

# Finding True Freedom in Prison

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." —John 8:32, 36

CR THE 2.3 MILLION MEN AND WOMEN incarcerated in the USA, the days are long and hope is faint. No matter how they came to this point, they are in a place where fear, loneliness, uncertainty, and temptation rush in. Stripped of the hurried busyness and frivolities of our world today, the essential needs of the human heart are magnified.

But while the body may be imprisoned, the heart can be free. How to find that freedom?

Thousands of inmates across the U.S. are finding the answer in the Word of God. Through a small *Scripture-text Datebook* from World Missionary Press, they receive a powerful, comforting Scripture verse each day—words to carry them through the long hours, words to give courage to face fear, words to give light in the darkness.

Thirty years ago WMP started printing what was then known as a *Diary/Datebook* to replace the more expensive full-color personalized Scripture-text calendar purchased each year to mail to donors. Soon we offered them only on request, and in time requests from chaplains and inmates far outweighed all other requests. It became, in God's sovereignty, the perfect gift for someone whose life as they had known it had suddenly come to a halt.

To date 13.4 million copies of the *Datebook* have been printed. Another 845,000 will be printed for 2017. As the

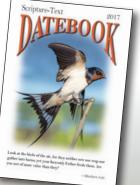
Datebook is opened, the inside front cover tells readers of God's love for them, along with Scriptures to show them how to come to Christ. Facing pages are dated and cover one week with daily Bible verses on a theme, with space to write notes.

Inmates usually begin using the *Datebook* for important events to remember, but as they find themselves reading the Scripture verses, their hearts are often moved to find a Bible to read more, to ask for counsel, or to seek the Lord who loves them.

One recent letter to WMP tells it all.

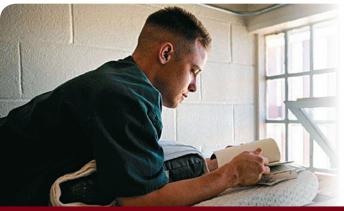
**"I have been in prison 20 straight years** and have received your yearly *Datebook* as far back as I can remember. What a blessing to start my day out reading your Scripture verse for each day, then on to my devotional time with God in

prayer and His Word! THANK YOU, JESUS! Funny and strange how such a small booklet like your Scripture-text Datebook makes [a difference] to a man like me—it gives hope—it builds faith—it connects me in spirit to God's truth. I find myself memorizing or meditating on a lot of your daily verses .... I would love to thank everyone who's involved and has a part in making and distributing every Datebook to men or women incarcerated. THANK YOU SO MUCH!" —Allan C.



The power of the Word of God to bind up the wounded and heal the brokenhearted is not just a nice thought. It is a divine reality in the lives of men and women everywhere.

"I want to tell y'all how much I enjoy Scripture-text Datebooks. I have nobody in the free world. My mom and kids have passed away since I've been locked up. I thought that life wasn't worth living. I was told about your book, and I started reading the verses. I was invited to the church service. After a while, I received God into my life. Now even if I don't have nothing, I do have our Heavenly Father, and if I never get out, I will keep my eyes on Him to guide me in the right direction.



### Shipment Status Report

Shipped	In transit		Custor	ns R	eceived
Ecuador - major	distributor - received 4/20/2016				
Angola - major o	distributor - received 5/18/2016				
<b>Ukraine</b> - major	distributor - received 6/9/2016				
Swaziland - coo	rdinator - received 8/9/2016				
<b>USA</b> - major dist	ributor - received 8/10/2016				
Nigeria - major o	distributor - received 8/10/2016				
Guinea - coordir	nator - received 8/10/2016				
Haiti - major dist	tributor - received 8/15/2016				
Namibia - coord	inator - received 8/19/2016				
India - major dis	tributor - received 8/20/2016				
<b>Belize</b> - major di	stributor - received 8/23/2016				
Mexico - major o	distributor - received 8/24/2016				
Central African Republic - coordinator - shipped 3/9/2016 - in customs					
Philippines - coordinator - shipped 7/20/2016 - in customs					
Philippines - major distributor - shipped 7/20/2016 - in customs					
Malawi - coordii	nator - shipped 8/4/2016				
Fiji - coordinato	r - shipped 8/15/2016		a		
Trinidad - major	distributor - shipped 8/16/2016		A	E	
Guyana - major	distributor - shipped 8/16/2016		1	1	4
Sri Lanka - coord	dinator - shipped 8/22/2016		A	X	
South Africa - m	ajor distributor - shipped 9/7/16				
Shipping soon: Nicaragua (2), Guyana (coordinator)					

May God touch someone to help those in the prisons all over the U.S.A. and worldwide. May He bless y'all for all the work y'all do."

—Jimmy P.

"The Scripture in the Datebook really influenced my walk and helped me to focus on the Word throughout the course of the day. Many days it was the only thing that would get me through. I just want to thank God because through you I've managed to maintain a positive outlook

## please pray

- that God's Word will minister to those in prison and open eyes to see their need for true freedom. Pray that many will be set free from sin and self and find life in Jesus.
- that Christians in prison will grow strong in faith and "come boldly to the throne of grace" to "obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).
- for open doors to **minister** to those in prison as to Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:36b).

on a day-to-day basis even though I'm in this confined environment." —Souly D.

The Datebook also carries with it the gift of Christian love. A chaplain who offers WMP Datebooks to inmates at Christmas time sent this note of gratitude on behalf of those who received the books:

"Many of the men receive no visits, mail, or communication with anyone outside of the prison. They often feel like society has completely thrown them away. But with the generosity of folks like you, they received confirmation that there are still some who believe in them.... Your donation made it possible to express Christian love to some of those in most need of such an expression. **This gesture may very well be a turning point** in the life of some man who will seek Christ and Christian virtues because you cared enough to give of yourself." —Gerald B.

#### Upcoming Freight Shipments by Region

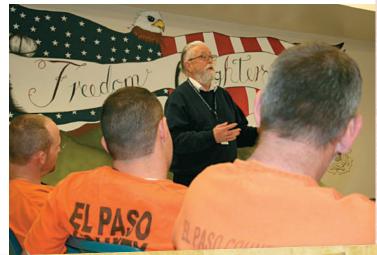
20,381,115 Equivalency Africa Angola, Burundi, Eguatorial Guinea, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe Asia 10,588,231 Equivalency Hong Kong, Macau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand Latin America 32,935,614 Equivalency Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Uruguay Europe 1,707,686 Equivalency Canary Islands, Czech Republic, Denmark, Moldova USA & Canada 1,337,220 Equivalency Totals: 66,949,866 Equivalency

\*Note that in addition to the freight shipments listed above, there are also hundreds of smaller requests received each month that are sent via postal, UPS, and FedEX ground shipments.

\*\* "Equivalency" is a concept we use at WMP to compare volume of printing by relating different size booklets to the size of our standard unit of production: a 48-page "Help From Above" booklet.

Thousands who are free to walk about and live openly in society are bound in sin, while many who are imprisoned and shut away are free because they have found the source of true freedom—salvation and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus said He came to seek and to save those who are lost. Let us seek to reach the lost, wherever they are, with His words of hope and salvation.

[You can minister to men and women in prison throughout the U.S. on a daily basis through a Scripture-text Datebook. An investment of \$20 will provide this daily gift of God's love for 160 inmates; \$100 will touch the lives of 800 people.]



## Grateful Quotes "Privileged to have a small part in this amazing work"



For 15 years Bob B. has facilitated

the supply of more than 200,000 Scripture booklets and Bible studies for teams going to Haiti, Ukraine, Uganda, and Mexico, with a focus on supplying pastors in Mexico with seed to sow in their communities. Bob recently volunteered at World Missionary Press for a week. His parting words encouraged us and challenged us to keep our focus on the Word of God.

"It is impossible for me to put into words the blessing I have received by being here this past week. I have thanked God a thousand times for the privilege of having a small part in this amazing work here at WMP.

"I have met some wonderful people and made many new friends. My hands have touched the Word of God that I pray will lead many to confess Jesus as their LORD and SAVIOUR. What a privilege! In all of this experience I find only two negatives: I have to leave, and I don't live in New Paris! I hope to see you all again!" —Bob B.

## **Meet the Team**

### Brian L. Assistant Pressman

I first heard about World Missionary Press many years ago when Fred Eiler shared at our church about the many lan-



guages printed at WMP and about the low cost to produce each Scripture booklet. I was amazed by the outreach.

In December of 2014, I heard a spot on the radio about WMP which directed me to the website, where an opening to work with their new 6-color press was posted. After much prayer, and because of my background with color laser copiers and technical repairs on printing machines, I applied and was interviewed. I have been working at WMP since February of 2015.

I work on the 6-color press, printing color covers for Scripture booklets, often printing at a speed of 160,000 booklet covers per hour. I also help with the printing of the newsletter and special flyers in color. As an assistant, I am learning more about running the press every week. I am thankful that God has allowed me to be involved in printing His Word in so many languages. I feel it's a privilege to work at World Missionary Press. I enjoy hearing reports about how God is touching and changing the lives of people all over the world. **One of the things I like best about working at WMP is knowing that lives are being impacted for eternity.** 

My wife, Jacki, and I were married in 1990. We have seven children, four girls and three boys ages 14 to 24, including four children from Haiti who the Lord allowed us to adopt. Each one has their own "God story" of how they arrived at our house. We enjoy traveling together. Our oldest girl was married in June to a pilot; both have their airplane mechanic license and want to be missionary pilots. Our four youngest are teenagers still at home, the three girls being homeschooled. Most of my free time is spent supporting and cheering on my children at their different events: for the girls that would include volleyball on a home-school travel team, and for the boys, high-school football, college track, and NHRA drag-racing events. We praise God for His continued care and provision.

For many years, Ron and Ronda Lemler have been staunch supporters of WMP, supplying us with pallets for shipping and storage. The Lemlers recently suffered a huge fire at their pallet-making business, and are downsizing to basically becoming self-employed.



Ron and Ronda are very humble people and are trusting the Lord even more during this difficult time. They supplied WMP's pallets at very low cost, just enough to cover the delivery fee, and did so as unto the Lord. They have been a blessing to us for a long time. Because of the fire, they are no longer able to supply our heat-treated pallets. Their partnership has saved WMP tens of thousands of dollars over the course of their service to us.

Please be in prayer for these faithful friends and co-laborers.

## WMP Partners Around the World

## Ebenezer Samuel India

As one of WMP's major distributors in India, Serve India Ministries received two 40-foot ship containers of Scripture booklets from WMP in late 2015. Ebenezer Samuel,



founder and president, calculated that these 8,430 ten-pound boxes would supply just 1½ boxes for each of the approximately 5,000 native pastors deployed! Some of WMP's printing in India has been channeled to SIM as well, but the need is huge.

Brother Ebey will be WMP's Dinner speaker on October 22.

# WMP: How did you first learn about WMP and start using WMP literature?

**Ebey:** It was my privilege to be responsible for the church-planting endeavors of Gospel for Asia for ten years as its General Director. During that time I saw unique effectiveness of WMP literature. Since 2006, it has been the mission of Serve India Ministries to partner with 20,000 independent local pastors in India, helping to plant churches in 100,000 unreached villages, so that these communities can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and new believers can be discipled in the faith. We are grateful to the Lord for WMP's strategic partnership with us and other ministries in India.

#### WMP: How effective are the topical Scripture booklets in India?

**Ebey:** Pastor Abraham has planted four churches, two of which were planted in Hindu villages as a direct result of distributing World Missionary Press literature. A few in each village showed interest and talked to him, asking questions about the gospel. He ended up leading them to Jesus Christ. They spread the word, and others came and also accepted the Lord. Now one of the villages has 25 believers and the other has 30.

Pastor Abraham tells of a time when he had access only to single-page gospel tracts. People did not take those seriously and he saw them thrown away. But he saw the response was different to WMP's gospel booklets. People accepted the booklets with reverence, took them home and read them, often asking for more information, and eventually receiving Jesus as their personal Savior.

## WMP: That's wonderful! So the Scripture booklets are opening doors to plant churches?

**Ebey:** Pastor Raju, who has adopted 40+ villages for his focus, received some WMP literature from us and reported that as a result of distributing the gospel booklets, four villages have opened up. Eight young fellows in his church are his gospel team. They spend a whole day fasting and praying,

**World Missionary Pr** 

Free Scripture Book

and then they go out for a day of distribution. As a result of their hard work, supported with a lot of prayer, they now have access to four Hindu villages. This is huge. It's so difficult to gain access to Hindu villages, and it's significant that each of these four villages now has an open door in the form of a family that has accepted Christ by reading WMP booklets. Now the team can go into these villages and preach the gospel more and distribute the gospel booklets more, so that more people can come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

#### WMP: What is your current need for WMP Scripture booklets?

**Ebey :** Currently we have 5,700 native pastors. We are in the midst of a fairly big expansion, as we are recruiting 3,000 more native pastors. By October the total number of pastors would be not less than 8,000. We would like to give at least three boxes per pastor, although this supply (approximately 12 million booklets) would last only three months. We are receiving gospel literature only from WMP, and there is no other source for us. It is indeed sad to see the pastors go without literature for most of the year.

# WMP App Updated with Audio Booklets

We invite you to download our free app, recently updated to include twelve audio booklet languages. You can find the WMP app on app stores by searching for "World Missionary Press" or scanning the QR code on right. Once installed on your mobile device, simply select

"Booklets" in the menu, then "Listen to a Booklet." Please pray with us that this will be an effective tool to reach people with God's life-changing Word.



In addition to listening to audio Scripture booklets, you can also read or request free Scripture booklets, check out interesting video and audio content, keep up with the latest WMP events, join our prayer team, sign up for updates on major worldwide shipments of Scripture, access WMP's Facebook, Twitter, and website pages, and more!



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