

Sept. 2, 2007

Dear Janet,

How little we know what great things can come from a small beginning! When I first received a letter from an inmate in the Littleton State Prison in Colorado, I answered it at once (as I try to do with every letter I receive, but it was just one letter out of many. I had no idea that anything would come of it.

Jim Ferguson was the writer, and he told me that he was bitter at being wrongfully imprisoned. I hear this quite often, and did not really believe it, but I wrote him and tried my best to share Christ with Jim. I was working on three series at the time, and the mail was heavy, but I kept answering Jim's letters. The better I got to know him, the more I was convinced that God was in our friendship.

The story of his search for God emerged slowly. He told me that he was kept in the lower sections of Littleton Penitentiary and never saw sunlight. He was extremely bitter, but his good wife stayed faithful, visiting him at every opportunity. She tried to bring him books, and one of the books she gave him was The Honorable Imposter, the first in my House of Winslow series. Jim told me that the book caught his interest and he told his wife, "Bring me some more of these books."

He began to read the novels, and they kindled a desire in his heart to find God. He continued to read the novels, and he also began to read the Bible and to attend Sunday services. Slowly he began to see his need of Jesus Christ, and one day I received a letter that gave me great joy, for Jim had given his heart to the Lord!

Naturally, I wrote to him more often, and when he told me that he had always been interested in writing and then asked me to look at his work, I agreed at once.

I received samples of Jim's writing, and saw that he had real talent. For a year I tried to help him, and made one trip to Colorado and visited him in prison, and met his family.

Jim knew a great deal about the early mining days in Colorado, and I conceived the idea of a series based on that period. I wrote a proposal and submitted it to Crossways, who accepted it. When I told Jim that we would be working together on a series called THE CHRONICLES OF THE GOLDEN FRONTIER, he was overwhelmed!

Shortly after this, Jim was released from prison. His wife and daughter welcomed him home, and he began a new life in every way. Jim and I spent a great deal of time working on the series, and our families became very close.

When I received Jim's first letter, I had no idea that any of this would happen. I did learn, however, that Christian fiction can bring a glorious harvest, and I learned that every contact I make may be God's way of allowing me to share the gospel.

Gil Morris  
Gulf Shores, AL

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**GILBERT MORRIS** was a pastor before becoming an English professor and earning a Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas. Gilbert has been a consistent bestselling author in the Christian market for many years and one of the most prolific authors in Christian fiction with over 200 books currently in print. His series include: American Century Series, his most famous House of Winslow Series, Inheritance Series: Cheney and Shiloh, Lions of Judah Series, Lone Star Legacy Series, Singing River Series and Cat Detective Series. He and his wife live in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

His Favorite Verse: **Matthew 6:9-13** - "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

**Series by Gilbert Morris:**

[American Century Series](#)

[House of Winslow Series](#)

[Inheritance Series: Cheney and Shiloh](#)

[Lions of Judah Series](#)

[Singing River Series](#)

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