

# INTERNATIONAL *Bible* ASSOCIATION

Originally Founded as: *The VOICE of MIRACLES & MISSIONS*



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A Non-Profit Church/Missionary Organization Dedicated to Providing the Pure Word of God Unchanged to All People  
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*“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”* (Galatians 6:9-10)

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Brother Skinner must confess that at times here in the ministry I become weary. Yes, I am as human as any and during these last few months it has been difficult. With the 35,000 Digest mailing and then dealing with all the returns because of people relocating or requesting to be removed, I become discouraged. With the cost (\$10,000) to mail the digest every two months and then with the charge (0.59) for returned issues arriving for weeks after into the next mailing, I find myself very human. Saturday, a week ago, I received 150 returns mostly were prisoners. I am able to use the computer to check to see if prisoners have been released or have been moved to another location which takes much time. As I was checking through these returns, I found many relocated (moved), two who were on Death Row. There were fifteen sentenced to Life; one Life without Parole. It would have been easy to just delete all 150 from the mailing list and not to bother with checking the reason the Digest was returned. While using my weekend to check these returns, I felt ashamed to have even considered neglecting my duty here at IBA. *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”* Payment does not arrive until God’s due season which many times arrives for family members or others rather than the current laborer! *“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”* (Psalms 37:25) God is faithful if we faint not! Our reward is with Him!

We have mailed out some 12,000 Prison Packets and currently have over 10,000 available to be mailed “if we faint not!” Approximately 6,000 prisoners (12 on Death Row) who have received the Bible Packet are still incarcerated and receiving *Miracles & Missions Digest* to this date. New requests arrive daily and no one is turned away if it is their first request and their prison allows them to receive it. The postage for each packet is currently \$4.16. Of the 35,000 recipients who receive *Miracles & Missions Digest* each mailing free of charge, 312, of whom 7 were prisoners (3 serving Life sentences), contributed towards this ministry in 2017 which also supports the mission work in Madagascar. Please pray for Rosario, Liliana, David, Corey, Charles, Richard, and Roger in Texas, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Arizona prisons. Pray for their families and that I may remain dedicated and not faint in this evil world!

*You are one of the 312 contributors,*

*Thank you*

*Jack M. Skinner*

# Do convicted criminals deserve a second chance? One man's incredible story offers a clue!

by Paula White-Cain

(selected)



## Shon Hopwood

Hopwood was a 21-year-old shoveling cow manure in rural Nebraska when his friend suggested, over drinks, that they rob a bank. Seeking excitement and easy money, Hopwood agreed.

Over 10 months, Hopwood stole \$150,000 from five small-town banks. His crime spree came to a halt in July 1998 when the FBI

arrested him and discovered his ill-gotten gains in his car. He served 11 years in a federal prison.

In prison, Hopwood discovered small graces that gradually awakened his faith. He took a job in the prison law library, where he began to read and teach himself the law. He eventually became a “jailhouse lawyer,” taking on the cases of his fellow prisoners. Remarkably, two of his petitions were granted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The other people in Hopwood’s life did not give up on him. Annie, his secret crush from high school, began sending him letters, and the two developed a close relationship. His parents continued to pray for him and send him Christian books.

After Hopwood’s release in 2009, he found a job helping attorneys with their Supreme Court briefs. He married Annie and the two were baptized together. Surrendering to God’s grace was, in his words, the “most important decision of my life.”

Hopwood continued to pursue his passion and gained admittance to law school. Today he is a professor at Georgetown University Law Center – one of the most prestigious law schools in the country – and an advocate for criminal justice reform.

Hopwood’s remarkable story shows that even repeat offenders are capable of redemption and making great contributions to society. It also demonstrates the importance of extending second chances – not just by the faith community, but by family, friends, employers and the wider community.

The 2.3 million prisoners in America are each capable of redemption, but they cannot achieve it alone. We must each ask ourselves: What can I do to extend a second chance to a soul seeking atonement?

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Two who were on Death Row; fifteen in for Life; one Life without Parole; Seven prisoners contributed towards this ministry in 2017. And such were some (all) of us! *“Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.”* (Isaiah 51:1)

*“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: BUT ye are washed, BUT ye are sanctified, BUT ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

APR 30 2018  
 To Whom it may Concern:

Good morning,

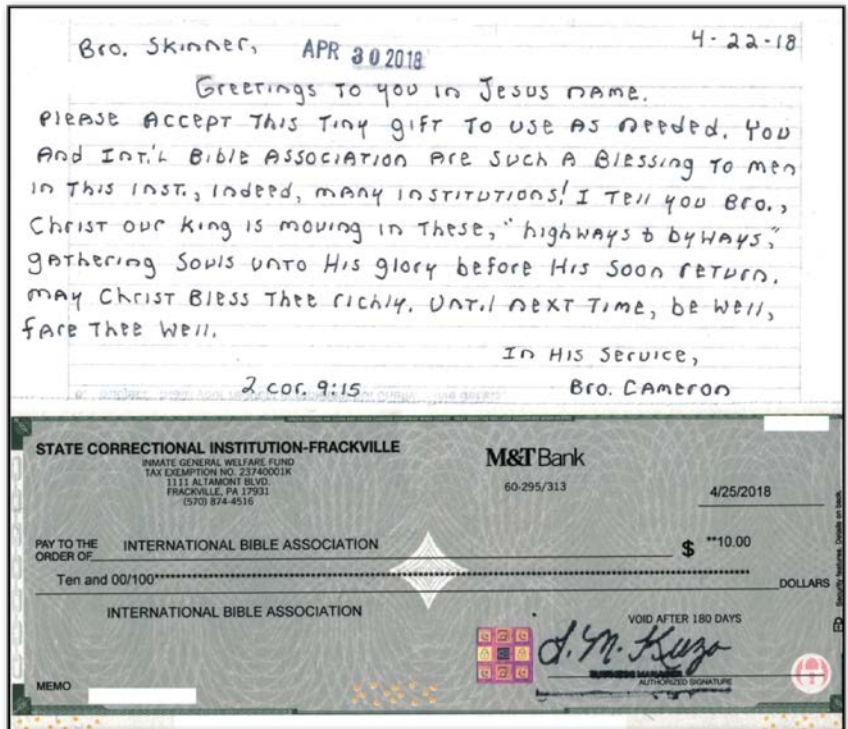
My name is A H, I'm currently incarcerated in FL Department of Corrections. While attending Church Service another inmate showed me a Bible that he received, I just have to have one. I grew up on the KJV in Holiness Pentecostal Church. After looking through his New Bible he gave me this Address to write so that I could possibly get my own Bible. So if its not to much to ask can I please get a Large Print KJV Ref Bible. I'm currently Service 90 years and I just getting started, I would greatly appreciate your time and efforts. Thank you Sincerely A H  
 God Bless

The day after finishing the May Thank You Letter I received these two letters in the mail; one from a man starting a 99 year prison sentence in Florida and one contribution form a prisoner in the state of Pennsylvania.

Please pray for all who labor in the ministry in these difficult days we now live in. It is so easy to become critical of others but we should become more compassionate offering a helping hand. I myself need to humble myself to walk with God and to become more like He has shown us.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:4-9)*

Thank you for being a light to the lost that are shrouded by darkness and held captive by the enemy of all humanity. We can together shine the Light of the Glorious Gospel to those who believe there is no hope; those whose family and friends have forsaken them because of their evil deeds. God's Great Grace has no boundaries! *“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” (Psalms 119:130)* *“But Paul cried (in prison) with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.” (Acts 16:28)*



There is a fountain filled with blood. Drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains: *“and how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

6,000 prisoners receive Miracles & Missions Digest because you care and share! Thank you!

*“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*

**Hello Brother Skinner, (April 2018 letter from Madagascar)**

**Praise the Lord! I hope this mail finds you in good health. We are all fine by the help of the Lord. We have only been busy recently.**

**Every Saturday (worker’s meeting) I share Brother and Sister Daoud’s articles to our congregation. By the Grace of God we pray that the Lord turn us unto Him and we shall be turned and we eagerly pray that He renew our days as of old, Amen! ( Lamentations 5:21)**

**Our April Solemn Assembly was really blessed with the presence of the Lord. It was a good occasion for some pastors to preach the Word. Some Brothers and Sisters testify of the Lord's grace on their lives. We prayed one for another and we didn't forget to pray for Brother Skinner and our friends in the States.**

**We love you Brother Skinner and pray the Lord to always give you wisdom and strength.**

**The Lord bless you! Brother Joro.**



**Main Sanctuary**



**First Overflow**



**Second Overflow  
out into the street**

**April 2018**

Thank you,  
Brothers and Sisters for your contributions to prisoners behind bars and to our mission work in Madagascar; where in both locations souls are receiving the Word of God that can set them free from sin!



IBA is supplying the funds to purchase lands, construct and repair churches which total over 300 to date. They have need of a larger main church as can be seen. The cost of property is quite expensive in this impoverished island.

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)*