

## INTRODUCTION

In one sense I had lost everything—power, prestige, freedom, even my identity. In the summer of 1974, as prisoner number 23226 at Maxwell Federal Prison Camp, I stared at the screen of a small black-and-white television set. Along with the rest of the country, I watched as President Richard Nixon, whom I had served faithfully for three and a half years, resigned his office. It was one of the most desolate experiences of my life.

But in another sense I had found everything, all that really matters: a personal relationship with the living God. My life had been dramatically transformed by Jesus Christ.

In the dreary confines of that prison, I began to scribble notes, trying to describe the dramatic change in my life and what it meant to go from the White House to prison. I had received lucrative offers to write political memoirs, but I felt compelled to tell people the simple story of what God had done in my life.

So I began to scratch out on a yellow pad the story that later became *Born Again*. I had no idea there even was a Christian publishing industry. All I knew was that I had a story I must tell, a story that might bring hope and encouragement to others.

Little did I dream that the book *Born Again* would become an international best-seller; that millions of copies would be printed; that tens of thousands of people around the world, from prisoners in dark cells to prime ministers and princes in palaces, would read it; that the Holy Spirit would use its words—God’s work in my life—to spark new life in hearts everywhere.

In one sense this book tells an old story—of politics in one of America’s most convulsive times, the Watergate era, which led to the only presidential resignation in history. But it is a much older story than that—one that has echoed through the centuries. It is a story of truth, of hope, of the wonderful Good News of Jesus Christ’s power to change a human life.

It is this Good News that I hope you will encounter in the pages that follow.

CHARLES W. COLSON

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