

# PRAISE News

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## WHY?



By Merlin Carothers

Mary and I have often pondered the mystery of why so many thousands of people have accepted Jesus as their Savior while reading *Prison to Praise*. A “soul-winning”

book explains God’s plan of salvation, our need for repentance and Jesus’ gift of eternal life, but the main emphasis in *Prison to Praise* is praise.

I was in a small motel, far from home, and quite fatigued after an exhausting speaking schedule in local churches and prisons. When I telephoned Mary late that night, she asked me if I knew what the next day would be.

“No, what is it? “Our anniversary.” *Oh no*, I thought, *how could I have forgotten our anniversary?* My first impulse was to cancel the rest of my speaking engagements and head for home, but I knew that would not please the Lord. So, I did my best to believe that God would use the entire situation for my good and for His glory.

The next day I awakened in my lonely, dreary motel room and for a few minutes indulged in self-pity. When I’m away from home I always have at least one meeting of some kind every day, but on this particular day there was nothing scheduled. I was too restless to relax and enjoy a day of prayer and fellowship with the Lord, so I went out for a walk. As I walked, I thought of how tired I felt and how much I wished I could be at home with Mary. The Lord put up with my thoughts for a while and then the Holy Spirit spoke to me. *Mark this an extremely happy day. Praise God with all your heart and with everything in you.* Those were my

orders for the day! So, I set about praising Him. As I did, my steps quickened. My spirits rose higher and higher. Soon I knew that I was in exactly the right place at the right time.

The Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, *Since you were obedient, I will answer a question that you have been wondering about for many years.* He began to explain why so many people accept Jesus as Savior while they are reading *Prison to Praise*. The Lord was showing me that praise to God melts man’s coldness of heart and stubborn resistance! Praise is like an electric heater directed into the freezer compartment of a refrigerator! The warm air melts the ice.

Think for a moment of a light switch – how turning it on brings light into a dark room. Praise to God seems to throw a switch within the human heart. Once that tiny switch of praise is turned on, God becomes more real. The reader has an opportunity to say, and feel, “Yes, God, I want You to rule in my life.”

And so, *Prison to Praise* has become a tool that many Christians use to win people to Christ. It reaches men and women who have rejected every previous soul-winning effort. Although they had rejected religion, they did not reject God when praise revealed Him as He is. God responds to praise because praise is the key to entering His presence! Once in His presence, we respond to His love.

To praise God is to delight in Him. Psalms 37:4 says, *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

I encourage you to use this simple tool that God has placed in our hands. Share *Prison to Praise* with as many people as possible. Use it to reach those who otherwise may never get close enough to God to know that He loves them. *(Reprint from February 1992)*

# USE WHAT YOU HAVE



Some time ago, Merlin and I were ministering in a church in Florida.

Before the service, we met in the pastor's office for prayer. One of the men who was there to pray with us, had laryngitis and could hardly speak. Later, during the church service he got up to sing. I couldn't believe my eyes! "Surely he's not going to try!" I thought. But when he opened his mouth and began, I couldn't believe my ears! It was beautiful! While he was singing, Jesus began to minister to my heart. "He is giving his voice and his song to Me. Therefore, I am able to use it to minister to my people."

Then the Lord began to shed new light on the story in John, chapter six where Jesus fed the multitude. The little boy who had the lunch, didn't feed the crowd. *Jesus did*. He just gave what he had to Jesus. In *quantity* it wasn't much; just enough to take care of one. I'm afraid my attitude would have been to hang on to the little that I had – or I might wind up with none at all. Yet when the lunch was released, and given to Christ, He was able to multiply it and feed the people.

And what do you think about the quality of the boy's lunch? After sitting around all day, it couldn't have been too fresh. In fact, those fish probably smelled by then. Yet it was the best he had, and Jesus accepted it.

Have you ever been asked to sing, teach, or serve in some way in your church? Was your response something like..." Who me? I can't teach! I'm not smart enough or experienced enough." Or, "Me sing? But I am out of practice. My voice isn't very good. Get someone else." Yet who has a voice worthy to sing the praises of God? Or who is wise

enough to teach about His love and grace?

Do you ever feel tempted to think, "What is the use of giving to my church – or to some worthy ministry? The little that I could give wouldn't go very far." ... Or would it? Is it really possible for Jesus to multiply our gifts – when we give to Him? **I know** He can – and He **does**! This way the Lord alone receives the glory!

By now the song was over and once more Jesus spoke to my heart. "Just give Me what you have, Mary. It isn't much, but I'll take it, bless it, multiply it, and with it I'll feed my people."

*(Reprint from March 1997)*



## HAPPY HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY MARY!

October 29<sup>th</sup> would have been Mary's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. We are rejoicing that she's celebrating in Heaven even though our hearts are sad that she is no longer with us.

Bless  
THE LORD  
Oh my  
SOUL  
PSALM 10:3



# THANKS AND PRAISE!



I read *Prison to Praise*, and it really opened my eyes. I know now to give thanks to the Lord for everything. Thank you for your books and for helping people like me in my path with the Lord.

**DEVYN, COUNTY JAIL, OR**

I am a 76-year-old living on a limited income and lately I've been having a hard time, so I started reading *Prison to Praise* again. What a blessing! Thank you for continuing with the ministry.

**CAROLYN, MO**

I have started re-reading all of Merlin's books and I'm gaining so much revelation. Thank you.

**CAROL, OH**

Thank you for your work in bringing praise to the people who so need to hear the message of the Good News!

**LIZ, AZ**

I found *Prison to Praise* in the 70's and it has brought me through many difficult times. What a blessing the message has been.

**ANNA, OK**

I love your ministry and the books. May the Lord bless you all. Merlin had a lot to do with my "walk" as an early Christian.

**NEIL, WA**

Thank you so much for the books you sent to our facility. I have them placed in all of the Units and have asked the inmates to personally write and thank you for these books.

**REGIONAL SECURITY CENTER, VA**

Thank you for sending me the *Praise News* with Merlin's and Mary's messages for so many years. May God continue to bless you in your ministry even though they are with our Lord and Savior.

**MAY, MN**



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

- Ada County Jail, Boise, ID
- Hendry County Jail, LaBelle, FL
- State Penitentiary, Angola, LA
- Metro County Jail, Mobile, AL
- McPherson Unit, Newport, AR
- State Prison, Michigan City, IN
- Detention Center, Henderson, NV
- State Hospital, Chattahoochee, FL
- Dooly State Prison, Unadilla, GA
- Kirkland Corrections, Columbia, SC
- Bingham County Jail, Blackfoot, ID
- Correctional Facility, Mt. Pleasant, IA
- Webb Detention Center, Laredo, TX
- Southern Regional Jail, Beaver, WV
- County Detention Center, Anderson, SC
- ICE Processing Center, Pine Prairie, LA
- R.J. Donovan State Prison, San Diego, CA
- Clinton County Corrections, McElhattan, PA
- Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Liberty, NC
- Mountain View Transformation Center, Kuna, ID
- Salvation Army Services, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



## THE FOUNDATION OF PRAISE

**HAS RECEIVED GIFTS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

*Mary Carothers*

By Glenn Anderson  
of New Gloucester, ME

By James R. Woodgates  
of Washington, DC

By Douglas Coburn  
of Salina, KS

*The Mooradian Family*

By Don Lupro  
of Murrieta, CA



*Rest in peace*



# GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER

You Say: It's Impossible

God Says: *All things are possible* (Luke 18:27)

You Say: I feel alone

God Says: *I will never leave or forsake you*  
(Hebrews 13:5)

You Say: I'm not able

God Says: *I am able* (2 Corinthians 9:8)



You Say: I'm always worried and frustrated

God Says: *Cast all your care on Me*  
(1 Peter 5:7)



You Say: I'm not smart enough

God Says: *I will give you wisdom*  
(1 Corinthians 1:30)



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

BOOK QUANTITY	PRICE PER BOOK	TOTAL RETAIL VALUE	USPS SHIPPING	YOUR TOTAL COST
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200	.95	\$1,000	\$46.00	\$236.00
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10	1.75	\$50	\$8.00	\$25.50

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