

## What is Life?

Life – what is it? To be alive? To be free? Is it simply consciousness? What does being alive mean to you? You could probably ask 100 people and get 100 different answers.

In John 6, Jesus engaged in some hard teaching that caused many people who were following Him to turn away and go home. Jesus turned to His disciples and asked them, “Will you also go away?” Peter answered, “Where should we go? You have the words of eternal life!”

Jesus has the words that give life. And not just life, but eternal life! No matter what “being alive” means to you, or how much you cherish your life, eternal life is unequivocally of greater importance. Jesus’ words are the only words that can give eternal life to a person who is bound for death and eternal separation.

But the “words of eternal life” are not just about getting saved. They are about maintaining a walk with Jesus, living a life of discipleship, and striving to be more like Him every day. I believe that Peter understood this concept as well. We see him maintaining a faithful walk with Jesus to the end of his life, receiving that “crown of life.”

These words of eternal life are what we seek to share through the vehicle of Loaves and Fishes. There are millions incarcerated in the US, and some of them have come to know Jesus since they have been imprisoned. We

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strive to give them Jesus’ words of life in a way that helps them to become better disciples of the Master Teacher. For example, in issue 52 that is currently being distributed, there is teaching on nonresistance and having a vision for our finances.

Those of us that are on the outside have many ways to access these words of eternal life. We have multiple Bibles in our possessions, we can attend the church of our choosing, we can listen to upbuilding content from any number of channels. But in prison, it is hard to find resources that teach continued discipleship. Your support in distributing the magazine, persevering in prayer, donating funds, and volunteering helps us to fulfill our mission of providing “Discipleship Resources for People in Prison.”

God bless you for helping those in prison stay close to the One that has the words of eternal life!

—Wendell Martin, Board Chairman



## Marketing Efforts

In our June newsletter, we made you aware of a new barrier to distributing Loaves & Fishes in some prisons. The switching of inmate communications to all-electronic formats means that printed materials can no longer be sent to these particular facilities.

This comes at a time when we have been unusually blessed with financial support for our work. As a result, we have for the first time been able to expend resources on marketing the magazine. Our office staff have been working to create state-by-state lists of federal, state, and local prisons, and are creating sample packets including

an introductory letter and a sample issue of the magazine.

Using these lists, we are sending these packets to chaplains at these institutions. This has had immediate results, and some of you are receiving this newsletter for the first time as a result of being a bulk distributor of Loaves & Fishes. We welcome you, and we are delighted to provide you with our materials free of charge.

Our donors and supporters enable our work, and we are grateful to them for their financial support, prayers, and volunteer work at our facility.

—Mike Fisher, Manager of Operations

## Current Publishing Status

Issue 52 was shipped in July. The total project cost, including printing, shipping, and production was approximately \$30,000. For approximately 70,000 copies, the cost per magazine was about 43¢.



We are currently compiling issue 53. The theme will be Christian discipleship, and we will address topics such as everyday obedience, needing others, following others, and being good examples, and the need for mentoring. For Christians in prison, there is an incredible need for follow-up teaching, and there is no end to the opportunity that Christian inmates have to provide encouragement and mentorship to others. We are excited to bring this topic to our readers.

Our available funds for the next issue are currently around \$22,000. This will cover our printing cost for issue 53, and by September, we hope to raise an additional \$10,000-12,000 to fully fund the shipping and other administrative expenses and get the issue out on time. Again, we are deeply grateful for the kindness of our donors.

—Mike Fisher, Manager of Operations



## Distributor Feedback

*(People who distribute in prisons)*

Our inmates look forward to receiving Loaves & Fishes more than any other literature I pass out.

—Rev. Edward Griffith, Whitwell, TN

## Reader Feedback

I have recently had some hardship in my life and was asking questions like, Why me? And, Does God really love me? I picked up an old copy of Loaves & Fishes. Man, was I so far off. I got on my knees and started praying and asking for His forgiveness yet again. You guys, along with our beloved God and King of the Universe, are truly saving lives, praise God. So I'd like to subscribe to your magazine, please.

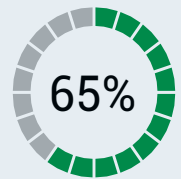
Your fellow Christian, —Michael Kelly



## Funding for Issue #53

Issue 53 Projected Cost: \$34,000

Current Funds on Hand: \$22,000



Lord willing, we anticipate mailing the next issue in September

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