

## **Prisoners Set Free**

Chaplain Kathy Yoder

*“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”*

- *John 3:17*

There are prisoners all around us, but most are not behind bars. They're walking down the street next to us. They're buying bananas in the grocery store and rocking their babies to sleep at night. They're sitting next to us in church. They're eating at our kitchen table every morning. They're looking back at us in the mirror as we brush our teeth.

Some are adults. Some are little children. Some never grow up. Some are afraid to.

We are a people who live in chains that others cannot see behind bars that are invisible to the human eye. But the chains are still real and the bars still exist. Ask someone who's never felt loved to tell you about their prison cell. They can describe it in intimate detail even down to the color, the smell and the light coming through the window.

What are the links that forge your chains? Feelings of inadequacy? God thinks you are more than adequate. After all, he created you. You are unique. You are very special. You are more than enough. You are just right.

You feel like an orphan in a hostile world? God wants to be your father. He will never fail you. You can count on him. You feel unloved? God loves you with an everlasting love. He loves you so much that he sacrificed his only son, Jesus, just for you and for me.

We've been saved, adopted and loved by the King. Leave the chains behind. Walk out of your cell. Breathe in the fresh air. Welcome to the rest of your life. Live a life of freedom in Jesus Christ.