. When they no longer fought against the sin, but rather embraced it, the beast then had them in its power. At that point, the beast could destroy its victim whenever it chose to do so.

I couldn't help thinking what an incredible example that was of the devil, who comes to us with but one purpose – to kill, to steal and to destroy. Jesus

called him the father of lies. As such, he tries to deceive us into not believing and obeying God!

I began to cry out to the Lord to show me any sin in my life that I love, and to help me hate the sin as He hates it.

As these thoughts came flooding into my understanding, scriptures also came to mind. Here are some of them.

*Do not give the devil a foothold* (Ephesians 4:27).

*The wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23).

*We know that anyone born of God does not (deliberately and knowingly) practice committing sin, but the One who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him...* (I John 5:18).

*Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are slaves of him whom you obey, whether that be to sin, which leads to death...* (Romans 6:16).

*...let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us* (Hebrews 12:1 TLB).

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do* (I Peter 1:15).

*... greater is he who is in you (Jesus) than he (the devil) who is in the world* (I John 4:4).

(Reprint from August 1996)

**Trust In**  
**THE LORD**

# The Foundation of Praise

HAS RECEIVED GIFTS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

## *Merlin & Mary Carothers*

By Diana McSweeney  
of Johannesburg, MI

By L.C. & Janet Wilson  
of Seneca, SC

By Barbara Freeman  
of Macon, GA

## *Mary Carothers*

By Morgan Scott  
of Henderson, NV

By Lavila Lawrence  
of Greenwood Village, CO

## *JoAnn Pogany*

By Margi Meis  
of Eleve, WI

## *Arnold & Henrietta Rook*

By their daughter  
Janet Robards  
of Georgetown, TX

IN HONOR OF:

## *Kaaren L. Clark*

By her husband Jerry  
of Beaumont, TX



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

Regional Jail, Salem, VA  
County Jail, Twin Falls, ID  
State Prison, Michigan City, IN  
Dooly State Prison, Unadilla, GA  
Correctional Center, Moberly, MO  
Correctional Facility, Lebanon, OH  
Correctional Facility, Whiteville, TN  
Detention Center, Henderson, NV  
Fulton County Jail, Atlanta, GA  
Detention Center, Natchitoches, LA  
Jail Ministry for Jesus, LaHarpe, IL  
Jackson County Jail, Medford, OR  
Branch County Jail, Coldwater, MI  
Lycoming County Prison, Williamsport, PA  
Foothills Correctional Inst., Morganton, NC  
Women's Correctional Center, Pocatello, ID  
Jefferson Correctional Inst., Monticello, FL  
Port Isabel Detention Center, Los Fresnos, TX  
George Bailey Detention Facility, San Diego, CA  
Washington County Sheriff's Office, Chipley, FL  
Florence McClure Women's Correctional Ctr, Las Vegas, NV



## To Whom Should we Give our Resources?

To our church, to the blind, to orphans and widows, or to the homeless and hungry people? There are so many ways to put to good use the money God provides us.

But often the most unpopular is to get the Good News to men and women in prison.

Many times, these are the ones who are the most eager to receive help!

One day Jesus may say, *I was . . . in prison and you visited Me* (Matthew 25:43).

I recommend that we "visit" many men and women in prisons by giving them books that will encourage them to invite Jesus to be their Savior. He will then be with them in their cell as well as when they are released back into our communities.



The best way to repay the kindness of others is to follow  
the founder of the  
Methodist Church John Wesley's rule:

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,  
at all times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*

# Words of Joyful Praise

Next to me as I write this letter is my first copy of *Prison to Praise* given to me in 1984 by an elderly teacher who worked with me. This year is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Merlin and I remember meeting Merlin and Mary in the 90's in San Diego. Although I have never earned enough to give a large donation to the *Foundation of Praise*, I decided long ago to give whatever I could. God bless.



MIKE, CA

*August 21<sup>st</sup> would have been Merlin's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We miss him and his cheerful smile but know that he's happy to have Mary with him and they are both enjoying being in the presence of the Lord.*

You are in our prayers since learning of Mary's home-going. I always looked forward to reading her article in the *Praise News*. How comforting to know we will gather again with the Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for all you do. So many people will continue to be saved and encouraged by learning to praise the Lord.

VALERIE & NORM, OR

Thank you for ministering to the needs of so many through the years with your books and the *Praise News*. I thank God that He is continuing to provide all that you need. You are in my prayers.

ANNE, IA

So sorry to hear of Mary's passing. I have enjoyed reading *Praise News* for many years. I hope you can continue to carry on their great work.

BARBARA, GA

I'm sorry that both Mary and Merlin have passed but thank you for the *Praise News* reprints which I have enjoyed for many years. Thank you for everything.

DOROTHY, MN



Thank you for all the work you do of encouraging those who need the light of Jesus in their lives. Thank you for the *Praise News* that will continue Merlin and Mary's legacy and open doors for you to share the Good News.

JAN, TX

My faith is growing so much because of Merlin's books. I just keep reading and re-reading them over and over and each time I get a new revelation.

CARLA, OH



Thank you so very much for the donation of your books. Our inmates enjoy them immensely and lives are being changed.



ST. LOUIS CORRECTIONS COORDINATOR, MO

Books are vital to our ministry as we visit each facility weekly with the Word of God. Many inmates have a vacancy in their life and the praise books fill that emptiness and gives them continued strength. Our purpose is to bring Christ to those incarcerated with no hope or direction. Thank you so much and God bless.

JAIL MINISTRY FOR JESUS, IL



**BIG  
SALE**

COMING NEXT MONTH **PRISON TO PRAISE**  
BULK PRICE OFFER!

We will be repeating the bulk price offer of *Prison to Praise* in the September *Praise News*. Pray and ask the Lord to lead you to those people who need to hear the message of praise and salvation and will be blessed by this book.



MERLIN CAROTHERS