

FREE Prison Ministry Inc

Faith Resources Empowering & Encouraging
the incarcerated

January 21, 2026

Dear friends,

Greetings once again, my brothers and sisters in Christ! It's a new year and we are excited to see what God has in store for us. Praise God, we saw significant growth last year, pretty much across the board. We saw big increases in the number served and the number of books we shipped. We have expanded into a few more locations, but for the most part we have to give you credit for that gain. You are on the frontlines. Ultimately, it is God working through you to make a difference right where you are, spreading the word and planting the seed. Praise God for each one of you!

While the numbers are a means of measurement, it is not about the numbers. It's about new lives—transformed lives. We trust that the numbers along with your comments reflect that. Thank you for sharing how God is working in your life. They truly are a great blessing to us.

The ministry has been blessed with a great group of volunteers and generous donors that provide incredible resources. We hope and pray you find strength and encouragement in the pages that follow.

From Mike:

The day: New Year's Day **The year:** 1919 **The scene:** Rose Bowl Football Game

The incident: Shortly before half-time, a man named Roy Riegels recovered a fumble for the University of California. He started running, - and he ran and ran — 65 yards — **but he ran in the wrong direction!** One of his own teammates outran him and tackled him right before he would have scored for the opposing team.

The emotion: At half time, the California team filed into the locker room. They slumped on the benches or sprawled dejectedly on the floor — all but Riegels. He grabbed a towel, draped it over his shoulders, sat down in a corner, buried his face in his hands, and cried like a baby. **Embarrassed. Dejected. An absolute failure.**

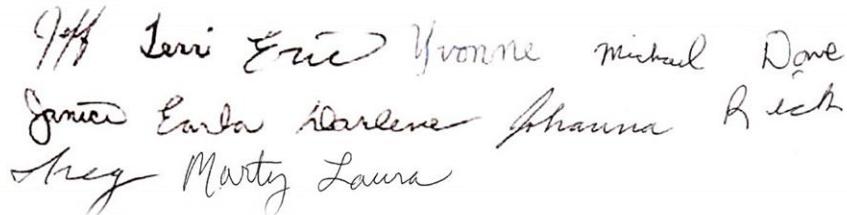
The coach's reaction: As half time ended, Coach Price said simply, "Men, the same team that played the first half will start the second half." The players got up filed out — all but Riegels. He did not budge. As Coach Price walked over and repeated

himself, Roy Riegels looked up and, with tears still streaming down his cheeks, blurted out, "I just can't do it. I've embarrassed you and the University of California. I've embarrassed myself. I couldn't face that crowd in the stadium to save my life." The coach placed a hand on Riegel's shoulder and said to him, "Roy, get up and go back in. **The game is only half over!**"

(from "Another Chance" by Dean Merrill)

The lesson for us: We can identify, can't we? We sometimes take the ball of life and run in the wrong direction. And we are so ashamed of ourselves that we don't want to try again. But the Lord Jesus comes to us, bends over us, and speaks to us: "The Lord upholds all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down." (Ps. 145:14). May this new year be filled with new hope as you experience God's mercies that "...are brand new every morning!" (Lam 3:22-23).

The FREE Prison Ministry team,



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