

## Matters of the Heart



*Editor's Note: In the last Freedom Focus Newsletter, we began a two-part series relating to how prison ministry is not primarily an external focus, but rather speaks to and deals with matters of the heart. Chaplains Al Huber and J. R. Fisher wrote about their motivations and goals as prison chaplains. In this issue, Huber and Fisher, along with input from Chaplain office coordinator Diane Fulmer, give us insights into the heart of the inmate.*



*J. R. Fisher and Al Huber*

### THE HEART OF AN INMATE

**Q. As a chaplain, what do you look for when you minister to an inmate?**

**A.** When we first meet an inmate, our goal is to get a sense of where they have been and what makes them "tick". We ask questions about their background and any spiritual upbringing. From this information, we try to determine what needs to be sown into their lives during their incarceration. We find that each inmate has a unique set of issues and circumstances. We try our best to meet them on their level, pointing them to a God who loves them very much.

**Q. What would you say are the most common traumas that inmates face?**

**A.** Many problems stem from mental, physical and sexual abuse experienced early in life. Although any one of these situations can be devastating, we find many inmates that have dealt with multiple situations as they have gone through life. We also find that sexual abuse is usually more complicated and confusing because of the conflicting

emotions that are trapped within the memories of these events. (such feelings as good versus bad or shameful versus pleasurable, etc.)

**Q. So what, in your experience, are the biggest hurdles for an inmate once he/she decides to deal with these life destroying issues?**

**A.** There are many hurdles or stumbling blocks, including pride, fear, painful memories or guilt. However, in many cases, the biggest hindrance is the pain involved in getting well. When a person decides to deal with deep rooted issues, they pass from the conscious parts of the brain to awareness of deeper issues, like hidden closets of the heart and mind. Dealing with these issues are usually very painful. Some inmates try to convince you that the past is not the issue, but their actions (crimes) usually prove otherwise. Another stumbling block can be the fear of losing something that makes them feel good. For some, this could be drugs or alcohol. For others it may be a boyfriend or girlfriend or another family member. Many of these things have been a "security blanket or their savior" for many years. Some are not willing to give them up, to "place everything on the altar". We also realize there are many outside issues as well. Many go back to situations and people where their problems started in the first place. By blaming others or trying to fix things by themselves, they usually end up back again in prison, where we have another opportunity to work with their hearts to challenge them to inner healing.

One thing that has become real clear to the chaplains serving at Lancaster is that God never violates the free will of a person. (Even though we sometimes wished He would). An inmate, or anyone else for that matter, must choose on

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Michael Booth joins Chaplain Staff at Lancaster County Prison

Support for Prison Ministries is glad to announce that Michael Booth began January 1 as a chaplain in Lancaster County Prison. Michael and his wife Eliza live in Lancaster. Michael has served the inner city in various evangelism and outreach ministries since he moved to the area in 1997 to attend Lancaster Bible College.



Michael has a call of God to minister to those incarcerated and to "be a godly man who makes a difference in the world". He has training and experience in addictions counseling and reaching out to the hurting and needy in the community. Michael will be working ½ time with Support for Prison Ministries chaplain programs, as well as doing

community outreach and counseling through "Light of Hope" Ministries in Lancaster.

# Dick Yorgey Chosen as "Volunteer of the Year"



At their annual picnic with staff and volunteers in September, Support for Prison Ministries board honored Dick Yorgey as their "Volunteer of the Year". Nelson Martin, SFPM Director, presented Dick with a framed picture painted by a local artist and a certificate honoring his many years of active prison ministry.



Dick has a long history of sharing his faith and serving others. In the 1960's, he hired ex-inmates for his dry-cleaning business. Since then he and his wife Ruth have given food and provided transportation, lodging and Godly counsel to many persons in need. Currently Dick is a volunteer chaplain at Lancaster County Prison, where he averages 10 - 12 hours per week ministering to inmates. He is also involved with the EXIT Program, which provides assistance to ex-inmates in their return to society.



Dick and Ruth live in Ephrata and are active in the Ephrata Church of the Nazarene. SUPPORT FOR PRISON MINISTRIES GIVES A BIG THANK YOU TO DICK YORGEY FOR HIS FAITHFUL SERVICE TO GOD AND OTHERS, AND WISHES GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND JOY ON HIS LIFE.

Currently, the 8 paid chaplains (5 full-time equivalent) are assisted by 12 regular Chaplain volunteers at Lancaster County Prison. These volunteers gave about 5,000 hours inside the prison during the past year. Their contributions are invaluable. THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.



## You Are Invited

### We Care Prison Ministry Banquet

Friday, March 4 • 6:30 PM • Yoder's, New Holland, PA

Simple Grace (music), speaker, and a ministry update.

No charge—but tickets required.

Aaron Martin • 717-738-4168

Melvin Brendle • 717-445-6276

John L. Wenger • 717-653-5906

*Offering proceeds benefit We Care Program*

## For You to Know Facts and Figures

- ◆ About 125 inmates attended 5 different ALPHA classes during 2004 inside LCP.
- ◆ Almost 2,500 Bible correspondence courses were completed by inmates at LCP during 2004.
- ◆ A quote from Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship  
*"Government programs can give much assistance but cannot love someone - only people do that. And where better to find a loving mentor for an inmate than the church?"*

# Matters of the Heart (Continued from page 1)

a daily basis to walk in God's love and forgiveness and make Jesus Lord of all. That is not always easy, whether persons are inside or outside of prison.

By the grace of God, we as chaplains choose to live this surrendered lifestyle and then allow God's message of hope and healing to flow from our lives to the many hurting, needy persons we see each day. We know that people can be changed by God from the inside out. We have seen it happen in the past. We know it will happen again in the future. We continue to sow seeds, nurture plants, and anticipate a good harvest.

## Record Set at Annual Benefit Auction

*"The best auction SFPM ever had", "the chicken barbeque meal was delicious"; "the auction was well organized and attended this year. I was humbled by the generous*

*spirit of those in attendance".*

These are all comments we received after our Annual Benefit sale was held at Farmersville Auction Grounds October 22 & 23, 2004. One person involved in

the auction wrote "I was reminded over the sale weekend of Nehemiah 4:6 'the people had a mind to work'. And we experienced that as well, for which we can all be grateful on behalf of prison ministries.

This year's goal was set at \$65,000. Total income, from auction proceeds, food sales and donations totaled \$84,000. This was 13% ahead of last year. Total auction expenses totaled \$11,688, leaving a balance to distribute of \$72,321. This exceeded the goal by \$7,321. Contributions were distributed to chaplain programs at Lancaster County Prison and Youth Intervention Center, as well as EXIT programs and Transition to Community, both in Lancaster, and to Freedom Gate Ministries in Reading, PA and We Care Programs in Atmore, Alabama.

Since the SFPM annual Benefit Auction began in 1984, about \$1.15 million has been contributed to a variety of prison ministries. These ministries touch lives behind bars, families on the outside and provide quality care and Christian teaching that assists ex-inmates in their return to society.

Special items sold at the auction included:

- ◆ A large, beautiful hand carved 3-D picture by Lorraine Reiff, "The Blacksmith Shop"
- ◆ A selection of pedal tractors, including an Allis Chalmers Collectors Edition signed by Joseph Ertl
- ◆ Many beautiful quilts and wall hangings, including Circle of Love and Boston Commons
- ◆ Original oil paintings by inmates. Also paintings by Thomas Kincade, Richard Bollinger and others
- ◆ Wide variety of theme and gift baskets including 2 John Deere collectible baskets.



## Mark your calendars now

**IN 2005, THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
BENEFIT AUCTION WILL BE  
HELD OCTOBER 21 & 22 AT  
FARMERSVILLE AUCTION.**



MORE DETAILS WILL BE COMING LATER.



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

## Director's Report — . — . — . — . — . By Nelson W. Martin



### Could Revival Start in a Prison?

During the past few months, I have been in various circles where church leaders were talking about the coming revival. A verse that has been used for the anticipated revival is Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." I've heard mission stories from China, Peru, and Ethiopia . . . stories of persons coming to faith because of volunteers giving time in Florida to help those with storm damage . . . reports of renewed cooperation of church leaders in Lancaster area . . . pastors in several towns praying together weekly and seeing results. . . it is exciting to real-

ize that God is at work in varying parts of His kingdom.

One day recently I was inside Lancaster County Prison doing some reviews with our chaplain staff. And again I heard stories . . . an inmate that experienced physical healing, an inmate Bible study class who are receiving answers to their prayers. . Alpha course teachers bringing prayer requests from the "outside" for the inmates to pray about. And my heart was stirred. Could revival start in prison? I believe it did already.

And I praise God for faithful partners on the outside who pray regularly, give encouragement and send financial contributions to assist in this exciting work. . . REVIVAL!"

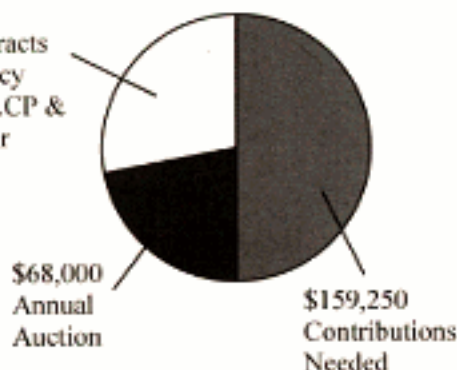


## Focus on Finances

*In light of increasing openings for prison ministry and the availability of more chaplains, the SFPM Board of Directors took a bold faith step to increase their budget by \$32,000 (about 11%) for 2005. About 12 1/2 % of our total expenses go for administration and promotion, leaving 87 1/2 % of all income for direct chaplain wages, programs and services.*

### Income

\$90,000  
County contracts for Chaplaincy Services at LCP & Youth Center



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

- An envelope is enclosed for you to send a gift to partner with us.
- Remember SFPM in your estate planning and long-term giving. Counsel is available to help you with will preparation, asset distribution and tax savings.

### Expenses

