

BRINGING HELP AND HOPE TO THOSE IN PRISON

Support for Prison Ministries chaplains and regular volunteers are well known inside Lancaster County Prison (LCP). Currently they spend about 1,200 hours per month behind the bars. The chaplain’s office is responsible for coordinating all religious programs and clergy visits. Chaplains conduct Bible studies, prayer ministry, distribute Bibles and inspirational books, and do a lot of listening. In addition, about 25 churches regularly do worship services in various areas of the prison. Annually, there are about 3,000 clergy visits from area pastors and church volunteers. Even though prisons are dark and lonely places, there are many seeds of hope being planted in inmate lives. There are many acts of caring and sharing and spreading of God’s love.

As reported in last quarter’s “Freedom Focus”, the chaplain’s offices had major water flooding on January 27 from a broken pipe. After several months of operating from a temporary area in the educational wing, the chaplain’s offices are now being used again. Thanks to staff and a few volunteers who helped clean, remodel rooms and paint walls. It is good to be back in our remodeled, updated offices.



Chaplain’s offices flooded with water



Newly remodeled chaplain’s offices

MEET OUR NEWEST YOUTH CENTER CHAPLAIN: NIV LEMOINE

With his ready smile and outgoing personality, Niv Lemoine is relating well to juvenile residents and staff of the Youth Intervention Center (YIC). He is spending 10 – 12 hours per week in his role as a SFPM chaplain. Niv has a passion to see young people give their lives fully to the control of God and find the life purpose that God has for them. Niv’s family is from the Dominican Republic. He grew up in Lancaster city. He received the Lord as Savior when he was six and was active in a church. During his young teen years, Niv rebelled and walked away from God. But at age 17, he rededicated his life to God and has been growing ever since. Niv gives credit to his mother for her many prayers and guidance. In addition to his role at YIC, Niv works in the industrial refrigeration department at Tyson Foods in New Holland. He also serves as young adult pastor at “In the Light Ministries,” a Lancaster city congregation. He also leads a cross culture event in the city for youth that come together from many churches for monthly ministry and worship. One of Niv’s favorite Bible



verses is Romans 8:28 because he has experienced it in his life. *“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* Niv feels he has a good day when kids show their true colors when they open up to him, even if they are feeling their pain and failures. Niv believes, “It is a beautiful and powerful thing to bring the gospel to those the world considers the least of these.”

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VALUING WHAT IS IMPORTANT

By Ken G. Martin, Chairman of the Board

Lately I've been thinking about time. Most of us find ourselves in a fast paced culture with hardly enough time in a day. Many find it challenging to balance work, home, social, and church responsibilities and commitments. Oh, and what about time with Jesus, reading his word and waiting quietly before him? I'm convinced we find the answer to time management only when we determine what's important and then set priorities.

What is most important to you? Is it earning large sums of money? How do you spend, invest or use the money entrusted to you? Is it to buy material things or amass large savings accounts? Many find it difficult just to provide for daily needs such as groceries, gas for the vehicle, and rent or mortgage payments. Starting in Genesis chapter 42, we have the account of God meeting Jacob's need for food in an extraordinary way. All the grain in Egypt was in the hands of Jacob's son, Joseph. Likewise, all the riches of today are in the control of our Lord Jesus. Joseph was abundantly prepared to come to the aid of his own family, and Jesus is forever faithful to care for those who call on his name and trust him as well.

In summary, do you believe that Father God can supply all your needs today? Let's use our time wisely, not forgetting those less fortunate by giving of our time, monies, and material resources. And do take time to fill your spiritual tank by reading the Word and waiting before the Father for daily direction.

Thanks so much to the many "Freedom Focus" readers who contribute to SFPM generously, are praying for inmates and interested in what God is doing behind prison bars today. You are a blessing to us. May God be with you.

Thanks to Anthony Martin who recently finished his term as a board member and to Glenn Hoover who will be an honorary board member.

SFPM Board Members

Ken G. Martin, Chairman
Leon Martin, Vice Chairman
Warren Hackman, Secretary
Ken Haller, Treasurer
Larry Fox
Cliff Martin
Caleb Minnich
Steve Nolt
Darel Seibert
Dennis Sensenig

SFPM RECENTLY WELCOMED TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

STEVE NOLT lives near Brickerville with his wife Julia and their five children. They are active at Word of Life Mennonite Fellowship in Lititz. Steve operates Lincoln West Self Storage and also has a dump truck hauling business. Steve has been involved with various prison ministries. He serves annually with the Gospel Express prison crusade in South Carolina. Steve goes to PA state prisons with "Light of Hope" ministries and teaches regularly at the Wernersville Correctional Center. Steve's passion is "to seek God and spiritual things." Recently he has been challenged by Psalm 145:8, "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy." Steve has experienced God's mercy and love in his life and he wants to pass them on to others.



DAREL SEIBERT lives near Lititz with his wife Jennifer and four children. They operate SEI Catering, a full service food catering business. The Seibert's are active at Middle Creek Church of the Brethren. Darel has a gift of serving others and has a heart for helping those who are experiencing problems. He has gone to We Care Program prison crusades in Alabama and writes to several inmates. He also coaches Warwick Little League baseball and enjoys teaching positive values to teens. Darel enjoys Romans 8:28, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" because he has experienced this in his own life.



NEWS YOU CAN USE



SFPM has a full size 6' X 8' furnished model prison cell. Available to set up for church services, mission events, or community outreaches. SFPM also has speakers available to share about what God is doing in local mission opportunities inside prisons.

SFPM STAFF WERE RECOGNIZED recently at the Dinner Banquet held by Transition to Community/Potter's House at Shady Maple. Lloyd Hoover presented SFPM staff members with a certificate and had a prayer of blessing. We value the relationship we have with TTC/Potter's House and thank them for this encouragement.



PASTORS AND PRISON VISITORS. Are you up to date with your prison visiting approval? Effective April 2012, Lancaster County Prison has updated requirements for clergy and church volunteer visitors. Access approval will need to be renewed each year. LCP will issue a Volunteer ID card with an expiration date to use to gain access for prison visitation. Full details and applications to download are available at: www.supportforprisonministries.org under Prison Access tab. Or call Nelson Martin at 625-0232.



Nelson Martin, SFPM Director, presenting Marvin Reed with a plaque for 26 years of service.

MARVIN REED, who spent over 26 years as a chaplain at LCP and YIC, was honored by the SFPM Board of Directors at a dinner at Yoder's Restaurant. YIC also had a drop-in lunch where gifts were given and recognition shared for Chaplain Reed's dedicated service.



Bryan Hubbard, YIC Program Coordinator, thanking Marvin for his many years of service.

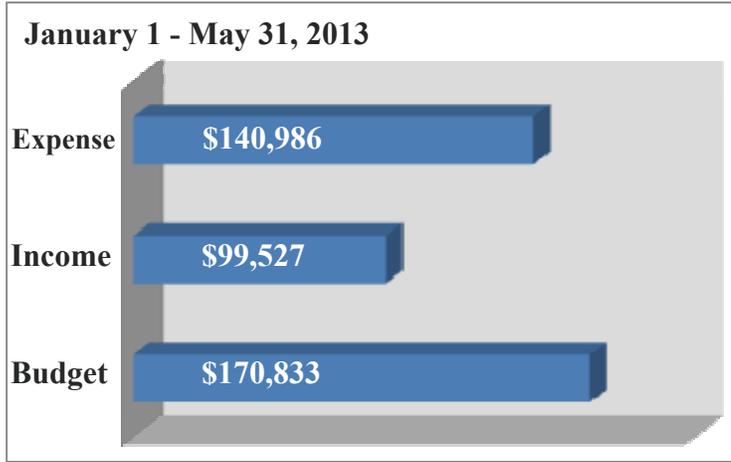


NOTES OF THANKS

Note from male inmate at LCP: "Thanks for giving me a Bible. My understanding of God has grown tremendously. I am new to God's word, so with every page I read it's like a kid on Christmas day. I do not know what took me so long to give my life to the Lord and Savior."

And this testimony from an ex-offender speaking to a recovery group in Lancaster. "This is my constant companion," he said as he held up a ragged edged and taped together Bible. "When I came to prison 7 years ago, an officer (who is a Christian) got this New Testament from the chaplain's office. He put it into my hands and said, 'Now you go read this and do what it says.' I have not been the same since."

Focus On Finances



SFPM's budget for 2013 year is \$410,000. About ½ of this budget (\$205,000) is needed from contributions that come from churches, businesses and many interested persons.

Expenses stay fairly constant each month (chaplain wages and ministry costs) while some regular contributions are smaller in the first six months of the year.

**AN ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOU TO PARTNER WITH US.
A SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE CHAPLAIN STAFF AND INMATES WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM YOUR GIFTS.**

Check out our website for updated photos and information: www.supportforprisonministries.org

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30th Annual Benefit Auction October 25 & 26, 2013 at Farmersville Auction Grounds



Our auction goal is to clear \$100,000 after expenses, to be shared with Lancaster County Prison and Youth Center Chaplaincy Programs, Freedom Gate, Spirit & Word, Transition to Community/The Potter's House, and We Care Programs.

Check our website's Annual Auction Pages for more information at www.supportforprisonministries.org