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## Gone Fishing, Good News, a “Golden” Opportunity and Goody Bags

### Gone Fishing...

In our February 2007 newsletter, we noted that Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue had proposed **\$19 million** for a program called “Go Fish Georgia” to create “world-class resources” for fishing and boating enthusiasts. Despite state-wide budget cuts, an October 27, 2008, newspaper article reported that “work is set to begin this week on the **\$23 million** Go Fish Center down the road from Gov. Sonny Perdue’s home in Houston County.” That was just two months after HeartBound received the devastating news that *“due to budget restrictions, Chaplaincy services, including all facility chaplains, are being considered to be completely and permanently eliminated.”*

**Well, folks, we already have a “Go Fish Center” here in Georgia, and it’s called the Georgia prison system!** And thanks to you, we are equipping “fishers of men” – Georgia’s prison chaplains -- to share the Gospel with over 60,000 inmates in 37 state prisons. For the past five years, HeartBound has continually advocated for the restoration of full-time chaplains in every Georgia prison (which would cost a tenth of the price of the “Go Fish Georgia” initiative). But chaplaincy services are far from secure, and we are fighting hard to ensure that chaplains remain in our prisons.

The Department of Corrections has stated that all part-time prison chaplains may be “furloughed” in December (that’s a nice way of saying “terminated”). Investing in chaplaincy – not reducing chaplaincy – will clearly save our state money in the long term, but our state leaders just don’t seem to get it. Prison Fellowship President Mark Earley put it this way: *“Rehabilitation efforts are not luxuries. They are essential to public safety.”* There is no true rehabilitation without redemption, and chaplains are instruments for redemption. In a word, INMATES NEED CHAPLAINS!

We are asking you again to **contact Commissioner James Donald** at 404-656-6002 or [gdccommish@dcor.state.us](mailto:gdccommish@dcor.state.us) and **Governor Sonny Perdue** at 404-656-1776 or [Georgia.Governor@gov.state.ga.us](mailto:Georgia.Governor@gov.state.ga.us) and let them know that cutting chaplains would be contrary to public safety and the moral and financial well-being of our State. You can also help by **signing our on-line petition** at [www.gachaplains.org](http://www.gachaplains.org). Please let your voice be heard.

### Now Here’s Some Good News...

We recently received this bit of “good news” from one of our chaplains: *“While they are busy trying to rid the prisons of Chaplains, God is still working in them. Here at Frank Scott [State Prison], 23 men are waiting for baptism. Most of them are in their early 20's. God is still at work! And there is no plan or plans that prayers cannot shatter...The men here are anxiously looking forward to this day.”* Surely the angels are rejoicing!

### A Golden Opportunity

Please join us on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 2 p.m. for a “Gold Party” benefiting HeartBound Ministries. Instead of spending money, **you receive money** by trading in your old, unwanted, broken, or mismatched jewelry, fillings, and coins for cash. Best of all, 10% of the total amount of gold bought will go to HeartBound Ministries. And the average attendee leaves with \$300 to \$500! It only takes 10 minutes, so clean out your drawers and drop by Andrea Shelton’s at 3843 Wieuca Terrace, Atlanta 30342. We’re still \$40,000 away from our 2008 fundraising goal, so every little bit helps!

### It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

Plans are now underway to distribute thousands of Christmas bags containing hygiene, snacks and Christian literature to needy inmates. If you would like to help HeartBound pack and distribute bags within a prison, the distribution dates are:

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hays State Prison, Trion, GA @ 9 a.m. (2 hours north of Atlanta)
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – Walker State Prison, Rock Springs, GA @ 8 a.m. 2 hours north of Atlanta)
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Burruss Correctional Training Center, Forsyth, GA @ 10 a.m. (1 hr. south of Atlanta)
- December 11<sup>th</sup> – Ga. Diagnostic and Classification Prison, Jackson, GA @ 10 a.m. (45 minutes south of Atlanta)

Thank you for remembering those in prison. We are praying for you. - Andrea Shelton and the HeartBound Board.