



September 2015

Dear Supporters, Volunteers, Counselors, and Friends of Life's Key Ministry,

Last month I highlighted some numbers showing the fact that the United States has a much higher rate of incarceration based on population than any other country in the world. Many showed interest in that, so I dug a bit deeper and found some more information. The American approach to crime is very distinctive. In other countries, crimes that range from writing bad checks to using drugs do not produce prison sentences. Also, criminologists and legal scholars in other industrialized countries say they are mystified by the number and length of American prison sentences. Americans are kept behind bars for far longer than prisoners in other nations.

There were a couple of interesting quotes on the subject that I found in a NY Times article from 2008. "Prison sentences have become vastly harsher than in any other country to which the United States would ordinarily be compared." Also, "The American incarceration rate has made the United States a rouge state, a country that has made a decision not to follow what is a normal Western approach." In fact, violent crime in the US has dropped by over 50% in the last 20 years, yet the prison population continues to grow rapidly.

While having more people behind bars creates more chances for us to share God's word, in a way it makes it more difficult since a high percentage are released after a short time and do not give us a home address. In many cases, we only have a short window of opportunity to catch their interest. Please keep us in your prayers as we strive to make the best use of our time and efforts to do just that!

"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." - Ephesians 5:15-17

"Please send additional bible study courses for my use and completion. They are wonderful! They are extremely informative and fun to do. I want to thank your organization for your mission to help individuals learn the Good News. I think it's fantastic that somebody actually takes time to grade the exams, write responses, and show encouragement. It shows caring and love." - John (Pennsylvania)

"I am a born again Christian and I do believe Jesus Christ died for our sins, was resurrected, and now sits at the right hand of God. My life has changed and I am a new creation. I have been incarcerated since 12-28-12 and my release is 1-16-16. This is the most incredible, gracious, and blessed learning incarcerated experience and I would not trade this experience for nothing in the world. God has transformed me and I am a new creation as it says in Romans 12:1-2. I know it in my heart!" - Leroy (Virginia)

"Thank you very much for the birthday postcard. You are the only one that even remembered my birthday." - Samuel (Ohio)

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