

Dear Friends of HeartBound:  
April 2005

**“If you want to see something that you never saw, you have to do something you’ve never done.”** Reverend James Henderson, world bench-press champion and former Georgia inmate.

Through your generous support of HeartBound, we are seeing things that have never been seen before, because we are doing things that have never been done before. We are excited to report that the Georgia prison system is being transformed as men and women are coming to Christ by the thousands. Prison chaplains’ hours are being increased. Doors are opening, prisons are calling for us to come in, and the demand for this ministry is exceeding our resources.

When we began HeartBound in June of 2003, Georgia’s 47 part-time prison chaplains were on the verge of being eliminated and we fought to preserve them. Last month, the chaplains were celebrated at the State Capitol with events sponsored by HeartBound, including a luncheon, a meeting with Governor Perdue, and a proclamation naming March 31, 2005 as “Prison Chaplains’ Appreciation Day.” Although this is a miraculous turn of events, there is much more to be accomplished. We continue to advocate for the reinstatement of full-time chaplains.

On Good Friday, HeartBound traveled to two South Georgia prisons for an Easter outreach to 2,486 inmates. The following letter from an inmate illustrates the impact of these events: *“I really enjoyed your service. It turned out to be very exciting. This service has changed my life. Not only have I changed, but my thinking has changed. I would like to say thanks to Reverend Henderson. Your kind hearts made a difference in my life.”* At one of the services, over 200 men professed faith in Christ.

As we prayed about this letter, we were led to the parable of the minas in Luke 19. This is a story about stewardship – about investing the resources that God has entrusted to his servants. It is a story for each of us. God has given us something to invest and a responsibility to invest it. He gives different amounts to each of his servants, but the same responsibility to invest in the work of the Kingdom.

This ministry is about making an eternal investment in the lives of others. When you invest in the lives of others, you can expect a guaranteed return, “pressed down, shaken together and running over.” (Luke 6:38) When you invest in this ministry, you are investing in God’s heart.

We are infiltrating Satan’s territory and we need your help to continue our efforts. We on the “outside” hear the gospel preached from the pulpit, on the radio, in our homes and read it in our Bibles. But ninety-five percent of those on the “inside” come from single-parent homes in impoverished neighborhoods. They never visited a church or read God’s Word. The average reading level for a Georgia inmate is only 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our Board of Directors has adopted a budget for 2005 of \$64,717. We need \$5,375 a month to accomplish our budget goal. This amount will fund Christian speakers and musicians for over 40 evangelistic outreach programs throughout the Georgia prison system and provide books, bibles, gospel tracts, hygiene and other needed materials through the chaplaincy

program (in February alone, we spent \$631 on Bibles and \$8,568 on Christian books). This budget also allows us to give Easter and Christmas bags containing hygiene and Christian books to 7,500 inmates.

We've included a picture of one of the many lives you have invested in through this ministry. Our goal with every dollar we spend is to glorify God. We look at the souls saved so far, and we believe we are giving you an investment opportunity with a guaranteed return. With heartfelt love... *Andrea Shelton and Jan Spencer*

P.S. You can find us on the web at [www.heartboundministries.com](http://www.heartboundministries.com).