

## A Life Changed



*Jose M. Pagan as told to Nelson Martin*

**Nelson:** On a cold winter day in January 1994, Jose Pagan walked out of a Pennsylvania state prison, free from both physical bars and many destructive powers that had negatively held his life in bondage. On a hot, humid evening in August 2005, I spent a delightful time in Jose's home, listening to a fascinating story of how his life was changed by the power of Jesus. Here are some highlights.

**Jose:** I grew up in Lancaster city and was raised by a single mom. She had immigrated to Lancaster from Puerto Rico. Even though I attended Catholic school and mom loved and cared for me the best she could, she couldn't shield me from trouble. I began using drugs at age 15 and got into lots of trouble during my high school years. Thankfully, I was able to graduate from McCaskey High School in 1985, but my senior year was stressful because part of the time I was in a mandated drug rehab program.



**Nelson:** Were you successful after high school?

**Jose:** Sorry to say, my life got more dysfunctional. In January of 1991, when I was 23 years old, police raided an apartment where myself, my 4 year old daughter and my daughter's mother were staying. Thankfully, my 4 year old daughter was taken care of, but the two adults went to Lancaster County Prison. In the hopelessness of prison, I met a Support for Prison Ministries chaplain. I began going to Bible studies. The chaplain gave me a Good News Bible and took time to talk with and pray for me. I still have that Bible, although it's tattered and all marked up, that became a great source of learning and hope for me.

**Nelson:** So what was different about this Bible and encounter with God than your previous experiences?

**Jose:** I grew up knowing only about an angry God, who had a lot of rules and legalistic regulations. While reading this Bible, I saw a new side of God, a God who is loving, full of mercy and who offers healing for hurting situations. One night, alone on my bunk, I pulled the covers over my body and prayed to God a simple prayer of confession. I cried and cried. Then, when everyone else seemed to be sleeping for the night, I went and told the guard that was on duty what I had just done. That guard "just happened" to be a Christian and we celebrated together.

**Nelson:** How long did you stay imprisoned?

**Jose:** I stayed at LCP for six months. During that time, I received much teaching and help from the chaplains. I was sentenced to 3-6 years in the state prison system. I went first to Camp Hill and then spent the remainder of my time at Waymart Correctional

Institution in Wayne County, northeastern Pennsylvania. During those days, I read and studied. I learned much about God and Jesus. I found that God was making me a new man. Old habits and desires for evil were changed.

**Nelson:** So what new life was waiting for you when you got your freedom from Waymart?

**Jose:** A Christian family in the New Holland area offered room in their house to me. I lived there about 6 months. I had much learning to do and God had to reshape me in many ways, but life was good. I got a job in a wood working plant and met a young lady, Tina, who became my wife in 1996. In 1995, I took a job at M. H. Eby Truck Body shop. I started as a welder, worked hard at several jobs there, and then was asked to be supervisor of

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# Director's Report

As I write this, I am reflecting on the past 6 years that I have been directing the Support for Prison Ministries programs. What a learning experience this has been for me. What exciting opportunities I have had. What interesting people I have met.

Our SFPM chaplains and support staff continue to work hard. They plant, water and harvest many seeds in lives of needy inmates. Many hours are spent counseling, doing Bible studies, praying for and working with inmates.

As you know, the Bible talks much about the joy of harvest and the blessings of ingathering. However, I recently read a passage with a somber reminder. The prophet Jeremiah warned of lost opportunities "The har-

vest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved". Jeremiah 8:20.

I praise God for the prayers, counsel and financial gifts given to SFPM by many churches, businesses and interested individuals. This support makes it possible for us to minister and share behind the bars - - - BEFORE THE HARVEST ENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE FOREVER GONE.

*Nelson W. Martin, Director*



## Re-entry Management Organization Forming

A Lancaster county-wide effort to provide better aftercare for inmates leaving prison thus reducing the recidivism rate is being explored. Support for Prison Ministries and many other Lancaster County criminal justice, community service and faith-based agencies have been meeting to work on creating a RMO. Much work is still needed for this important task, which is guided by this mission statement: "To achieve safer communities through reduced recidivism by providing support and assistance to transitioning inmates through an intentional network of faith-based and community organizations in partnership with the criminal justice system."

## Streams of Life Prison Ministries Presents:

### "Jales of the Incarcerated"

Sunday, November 20, 7:00 P.M.

At HINKLETOWN MENNONITE CHURCH

Speakers: Delmar Weaver and Del Burkholder  
Gospel Music by - Hearts for Correction

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME !!!**

For more information:  
Call (717) 859-3904 or  
email: [delspeak@dejazzd.com](mailto:delspeak@dejazzd.com)

## Notes From Prison

From a female inmate at LCP: "My reading the Bible helps me to calm down. I know God is watching over me. Without the Bible and the chaplain's services, I don't think I could have made it through all of this."

A 12 year old boy in the Youth Intervention Center was led to the Lord by Chaplain Marvin Reed recently. A few days later this note came: "I am very, very thankful for what you did with me last Thursday . . . It wasn't an easy decision but I am glad I did it. . . I've read all the Bible stories in the book you gave me. I love you like family. Thanks again."



**Chaplain staff at Lancaster County Prison:**  
(l-r) Michael Booth, Katie Mininger, J.R. Fisher, Al Huber, Faye Stauffer, Marvin Reed, Diane Fulmer, and Isaias Maldonado.

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an assembly line. I enjoy my job, working with both tools and with people.

**Nelson:** Tell me about how church has played a part in your new life.

**Jose:** Church life has been a blessing and big encouragement to my faith walk. I attended Carpenter Community Church when renewal touched that congregation. Currently I am part of Petra Christian Fellowship near New Holland. I love the worship time, the teaching of the Word and the great fellowship with believers. Recently I had the opportunity to go to Guatemala on a short-term missions trip. What an eye opener that was to see how persons live in another part of the world.

**Nelson:** Do you have some goals or "next steps" you want to develop?

**Jose:** I want to be more open to sharing my story. I want others to know that God is real and can make a difference in any life, no matter what mistakes or failures have happened. God has been reminding me to just be myself, using the gifts and talents He gave me. I want to stay close to God and learn more about walking by faith.

**Nelson:** Any challenge or favorite verse to leave with the readers of our "Freedom Focus" newsletter?

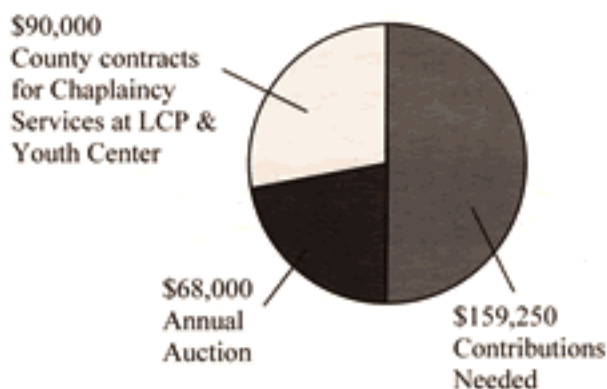
**Jose:** I know God wants us all to live in humility. God hates pride and arrogance. There are also two verses that have impacted my life since I became a believer. Romans 10: 9 and 10 *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* He saved me and delivered me and is helping me walk each day in freedom. Praise God for his mercy and love that has changed my life.

# Focus on Finances

### YEAR TO DATE—January-August 2005

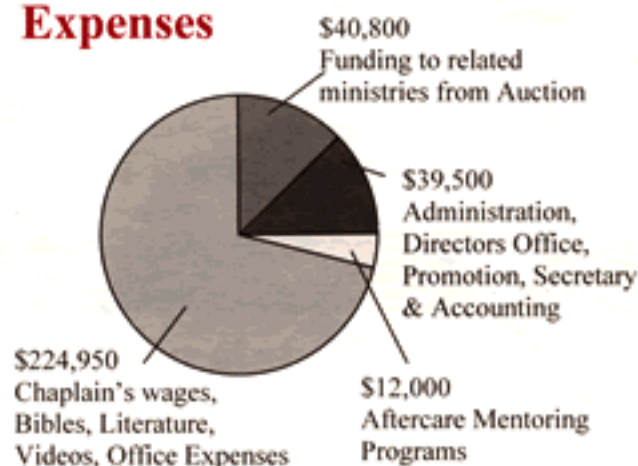
Budget	\$211,500
Income	\$136,975
Expenses	\$188,505

### Income



### 2005 Annual Budget - \$317,250

### Expenses



- From our annual audit: Only 12% of our total expenses go for administration and promotion, leaving 88% of all income for chaplain wages, prison ministry programs and services to inmates and ex-inmates.
- Remember SFPM in your estate planning and long-term giving. Counsel is available to help you with will preparation, asset distribution and tax savings.
- A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for you to use to send a gift to partner with SFPM.

Support For Prison Ministries  
P.O. Box 134  
Lititz, PA 17543  
(717) 625-0232  
Email: [sfpm@4safe.com](mailto:sfpm@4safe.com)

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit #1746  
Lancaster, PA  
17604

Check out our website for updated photos and information: [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)

## COME TO THE AUCTION

Friday, October 21 &  
Saturday, October 22, 2005



**Food, fun, and fellowship while providing funds to be shared with ministries that are dedicated to prisoners, Aftercare programs, and prisoners families.**

### Specialty Items to be Sold

- 8 x 12' Wooden Carriage Shed
- Hand-carved 3-D Picture, by Lorraine Reiff  
    *"Millport Mill & Stone House"*
- Pedal Tractors
- Framed Paintings & Hand-crafted Items  
    (some done by inmates)
- Beautiful Quilts and Wall Hangings
- Valuable Gift Certificates from area businesses
- Tools, hardware, farm and home items
- Food items, groceries, produce, fruit and meat
- Beautiful gift and theme baskets

Located at the Farmersville Auction Grounds, Farmersville, PA (Northwest of New Holland, Lancaster County)

### Schedule of Activities

#### Friday, October 21

Chicken Barbeque (\$7.00 full meal) .....4:00 - 7:00 PM  
Sale of Hardware, groceries, meats and crafts .....5:00 - 9:00 PM  
Winross and Collectible Toy Sale .....7:30 - 8:30 PM

#### Saturday, October 22

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast .....6:00 AM  
Benefit Auction begins .....8:30 AM  
Quilt Auction .....1:30 PM

**OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO NET \$68,000 TO GIVE TO SIX MINISTRIES THAT ARE SHARING HOPE AND HEALING TO PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

### QUALITY MERCHANDISE AND GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THIS AUCTION.

- **If you have donations—**  
    Nelson Martin 625-0232  
    Glenn Hoover 733-7301  
    Cliff Martin 336-6411.
- **Theme Baskets—**If you can make or donate items, call Anna Mae Martin 626-6301.
- **Quilts and Wall Hangings Needed—**  
    Judy Hoover 733-7301.