



REMEMBER ME

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Published by
DISMAS MINISTRY
*A National Catholic Outreach
for Inmates, Victims, Families,
Those Released from Prison
and the Community.*

The Story of St. Dismas
Luke 23: 39-43
One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion said: "We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise."

Announcing a special resource for families and friends of the incarcerated!

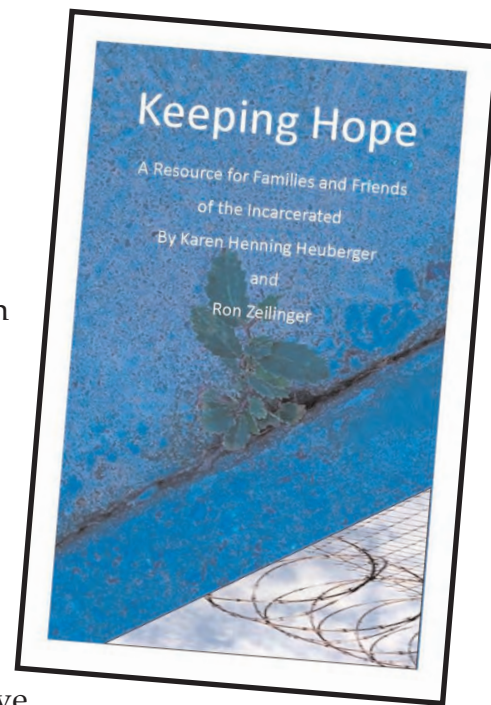
Keeping Hope

Dismas Ministry has written and published **Keeping Hope: A Resource for Families and Friends of Incarcerated**, in collaboration with the publishing house, Visual Dynamics, Inc.

This unique book is the result of a year-long effort to survey and interview of family members and friends with a loved in prison.

The book's content is based on actual interviews with spouses, family members, friends, prison ministers, and the incarcerated. Interactive reflections help the reader to probe his or her feelings and fears. There also are specific directions for questions to ask and procedures for visiting and writing inmates. Valuable, extensive resources are included with contact information for every state. This new title truly helps all involved with "keeping hope".

The book sells for \$9.95 and can be purchased through Visual Dynamics (www.vdpublishing.net).



Remember me.
Luke 23:42



*Mary, mother of all prisoners,
pray for us.*

A Prayer from Pope Francis

May the Risen Lord fill with hope the hearts of those who are being tested by pain and sickness during this grace filled season.

And may Mary, star of evangelization, guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.

Remember Me

Easter Season

Volume 2 - 2014

A Newsletter for the Friends of Dismas Ministry

A National Catholic Outreach for Inmates, Victims, their Families & the Community.

He is risen, he is not here!

The good news spoken by the angel sitting on the rolled back stone is something every human being needs to hear.

Death does not have the last word, nor do our sins for which we have received God's pardon in advance.



This forgiveness is so central and crucial (pun intended) to our salvation that Jesus mentions is consistently during the days of his passion, death and resurrection. At the Last Supper he holds the cup and declares it seals our covenant with God for the forgiveness of sin.

On the cross he pours out his heart and soul, along with his blood, to make certain once and for all that our sins are forgiven: "Father forgive them they know not what they do!"

When the risen Christ appears to his disciples huddled in the upper room he once more announces the good news of God's forgiveness of humanity's sins - good news for the whole world.

Prison ministry is an extension of Christ's message of hope to hearts that have nearly given up, hardly daring to believe that they are loved by God and worthy of redemption.

Alleluia!

Christ's Body behind bars...



Chaplains and Ministries

"I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the donation of books. The correctional facility community is excited. The books add to their faith and experiential knowledge. The community sends their thanks with their love and blessings for the continuous labor of love"

—Chaplain, North Carolina

"As usual you promptly send the Pray in the Spirit booklets I had requested. When I mentioned at last night's service I had more books, they were so happy. Even the religion clerk who is an inmate who helps the chaplain and is not Catholic. She took one for herself as she so likes the prayers! So they are blessing many lives. I so appreciate what your ministry accomplishes and pray God will continue to provide for all of your needs. Abundant blessings to each of you!"

—Catholic Ministry Volunteer, Arizona

"Thank you so much for the gift of Bibles in Spanish. It is a blessing to the Spanish brothers. We praise God for your ministry and we pray that God will continue to pour out his Spirit upon your ministry."

—Chaplain, Colorado

"I am always thankful to God for you, the work you do and the blessing you have been to us. The 3-part Bible study God With Us is one of the popular studies in our chapel library! It is through such great ministries as yours that help the rehabilitation of those who want to grow. May God continue to bless you!"

—Chaplain, Arkansas

Inmates

"Thank you for the wonderful studies. I am really enjoying them and the application of God's Word. We are having Bible study on the unit and it has begun to be very fruitful. We are gaining new members daily. Please keep us in prayer"

—An Inmate, Oklahoma

"Thank you for having provided the God With Us study course. I enjoyed every moment of it and I'm keeping the books to help me catechize newcomers to the Church, as well as those who, like myself, fell away for a number of years and have since returned."

—An Inmate, New Hampshire

"I want to thank you with all my heart for the Bible dictionary that I just received from you. God is needed in this place so much. There are so few Christians in here. There is so much God has done for me and I do thank God for saving my soul and for putting my feet on his solid rock. He has made me a new person and has started me on a new life. My Bible studies are helping me share the Word with others."

—An Inmate, Missouri

"Thank you for all of your help with me. I do love reading the studies. It is really a thought provoking progress for me. They all so make me want to read the Bible and do some of my own studies. So thank you once again. Hopefully, I can find or better yet maybe God's divine plan for my life will be revealed to me."

—An Inmate, Illinois

"I am writing to thank you for this opportunity to strengthen my knowledge and relationship with God. I am happy to report that each time I received these lessons my day was made. Just the peace that comes from studying the Word of God. Again I thank you."

—An Inmate, Illinois

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A Message from the Director



Dear Friends of Jesus in prison,

The season of Lent has passed, as have the very special events of holy week during which we relived the passion and death of Jesus. Although Easter Sunday has also passed, the season of celebrating Christ's resurrection is still very much with us. We are basking in the joy and peace of Easter morning when the sun rose on an empty tomb. Jesus says the very same words to us that he spoke to his disciples who were "incredulous with joy" at seeing him in the upper room: "Peace be with you!"

While listening to the gospel account of the resurrection during the Holy Saturday vigil, I was struck by the description of the angel who rolled the stone back from the entrance to Christ's tomb and then sat on it, announcing the resurrection: "He is not here."

I confess, I don't usually think of angels a lot, not since I was a youngster in Catholic grade school when Sister told us that our guardian angel was beside us. But this account suddenly intrigued me. I thought of this particular angel's unique role in our salvation history. Who and how did this creature of light get this "job"? Was there a lottery in heaven among all the angels? I am kidding, of course. Amidst the many words of the gospel accounts, this messenger who is a pure spirit humbly obedient to God's will, goes somewhat unnoticed. This angel is like a still point in all the excitement of the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb, and the running to and from the tomb that morning, as the women delivered the news to the apostles and then Peter and John came in haste to see for themselves. But this angel sits on the stone, says those amazing words "He has risen."

Unlike the angels Gabriel, Raphael and Michael, we do not even know the name of this herald of the resurrection. What an example for us of self-effacing, obedient service to God, of humility in deference to Christ and a beacon of light on behalf of the gospel that God devised in order to save humanity who was made "less than the angels" as scripture says.

Like a model of ministry, everything points to Jesus not to self-service. This pure spirit is like a hollow flute through which the breath of God's Spirit creates such beautiful, joyful music for the ears of a broken, lost humanity. We should have the grace to be so hollow and selfless so that God can make music through us! This puts me in mind of all the wonderful ministers of the gospel that Dismas Ministry is honored and graced to work with in our network of over 800 sisters, priests, deacons and lay people. They are are working quietly and selflessly to bring the good news to Christ's body in prison. Please join with me, the staff and volunteers of Dismas Ministry in praying for them and offering thanks to God for them. They are angels of hope to the broken and lost.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our national Catholic prison outreach that strives to serve Christ, who was once a prisoner himself, in every prisoner who reaches out to us for help.

In the risen Christ,

Ron Zeilinger, Director