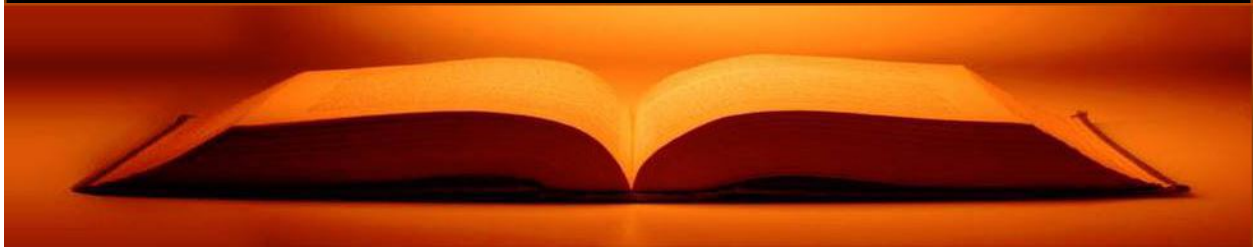


Binding Broken Hearts

Introducing Jesus to Those Who Need Him Most



Ministry Update January 2018

2017 is now in the past, and Binding Broken Hearts is looking forward to 2018. God has been testing our faith and our commitment to ministering to the inmates. It has been five months now since we have had to say we are unable to send Bibles at this time. We are still trusting that God will provide for our needs in His own perfect time.

We are chipping away at our debt for the Bibles we have sent out. Currently we owe \$21,600. Once we get that paid off we can start saving for the down payment on another batch of Bibles. There are 1,642 men and women on the waiting list as January 1. Our prayer is that God will provide each inmate a Bible even if it doesn't come from us.

Even though we are unable to send Bibles, we are still writing letters and providing Bible studies to all the inmates who request to remain on our mailing list. Our average monthly mailing is 4,555 letters. Of this an average of 455 receive only letters, the other 4,100 receive a letter along with two Bible studies.

Our goal is to answer every letter that we receive. To do that we have what we call "special responses" where we add between one sentence and three pages to our generic letters. We respond to concerns in the inmate's life; questions he or she might have; celebrations for milestones; sympathy in their sorrows; etc. Every month we answer about 250 of these special letters. This is how we visit those in prison.

Although we don't have Bibles to send, we do have four books that we send to those who request them: *Praise Him* and *Knowing Jesus* are two Bible study lesson books created by compiling the monthly lessons that I have written specifically for this ministry. Each book has 18 lessons in them. *Knowing Jesus* has been available since 2015, while *Praise Him* just came off the press this month. *The Value of One*, created in 2016 and *The Power of the Word* created in 2017, are two devotional books written by Sharon Dalton Williams, who also writes the body of our letter every other month.

So far we have mailed out 936 *Knowing Jesus* Bible study books; 466 *The Value of One*; 385 *The Power of the Word*, and 16 *Praise Him* Bible study books. There is a hunger for

spiritual material, and we are so blessed to be able to help point these precious men and women to the Word of God.

Since November of 2013 we have sent out 12,484 large print, bonded leather, Andrews Study Bibles and 167,259 letters. Your support has made that possible. All donations from members of the Sheridan Seventh-day Adventist church are applied toward the cost of mailing letters and lessons. All donations from non-members of the Sheridan Seventh-day Adventist church are applied toward the cost of Bibles (purchase and shipping/handling). Bert and I are committed to covering the overhead costs and the costs for publishing and shipping the Bible study lesson books and devotional books.

Jesus is coming soon, we have a burden to share that good news with those who are often forgotten by their families and the outside world. We thank you for your continued support and pray for God's blessing on you in this new year.

A letter from an inmate:

Well first I want to say thanks for writing me back. Mail is special and its always good to know we are truly loved.

I just want to tell you some more about the wonderful things Jesus has done in my life. But with humiliation I must confess that my walk for the last 12 years has not been one of obedience.

In 1982 – my first trip to prison – I was first introduced to Jesus as our Savior by a Dr. Carl James of Rolla, MO. He is a 7th day Adventist and did jail ministry. Well he led me to the Lord, however my life never changed much. I went to prison at 19 for a homicide I never done. Just trapped in the middle and blamed, it was a small town and the courts were going to send someone to prison over it. So I took the fall. The person that did it went home free. I had a lot of hatred toward society over that and was determined to get my payment back when I got out. So I learned how to be con-wise and greedy. 6 years later I was released to society. I was a lot smarter and slick, so I returned to drug dealing and criminal lifestyle.

I was married for only 2 years when I ended up back on a parole violation and God moved on me and changed my heart. But I was soon released and on fire with no understanding what had happened. I knew Jesus was doing something special and taken away my selfish desires. I was a new creation So I called Dr. James and joined the Adventist church. He was really surprised and glad to see his prayers and hard work pay off.

In the 2 years studying with the church I met a Bob Zorits who sold books and did ministry. We traveled to a convention in Iowa and became good friends. Dr. James has kept up with me and my family ever since. I was even allowed to do a talk show with Ken and Marie Day – Keeping in Touch Ministry, where I shared my testimony and God's great love and forgiveness. But the enemy had the chance to sift me as wheat as he did with Peter. And praise God for His Greater! Plan! As with king David when kings were to go to battle, I stayed home from the car sale and walked back into drug use. As I've learned, God will leave things in our path to teach us to make better choices as He did with Israel when they entered the promised land Judges 3:1. There were things in my

heart that I needed to see in order to be fully Christ's. When I was praying with some friends God spoke 5 words through me. I know it to be the Holy Spirit because my mind was not telling my mouth to speak and it happened very fast. All's I heard was the last word child. The Lord spoke to my heart and said "I said, 'you will do well child.'"

Since then I have been to prison four different times or drug use, trafficking and weapons. I found 4-5 times where God uses the same words in the Bible. (Gen 4:7; Acts 15:29; James 2:8, 19; 2 Pet 1:10; and 3 John 1:6). God's word will accomplish what He pleases. I had to learn through free will, which God will not interfere with, to choose to be obedient and then He will give me strength. His Spirit is very much alive and active in us when we fully – and totally surrender with ALL of our heart. Those 5 words have been the encouragement that has got me to this point. I've struggled in weakness as a child/babe and through the experience I've learned to discern good from evil. Now I have learned to stay in the Word and feed the spirit. Because our enemy is wise and crafty and I believe the Lord knows me better than I know myself, and the Lord allows the enemy to cause adversity in order to keep me close. As with sheep we are easily led astray, the flesh will always be the shell that I'm confined in till I pass, so it will be the training fire I'm in to resist and fully follow my Lord through His Spirit as my Guide. Glorifying Jesus my Savior.

So I want to thank you for the time and letters. Also we have a 7th day Adventist service here in Leavenworth. A young man, David, from the Shiloh church holds a Bible study every week. We enjoy the Bible studies and serving our Lord and Savior with other believers.

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If you would like to join Binding Broken Hearts in getting God's Word into the hands of inmates who are desperate to know Jesus, please consider becoming a financial partner with us. [Click here](#) to see how you can help.