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# THE GREAT ESCAPE

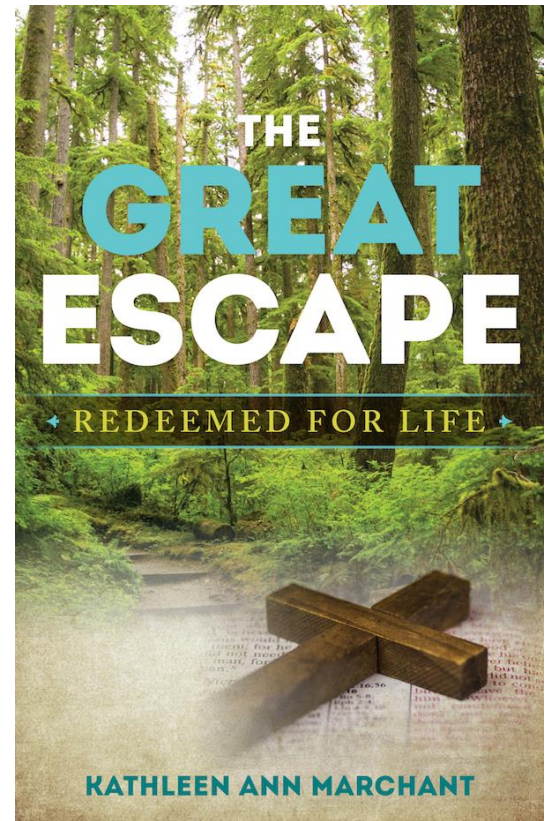
REDEEMED FOR LIFE

KATHLEEN ANN MARCHANT

In *The Great Escape: Redeemed for Life*, find ways you can experience healing and be released from the shackles of sin, addiction, abuse, and life circumstances. Be born into a new life through freedom in Christ, or strengthen your existing faith. This **8-week Bible study** follows a faith progression, starting with an introduction of the Trinity. Readers travel gently through the basics of Christianity, going a little deeper each week. Each lesson starts with a prayer and offers challenges to aid the reader in repair of brokenness, idleness, and destructive behaviors.

*The Great Escape* provides encouraging insight into what life can be like after the release of chains. In a society riddled with distractions—sin, abuse, addictions, being prisoners in our circumstances and even our own minds—this study offers the reader freedom. Readers will learn of the hope available by truly surrendering their hearts to Jesus. **Over the course of the study, the reader progresses to a place of not only survival, but purpose and joy.** The study wraps up with an entire week devoted to support for life after the study, providing the reader with tools to incorporate what they have learned into everyday life. Experiencing freedom to inquire, to change, to surrender, to forgive, and to move on to live a life that is Christ-centered will leave them truly redeemed for life.

**Each week contains five lesson plans.** Every lesson plan starts with a welcome and prayer. The body of the lesson is filled with Scripture and encouragement. At the end of each lesson plan is a prompt for *Personal Reflection*, followed by an *Incarcerated Challenge* written specifically for a reader that is incarcerated.



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*Deep River*  
B O O K S

# About the Author

## KATHLEEN ANN MARCHANT

**Kathleen Ann Marchant** and her husband, Brian, reside in Idaho, near their daughter and her family. Born in Midwestern De Pere, Wisconsin, Kathleen was one of the middle children in a sibling group of eight. She was raised on a strong ethical foundation, taught both at home and at the private Catholic school she attended. Through her journeys, she teetered between the pulls of the deep roots of her faith and the worldly environment. Now, she shares how she has learned to use all life experiences as tests and testimonies. She has dedicated years of her life to ministering to those in prison and has come to realize that many people are imprisoned by things other than cell walls and are just as hungry for redemption. Kathleen feels most at home in the wide-open vistas of the Pacific Northwest, where she lives a life of peace and purpose through servanthood, writing, and public speaking, trusting in the Lord.



## Connect with the Author:

[www.kathleenamarchant.com](http://www.kathleenamarchant.com)

*What Others Are Saying About*

## The Great Escape

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*The Great Escape: Redeemed for Life* offers life-changing hope! Kathleen Ann Marchant has a way of connecting with the reader and helping them see that freedom in Christ is possible, that embracing His Grace changes everything. The reader will receive a God-sized dose of joy and a jump start or “re-start” on their Christian walk!

— **Heather Lawless, CEO/Founder of Reliance Ministries Inc.**

In this book, *The Great Escape* by Kathleen Ann Marchant, you will find that God is your Father. He has a good, wise, and kind Father’s heart for you—forever. Enjoy learning that your Father is keeping you while He is also teaching you how to live in truth.

— **Pastor Delbert Durfee, Athena Christian Church**

I really enjoyed doing *The Great Escape* study as it got me into the Bible. It helped to strengthen my faith in Christ as I saw different views. I think any new, or not new, Christian will gain much insight [from] this study by Kathleen Ann Marchant.

— **Marla Jo High, Prison Ministry Volunteer**

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# Suggested Interview Questions

For Kathleen Ann Marchant, author of  
*The Great Escape*  
*Redeemed for Life*

**Q: Who do you hope to reach with *The Great Escape*?**

**A:** God has touched my heart with His unconditional love for the incarcerated, their family members, and their friends. Because of witnessing the salvation of inmates through my involvement with Kairos International Prison Ministries, I am distinctly drawn to unbelievers and new believers in prison. There is so much need within prison walls for the story of Jesus to be shared. In fact, this book is dedicated to all those individuals I met while sharing the love of Christ within prison walls.

The book's audience then expanded to unbelievers, new believers, and weathered believers out and among us. In the writing process, God revealed to me that a person does not have to be in prison to be a prisoner. Anything that holds you in bondage can be a prison: your past, your current circumstances, drugs, alcohol, even toxic religion experiences. *The Great Escape* was titled as this because of the escape we long for. This might be the escape from your present mindset and the life you are living. The book helps the reader discover how to live with purpose, joy, and the promise of eternal life—no matter what your surroundings may be.

**Q: What does your book offer, in a nutshell?**

**A:** The book offers the reader a way to discover the fundamentals of Christianity and gain freedom.

**Q: How is it uniquely compelling among so many other studies about similar topics?**

**A:** It is designed, specifically, as a travelogue of a soul in motion, moving through various discoveries in faith. It's a Bible study for the new believer and believers seeking restoration, each day starting with a personal prayer written just for them.

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The book follows a process of transformation, starting with an introduction to Christian faith. The next week has the reader ask and consider answers to the questions “Who am I to God?” and “Why do I need him?” Week 3 explains grace as the means to obtain a relationship with Christ and become a Christian. The pivotal week is Week 4, which provides a prayer for salvation and challenges the reader to “take the leap.” The next four weeks of study offer instruction on how to “set their course” and stay grounded. Tools are provided in the final weeks to accomplish this. And although I do not think of my life story as interesting, I do share throughout the study personal insight, which provides a real intimacy with the reader.

**Q: What do you consider the most important part of your book?**

**A:** The story of salvation resulting in everlasting life and a purpose-driven life here on earth. The reader is given opportunity to surrender their life (or renew their surrender) midway through the book. God challenges us Christians to increase the Body of Christ—which is the church (people who believe in Jesus) here on earth. I truly believe in what I am writing and I believe in salvation and eternal life. It is the best gift one can receive.

**Q: What inspires you to write?**

**A:** I do not set out to write a book. I wait until I am prompted by the Holy Spirit to share something. Sometimes this prompting is through a person, sometimes it is through an experience, sometimes it is in meditation and prayer, and most times it is when I am being still in nature. I do not experience writer’s block, because I truly feel I am just the vessel having the love of Jesus passed through me in the words.

**Q: When did you decide to become a writer, and why?**

**A:** There was no exact time when I chose to be a writer. It really was not a decision; it was just a Christian action. Some people are called to speak; others work in food banks or foster children. One of the ways I am called is to write. I started out sharing morning devotions—messages that came to fruition in my meditation times. Some of these encouragements then became a published devotional titled *Fortress of My Heart*. I write simply to introduce others to a life

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with Christ and to come alongside other Christians in support of their walk with Christ.

**Q: What made you decide to sit down and actually write this book?**

**A:** This book in particular was sparked after a Kairos International Prison Ministry Weekend in Gigg Harbor, Washington. Finding out how many women signed up and showed interest in attending, and then experiencing the limited participants because of the volunteer team size and restrictions of the facility, I was heartbroken. I thought, cried a lot, and prayed. I asked God what I could do to reach more of these women. God immediately laid the idea of a Bible study on my heart, and six months later the first draft came to fruition.

**Q: What is the hardest thing about writing?**

**A:** For me it is sharing personal experiences and insights without feeling ashamed. Being an “open book.” A good friend of mine told me that I have an audience of one—meaning God. If I am okay with God hearing it, then it should not become a factor in keeping others from hearing it. If God wants to use it, His Holy Spirit will prompt me to share it. I just need to act on those promptings. I do not look back anymore. Our time here is limited. None of us really know how long God will have us here. I do not want to waste what days I am given by stewing on the past.

**Q: Tell me a bit about yourself.**

**A:** I was born and raised in a small town in Wisconsin. I was one of eight children in a Roman Catholic family where we all attended St. Francis Catholic Church and School through our elementary years. My parents loved us, and I never felt lacking in anything. Once in high school my life took a path that was not so pleasant; this because of the sexual abuse of boys. Soon labeled the Black Sheep of the family, I tried sex, drugs, alcohol, and even running away.

I ended up marrying at a very young age. The one great thing that came from the next 14 years of failed marriage was my daughter. It was during that lonely marriage that I attended my brother’s church, and I raised my hand in desperation during an altar call and surrendered my life to Christ. The man at the microphone asked, “Who among you are tired of your circumstances? Who among you are

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struggling with addictions, situations that you feel are hopeless, with nowhere to go? Who among you feels of little value? There is an option to change your life's path. John 3:16 says, *'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'*" (NIV). There is a way out!

So that was it. I prayed silently this prayer and my chains were gone. I gave up being in charge and went about my business. Although I remained functioning in the "worldly realm," God was wooing me and changing me—just as He is you. This was more than 30 years ago, and as I look back, I can plainly see how God moved me from self-destruction to a life of purpose and pleasure. Eventually He became my priority, and life has taken on an entirely different perspective. I now live in Idaho with a loving husband. My daughter and her family live close enough that I am blessed with seeing my grandchildren often. I am blessed to carry out my years here in service to Christ in what every way He points me.

**Q: What's next for you? Do you have anything in the works?**

**A:** I continue to write inspirational bookmarks to partner with FRIEND Jewelry, Faithfully Reaching in Every Needed Direction. I enjoy speaking engagements that give me opportunity to share what having a personal relationship with Jesus has done in my life and can do for others. As far as the next book, I am patiently waiting in the wings for the Lord to beckon me, should he so desire.

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