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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## New Institute Promotes Hope for Incarcerated Persons

TUCSON, AZ. "It feels weird smiling in prison," said Joseph A., a prisoner who is serving an 8.5 year sentence. "Prison is an awful place. But right now I'm feeling a surge of hope."

Joseph is optimistic because he is participating in Bible courses at Genesis Bible Institute, a newly formed Tucson-based ministry that offers tuition-free courses to incarcerated men and women. He said the program is allowing him to envision the type of person he could become.

"When I got to prison, I thought my life was over. I've done bad things and hurt others. I was overwhelmed with guilt and shame. I believed I could never be anything but a criminal. But in the Fundamentals of Faith class that I completed, I learned how precious I am to God. I learned that God is giving me a brand new start to serve him and to be useful for his kingdom."

Joseph is one of many prisoners nationwide completing distance learning courses through Genesis Bible Institute. The institute is the prison-ministry arm of Genesis College and Seminary, a 501(c)3 nonprofit institution founded in 2018 by a team of pastors, teachers, professors, administrators, and inmates. Genesis Bible Institute was created to serve prisoners in U.S. states whose restrictions and parameters on inmate education prevent access to certain Bible college programs.



"We've developed some outstanding courses for inmates, and we've heard many testimonies of life transformation that is taking place as a result of the training we offer," said David Johnson, Chairman of the Board. "We have an amazing team of leaders and volunteers who desire to cultivate life transformation and rehabilitation for a group of people who are often overlooked by society."

The curriculum includes courses in Biblical and theological studies, leadership, counseling, and there are many courses learners can take to assist them in their rehabilitation, including parenting courses, classes on overcoming substance abuse, and job-skill courses on creating a resume, finding a job, and excelling at a job interview.

"Spiritual conviction drives the leadership team to work through all of the challenges involved in bringing tuition-free education to inmates," said Johnson. "The lowly have a special place in Jesus' heart, and his concern for the least of these in society fuels our passion to equip the poor, the powerless, the prisoner."

Johnson said a team of talented volunteer leaders administrate the college and donate their time and financial resources to ensure that inmates can receive a Christian education without the burden of expenses.

For Joseph, he says he can't wait to take more courses. "Studying God's Word through Genesis has helped to give my life meaning and purpose. The coursework is challenging, but I'm bound and determined to complete the program and show my mom that her son is someone to be proud of."

For more information about Genesis Bible Institute, visit [www.GenesisCollegeandSeminary.com](http://www.GenesisCollegeandSeminary.com).