



# Berean Prison Ministries

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Dear Friends,

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.  
Psalms 95: 1-2

As the Berean Prison Ministries Board looks back on the past year we humbly acknowledge that we serve a great God who has given us many reasons to come before Him with praise and thanksgiving. He has given our volunteers in the prisons and jails many opportunities to speak to those who are going through very difficult times in their lives about a loving Father who desires for them to seek Him with all of their heart, and when they come to know His Son, a Father who removes their sins from them as far as the East is from the West. We have been blessed to see the lives of many men and women changed that previously felt hopeless, and who the legal system, society and many times their families, had given up on. Many times we see people in the worst circumstances of their lives find a peace and joy that only comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. As you meet a Berean volunteer ask him or her to tell you about some of the people they have seen God draw to himself.

Recently one of our volunteers met an individual on the outside who had found Christ in jail who told him, "you kept telling us to find a good church when we get out, but I have not found one as good as the one in jail." While we acknowledge that there are many Bible teaching churches that would welcome such individuals to worship with them, it brought a smile to my face to be reminded of the love and fellowship this man and many inmates receive while they are incarcerated.

While we are thankful for what God has done through the prison ministry in the past, we are excited to see what He will do in the future. Please pray for us as we look to expand the ministry into other prisons and jails in the U.S. and possibly other countries in Eastern Europe. Please also look for our next newsletter which will highlight our work in the jails and prisons in Florida.

Berean has approximately 350 committed volunteers in the U.S., Romania and Russia who serve in the jails and prisons without looking for or receiving recognition. Each of these volunteers unselfishly gives of their time. I want to give you an example of one individual who characterizes the unselfish nature of our volunteers: Baboi Marian lives in a village in Romania with his wife and two children. He works as a security guard at night, and without a car (he hitchhikes or takes a bus) he holds regular church services in five Romanian prisons during the day. Many inmates have found Christ through his efforts. Berean has approximately 50 volunteers in Romania and most need financial assistance just to be able to travel to the 23 prisons in which they serve. In fact, Berean Prison Ministries sends approximately \$3,000 per month just to help with expenses for the one full time volunteer and to provide transportation for many others.

Our free Bible program and Bible study course has suffered some this past year. Previously we sent a very nice Bible to inmates that cost about \$8.00 to purchase and \$3.72 for postage to send. The postage costs for someone to complete all 150 of our Bible study lessons is \$38.22. We previously sent approximately 2,000 Bibles per month to inmates who wrote to request a Bible and graded approximately 20,000 Bible studies per month. In an effort to reduce our costs we started using a paper cover Bible which did not hold up well and was not received as well by the inmates. We are going back to using a little nicer Bible which will cost Berean \$6.99 each or \$139.80 for a case of 20.

Would you please consider a year end gift to Berean Prison Ministries? We know that there are many worthwhile organizations that are seeking your support, and gifts of any amount are appreciated and all will be used to expand God's kingdom. However, if you are able to do so, a gift of \$3,000 will allow the ministry to continue for a month in 23 Romanian prisons; a gift of \$139.80 will purchase a case of 20 Bibles to be distributed to inmates in the U.S. and a gift of \$41.57 will cover the postage costs for one inmate to receive a Bible and participate in all 150 Bible lessons.

Thank you for your continued prayers for this ministry and for your financial support.

In His name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Hoerr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "H".

Ken Hoerr, Board Chairman