

Dear Friends:

August 2004

"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his work in man's behalf." Psalm 66:5

Indeed the Lord has done awesome things on behalf of His children in prison through this ministry. In May, one of HeartBound's Board members, Martha Ray, was folding laundry at 11 p.m. while watching TBN. Little did she realize that she was about to become a part of God's incredible plan to share the gospel with thousands of Georgia inmates! As Martha folded laundry, she was mesmerized and amazed as she listened to Reverend James Henderson, "the world's strongest natural man," share his testimony on television. Reverend Henderson, who stands at 6'5", weighs 365 pounds and has 23-inch biceps, is the five-time world champion in bench press, having achieved the world record of naturally lifting 711 pounds. Most impressive was James' deep love of the Lord, which was so evident in the interview. He was also funny, engaging and so commanding. Martha thought, wouldn't it be great if he could come speak at one of our prisons? She jotted down his email address, with plans to contact him the next day. She then sat down to watch the last few seconds of the interview, and she almost couldn't believe her ears. James briefly mentioned that he had spent time in a Georgia prison!!!

Martha contacted James the next day, and he immediately emailed her back with his phone number. Martha called him, and then learned the absolutely amazing story of James...and the miracle the Lord had for HeartBound. James was sentenced to serve 25 years in a Georgia prison for dealing drugs. While there, he rededicated his life to Christ and began his personal transformation, drastic changes which did not go unnoticed by fellow prisoners, guards, his warden and ultimately the parole board. As James puts it, he began practicing then for the man he was going to be when he got out. And that day came much sooner than anyone could have ever guessed. In 1992, after just four years in prison, James was freed. The Lord had other plans for him!! Upon his release, James began lifting weights. He soon joined the American power-lifting team and became an ordained pastor. He has been proclaiming "freedom to the captives" ever since! Then, he told Martha the real kicker – he had a burden for Georgia inmates and had been praying for 10 years to speak in Georgia prisons, but the doors had not been opened for him!! The Lord chose to answer his prayer through HeartBound! Praise God!!

In June, HeartBound sponsored James' return to Georgia prisons to share his testimony. He told how God had changed his name from "James 'Hollywood' Henderson, inmate," to "James Henderson, free man, world champion and child of God." On his first visit to five Georgia prisons, James preached to 900 men and literally *hundreds* professed faith in Christ declaring, "I want a new name!" James returned again to Georgia in August and preached to over 800 men in five prisons. Again, hundreds of men professed their faith in Jesus or rededicated their lives to God. In James' own words, "HeartBound Ministries was the vehicle God used to answer my prayer to return to Georgia." We are so blessed to have him minister on behalf of HeartBound, and our goal is to have him preach in *every Georgia prison*. Please pray that the Lord will continue to guide every step that James takes for Georgia prisoners.

As news of our ministry has spread, we are now active in 31 of the 37 state prisons and one private prison. We have traveled to 19 facilities and have distributed thousands of books, Bibles, cassettes and desperately needed hygiene in almost every state prison. We pray that you will continue to support this ministry through your prayers and giving. We appeal to you to help us reach those bound by prison walls with the hope of Jesus Christ. The souls of men and women are at stake! Your giving helps us cover the costs of traveling to the various prisons (most of which are in remote locations) to share the gospel as well as purchase Bibles, hygiene and other needed materials.

For a special gift of \$40.00, you can help us purchase and ship a DVD player to each prison chaplain for "The Passion of The Christ" video viewing. This is a truly exciting event! And for just \$5.00, you can sponsor a Christmas bag for a needy inmate during our annual Christmas bag program. Also, please consider us when you're doing your Christmas shopping. For a gift of \$13.00, you can send a large-print Bible to an inmate in honor of a friend or loved one.

One important way you can help is to lend your voice in support of full-time chaplains in our state prisons. With a new legislative session set to begin, we ask you to contact Governor Sonny Perdue and voice your support of full-time chaplains at www.gov.state.ga.us then click on "Constituent Services." Every voice counts.

Finally, as many of you know this ministry was founded in response to an inmate's heart-felt plea to "open the doors" and "send the water of life" to those in prison. That inmate, Mark, was released on June 30th after serving 16 months in prison. As we have learned, there are no exceptions to Romans 8:28. Indeed, *all* things, even prison, "work together for good to them that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose." Just look at James! Mark wholeheartedly agrees. We praise God for his "awesome deeds in man's behalf." Thank you for being a part of HeartBound. May God be glorified!

Andrea Shelton, President

Jan Spencer, Director