

## **THE EXODUS EPISTLE**

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**Summer 2009**

### **EXODUS PRISON MINISTRY: Reaching prisoners for Jesus Christ through Christian literature!**

“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new . . . **God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself** . . . Now then **we are ambassadors for Christ** . . . we beg you in Christ’s stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**” — 2 Corinthians 5:17, 19, 20

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the one who brings reconciliation between Almighty, Holy God and sinful man. He initiated and made reconciliation possible for man by coming to earth and giving His life on the cross.

Any individual, regardless of his sins, can be reconciled to God because of the power of the blood of Jesus. God’s Word tells us, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

Many prisoners are being reconciled to the Lord through faith in Christ. Despite their past wrong-doing, they have become new creatures in Christ. After being saved, they then become ambassadors for Christ. They share the Gospel with others in lock-up and to become reconciled with family members, other inmates, and even those in authority.

The following letter is just one from many prisoners who write to share the joy of reconciliation that started with Jesus and then with a family member.

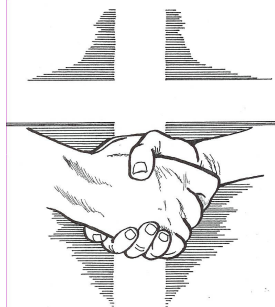
“Rejoice with me for God has answered my prayers that He reconcile me back to my family! I got a very unexpected letter from

my Dad stating that he wants me to come home upon my release in August so that he can help me get back on my feet. Until that letter, we never got along. I felt he wanted nothing to do with me. I’ve been praying for reconciliation and God answered. What an awesomely loving God we serve!!!” - Steven

#### **Reconciliation begins first at the cross**

—  
**and**

**then moves  
to family and friends  
and even  
with one’s own self!**



Through our 35-book Bible correspondence study course and other literature we share with prisoners, Exodus Prison Ministry is actually a ministry of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ to reach prisoners with the Gospel so they might experience heart and life change possible only in Christ.

When they become reconciled to Christ, the prisoners then begin to share their faith in

Christ with family members and prisoners. It is a joy for the Exodus workers to receive the many letters from prisoners writing to ask for prayer that their family members be saved and that they might have broken relationships restored. They also tell of witnessing to other inmates as well as to their families. They ask for prayer for guards and others in authority – and often ask for their victims to be saved and blessed, as well as come to forgiveness.

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Volunteers at Exodus Prison Ministry were saddened by the passing of two of our workers since our Spring Newsletter.



**MERLE HAILEY**

(August 19, 1926 – April 6, 2009)

Merle had a close relationship with the Lord Jesus who never failed her regardless of circumstances. She was a warm and caring lady who made friends quickly. She was prepared to meet the Lord and was always eager to share the Gospel with others. Merle worked in Exodus Prison Ministry for several years. One of her main joys was sending the birthday cards to the students. She was a member of Turning Point Church. She is survived by her son Steve and his wife, several grandchildren, and a host of friends.



**ELAINE REDDICK**

(October 23, 1952 – June 6, 2009)

Elaine worked in Exodus for only a few months, but she made a worthwhile contribution to the mission by helping mail the Bible studies. She had a very cheerful and gracious attitude. Her love for the Lord and others was reflected in her smile, demeanor, and actions. Elaine was dedicated to serving her Lord by her service to her family, friends, Southcrest Baptist Church, and other Christian organizations. She is survived by her husband Steve, who also volunteers at Exodus, and their two daughters.

Kevin Kirby  
**In memory of**  
 Tom Coffman  
 David Darby  
 Geneva Griffin  
 Merle Hailey  
 Marty Hooten  
 David Julian

Shirley Lewis  
 Christie Pare  
 Wm & Rena Pratt  
 Elaine Reddick  
 Jimmy Smith  
 Jewel Webb

Delbert Kirby  
**By**  
 Gladys Coffman  
 M/M Hugh Wickham  
 Carole Kelley  
 Exodus Volunteers  
 Ronald & Linda Hunt  
 Ken & Libby Gilmore  
 Weldon & Joyce Hargis  
 Eldon & Betty Smith  
 Polly Cash  
 Ronald & Linda Hunt  
 Robert Pratt  
 Exodus Volunteers  
 Ronald & Linda Hunt  
 Carole Kelley

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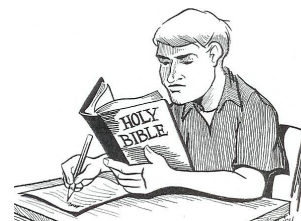
Incorporated in 1983, this non-profit, all-volunteer Christian ministry reaches prisoners with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and disciples them through Christian literature. This ministry provides a free 33-book Bible correspondence study course to prisoners across the U.S. We also collect new and used Bibles and Christian books to pass along to individual inmates and to prison libraries. We rely on prayer and financial support from caring Christians. The home office is at 4243-34<sup>th</sup> St, Lubbock, TX 79410. Volunteers in the Exodus Branch Office in Plainview, TX, minister to inmates in the Formby and Wheeler Units. Volunteers in the Exodus Branch Office at Tulia, TX, minister in the Tulia Unit.

You can become active  
 in the Ministry of Reconciliation  
 with Exodus Prison Ministry through

⇨ YOUR PRAYERS SUPPORT ⇨  
 ⇨ YOUR MONETARY GIFTS ⇨  
 ⇨ YOUR HELP IN THE OFFICE ⇨

**All Gifts Are Tax-Exempt!**  
**All prayers and gifts count for Christ!**

**LETTERS  
 FROM  
 PRISONERS**



**DESIGNATED GIFTS**

Flowers quickly fade,  
 but memorial gifts have eternal benefits.



**In honor of**  
 Nicolas Clark

**By**  
 K. C. Iverson



*“Dear Exodus Prison Ministry: It was pretty awesome how I came across your studies. Glory be to God! I found one of your study books and did it. I went through that book like I never have before but I’d like to start from ‘scratch’ and do them all. I am a Hebrew Christian serving through a Messianic Ministry and point of view and am looking to eat serious meat of the Word. I believe your studies can help me do so. I also have referred a few of my Christian Brothers to your studies. Their enrollments are enclosed with mine. I do appreciate the opportunity to do your studies. Thank you sincerely,” – D.Q., COLORADO*



*“Thank you people very much for your help in studying the Bible. I am a new man in Christ. I have been doing Bible studies for 3 years. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in March 2006. All aspects of my life have become 100% better. Yes! Praise God!” – C.B., ARIZONA*



*“I am about ready to go home, and I want your good Bible study so I can stay focused. When I get out, I will attend a church where most members have had trouble with the law so it’s easy to feel comfortable. One nice thing about prison is that when you are a Christian you meet people who have been immersed in the Word for many years and haven’t been in the world where the devil rules. I know there are many people here that you can’t turn your back on, but I avoid those situations. I am past the age where any of the gangs are interested so I can normally stay focused on the Word. The devil has very few weapons he can tempt you with in prison. So when you meet a fellow Christian who has been down a long time, he is so filled with the Spirit that He glows with the light. Most people don’t realize that God sometimes has to take His children off the street to get their attention. I am one of them. It always takes me many lessons to learn a message. I am sure I have it right this time and strong in the word.” – C.C., COLORADO*



*“I have arrived at my new ‘earthly’ home (prison dorm in general population) and will likely remain here until I earn parole or Jesus takes me home. I don’t mind living in a dorm after 14 years of living in a cell.*

*I’m having some difficulty adjusting to new surroundings. I no longer have the option of my little cell to retreat to for solitude when needed. But, as you know, we serve an awesome God, and He has shown me favor by reuniting me with some friends I haven’t seen in some time. I’ve had an overwhelming welcome and support. I know it will take some time to adjust and your prayers for me will be much appreciated. After I was issued my personal property, I opened my Bible and was sitting on my bunk and some others who were starved for truth began to come and sit and open up to me and ask questions about the Lord. They were like moths to a porch light. Praise God! Anyway, I hope this adjustment process goes quickly and I can help others. I do wish to be about my Father’s business. May the Lord give you all ‘big Holy Ghost hugs’ and may His peace surround you. Your fellow servant/student,” – B.B., TEXAS*



*“Please pray with me for our nation, that God will stay His hand and bring this country to repentance. Pray for all my enemies and victims, especially my victim (ex-girlfriend). The last time I saw her, she was not saved. Pray for my spiritual sons that God gave me on this prison trip – those I met at the county jail and state prison. Many of this age group of guys (18-25) had never opened a Bible or knew anything about Jesus Christ until they attended a nightly Bible study there. Pray God will keep someone in their lives who will continue my ministry to them. As for me, pray that God will help me find and join a good Bible-believing, Bible-teaching home church when I’m released, for I have been rudderless and anchorless since 2006. I need a safe port to put into so I can be rebuilt and refitted. Pray that Christ will make me a vessel meet for the Master’s use. I’m determined to use this prison time to the glory of God. Pray with me that God helps me get a letter writing ministry started. There may be people out there who need encouragement from someone like me who knows what it is like to be in the belly of the whale.” – U.M., FLORIDA*



*“Lately I have been feeling depressed and overwhelmed. My spirit is at a very low point. I have been feeling as if God has forgotten about me (self-pity big time!) But today during mail call, I received a birthday card from your ministry. The message of the card (The Storm Will Bring Blessings) was*

encouraging to my weary spirit and it put a smile on my face. So again, I want to say thank you for all the lives you touch and the smiles you bring that you don't see. I also would ask special prayer for my spiritual growth and victory in my criminal case. I am fighting the battle of my life literally and I need God's grace and mercy in order to be victorious. I thank you and God bless you." – Sharon , ARIZONA



"I have no family and no store orders so I need metered envelopes to return my answers for your Bible study exams. I have been going through a lot of stress lately and I know that those are only arrows from Satan. When I receive my lessons, that is really when I get attacked. So I need prayer real bad. Doing your lessons has helped me to receive the Lord Jesus Christ and made a very big change in my life. Even so, I'm still tempted in many ways. It is not easy being locked up in Mississippi. I'm from New York, so I'm a long way from home. Maybe God had to separate me in this way to get my attention." – A.N., MISSISSIPPI



"I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior when I was 22. From 1983-1990, I worked for a Christian ministry in Baton Rouge, LA. By 1999 my life was falling apart because I had begun living the way I wanted and not the way God intended for me. By 2006 my marriage of 35 years ended, and 27 days later I was arrested. I considered suicide, but God wouldn't let it happen. My life had become just a lump of clay, but I thank God He is the Potter. He began reshaping my life and making me the vessel I should have always been. Now I live for Christ. Here in prison, I go to church and attend a Bible study. Since I turned my life completely over to God's will, I am freer than I've ever been even though I am in prison. God had to take everything worldly away from me. They were all idols. The only things I am concerned about now is learning all I can about the Scriptures and the salvation of my grandsons." –L.M., TEXAS



"In 1993, I was locked up for the first time in my life. In a 24-man tank in jail, I noticed this big burly, long haired, long bearded man looking at me. I told myself that I would have to watch him. For the next two days I kept to myself and cried within myself for all the mistakes I'd made and my drug addiction

and alcohol problems. I didn't know God at the time and didn't care to. About the 4<sup>th</sup> day there, I heard this deep voice say, 'Hey, Man!'. I looked up and it was that big burly guy standing next to my bunk. Out of fear, I listened to him tell me how God had put it on his heart to come and ask me to go to church with him. I agreed, not knowing what to expect. To my surprise, I really, really liked it. The men who came played guitar and we sang hymns. We studied about salvation out of a notebook they gave me. Listening to them and reading about how we are sinners needing to repent of our sins and believe that Jesus died for our sins, is the son of God and was raised from the dead really got to me. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> week, I made a personal confession and asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior. My life has never been the same. I've had my moments of turning back to my sins but, through the power of the Holy Spirit, His work has manifested in me a drastic change, not only in my attitude, but in the way I look and feel about others. My heart is filled with love, joy, and peace. Though I am locked up, I'm free on the inside. As Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the wind, saying you can't see it, but you know it's there because you see the evidence, so also with me. The Holy Spirit not only has sealed me as God's own possession, but the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit can be seen in my daily walk, in my prayers and so on— evidence that I am a son of God and awaiting the redemption of this body!" – T.H., TEXAS



"The Exodus correspondence studies are by far the best I have done! Thanks to all who work hard to bring these studies to us." – E.B., TEXAS



"This study (A Life That's Real) gave me my answer! I know I can keep my family together, be a good influence on my brothers and sister, and be off drugs with God's help. Thanks for doing God's work and reaching out to all of us." – Kathy, ARIZONA