

Dear Chief Ministries,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for you and those who are willing to share the love of Christ to men behind bars.

You don't know me, so let me introduce myself. My name is Aaron Barnes. I am an inmate at the Bridgeport Correctional Facility. The Lord is my Savior. I love Him with all my heart. I was raised in church all my life, but chose to disobey God and walk after the flesh. Never being in trouble a day of my life before, I ended up in prison at the age of 39.

My world and my family's world crumbled in to a thousand pieces. I can attest God's Word is true. Whatever a man sows that will he also reap. God will not be mocked. I can also attest of His marvelous grace, mercy, willingness to forgive and that He will never leave you nor forsake you. He has shown Himself faithful over and over again.

Edwin Louis Cole penned a phrase that rings so true to me "The torment of the temptation to sin is nothing compared to the consequences of sin." That is so true.

The reason for this letter is just to say thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord in reaching out to men and women behind bars. Let me fill you in on how I came across your name.

I have been sharing the gospel with a fellow inmate Dan M. He has opened his heart to the things of God. He had even learned a few scriptures. He is growing in the Lord and I am so blessed that the Lord is allowing me to be a very small part in his growth. I may have planted and watered by God is the One giving the increase. Dean's bible had real small print. Dean is no spring chicken no more, so he had a hard time reading the small print. He wanted a Bible of his own with large print. He wanted to mark in it the scriptures that he had memorized and mark scriptures that seemed to jump out at him. I am so excited to watch his walk with the Lord and the change the Lord has brought about.

I was planning to ask my wife, if she could purchase Dean a bible or locate him one, but before I could ask my wife, Dean told me that "This lady is supposed to send me a bible, if I will write and ask her for one." He mailed you his request. He had me look at your letter pointing to where you wrote that you received his letter and would be ordering his bible tonight.

I finished reading your letter. I was astonished that you had taken the time to write him and that it was not just a form letter. But more than that, I was astonished what you had said in the letter. You wrote "Great will be your blessing if you have diligent, daily study. If you don't do this, you might as well give it away. For Jesus said. If you are lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth" You spoke the truth. What you wrote was confirmation for us. We had been talking about the same thing. Thank you for writing Dean and getting him a Bible. May God bless you and Chief Ministries 100 fold. May He keep you in good health.

You are special to us. You are extra special to the Lord. What you do is not in vain. Please don't grow weary in sowing the seed. Can we even imagine God starting a fire in the prison spreading across this great nation?

Your Brother in Christ
Aaron Barnes