

Let Us Know How Your Day of Prayer for the Captives Went

Please take a moment to give us feedback to help make next year's *Day of Prayer for the Captives* even more effective. You can mail us this form, or email your comments to managing.editor@ptm.org.

What special activities did you lead or participate in?

How many others were you able to get involved in *Day of Prayer for the Captives*?

What resources did you find helpful?

What additional resources could PTM provide to help facilitate this Day of Prayer?

Mail to: Prayer for the Captives, Plain Truth Ministries, Pasadena California 91129.

We Believe...

God

We believe in one eternal, triune God in three co-essential, yet distinct Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God and fully human, the Son of God and Lord of all, worthy of worship, honor and reverence, who died for our sins, was raised bodily from the dead, ascended to heaven and will come again as King of kings.

The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible constitutes the accurate, infallible and divinely inspired written word of God, the foundation of truth, the fully reliable record of God's revelation to humanity.

Salvation

We believe that human salvation is the gift of God, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not earned by personal merit or good works.

The Church

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.



March 20, 2011

www.ptm.org

The majority of the world today lives under some form of religious oppression. Even now, thousands are being imprisoned, tortured or put to death for their faith. Outright persecution is one form of religious oppression, and Christians have received more than their share. In the 20th century alone, it is estimated that 45 million people died for their Christian faith.

But a far more insidious form of religious oppression plagues millions of people. Much of the hatred, terrorism and bloodshed in this sin-sick world is the product of religious oppression.

Christians would readily agree that other religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and the myriad forms of animism keep their adherents enslaved and grovelling, performing various rituals and requirements to please false gods—or vainly striving to attain an unattainable state of spiritual perfection or enlightenment.

Christians are free from all this—aren't we? After all, if Christianity didn't offer greater freedom than other religions, why would we choose to be Christian? But the sad fact is—many Christians are not free.

Religious Slavery

Millions of Christians live under the mistaken belief that their observance of religious rituals, regulations, rules, restrictions and routines will somehow make God more pleased with them. They may be part of groups and churches that call themselves Christian, while promoting religious observance and legalism instead of the freedom of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Often, these people are unaware that they are living under a burden. Until someone begins to lift the weight from their shoulders, they don't know what a heavy load they've been carrying all their lives.

Read these excerpts from comments posted on PTM's ministry *First Aid for Legalists* (see www.ptm.org/legalism).

"I have been thinking for years that I should scrap my 'Christian walk,' as I kept trying to measure up to the 'standard' that was spouted from the pulpit. I thought that rather than constantly failing my Savior over and over, let alone the baggage of being told you are 'out of heaven' every time you sin, I should just walk away, bound for hell. But your ministry tells it just like I now know it is."—Email

"I am thrilled to discover your ministry, magazine and many resources that are dedicated to helping free those who are ensnared by legalism. My life was turned upside down when the crutch I was using to prove my worth to God was taken away from me. I discovered the gospel of grace only after I was no longer capable of performing all of the deeds I had thought were necessary so that God would respond and love me. What joy! What freedom to know that God's love is not dependent upon our works and deeds!"—Michigan

I grew up in a legalistic church, almost from birth. My entire life was centered around legalism. Many beliefs bordered on superstition and fanaticism. Now I have been delivered from legalism by the saving grace of Jesus. We look back on a lot of the ridiculous things we did and laugh. But that experience will always be with me—sort of like a drug or alcohol addiction to a recovering individual. I was angry for

a time, more at myself, wondering how I could have been so blinded—even duped."—Ohio

"My whole world was this little group. They told me what to do and how to do it. I was convinced that I would never be good enough for God. One day I discovered your website. My husband and I started to read our Bibles like you suggest. God has delivered us from that horrible experience. Through your ministry we are growing."

—Texas

These people were held captive by ideas they learned from legalistic religion—and there are millions more like them.

Plain Truth Ministries exists to bring the freedom of God's grace to these captives. But our work will not be successful without God's intervention.

That's why we've set aside Sunday, March 20, 2011 as the sixth annual *Day of Prayer for the Captives*—for all those who are in the bonds of religious oppression and legalism.

What Can You Do?

- Plan to set aside some personal time on March 20th to talk with God—specifically about oppressed and persecuted Christians, as well as captives of religious legalism.
- As you ask the blessing over a meal, be sure to remember the captives of religion and legalism.
- Get together with Christian friends for a time of prayer.
- If you're in a small group, make it a point to meet on or near March 20th. Spend some time discussing religion, legalism and God's grace. Pray for religious captives everywhere.
- Tell your pastor about this event. Perhaps he or she will consider giving a message on the subject and devote your congregation's worship time to this topic.

Millions of Christians live under the mistaken belief that their observance of religious rituals, regulations and rules will somehow make God more pleased with them.

- Email your Christian friends and let them know about the *Day of Prayer for the Captives*. For more details, invite them to visit our website at www.ptm.org.

- Be sure to read the cover article of the March/April 2007 issue of *Plain Truth* magazine—titled "Escape From Slavery."

- Listen to Greg Albrecht's special message dedicated to this Day of Prayer for the Captives—it will be his message during PTM's weekly online worship services —*Christianity Without the Religion* for the week of March 20. "Tune in" at www.ptm.org.

What Can You Pray for?

- Pray for Christians who are literally in prison for their faith. Pray for their endurance in the face of hardship.
- Pray for someone you may know who, through lack of understanding, is a willing slave to religious legalism. Pray that God will open their eyes to see the bondage they are in, and grant them the courage to make the changes they need to enter the freedom of God's amazing grace.
- Visit PTM's *First Aid for Legalists* website at www.ptm.org/legalism. There you can read the personal stories of people who have been trapped in legalism. Pray for these people and many others who share their experience.
- Pray for those who are stuck in cults or legalistic groups, that they might find freedom in Christ.
- Pray for the leadership of legalistic churches and cults, that they might turn to Christ in repentance and through him discover the gospel of grace.

Further Resources

Plain Truth Ministries offers a number of books and booklets on legalism. Visit our website at www.ptm.org or call us at 1-800-309-4466.

From Cult to Christ— Free (K193)
Contending for the Faith— Free (K191)
Bad News Religion—\$15, including shipping (B232)