

## A Message of Hope – Prison Ministry

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### “Forget What Lies Behind” by Darius Huntington

#### Philippians 3:13-14

**“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”**

Are you determined to forget what lies behind? I know many people don't fully understand what it means to forget the past. They wonder, “How can I forget something that's happened to me?” But one definition of the word forget is to disregard intentionally or to overlook. See, you have to intentionally disregard your past so that it doesn't keep you from moving forward. That means the good and bad. Sometimes our past victories keep us from rising higher as much as past failures. If we don't let go of the old, we'll never be able to embrace the new.

Remember, it doesn't matter what's happened in your history, it's time to forget what lies behind. Make the choice today to press forward. Trust that God has a better future in store for you. Trust that He's working behind the scenes on your behalf. As you intentionally disregard what lies behind and press forward I believe God will pour out His favor, grace and blessing upon you and lead you into the abundance He has prepared for you.

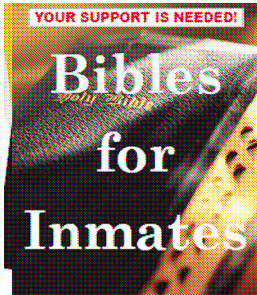
#### A Prayer for Today:

**Father in heaven, I choose to forget the past today. I don't want anything to hold me back from the future you have prepared for me. I choose forgiveness and ask that you help me, by your Spirit, to press forward in every area of my life. In Jesus' name...Amen.**

### Quarterly Scripture Focus:

#### Isaiah 61:1-3

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”



## Bibles for Inmates – Donations accepted Memorial Day through Labor Day

There is currently a **great need for Bibles** for all those seeking a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of His Word. God's Kingdom is growing inside the walls of Macomb Correctional Facility, as is the need for Bibles for use in a classroom setting. (Prior to donating, please remove any personal information.)

If you have any **new or used Bibles**, especially "Study Bibles", that you would be willing to donate, please help by dropping them off at one of the locations listed below or by mailing them to the address below. The Bibles can be delivered to:

**Chaplain Sheerer  
Macomb Correctional  
Facility  
34625 26 Mile Road  
New Haven, MI 48048**

### Drop Off Sites for Donations:

**Bethany Baptist Church**  
19700 15 Mile Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48035

**Church of Christ Care  
Center – Chaplain Roy  
Wolfe**  
23601 15 Mile Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48035

**Clinton Township Senior  
Center**  
40730 Romeo Plank  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

### FACTS:

Macomb  
Correctional  
Facility = MRF

Houses only  
males

Capacity: 1416

Levels I, II, IV

### An update - "The James Group"



The James Group meets every other Wednesday at MRF with Level II from 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

As of Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> a new James Group class began for Level IV (Maximum Security). They meet every other Wednesday from 5:35-6:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this program please contact Kyle.

## Words of Gratitude

A special thank you to Janet Reed for her dedication and commitment to the prison ministry. She has been acquiring Bibles and other study material for our brothers at MRF. Due to Janet's love and support, this ministry has blossomed into a County wide Bible drive.

A special thank you as well to Susie Donaldson for her compassion and generosity.

A special thank you to Linda Badamo, Director of Clinton Township Cable Television, for her expertise, support, and

loving service in organizing and implementing the "Bibles for Inmates" drive.

A special thank you to Matt Makowski and Debbie McClellan, Director and Assistant Director of the Clinton Township Senior Adult Life Center for their support and encouragement.

Thank you to each of you for being such a blessing to us and to our brothers at MRF. May God bless you all!!

## Upcoming – Angel Tree

We have partnered with a national prison ministry program called Prison Fellowship that is very active at MRF.

One of the programs they offer is called **Angel Tree.**

The **Angel Tree** program connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts.

In most cases, local church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the Gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent.



More info to follow!

*"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."  
Matthew 9:37*

## Get Involved!

If you would like to get involved in serving the LORD through this ministry you can do so through:

- Prayer
- Fasting
- Encouragement
- Donations
- Volunteerism

**ROSEVILLE  
CHURCH of CHRIST**  
17415 Eleven Mile Rd  
Roseville, MI 48066

**Website address:**  
www.rosevillecoc.org

**Interested in receiving  
our quarterly newsletter  
via email?**

**Send your request to:**  
murphy\_k@live.com



*Donations* would be greatly appreciated to be used towards the purchase of *workbooks, brochures, newsletters and handouts.*

Other supplies needed (unopened items only please):

*Sugar, foam cups, coffee creamer, instant coffee, plastic spoons, freezer bags*

### Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact us via email if you are interested if finding out more about the prison ministry or if you are interesting in getting involved.

**Kyle Murphy**

**Email:**  
murphy\_k@live.com



MESSAGE OF HOPE  
PO BOX 221  
WASHINGTON, MI 48094

