

Issue 39 Status

One of our goals is to get future issues of *Loaves & Fishes* magazine prepared further in advance of our printing schedule. We are happy to report that the next issue (issue 39) is ready to print and we're already working on issue 40.

To stay on track with our quarterly schedule, we'll need to send issue 39 to press by early August. So far, we have received about 75% of the \$20,000 needed to print this issue. Postage to fill all the subscription orders of 120,000 copies will cost an additional \$10,000.

If you'd like to help get this issue produced and mailed, please send your donation in the mail using the enclosed response card (or address on the back of this newsletter) or donate on our website.

Thanks to all who are giving to support the mission of providing another issue of biblical teaching and inspiration to our readers in prison!

LOAVES & FISHES FACTS

- Copies being printed: 130,000
- Circulation: 122,063
- Distributors: 550
- Distributors who get 500+ copies: 55
- Biggest distributor: Chaplain Wilson in Pearl, Mississippi receives 3,600 copies
- Single subscribers: 2,384
- Average cost to print and mail: 25 cents per booklet

Dogged Faithfulness

MIKE FISHER

In the early 1920s, a Japanese professor of agriculture named Hidesaburo Ueno adopted a dog named Hachiko, a golden brown Akita.

Professor Ueno commuted by train to the Tokyo Imperial University each day, arriving at the Shibuya railway station near his home at the same time each evening. Each evening, Hachiko would leave the house in time to meet his master at the station and welcome him home.

This routine continued for about a year. Then one day while lecturing, Professor Ueno died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage. Hachiko came to the station as always, but his

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beloved master did not appear. For the next nine years, Hachiko waited at the station each evening, looking for his master.

In 2015, the University of Japan unveiled a new statue of Hachiko. This one depicts one of the happy daily reunions between Ueno and his beloved Hachiko. The story is an enduring legacy that still warms our hearts.

Hachiko is a stellar example of the quality of faithfulness. When the Spirit of God is present in a person, Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians, one of the "fruits" that becomes evident in that person is faithfulness. When we see the faithfulness of a dog, we find it inspiring. How much more inspiring is a man or woman who is truly faithful!

In today's world, faithfulness seems like a rare commodity. Husbands and wives cheat on each other. People break business contracts.

Nations renege on treaties with their neighbors. Friends betray each another. Saddest of all, humans are unfaithful toward our God.

In contrast, the follower of Jesus, who is filled with the Spirit of God, is a genuinely faithful person. Such a person's faithfulness is a fruit of God's Spirit within. Growth in faithfulness requires growth in experiencing God's presence in one's life.

In the natural world, fruit develops and finally reaches a point of maturity. Spiritual fruit is the same. God provides the seed of faithfulness by his Spirit, but we must play our part in nurturing that seed into



"Hachiko became a national sensation and a symbol of faithfulness."

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Issue 39 Preview

The topic is *Faithfulness*, the eighth fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5.

Letter From a Prisoner

Brother Jimmy, I dearly thank you for your reply to my prior letter... The *Loaves and Fishes* I received were right on time. "God's plan of Redemption," "Jesus the Light of the World," and others were great, but issue 32 was really inspiring, which had the topic of marriage: "Basic Needs and Common Mistakes in Marriage." I dearly hope to benefit from reading and living it when I get out. There is so much I didn't know. I do know when a person like myself falls out of alignment with God's word and obedience, life gets cloudy and a person stumbles, but my heart is to stay in God's word more and learn. I thank you dearly for your extended help in our marriage. I look forward to staying in contact with you and Lighthouse Publishing. Thank you, brother Jimmy, for all your encouragement.

—Ricky Blackwell, *Jester Unit, Richmond, TX*

Opportunity to Haul *Loaves & Fishes*

Are you interested in delivering *Loaves & Fishes* from our printer in Freeport, Ohio to our warehouse in Bedford, Pennsylvania at a discounted rate? The shipment will contain approximately 15 pallets weighing 14,000 pounds and would require a covered trailer. Call Mike at 814-494-1426 for more details.

Calendar Project Update



In the last newsletter, we introduced a small print project we have done in the past—3.5"x8.5" glossy calendar cards with a year-long calendar on the front and a description of *Loaves & Fishes* magazine on the back. We usually print around 40,000, and they are always eagerly received.

Our funding goal for the 2020 calendar project was \$2,800, and we have already received \$3,100 earmarked for this project. With these funds, we will plan on publishing 2020 calendars and providing them to our readers through selected distributors. Thanks to everyone for their thoughtfulness in supporting this project!

Male Pen Pals Needed

A personal letter means the world to many inmates. For less than a dollar and an hour of your time, you can make a big difference in a person's life.

We have a list of male prison inmates who are looking for penpals. If you or someone you know is interested in writing to one of these inmates, please contact us by mail or email (see below).

Here are some ways you can bless someone in prison through writing:

- **Be a friend.** Even through letters, friendship is a powerful encouragement to those who have no real friends otherwise.
- **Share the good news of Jesus.** Tell how Jesus changed you and helped you overcome specific temptations and problems in your life.
- **Answer questions.** Share biblical insights you've learned from your own studies and life experiences.

—Mike Fisher, *board chairman*

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eNews: To receive email updates and prayer requests, send your request to enews@lighthousepublishing.org.

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