

# h . f . p . communicator

NEWS FROM *HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS*

Humanityforprisoners.org

616.935.0075

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## Year-end gifts important

These are difficult times. We were reminded of that last week when we learned that our application for renewal of an annual grant from the Prince Foundation had been turned down. We had received this grant annually for the past several years, and we had counted on it again this year.

While we are grateful for funds that have been received from this foundation over the years, the rejection means that we must work hard to make up that amount by the end of the year.

Year-end gifts last year made it possible for us to fall back on those funds when we failed to meet our monthly goal. And so we are making an appeal to all former and future major donors for assistance. Your help



will keep us going for months and months, and will ensure that there will be no disruption of our critical services to many prisoners with special needs.

Thank you.

**Monthly postage cost: \$200**  
**Monthly office supply cost: \$200**  
**Your gift will make a difference**

## A night to celebrate



*The John Shea Trio, performing in a benefit concert for HFP celebrating Doug's 75th birthday.*

**And on Doug's birthday came this wish from Sarah, a wonderful supporter:**

*You give so much of yourself every day in every way that I'm surprised there's any of you left to carry on. I thank God for you and for your good health every day! May you continue on His mission for many years to come! WE NEED YOU!*

-Signed, The Wife of another wrongly convicted prisoner...

## From the desk of Doug: The face of Jesus

I was feeling good. I just given a very short address to more than 100 criminal defense attorneys at their annual Michigan conference. It went well. They bought some of my books. They had kind words. I got into my nice car, outside the posh Park Place Hotel, located in the heart of pricey Traverse City. And then I spotted the face of Jesus.



It was pasted on the front of a homeless woman – not an old lady, either. She pulled all of her belongings in a little coaster wagon, right in front of me in the parking lot. Her face reflected all the pain and agony and shame of being homeless. She was probably planning to poke through trash bins outside the hotel.

This was it! This was the person I was talking to the attorneys about! I wanted to go back in and take her with me. All she had to do was get arrested for some kind of offenses that we find for charging the homeless and the down-trodden...and she would need a court appointed attorney. Her attorney would be her only hope. That's what I tried to tell these wonderful lawyers. I wanted them to pause before telling a client they didn't believe the story, or wouldn't check out witnesses. I wanted them to know that refusing to listen, refusing to check out a story, was a crushing blow to someone with very little hope.

Why did I say this was the face of Jesus? Simple. He's the one who told us that in Matthew 25. He said that when we show kindness to these people - sick, poor, homeless, prisoners - we show kindness to HIM.

Thank you for the reminder, Lord. I'm praying that our simple little message hit home.

May it continue to hit home with me, also.

## Gifts for prisoners

HFP is making it possible for groups and individuals to provide a unique Christmas gift to hundreds of Michigan prisoners.

HFP has two offers: 1 copy of THE PRISONER'S PRAYER BOOK for you and 1 copy for a prisoner for \$25.00; or, 1 copy each for two prisoners, for \$25.00. With either option, HFP pays all shipping costs. And, the book is shipped into the prison by the publisher, so there is no difficulty in getting the book behind bars.

HFP encourages you to think of prisoners this Christmas, and encourages your church, small group, civic group or service club, to make a contribution for



Author Louise Reichert signs copies of her book, *The Prisoner's Prayer Book*

gifts. **A gift of \$100 sends Christmas gifts to 8 prisoners.**

Send your check to the HFP office today: PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI

## And for the person who has everything

Consider the book SWEET FREEDOM, the story of Doug Tjapkes and Maurice Carter, in a 9-year fight for freedom...a story that never grows old. Send us \$10 and we'll send the book.

Hundreds of frayed copies are still being passed from inmate to inmate behind

bars. Find out why the excitement.

Get your own personal copy now, and give a copy to a friend who loves to read. It's the perfect holiday love story.

Send your check to the HFP office today: PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

## Carter drama goes to Hawaii

A brilliant new stage play authored by award-winning Toronto Playwrights Alicia Payne and Donald Molnar is scheduled to make its debut in Honolulu, Hawaii.

MAURICE CARTER'S INNOCENCE, telling of the unique relationship of HFP President Doug Tjapkes and the late Maurice Carter, is a project of the Hawaii Innocence Project, according to director Virginia Hench. "I'm committed to making this happen," said Ms. Hench.

She saw a snippet of the drama at an Innocence Network conference in Texas several years ago, and was captivated by the story.

The play will be presented in Hawaii as part of the Innocence Project's annual conference in March, 2012. A theatre has been booked, and the lead player who will play the role of Doug has been chosen.

Airline tickets, anyone?

For more information about the drama, go to [www.arbezdrama.com](http://www.arbezdrama.com)

## Gifts for family and friends

From our successful Pickin' & Grinnin' fundraiser comes the new CD of gospel music favorites, **SWEET FREEDOM.**

John Mulder, Doug Tjapkes, Lee Ingersoll, Cal Olson, David Mulder and Roger MacNaughton go the recording studio to recapture those magic moments from last summer at Covenant Life Church. The results: an exceptionally pleasing rendering of such favorites as *How Great Thou Art*, *The Old Rugged Cross*, *What a Friend We Have*

*in Jesus*, and *Amazing Grace*. It's the perfect stocking stuffer.

Copies now available for a suggested donation of \$15.00. Because all costs of this project were covered privately, all funds go toward the operation of HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS.

Give us a call, (616) 935-0075. We'll ship them, drop them off, or you can pick them up at the office of Ferrysburg Community Church, Mon-Thurs, 9 am – 2pm.

## HFP visits CDAM Conference



HFP President Doug Tjapkes signs books at the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan state conference in Traverse City, shown here with CDAM President Jim Samuels, of Big Rapids.

Following Tjapkes' presentation, Samuels said:

"You were, and are, an inspiration to all of us. One attorney commented that the mood of the room and the conference changed because of your talk. We will schedule you again for next year. We want you. We need you."

## Will work for a living wage

HFP is not in the business of recommending prisoners for jobs. We have a friend, however, who is on the sex offender registry who cannot find employment.

This is not a blue collar business administration and

is perfectly capable of starting at the middle management level.

Are you willing to consider the risk?

Arrange a telephone consultation with HFP President Doug Tjapkes, (616) 935-0075.