

Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

"Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners"

Volume 7 Number 26 Fall 2006

Thank You!!! Thank You!!!

Our Chaplains constantly hear those words as they work with and talk to inmates. Thank you's are words that many inmates would not have used much on the outside. But now as some are incarcerated and seeking help, the thank you's begin to flow... Thank you for listening, thank you for getting me a Bible, thanks for re-connecting me with my pastor, thanks for letting me talk about my fears and pains . . .

We are printing parts of 4 letters that the Lancaster County Prison (LCP) chaplains have received from persons, expressing THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

Middle aged man at LCP: I would like to thank you one more time for all of the hard work you put into my block at the prison. I was overwhelmed at first when I got here. I was never in a jail before, and never will again. I didn't know what was going to happen to me. I know I broke the law and was willing to do whatever I had to do to make things right. Each Wednesday when you came with the video, you took some time to talk to each of us and you treated us like men. Your talk, music, and tapes with the teachings of the Bible, has given me a reason to learn more about your Lord. I read some of the Bible each day. I go to Bible study each Thursday afternoon and enjoy it. When I return home I will go to church and find a Bible study group I can join. The small things I've done in the past eight months are because of you. I know that with your kindness and compassion, the men you helped in jail will find our Lord and salvation. I will think back from time to time and remember you and the good things from a very bad place. I found my God who has given me Eternal Life, and I found a caring chaplain, who helped me find my God. Live in Peace and the God of Love and Peace will be with you.

Female at LCP: Sometimes we have to reach a certain point in our lives and then we realize that God has been trying to talk with us and has always been there saying, "My child, I am here. Call on Me." Since I began reading the Bible, I no longer feel alone but back in tune with the Lord Jesus.

Young man who moved from LCP to a PA State Institution: It is so difficult here, this prison has so much more than the county but not



when it comes to support from our chaplains office. I don't have that like I did down there. You guys are awesome. Anyway, enclosed is my acceptance letter from a Re-entry House. I want you to know that I've done everything I said, no games! I'm just happy and wanted to share it with people that care. God is good! Thank you and God Bless.

Female at LCP: Thank you so very much for responding to me so quickly. May God continue to bless all of you and those in and around your daily lives. I know now that God gives direction to my life and his love for me keeps me from wanting to commit terrible crimes. I know I am never alone anymore.

See you at the Auction in Farmersville Fun...Food...Benefit Auction for Prison Ministries. More details on Page 3

Teaching Them to Observe The Work of Ambassador Training International in Lancaster County Prison By Michael E. Wolfe



I have had the privilege and pleasure of teaching a course currently referred to as Ambassador Training (formerly called Inside Out). Following is a brief description of the philosophy and approach of this course.

The course presupposes that God has designed human beings to function a certain way. Scripture reveals information about our design, our Designer and about the process we must pursue if we are to fulfill the purpose and function of our Godgiven design. When we violate our design, we promote bad "fruit" and death while honoring our design produces good "fruit" and life.

The course consists of three units, each having five lessons and weekly worksheets. The first unit defines and emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance. This unit is called Change Your Heart. The second unit considers the

importance of the correct use of our mental capacity and is called Change Your Mind. The third unit follows with an examination of what's involved in making proper, God-honoring choices and is called Change Your Life.

In unit one it is emphasized that the person who functions from a self-supreme attitude of heart is living in sin and will produce fruit consistent with this unrealistic and inappropriate heart attitude. Instruction stemming from Mt.16:24 & 25 leads the student to understand that they must deny supreme self interest if they are to produce the fruit of a transformed life. Repentance is essentially the climatic point of purposing to live to please God supremely as opposed to purposing to please self supremely.

If one truly purposes to please God supremely, understanding what pleases Him and how to please Him is obviously important. Unit two is designed to provide key information of this sort. Basic understanding of the importance of truth and how we are designed to assimilate truth is considered in this unit. Paul indicated that we are transformed by the renewing of the mind and Jesus said the truth shall make us free. Truth is a central "tool" God uses in the process of governing human beings.

Truth, however, not acted upon will not change one's life and will not result in the good fruit God intends for us to produce. Consequently, unit three considers the process necessary for using our God-given capacities to make proper, God-honoring moral decisions even in the face of a wide variety of contrary influences.

I am thankful for the support of SFPM and the opportunity LCP affords me in this area of ministry. If you wish to contact Ambassador Training International, write to ambassadortraining@comcast.net.

NEW CHAPLAIN AT YOUTH INTERVENTION CENTER

Charlie Hess began a part-time assignment as chaplain to the juveniles at YIC. He replaces Andy Hostetter, who was married in August and moved to Harrisburg, PA. THANKS TO ANDY FOR HIS YEAR OF EFFECTIVE SERVICE AT YIC.

Charlie has done volunteer counseling at YIC for the past five years. He is active in The Lord's House of Prayer congregation in Lancaster, where he leads a ministry team into the Prison on a regular basis and volunteers with the Thursday evening EXIT (Ex-Offenders in Transition) that meets in his church building. Charlie and his wife Wendy live near Brownstown.



(I-r) Nelson Martin, SFPM Director, sharing with Charlie Hess, new chaplain at YIC

| Support for | Prison Ministries

23rd Annual Benefit Auction

October 27 & 28, 2006 at Farmersville Auction

Between Ephrata & New Holland





4-7 P.M. Chicken Barbeque (Eat in or take out) \$7.50 for full meal
5:00 P.M. Auction of quality merchandise, hardware, flowers, gift certificates, Winross trucks and collectible toys, and a big selection of meats and groceries.
Many Gift Certificates sold at Silent Auction both days.



6 A.M. Delicious Pancake and Sausage Breakfast8:30 A.M. Auction begins with quality merchandise for home, farm, and business.

Specialty items to be sold:

Wooden Handmade Chime Clock
(by Kerby Keller a prison inmate)
Wooden Storage Barn
Pedal tractors
Framed painting and hand-crafted items
(some done by inmates)
Beautiful quilts and wall hangings
Shrubbery, flowers, and nursery stock.

Tools, hardware, farm and home items Food items, groceries, produce, fruits, and meats Beautiful gift and theme baskets.



1932 Ford Model B Truck
!! A Unique truck to be restored!!



"The Old Time Milk Man" Zook Original 3-D Picture One of a kind — locally made







Proceeds from the auction benefit these prison ministries:

Lancaster County Prison, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, EXIT (Ex-Offenders in Transition), Freedom Gate, TTC (Transition to Community), and We Care Programs.

Since the SFPM annual Benefit Auction began in 1984, over \$1.23 million has been contributed to a variety of prison ministries, touching lives behind bars, families on the outside, and providing quality care and Christian teaching that assists inmates to return to society.

Support For Prison Ministries P.O. Box 134 Lititz, PA 17543 (717) 625-0232 Email: 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

You are Invited to hear first hand prison reports at:

Lititz District of Mennonite Churches Annual Mission Rally.
Focus on area Prison ministries, testimonies, chaplain reports.

November 12, 2006 7:00pm at Landis Valley Mennonite Church.

(Route 272 North of Lancaster)



Prison Ministrice Tales of the Incarcerated 2006"

Aresented by Delmar Weaver & Del Burkholder
Gospel Music by Hearts for Correction
Sunday, October 15th at 7.00 PM at the Hinkletown Mennonite Church
Everyone Welcome!!!

Focus On Finances

2006 Budget: \$325,000

Income

\$163,275

Needed

Contributions

S91,725
County contracts
for chaplainey
Services at LCP
and Youth Center

Year to Date: January - August 2006

Budget: \$216,667 Income: \$143,025

\$237,850

Expenses

Expenses: \$198,250

Expenses

Chaplain's wage

Bibles, Literature

Videos, Office

\$39,750 Administration, Director's Office, Promotion, Secretary & Accounting

ministries from Auction

\$42,000 Funding to related

> \$5,400 Aftercare/Reentry Programs

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM.

Annual Auction