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Crashing Into Faith: A Broken Man Made Whole

by L.C. Aggen

Growing up, Jason* enjoyed playing hockey and sledding with his three brothers. But despite the boys' bond, their home life was unstable. Jason's father, who struggled with alcoholism, first left the family when Jason was 6. Although Jason's parents stayed married for several years, his dad only popped in and out rarely, leaving Jason's mom to essentially raise the boys alone.

As a freshman in high school, Jason got his girlfriend pregnant. Then, a year later, he dropped out of school. When Jason was 16, his friends invited him to try drugs. Soon, he was addicted to meth, which resulted in some bad decisions and criminal behaviors—and eventually a drug-related arrest.

The first time Jason was released, he was rearrested within 16 hours on new charges. The cycle



Photo by Prison Fellowship

During a drug bust, Jason fled the police, taking them on a high-speed chase. It ended in a car crash that left him paralyzed. He felt hopeless when he entered prison in a wheelchair. But God had bigger plans for him.

of incarceration and release continued over the next few years. His actions put a strain on his relationships with family members.

"I was dead set on being the way I was. Nothing was going to change me," he says.

Between prison stints, Jason arranged

for the sale of some pills at a motel. Before he could leave the motel parking lot, three police cars pulled in behind him. Jason was desperate to stay out of prison. When officers approached, he flung the car into gear and sped off, hitting an officer's car in the process.

Then, while going 92 miles an hour, Jason sideswiped two cars and hit a tree.

He doesn't remember much after that. He woke up in a hospital room nine days later. He was all alone—no family or friends came to his side. And he was in rough shape; his broken back required 72 staples.

"Here I was, three quarters of the way dead, paralyzed, laying in a hospital bed and all alone," he says. "That spoke volumes to me as to just how bad I had messed up."

He knew he needed to change but wasn't sure what that would look like.

A miraculous recovery

Jason entered prison for the eighth time, but this time, he entered in a wheelchair. Stuck in a disability cell all by himself, he called out to God.

"God, if this is all I have, I can't do it!" he cried out. "There has to be more. Get me out of this chair so I can get out of this room. Let me do something different."

God answered his call.

Through hard work and prayer, Jason stood up from his wheelchair. Though he still struggled physically, he used a walker to get around. That mobility allowed him to move into the unit that housed the Prison Fellowship® Academy—a yearlong, biblically based intensive program of transformation.

When he started the Academy, Jason resisted change. He turned his desk to face the back of the classroom, away from the Academy manager. But the Academy manager didn't give up on Jason.

Continued on page 2

5 Tips To Help Manage Wintertime Blues

by L.C. Aggen

Have you ever felt excessively sad during the cold-weather months? Those winter blues could be from the drabness of bare trees and brown grass, the overcast skies, or disconnection from

loved ones around the holidays. Or they could be from seasonal affective disorder (SAD)—a clinical depression that occurs in late fall and winter months when the body struggles to adjust to shorter days.

Each year, approximately 10 million people experience SAD, with symptoms such

as extreme fatigue, depression, irritability, change in appetite or sleeping habits, and increased anxiety. SAD is more common in people with a family history of depression, females, and those living in regions with less sunlight.

Continued on page 5



Thithawat.s: CHBD

Letters to the Editor

Ronald in California

I would like to get your calendar and both of the recovery Bibles and large-print books.

Dear Ronald:

For our free large-print Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible and workbook, please see our ad below. As for a calendar, see page 7 of this newspaper. If your facility runs out, you could ask your chaplain to visit the Storehouse at

prisonfellowship.org/storehouse for additional copies. The Storehouse offers free shipments of the past few Inside Journal editions (while supplies last).

Jermaine in California

I recently moved to [a new facility], and I am requesting both the large-print Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible and the workbook. ... Many prisoners are thirsty for the Word. I can assure you I will

spread the word about a wonderful ministry that doesn't mind giving free Bibles and workbooks. Please keep me and my family in your prayers. ... Pray for us prisoners for love, deliverance, and freedom. I will also request recent newspapers and request my chaplain to subscribe if possible.

Dear Jermaine:

It's inspiring that you want to spread the Gospel. God bless you in your new facility! For a list of all free Bibles, books, devotionals, and publications we offer, ask your chaplain to visit the Storehouse at prisonfellowship.org/storehouse. Individual subscriptions for this

newspaper are not available, but through the Storehouse, chaplains may subscribe to all future editions or request past editions—all for free.

Jackson in Virginia

[I'm currently in a recovery program after an overdose.] Drugs and alcohol have been my thing since I was in grade school—I've never dealt with life on life's terms without them. It scares me to face reality without that cushion, but I know I can't keep doing this. I want to give it a real shot. ... I stay in constant prayer and study the Bible. But I'm alone physically, so I can't get any insight or ask questions when I get stuck. I've been praying to God to give me some

clear answers, and I got the Spring 2025 edition of Inside Journal from the chaplain. I figured I should write and ask for any help. Please send me anything you'd recommend.

Dear Jackson:

Recovery is hard work—how wonderful that you are leaning on the Lord for His help! You have the right attitude, so stay in prayer and the Word, try to attend any in-prison recovery programs or reach out to others on your same journey, and read any recovery books available to you. Time is key: A recovery expert we interviewed reported that after 18 months without a relapse, two-thirds of people will stay clean. Keep the faith and never give up!

Sincerely,
The Editorial Staff ■

NEED A BIBLE?

Get a free Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible!

NOW WITH A WORKBOOK!

WRITE TO:

Tyndale House Publishers
Attn: Inside Journal Bible
351 Executive Drive
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Include this information to make sure your Bible or Workbook gets delivered:

- ✓ Your complete name and prison ID number
- ✓ Your facility name
- ✓ Your facility address for prisoner parcel delivery
- ✓ Whether you want English or Spanish*

*Bibles and Workbooks are available in English or Spanish. You can order a Bible and Workbook together, or separately. Limit one order per person.



Crashing Into Faith
Continued from page 1

Eventually, Jason stopped turning his desk around and started paying attention to the lessons. One day, Jason volunteered to read. From that moment on, he participated actively.

"It was so subtle," Jason says. "At the beginning, just reading those little passages ... I don't know how it took ahold of me, but it did. I promise you it did. Jesus got inside of [my heart], and He completely changed me from the inside out."

Before participating in the Academy, Jason had unsuccessfully tried different rehabilitative programs. But one key difference made the Academy stand out from other programs: the Academy manager had been incarcerated previously.

A second chance at life

Jason was released just before completing the Academy, but the lessons stayed with him. Though he could now walk, he still struggled with obesity

and pain. He applied for disability and accepted work taking attendance at the halfway house where he lived.

A few months later, Jason learned about a position at a coffee shop where the owners were open to second-chance hiring. Jason got the job.

He moved out of his halfway house and into a sober living house, where residents were required to attend Celebrate Recovery meetings offsite. When Jason boarded the bus for his Celebrate Recovery meeting, he instantly recognized the bus driver as a friend from two previous prison sentences.

"I feel like that was a God moment," Jason says. "[God] put all the right people in there, all the right places for when I got out for things to work out."

Since then, Jason has stepped into various leadership positions for Celebrate Recovery and loves helping others find freedom, too.

Upon release, Jason started attending church

with his grandmother. His first Sunday there, he ran into the Academy manager and another volunteer from the Academy. He took it as a sign that he was in the right church.

Today, Jason's relationships with his brothers and parents have been restored. After Jason's accident, no one reached out. Now, if Jason's brother is having a bad day, the first person he calls is Jason.

Jason continues to heal physically, as well. He is now 100 pounds lighter than the day he left prison, and he can walk, run, and jump.

"[Before], I was an ignorant racist. And I spent my entire life incarcerated and hating other people for nothing," Jason says. "And today I get to walk the streets in freedom provided by Jesus Christ, and I get to love people regardless of their color, race, religion, no matter where they've been or what they've done." ■

*Names changed for privacy.

The Art of the Apology

by M. Ignas

Like most people, I've had to apologize plenty of times, whether for deliberately using hurtful words or for an honest mistake.

One summer, I spent two months unknowingly irritating a roommate with my disorganized living habits. When she couldn't take it anymore, she angrily confronted me. I avoided her for a week straight after that—in an effort to hurt her as much as she had hurt me.

When summer ended, I wanted to move out, move on, and pretend nothing happened. But she sat me down to try to make up. After a heartfelt talk, we both apologized and forgave each other.

But what if we hadn't apologized? Couldn't we have forgiven each other without talking about it? What difference do apologies make if they can't undo your actions, anyway?

To answer these questions, think of a time when someone hurt you and didn't apologize. A parent who missed an important event and didn't explain why. A friend who was rude but wouldn't admit it. A significant other who lied and never owned up to it. The lack of an apology probably only added to your pain.

Apologies don't undo our actions, but they do show we care about how we hurt the other person. They're the first step in mending the relationship. Hearing someone say "I'm so sorry" can make even the most stubborn person's ears perk up. A genuine apology goes a long way.

It's important to explore what apologies are and aren't. True apologies are honest and heartfelt—they're not manipulation tools to get what you want. True apologies are reserved for when you have actually done something wrong. Someone may try to blame you for their own behaviors or shame you into apologizing when you're not ready. Saying sorry when you don't mean it or apologizing for something that isn't your fault can be unhealthy.

Apologies aren't just helpful. They're commanded by God. In Matthew 5:23–24, Jesus instructs us to apologize to others even before we do so to Him:

"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."

In other words, God knows that how we treat others reflects our heart and attitude toward Him. If we can't respect the men and women He created, an apology to Him won't mean much.

If you struggle with apologizing, you're not alone. Just look at 2 Samuel 11. In this chapter, King David lusts after a woman named Bathsheba while her husband, Uriah, is off in battle. David brings Bathsheba to the palace to be intimate with him, and she becomes pregnant with his child. When David finds out, he tries to make it seem like Uriah is the father of the baby.



Alla Morozova: Getty Images

But when that doesn't work, David sends Uriah to die in the front lines of battle and claims Bathsheba as his wife.

Later on, thanks to a prophet and a story about sheep, David finally realizes the evil he has done. When he apologizes, he does so genuinely.

A man named Ken Sande, Founder of Peacemaker Ministries, created the "Seven A's of Biblical Confession," which might be helpful guidelines if you're struggling to apologize. They are:

- **Address everyone involved.** Talk to anyone who was affected by your wrongdoing.
- **Avoid "if," "but," and "maybe."** Don't make excuses or say things like "I hurt you because you made me mad."
- **Admit specifically.** Instead of a general "sorry," list the specific things you did wrong.
- **Acknowledge the hurt.** Let the person know you feel bad about hurting them.
- **Accept the consequences.** You are responsible for your actions and should pay your dues. One consequence might be the long wait to regain someone's trust.
- **Alter your behavior.** Resolve to stop doing whatever caused the harm. Ask God for strength, and take advantage of programs that will help you change for the better.
- **Ask for forgiveness.** You might not receive it, but at least you took that first step.

Apologies don't need to be long and complex. They just need to be clear, honest, and respectful. If there's someone you have hurt but have not apologized to yet, don't waste time in doing so. You'll be walking in obedience to God. ■

WHERE DO YOU FALL ON THE 'SORRY' SCALE?

Is it hard to get past your pride and stubbornness to say you're sorry? Or on the flip side, do you apologize for every little thing or pretend to feel bad when you don't? The key to apologies is honesty and frequency. Sincere apologies should happen as often as mistakes do.

In Matthew 18:21–22, Peter asks Jesus, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" and Jesus replies, "Not seven times, but 70 times seven!" That's 490 times! Jesus didn't mean we should keep a tally or stop at 491; rather, He was suggesting that forgiveness does not have limits.

Apologizing is similar to forgiving in this context. With apologies, much like with forgiveness, there's no limit. Apologizing and forgiveness can restore relationships and lift the burden of shame, anger, and resentment. Apologies and forgiveness are both so freeing!

The next time you wrong someone, try an honest apology. Not sure where to even begin? Start with this simple prayer:

"Jesus, show me the times I've hurt others. Please remove any pride or insincerity that gets in the way of an honest apology. I confess my sins and ask Your forgiveness. Show me how to live for You. Amen."

To learn more about Jesus or to sign up for a free correspondence Bible study through one of our trusted partner organizations, write to us at "APOLOGIES," c/o Inside Journal, P.O. Box 1790, Ashburn, VA 20146-1790. For a free Bible or accompanying study guide/workbook, see our ad on page 2.

WHERE HOPE UNFOLDS

The Crossroads mentorship program offers more than a dozen Bible study courses, each with up to twelve lessons. Courses are designed to help you learn about God and how to follow Him. To join the Crossroads mentorship program, please fill out the attached enrollment form. Before returning the form, please check if your facility accepts physical mail from Crossroads.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Crossroads sends you a Bible study lesson.
2. You complete the lesson and mail it back.
3. Crossroads mails you the next lesson and forwards your completed lesson to a volunteer mentor.
4. As you begin your next lesson, the mentor will review your completed lesson and return it with an encouraging letter.



When you have completed this form, please return it to Crossroads and we will send you your first Bible study lesson.

Name: _____

ID #: _____

Date of Birth: MM DD YYYY Gender: _____

Earliest Release Date: MM DD YYYY Referred by: PF

Complete Mailing Address: _____ Prefiero el curso en español: ☐

Institution _____ Housing _____

Street or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

STUDENT COMMITMENT

I will finish each lesson in a timely manner and will, with the help of my mentor, complete each course I start. I agree that Crossroads may use my submissions (including my picture, testimony, writings, and artwork) for promotional purposes or to further its mission. Crossroads will credit my work using only my first name, unless I give permission to use my full name.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Crossroads offers its courses free of charge.



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PRISON MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 900, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49509-9944



READER RECIPES

Double Layer M&M Cheesecake

Submitted by Charles in Texas

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pack vanilla cream cookies
- 2 hot pot lids (approximately 6 teaspoons) hot cocoa mix
- 1 packet regular oatmeal
- 2 cream cheese packets
- 1 bag peanut M&M's
- 1 Chick-O-Stick (peanut butter and toasted coconut candy)
- Splash of milk

DIRECTIONS:

Take tops off the cookies and scrape out the inner layer of cream, placing it into a bowl. Set aside. In a second bowl, crush outer layers of cookies into dust; add ten tablespoons of water and mix together to make dough. Press against the bowl like a pie crust. In a third bowl, mix hot cocoa mix, oatmeal, and three tablespoons of water until well blended. Add this mixture to the pie crust, forming a second layer of crust. In the cookie cream bowl, mix in cream cheese and milk. Stir into a batter; then add to the crust bowl as a third layer. Place peanut M&Ms and crushed Chick-O-Sticks on top. Let set (probably 30 minutes). Enjoy!



PeterHermesFurian: Getty Images

Not all ingredients will be available at all facilities. Be sure to comply with your facility's rules and regulations whenever cooking. ■

RECOVERY CORNER

The Lord
is
GREATER
than the Giants
you face

Poniz: Getty Images

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Being released soon? Charles W. Colson Scholarship provides former prisoners with a Wheaton College education.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be a Christian
- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Have a felony record (felonies must NOT include a sexual offense, arson, or repeat violent offenses)

AWARD

- Undergraduate degree: Up to full tuition, room & board
- Graduate degree: Tuition for a Master of Arts

Questions? Call 630.752.5727 or email cmi@wheaton.edu.

To get more tips and tools for a successful release, ask your chaplain (or other prison staff if you don't have a chaplain) to visit prisonfellowship.org/storehouse to order the free Inside Journal Reentry specialty edition.

Wheaton College is an explicitly Christian and academically rigorous college in Illinois that offers more than 40 undergraduate degrees and 18 graduate degrees. Visit wheaton.edu for more information.

Some symptoms of SAD might mimic common emotions experienced in a prison environment. But whether you’re experiencing SAD or just “prison blues,” here are some practices you can put in place that might help.*

1. Try to get good (and consistent) sleep.

Medical health professionals recommend going to bed and waking up around the same time each day whenever possible. Avoid oversleeping or napping too long. It’s not always easy to get good sleep behind bars, but some hacks can help: drinking warm milk or herbal tea, praying or meditating, journaling, or placing a pillow or sweatshirt over your head to block noise and light. Commissary items such as ear plugs, headphones,

and melatonin (or similar supplements) help some people, as well.

2. Go for daily walks.

Many people get less activity during winter. If possible, go for a walk outside at least once a day. Getting fresh air can help boost your mood. If you can’t go outside, try to incorporate activity into your daily routine. You can do situps, pushups, and jumping jacks in your cell. Keeping regular physical activity in your routine can help to regulate your emotions.

3. Connect with people.

Find a trusted friend on the inside or family member on the outside to share your struggles with. Calmly expressing your thoughts and feelings and giving a voice to what you are experiencing is a great way to process difficult emotions. Share encouraging

words with others, bringing positivity to your day. Discuss your depressed mood with a chaplain or your prison counselor. Talk to God through prayer or journal your feelings.

4. Participate in faith-based practices.

Having a healthy prayer life can change how you view your situation. Religious meetings or chapel services often involve peers and volunteers who are encouraging and nonjudgemental. Meditation and memorizing the Bible can also help reframe your mind to see what God is doing in the moment.

5. Stay committed to your recovery.

For those in addiction recovery, seasonal depression can increase the likelihood of relapse. Stay focused on your sobriety goals.

This could include putting up physical reminders of why you want to stay sober—like an encouraging quote, a personal note, a picture of your children, or a list of hopes and dreams. If you’re in a recovery program, make sure you stay active when you feel tired or unmotivated. Plan group activities like making Christmas cards or decorating your cell, if allowed. If you’re not in a recovery program, ask what options are available.

If you are experiencing wintertime depression, these tips can help you refocus your mind and improve your mood. And remember, better days—and warmer, sunnier seasons—are ahead.

*The information in this article is not a substitute for medical advice; see a doctor or your counselor if you have concerns or need help.

ACTIVITY
CRACK THE CODE:
WINTER WORDS

See the word SNOWFLAKE halfway down the page?

The number 7 equals the letter S, the number 15 equals the letter N, and so on.

Now using those nine letter and number answers already given to you, place the coordinating letters in their slots on the rest of the page.

Then try to figure out the rest of the words.

Answers on page 8.



Activity grid with numbers and letters for word cracking. Includes decorative snowflakes and a sleigh.

1	2	3	2	4	5	2	6			7	8	9	7	10	11	3	2								
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DAILY DEVOTIONAL TEAR-OUT

Tear out this daily devotional and start each morning and/or end each night saying it and praying over it. You’ll be amazed how a healthy spiritual habit like this can bring encouragement and focus to each day.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Submitted by Nathan in North Carolina

“Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.” —MICAHAH 7:8

During my ongoing process of trying to seek God daily, this verse has spoken to me. I have fallen many times throughout my life, but thankfully, by the grace given through my risen Savior, I can get back up each time. Despite having dwelt in darkness for years, the light that the Holy Spirit shines within me now brings me joy toward my eternal hope. It’s not always easy to walk in the light, but with Jesus as my rock and my strength, all I can do is lean on and into Him.

“Father, thank You for Your hand that helps me to rise, and for Your Son who brings me light. Please, God, use me to reflect that light to others. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

WRITERS WANTED! The above devotional was written by one of our readers. If you’d like to write a devotional for Prison Fellowship, please list a Bible verse, followed by a personal short story (2–4 paragraphs) that ties in to that verse, and end with a prayer or meditation on that verse or topic. Please add the line “I give Prison Fellowship my permission to publish my works.” Send it to “DEVOS,” c/o Inside Journal, P.O. Box 1790, Ashburn, VA 20146. Note: No previously published works allowed. Submissions may be edited for content. Only your first name and state will be used. Not all submissions will be chosen.

10 Commandments, Prison Style

Many currently or formerly incarcerated men and women have created various versions of a “10 Commandments, Prison Style” list, but those lists are often focused on self-protection, distrust of others, and power struggles. You can make the most of your time and still have integrity—thriving and not just surviving.

This “10 Commandments, Prison Style” list is in line with the actual 10 Commandments from the Bible (right).

- 1. Use this time to really learn who you are and why God created you.
- 2. Also use this time to recover from your addictions. Stop worshipping other people, status, fame, money, or earthly things.
- 3. Be mindful of how you speak. Your lips were made to praise God, not to put people down.
- 4. Care for your body (getting enough sleep, exercising, and eating well if possible) and carve out time to pray and meditate.
- 5. Honor your loved ones and remember the lessons you learned from positive role models in your youth.
- 6. Don’t harm others.
- 7. Don’t engage in sexual activity.
- 8. Don’t barter or steal people’s stuff.
- 9. Don’t lie or gossip.
- 10. Don’t be jealous of other people’s relationships or friendships, and don’t touch, mess with, or be jealous of other people’s possessions.



THE ORIGINAL 10 COMMANDMENTS, FROM EXODUS 20:

- 1. I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but Me.
- 2. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them.
- 3. You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- 4. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- 5. Honor your father and mother.
- 6. You must not murder.
- 7. You must not commit adultery.
- 8. You must not steal.
- 9. You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.
- 10. You must not covet your neighbor’s house, your neighbor’s wife ... or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

2026 CALENDAR

Let me hear of Your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting You. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to You. —Psalm 143:8

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 1 – New Year’s Day
JANUARY 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
FEBRUARY 14 – Valentine’s Day
FEBRUARY 16 – Presidents Day
APRIL 5 – Easter
MAY 10 – Mother’s Day
MAY 25 – Memorial Day
JUNE – Ask your chaplain for an Angel Tree participation form.

JUNE 21 – Father’s Day
JULY 4 – Independence Day
(observed Friday, July 3)
AUGUST – Don’t forget to submit your Angel Tree participation form.
SEPTEMBER 7 – Labor Day
NOVEMBER 11 – Veterans Day
NOVEMBER 26 – Thanksgiving Day
DECEMBER 25 – Christmas Day

IMPORTANT DATES:

NEWS + NOTES

by **S.C. Anthony**

Veterans Honored in Service Project

A Prison Fellowship Academy class at the Great Plains Correctional Center in Oklahoma recently honored and served veterans both behind bars and in the community. The men in the Academy signed 100 thank you cards that they then hand-delivered to incarcerated veterans on Veterans Day.

The men also signed cards for residents of the Clinton Veterans Home. The assisted living facility west of Oklahoma City houses nearly 150 veterans. The Academy staff had the special privilege of hand-delivering these thank-you notes on behalf of the incarcerated Academy class. These

staff members met a 97-year-old World War II vet named Bobby and a Vietnam War vet named Robert—who was especially emotional over this gesture, being formerly incarcerated himself.

“We would like to thank all the veterans out there,” the Academy manager said on behalf of the men. “Your sacrifice and the sacrifice of your families to ensure freedom for our country is greatly appreciated.”

Teamwork Brings Tables to Life

In California, a unique collaboration of three mission-driven organizations launched a new furniture collection with the goal of supporting people impacted by incarceration.

An architectural firm called “Designing Justice + Designing Spaces,” founded by architect and activist Deanna Van Buren, aims to end overincarceration by helping foster community, healing, and restoration. This organization has taken on past projects such as renovating a reentry home.

A second organization, Formr, gives disadvantaged communities and former prisoners a second chance while creating objects out of leftover material from construction projects. Together, these two organizations brainstormed ways to design furniture that would recycle discarded scraps and bring nature into homes as a sign of growth and transformation.

The result is a furniture line named Healing Forest Tables, which are the first of hopefully many pieces in “The Donation Collection.” Proceeds from the sale of these tables will benefit a third organization, A New Way of Life—which offers housing, support, and reentry assistance to formerly incarcerated women.

All three organizations feel strongly about these causes, and participants hope to support formerly incarcerated women while raising awareness of the need for second chances.

New Laws Impact Prisons

The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is taking steps to fully implement the First Step Act and Second Chance Act.

“This is the dawn of a new era,” BOP Director William Marshall III told the press.

The changes will allow some federal prisoners to be under home confinement for a significant part of their sentence. Where a person is placed will be determined by whether they have a place to live and whether they’re ready to reintegrate into their community.

The bureau says the changes are being made for a few reasons.

“By empowering the agency to release more people who are ready to return to society, we not only save taxpayer dollars; we strengthen families, ease overcrowding, and build safer communities,” Marshall said.

The Second Chance Act was signed into law by President Bush in 2008. The First Step Act was signed into law by President Trump in 2018. ■



JDownInk: Getty Images

NEW YEAR TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

90-Day Journal Challenge: Keep a prayer and gratitude journal, writing something (even a few short words) every morning or evening and listing the things God has done for you or things you’re grateful for.

90-Day Bible Challenge: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have 89 chapters. By reading one chapter a day, with one grace day, you can read all the Gospels before the next Inside Journal newspaper arrives (for an added challenge, also read two chapters a day from Acts to Revelation, for a total of three chapters a day, to read the entire New Testament in 90 days).

ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY:

1=D, 2=E, 3=C, 4=M, 5=B, 6=R, 7=S, 8=O, 9=L, 10=T, 11=I, 12=A, 13=H, 14=Y, 15=N, 16=W, 17=F, 18=G, 19=J, 20=U, 21=K



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THE OUTSTANDING CHAPLAIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

We asked readers to nominate their favorite chaplain for the Prison Fellowship® Outstanding Chaplain Award. Based on your nomination submissions, here is our next round of recipients:

Cliff Calanni (NY), Tom Caldwell (KY), Eric George (IN), Evelyn Kirk (NY), David Lothar (IN), Sheila Strickland (IN), Joseph Welch (SC)

The Outstanding Chaplain Award honors dedicated chaplains who faithfully and lovingly serve those behind bars. This ongoing award is given monthly. Mail your nomination to OCA, c/o Inside Journal, P.O. Box 1790, Ashburn, VA 20146-1790. Or email your nomination to chaplainresources@pfm.org. Be sure to include the name of the chaplain you want to honor, the name of their facility (including city and state), your name, and your personal story or paragraph about why this person should be recognized as outstanding.