20+ Book Recommendations to Inspire You Behind Bars

by S.L. Ray

When you’re incarcerated, staring at the ceiling alone with your thoughts can quickly turn to boredom or depression. It’s important to use any free time you have wisely. Books are a great way to engage your mind and stay productive and positive. We polled several current and former prisoners to tell us which books motivated, educated, or inspired them behind bars. Here are some of their go-to favorites. Note: Not all of these are available in all prison libraries, and some of these contain mature content.

1. The Heart of a Hero by Clarence Singleton (Nonfiction: Self-Help/Inspirational)
2. We’re All Doing Time: A Guide for Getting Free by Bo Lozoff (Nonfiction: Self-Help/Interfaith)
4. As a Man Thinketh by James Allen (Nonfiction: Self-Help/Spirituality)
6. Man’s Search for Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl (Nonfiction: Psychology/Holocaust)
7. Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World by Bob Goff (Nonfiction: Christian/Memorial)
8. Mentor: The Kid & The CEO by Tom Pace (Fiction: Inspirational)
10. The Case for the Real Jesus or other “Case for” books by Lee Strobel (Nonfiction: Christian)
**Inside Journal: Bigger and Better!**

What first comes to mind when you hear the word “summertime”? Whatever it is, we’re willing to bet it’s not a Christmas present.

Here at Inside Journal, we talk a lot about Christmas during the summertime. Summer is when churches, community volunteers, and your children’s caregivers all start to gear up for Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Christmas, where children of incarcerated parents receive a gift, the Gospel, and a personal message from their mom or dad.

Our summer edition of Inside Journal is traditionally the “Angel Tree Christmas” edition. However, in this summer edition, we’re focusing on how you can connect with your children through Angel Tree year-round.

Angel Tree serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for strengthening and restoring their relationships with their children and families—with year-round programs like Angel Tree camping (where prisoners’ children attend Christ-centered summer camps with the help of partnering churches) and Angel Tree sports camps (where prisoners’ children hear the Gospel and receive sports lessons and even life lessons from professional athletes).

Being behind bars can put a huge strain on parent-child relationships. You may know this all too well. But your sentence is not who you are. And your incarceration is not who you are. Your time; make your time count.

Through Angel Tree, we at Prison Fellowship have seen once-estranged sons and daughters reconcile with their fathers after not speaking for many years. We’ve witnessed children jumping with glee when they receive an Angel Tree gift and a personal message of love from their parent, as a reminder that “out of sight” does not equal “out of mind.”

What better way to share inspirational Angel Tree stories than through this first-ever deluxe edition of Inside Journal? This premiere “supersized issue” is twice as big (eight pages instead of the usual four pages)—and we hope twice as inspiring. Page 1 has a list of great books to check out. On page 6, hear from a woman who hasn’t walked in over 20 years and wouldn’t trade her circumstances for anything. Check out the word search and devotional tear-out on page 7. And if you’re a parent who wants to restore a relationship with your child or just connect with them in a new way, we invite you to read about and sign up for Angel Tree (restrictions apply; see pages 4–5 for more information).

We hope you enjoy this jam-packed eight-page edition of Inside Journal. Let summer begin!

Sincerely,

The Editorial Staff

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**Breaking the Ice Continued from page 1**

behind bars and began a new faith journey.

Chris wanted to change from the inside out, but he needed help. So he enrolled in the Prison Fellowship Academy®. The Academy uses targeted curriculum, compassionate coaches, and restorative community to replace participants’ criminal thinking and behaviors with renewed purpose and biblically based life principles.

Chris also continued signing Christina up for Angel Tree (her sister Daphney was then over 18 and had aged out of the program). He remembers Christina telling him, “Dad, I wanted to be mad at you, but I just couldn’t. Because I knew that no matter what, you cared enough about me to make sure that I got gifts from you each year.”

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**Serving families, sharing hope**

The door to a healthier relationship was open to Chris and his daughter. Fortunately, they both walked through that door and discovered real restoration.

“Eventually,” Christina says, “we got to a place where we could be completely honest about our feelings and how we process the past.” With that foundation of honesty, their relationship deepened during prison visitation. Since Chris’ release, their relationship has continued to flourish. These days, Christina says of her dad, “That’s my best friend.” Today, Chris calls Dallas home and serves as a pastor. He works with Prison Fellowship® to mobilize churches and organizations to participate in Angel Tree Christmas, Angel Tree camping, Second Chance®, and other opportunities to serve those affected by crime and incarceration. He also helps to train local volunteers for ministry in and out of prison.

For Chris, April 2021 marks 13 years on staff at Prison Fellowship. About using his past mistakes to help others, Chris says, “For as much energy as I used in destroying lives, I want to use that in restoring lives.”

When Chris isn’t serving with prison ministry, you’ll likely find him barbecuing for friends and family—a hobby he first learned from his dad before his incarceration. It’s another way to do what he loves most: connect with others and share about God’s provision.

“The Lord continues to be good,” Chris says. “He’ll do amazing things in your life if you’ll let Him in.”

Chris Pipkin is a church mobilization specialist at Prison Fellowship. 

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**Book Recommendations Continued from page 1**


12. The 5 Love Languages: The 5 Languages of Apology; and The Marriage You've Always Wanted—all by Gary Chapman

13. Fight Fair by Tim and Joy Downs


15. Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

16. The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

17. Revolt of the Cockroaches by Oscar Zeta Acosta

18. 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey

19. Evidence Not Seen: A Woman’s Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of World War II by Darlene Deibler Rose


21. God’s Power to Change Your Life—and by Rick Warren

22. He Loves Me by Wayne Jacobson

23. Tattoos on the Heart by Greg Boyle

24. *King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible*

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What do you think of this list? How many of these have you read? Are there other books you love? Feel free to write to us at Inside Journal, P.O. Box 1790, Ashburn, VA 20146-1790 to share your favorites.

*NOTE: Several prisoners recommended the KJV Bible version. It’s one example of a “literal translation” Bible, which are often considered the most accurate, as they were translated word for word from the original Hebrew and Greek text. However, literal translation versions can be difficult to read, especially with their challenging verb tenses and grammar. Therefore, KJV may not be right for everyone. We use the New Living Translation (NLT) version in Inside Journal articles. (To receive a free Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible, please see ad on page 6).*

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Unrelatable: What a Loving Father Really Means

by Jason Aten

Our lessons are also available for download at www.prisonmission.org

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

Did you grow up with a perfect father? Do you have a current role model who is perfect in every way? Of course not! In fact, all human role models are a little flawed at best, and bad influences at worst. The only role model who is perfect is God. The Bible says, “Your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48); “He is a faithful God who does no wrong” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

To set an example of how we should live, God sent us His Son Jesus, who was both fully God and fully human—the perfect role model.

Jesus died on the cross to give the free gift of eternal life to all who believe in Him. Through this ultimate sacrifice, He shows us what unconditional love and true forgiveness look like—again, the perfect role model.

To be great role models to our own kids, we need to use God as our parenting role model, not our own parents or our own efforts—and then cut ourselves some slack when we mess up, knowing that we are not perfect. Thankfully, that’s all where Jesus comes in.

The Bible says, “But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.” (1 John 2:1). When you fall short as a parent, ask God to forgive you. Then ask your kids to forgive you, too.

Not sure where to begin? Start with this simple prayer:

“God, I admit I’m a sinner. Please forgive me. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Please show me how to love others through Your example as my role model. Please show me how to live more like You. Amen.”

Want to learn more about God’s Word? See below for information on receiving a free correspondence course through Prison Mission Association. See page 6 for information on receiving a free Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible. Want to learn more about God as a loving Father or have other comments? Write to us at “Role Model,” c/o Inside Journal, P.O. Box 1790, Ashburn, VA 20146-1790.

Not like our own father, but like the most compassionate, most forgiving, most loving father you could ever imagine.

By the way, there’s more good news. It’s okay that we aren’t perfect parents. That’s why God’s love is so powerful. It isn’t based on what we deserve, but rather, God gives it to us as a gift.

Our job, as parents, is to look to Him as our example. You can’t change where you are or how you got there, but you can ask God to help fill the need your children have for their Father.

Jason Aten, a 2016 graduate of the Prison Fellowship Academy (a program for prisoners in some facilities), is an author, creative director, husband, and father.

GET EQUIPPED IN GOD’S WORD!

Free Bible Correspondence Courses—Enroll Today!

All you need is a Bible, a pen, and a willing heart.

In the last 19 years, more than 37,000 students have taken our courses.

- Receive Lessons in the Mail.
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- Build Spiritual Strength, Character, and Endurance.
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Upon completing the 35 self-paced lessons, you may earn 6 credit hours at Berean Bible Institute, Slinger, WI. Bereanbibleinstitute.org

Inside Journal Summer 2021

Photo by Pirotehnik/Getty Images
Angel Tree: Connecting All Year Long

Throughout this edition of Inside Journal, we’re talking about Angel Tree, a Prison Fellowship program that works to strengthen bonds between incarcerated parents and their kids through giving gifts at Christmas time. But what exactly is Angel Tree, and how can you participate? Here are some frequently asked questions about Angel Tree.

**Question: What is the purpose of Angel Tree? Is it just about kids getting gifts?**

**Answer:** Prison Fellowship. Angel Tree is a way to bless your child(ren) with a gift at Christmas—but it’s so much more. Through Angel Tree, you can send a personal message to your child(ren). It’s a wonderful way to stay connected with them and to remind them that you’re thinking of them. Not only will your child(ren) receive a gift and personal message from you, they will also be given an opportunity to request a child’s Adventure Bible and/or a Teen Life Application Study Bible.

**Q: I want to participate. How does Angel Tree work?**

**A:** Angel Tree is free of charge. Prison Fellowship ships applications to chaplains of participating prisons. Ask your chaplain for an application and fill it out between now and August. The chaplain will collect and mail it, or you can mail it yourself. In the fall, Angel Tree volunteers call each child’s caregiver to coordinate delivery of the gift. Before Christmas, Angel Tree volunteers from local churches buy and wrap the gifts, which are then delivered to the children at home or at an Angel Tree Christmas party.

**Q: Who can I send gifts to? Are there other guidelines I should keep in mind?**

**A:** You must be the child’s parent, stepparent, or mother/father figure. Your child must be 18 or younger and live in the United States. There must not be a court order restricting your child’s area, your child’s caregiver may not be eligible. Finally, if the caregiver is not reachable or refuses to participate, we may not be able to deliver the gifts to the child(ren).

**Q: What if my facility doesn’t participate in Angel Tree?**

**A:** Your chaplain can contact 800.55.ANGEL (26435) to learn more.

**Q: I’ve heard that Angel Tree does more than deliver Christmas gifts. What other opportunities are available to my child(ren)?**

**A:** Angel Tree loves to connect families to local churches where kids can participate in activities like vacation Bible school, Sunday school, or youth group. Building supportive relationships all year long. And Prison Fellowship also sponsors two additional Angel Tree programs: Angel Tree camping and Angel Tree sports camps.

**Q: What is Angel Tree camping?**

**A:** There is nothing like summer camp when it comes to making wonderful childhood memories! Prison Fellowship partners with Christian camps across the United States by providing scholarships for Angel Tree kids to attend camp at little to no cost. Angel Tree camping is a great way for your kids to have fun experiences, make new friends, and enjoy the great outdoors. Angel Tree camping, which is currently only available in select locations, has both sleepaway and day camp options. Have your child’s caregiver check out angeltreecamping.org to find a camp near them. Your child can attend camp at no charge with our Angel Tree camping scholarship.

**Q: What are Angel Tree sports camps?**

**A:** Angel Tree hosts sports camps in select locations across the country where children gain skills in various sports and learn about God’s love. Through lessons, drills, and fun competition, kids who might not otherwise have a chance to attend a day camp are treated like champions.

An Angel Tree sports camp is a unique opportunity for youth of all ages and abilities to learn from seasoned college players and former professional athletes. In the past, Angel Tree has hosted camps featuring basketball, football, soccer, baseball, bowling, ice skating, and cheer. To find out if there is a sports camp in your child’s area, your child’s caregiver can contact Prison Fellowship’s call center at 800.206.9764.

**Q: What is the history of Angel Tree?**

**A:** In 1972, Mary Kay Beard was sentenced to 21 years for robbery and other charges. While in prison, Mary Kay sensed God guiding her to serve Him. At Christmas time, she noticed incarcerated mothers gathered and sent the little they had—soaps, shampoos—to their children as gifts. These makeshift gifts brought joy to the children simply because they had come from their mothers. Upon her release, Mary Kay joined Prison Fellowship’s staff. When asked to come up with a Christmas program, she remembered those incarcerated mothers, and Angel Tree was born—first in Alabama, and eventually expanding nationwide.

**Q: I have a great Angel Tree personal story about how Angel Tree has impacted my own kids. Can I share that with you?**

**A:** Of course! We love hearing inspiring stories from participants.

If you have a story about Angel Tree that you would like to share with us, write to: Editor in Chief, Inside Journal, P.O. Box 1790, Ashburn, VA 20146-1790.
A present and a personalized message from you, their parent who loves them!

Through Prison Fellowship Angel Tree™ your child can receive a gift, a Bible, and a personal note from you this Christmas—all at no cost to you! And throughout the year, your child can also participate in Angel Tree® camping or sports camps (see page 4 for more information).

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
1. You must be the parent, stepparent, or mother/father figure.
2. There must not be a court order restricting your contact with the child(ren) or their caregiver(s).
3. Your child(ren) must live in the United States.
4. Your child(ren) must be 18 years old or younger.
5. The form must be filled out completely and legibly and then signed.

**FOR YOUR CHAPLAIN OR PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Forms must be postmarked by Sept. 7. Ask your chaplain about your facility’s deadline to submit completed forms.

Contact your child(ren)’s caregiver to gather the most current information for your application.

**IMPORTANT:** If your information is incomplete or inaccurate, if local volunteers are unable to locate your child(ren)’s caregiver, or if the caregiver refuses to participate, we may not be able to deliver gifts to your child(ren).

**2021 ANGEL TREE CALENDAR**

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**HOLIDAYS**

- June/July – Begin filling out your Angel Tree form
- July 4 – Independence Day
- July/August – Submit your Angel Tree form
- September 6 – Labor Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 25 – Thanksgiving Day
- December – Angel Tree gifts are delivered
- December 25 – Christmas Day

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- _______
- _______
- _______
- _______
I was invincible and figured I’d be fine. Then I got to the hospital and heard, "You’re never going to walk again." Being paralyzed is one of the top fears of human beings; and it happened to me.

I: How did you process—
TS: I eventually accepted that this is going to be my life, whether I like it or not, so I might as well make the best of it. It took me a long time—we’re talking months, years—kind of like a rollercoaster of having two good days and one bad day, and then having three good days and five bad days. I had to force myself to focus on the positive. For a long time, I had been focusing only on the negative, and it was ruining me.

I: How did the accident change your relationship with God?
TS: Before the accident, I used to think that He was millions of miles away, that He had so many other bigger things to worry about. He certainly didn’t care about little old me or the decisions I made. God was just a “Sunday-morning” kind of thing. I’d go to church, do the ritual, feel good about myself, and then leave God there. After the accident, my mom tried to get me to go to church. After resisting for a year and a half, I finally went and started really hearing the Gospel for the first time. Or maybe I’d heard it before, but my heart was not open to it. That was the day I finally felt peace. That day, for the first time, I realized, “Oh my goodness. He loves me! And He has a plan for my life!” Good thing, too, because I don’t; my life’s a total mess.

I: When people get to prison, they surrender their independence. You can relate. How do you handle the moments when you can’t just do whatever you want?
TS: Oh yes, I definitely have things I can’t do even though I want to do. There are moments when I would do anything to be able to move, to make a meal for my husband, to swim in a pool. But I can’t. Before the accident I was SO independent. Now every part of my day is scheduled for me. But we get the choice every day of how we’re going to look at our situation.

I: You still have bad days. How do you handle them with grace?
TS: My mantra in the beginning was “one day at a time.” Just focus on today. Whether it was a good day or bad day, I did my best. We can’t change our circumstances, but we can change how we look at them.

I: In your suicide prevention curriculum, you created an acronym that has helped you: PATH (Purpose, Attitude, Team, and Hope). How do you focus on your purpose even on days when you feel discouraged?
TS: I’m a firm believer that our biggest battle is between our two ears—in our own mind. I used to let negative thoughts run without challenging them. After the accident, I would hear, You have no purpose, you have no worth, you have nothing to offer, you’re such a burden. I mean, I heard that over and over again. Then I started realizing that’s not true. Turning those thoughts around is key. We’re all here for a purpose. I truly believe that.

I: How do you focus on your attitude and stay positive?
TS: It’s a daily battle. You’re never going to wake up and say, “I don’t need to check my attitude today.” The Bible, in Philippians 4:8 and Romans 12:2, is so clear about renewing our thoughts and focusing on positive things. We’re all fighting with darkness. We need to change the way we think and the thoughts that we allow to run through our mind. Write out a gratitude list or do a gratitude journal. Sometimes it’s just asking someone, “Can you pray for me?” Some days are going to be tough. There’s no way around it; to get through it, we need to go through it. We can adapt.

I: How do you find your team?
TS: Mental health is a huge struggle right now in this world. But we need to understand why people are feeling the way they’re feeling. We need to remember that we can’t go it alone. We’re born for relationship. It’s hard when there are relationships that are strained. But there’s always someone—a parole officer, a grandma—someone who believes in you. We also need to know it’s OK to ask for help. And sometimes that’s asking God for help—He is on our team, too!

I: If you could go back in time and stop the accident from happening, would you?
TS: Absolutely not! My accident is what made me who I am today. It has taught me so much about life, about faith, about who I am and what I stand for, and what I believe. I can’t imagine not going through that. Don’t get me wrong. What I went through, I wouldn’t wish on my worst enemy—but I would not change a thing, and I mean that. My life is not problem free; I have my challenges and my struggles, but I just know that life is such a gift that we have to cherish it. The fact that we wake up every morning is a blessing. That’s what I choose to focus on.

Tasha Schuh is a motivational speaker and author of My Last Step Backward and My Next Move Forward.

MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!

At age 16, Tasha was rehearsing for her school play, The Wizard of Oz. During a scene change in the dark, someone moving a large set piece yelled, “Move out of the way!” and Tasha stepped backward—into a trap door that had just been opened. She fell 16 feet onto the concrete below, immediately becoming paralyzed from the chest down.

Over the years, Tasha has endured an eight-day coma episode, a fever of 108 degrees, skin sores, painful surgeries, and countless physical and emotional setbacks. When Tasha shares her story, people often begin to share theirs. Sure, most people haven’t spent over two decades completely paralyzed. But as Tasha has learned, sometimes, all it takes is a “permission” to open up and be vulnerable, and suddenly people connect and relate.

“Everyone has a story,” Tasha says. “So many people can relate to how it felt, a quick movement—in my case, one small step backward—could alter the course of a life forever. Early on, I believed that my step backward was unique. No one could ever relate. But as I am constantly reminded, this just isn’t true. Everyone has their own ‘one step backward’ that changed their lives forever. And God reminds me every day to ‘move out of the way!’ so He can work in my life.”

Many of our readers had their own “one step backward”—that one moment, one decision, one criminal act—that changed their lives forever. For some, it was a culmination of many missteps, but there’s often one MAIN moment that led to their arrest.

What’s your one step backward? Might God be trying to get your attention after that misstep? Maybe where you are is exactly where you need to be to truly move forward in your life, as long as you get out of your own way. So if you’re trying to control things, ask yourself if you need to MOVE OUT OF THE WAY and let God work in your life.

DON’T FORGET!
Include this information to make sure your Bible 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 are available in large-print English or large-print Spanish. Limit one Bible per person.

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

NEED A BIBLE?
Get a free Inside Journal Life Recovery Bible!

INSIDE JOURNAL | Summer 2021
ACTIVITY
Does your life feel a bit like a maze?

Do you feel like there are too many paths before you, and you don’t know where to turn? Complete this maze* and remember this verse: Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. –Proverbs 4:26 (*answer on page 8)

RECIPE CORNER
Deluxe Fruit Salad
(submitted by Seth in New York)

INGREDIENTS:
- Sliced fruit of your choice (apples, oranges, raisins)
- Marshmallow fluff
- Butter
- Honey
- Granola

Mix together the marshmallow fluff, honey, and butter in a bowl. Microwave to soften (editor’s suggestion: start with 5 seconds at a time to avoid overheating). Mix together. Next, mix in fruit and granola. Allow to cool and then enjoy!

*Use approximately equal amounts of each of these ingredients, to your preference. Not all ingredients will be available at all facilities. Be sure to comply with your facility’s rules and regulations whenever cooking.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL TEAR-OUT

Tear out this daily devotional and then 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!

Seeking the SON-light

by J.C. Faulkner

Searching for light in the darkness? Looking to the bright, balmy sun to warm up your soul? God’s Son Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, is right here with us. Seeking His face—being more aware of His presence on purpose—means intentionally looking to see Jesus in every circumstance, every place, every moment. Asking, “God, where are You in this?” and then listening for the answer. God is not the author of our trouble; He is a perfect and kind Father, holding us in His warm embrace as we endure.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 PROCLAIMS,
“For God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Like a child seeing the reassuring face of a good and loving parent, we can weather any storm, darkness, or icy chill, because God is here with us. Seek and you will find Him.

Right now, as you start and/or end your day, clear your heart and mind and simply ask God, “Where are You in this day? What do You want me to hear right now? What do You want me to learn today?” Then wait in a few minutes of silence with Him.
Stress and the Prisoner: A Complicated Relationship

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Prison Fellowship volunteers
Christmas program, and Celebrate Recovery chapters partner of Prison Fellowship. In the world, including many in jails across the country and around the world, including many in jails and prisons. Several prisoners shared their thoughts with Inside Journal regarding emotional pain and challenges in coping with life behind bars. Each quote seems to feel more hopeful than the one before it. We pray that’s also how your days behind bars feel.

“[There was] so much stress and drama leading up to my incarceration.” —Steve in Colorado

“I don’t think you can truly live in prison. There is no way to be happy in prison. I can find moments of happiness, but I cannot find life. I’ve learned to cope, but I haven’t learned to live.” —Ivy in North Carolina

“This place will make you feel like you are nothing, that your life doesn’t amount to anything. It will make you feel dry and hopeless. But, by showing a man that he still has a purpose, you give him hope. But don’t just show him a purpose for when he gets out; show him that God has a purpose for him right now, in here.” —Raymond in North Carolina

“God knows that I have a lot of anger issues. I am a believer and have been for over 30 years. I still go through a lot, some of which makes me mad, especially when I can’t do anything about it, or should have known better. Figuratively, I beat myself up a lot.” —Gary in South Carolina

“I would wake up in the middle of the night … concerned for my safety and wondering if someone might hurt me while I was sleeping — aches and pains from getting older, lights coming on at all hours, random noises.” —David in Colorado

“I’ve decided that instead of trying to bring God into my life, I’ll give my life to God. I keep trying, and I keep failing.” —Keith in Alaska

“Prison is a hard place. You have to pay attention all the time what is going on around you. People with bad instincts are more in number than there are good. Yet I see piercing through the dark abyss the Word of God, and I’m chasing after it. I found your newspaper. A guy was using it to block the light from coming into his call room by placing it over his window. I made him a new one, made out of Styrofoam, and traded him.” —William in California

“If you are still alive, it means you do not know the whole story. Each of us must wait until we find the outcome. To honor life, we must be willing to grow through what we don’t know yet, and outgrow what no longer fits us. To honor life, we must be willing to give in to the process, moment by moment, realizing a new plot that may be unfolding, with a new character taking the stage. In honoring life, we must give credit to the Divine director, producer, and the creator of this live production.” —Tanya in Minnesota

“Never have I been more free and happy as I am today in this prison. I wouldn’t have it any other way. I am content and grateful for everything that I have and am extremely blessed.” —Sonja in Florida

“Prison Fellowship, “I didn’t come to prison with the reserve of funds to pay my way through school, and I [had] no way to work for them in here.”

“My experience with the Pell Grant program has been amazing, one could almost say lifesaving,” Carai says, because “[I]m able to further my education, build skills to help me succeed in the future, and [it]s giving me something to strive for, gives my life a sense of purpose.”

Many organizations, including the National District Attorneys Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Correctional Leaders Association, lobbied long and hard for the widespread return of Pell Grants nationally, and not just at the pilot locations. Now that the return of these grants is finally a reality, research suggests that greater access to education behind bars will improve public safety, prepare people for the work force, and even reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Maze Answer Key

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