

A LIFE STORY OF GRATITUDE

By Annabelle Simmers as told to Nelson Martin, SFPM Director

Annabelle Simmers’ face beams as she tells how she meets with female inmates at Lancaster County Prison (LCP). Since she began going into LCP on a weekly basis in January 2013, she has developed friendships with various inmates. Her sessions include Bible study, prayer, and lots of listening and talking about feelings that are important to the girls. Annabelle says, “I like to let them talk about their personal stuff, staying very sensitive to their feelings, but then showing them how God can make a difference in their lives.” It is obvious her relationship with God is real to her and she enjoys sharing it with others.



“Annabelle has been very consistent in meeting with women. When she starts with someone, she meets every week until they are released,” reports the chaplain’s office at LCP. Annabelle is hoping to increase her prison ministry time in the future, although currently her schedule is very busy.

Annabelle lives near Honey Brook. She has a young adult son and daughter and cares for an 80 year old mother-in-law in her home. She has been employed by DaVita Dialysis Centers for the past 24 years. Currently she is working out of the Lancaster, PA office which is only a few blocks from the prison. She is also active in various teaching and small group programs at her congregation, Sandy Hill Community Church near Coatesville.

Life wasn’t always positive and beaming for Annabelle. Recently she shared, “I have not had an easy life. I was sexually abused as a young person, got involved in drugs, and did spend some time in prison. My first husband died from a drug overdose while I was in prison. Since I was near the end of my sentence, I was allowed to attend his funeral service. I married again, but after 15 years, my second husband died of cancer. Because I had attended Sunday School as a child, I knew basic principles of right and wrong but my life was troubled and I was angry that God left me alone again.”

During this desperate time, Annabelle felt that she should seek out a church. She visited several in her home area but did not feel comfortable. Then she walked into Sandy Hill Church one morning and, “I felt like I had come home. I learned so much and the people were so caring and helpful.”

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CHAPLAIN: ELLIOTT GOOD

Two evenings per week finds Elliott interacting with the guys that are in detention at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center (YIC). He is an energetic young adult who has a passion for youth ministry.

Elliott grew up in Lancaster County. Although he accepted Christ at a young age, Elliott was 19 when he realized what the power of the cross meant in his life. He asked God to be first above all relationships and values, and has not looked back. He loves to relate with those who feel lost, broken, and alone. He believes that God is softening his heart to work with those who need the truth of the gospel.



A favorite verse of Elliott's is "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me*"- Galatians 2:20. What makes a good day for Elliott? When he feels that he "made a difference in a young person's life." Recently, one evening at YIC, two boys prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior. In parallel, a bad day can be "When I give out so much to needy youth and they don't seem to get it or understand how much God loves them."

Elliott lives in Manheim and works in the countertop shop at Kauffman Kitchens in New Holland. We pray God's blessings upon his life and his ministry at YIC.

THANKS TO JOEL BARE



Joel Bare has resigned from his chaplain role at YIC to spend more time with his growing woodworking business and to pursue other interests. Joel worked at various chaplain roles at YIC the past 5 ½ years. His outgoing personality and quick wit will be missed by staff and the youth.

THANKS JOEL FOR ALL YOU DID AT YIC.
BLESSINGS ON YOUR CONTINUING JOURNEY OF LIFE.

SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTOR

Nelson Martin, who has served for almost 15 years as SFPM director, has announced his plans to retire within the coming year. Nelson has given dynamic leadership to our growing prison ministry program, has started a number of successful initiatives, and has made many friends within Lancaster County churches, businesses, and individuals that care about prison ministry. The board believes that God will call another person to continue to give good leadership to this local mission.



SFPM is looking for a person who:

- is a committed Christian and interested in prison ministry and evangelism
- is an organized, detailed, hard working individual
- has leadership abilities to work with chaplains and office staff
- has good connections with and respect for various churches and faith groups
- has accounting knowledge and some fund-raising skills would be helpful

This is a salaried position with health insurance and retirement fund benefits. Amount of time per week can be flexible, but might also be full-time. Job descriptions and more details are available from: Glenn Hoover, 301 Bluff View Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601 (717) 569-2475 or email: gmhoover@gmail.com. Your prayers, counsel, and inquiries are invited.

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Later she opened her life fully to Christ and was baptized. Pastor Dale Weaver has served as senior pastor for the past 12 years. He remembers mentoring and teaching Annabelle in her faith journey. He says enthusiastically, “Annabelle is a walking example of transformation. She shows others a life that God has changed.” Annabelle quickly gives testimony of God’s faithfulness in the ups and downs of her life. And that is what seems to touch the hearts of the girls she meets with at LCP.

Annabelle has many favorite Bible verses. What also guides and challenges her life are worship songs. She loves to sing and praise God. Currently, she lists “Amazing Grace” as her favorite song which explains how “the wretch like her has been set free. The chains are gone. God has rescued me.” Praise God for His faithfulness.

Support for Prison Ministries chaplain programs at LCP are thankful for many volunteers and regular Bible teachers, men and women, who come into the prison. These persons supplement the daily work of the in-prison chaplains. The joint effort of staff and volunteers sowing the seeds make a difference in many inmate lives. Annabelle Simmers says it this way, “I was in prison many years ago. The people who came into the prison helped to save my life. I feel like I am now giving hope back to help other women. My God is so amazing. I love to share with the girls.”



**COME TO THE 31st ANNUAL AUCTION
OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2014
EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER**



Announcing a NEW Auction Location

After years of steady growth for the prison ministry benefit auction, the Support for Prison Ministry Board is glad to announce plans to re-locate this year’s auction to the EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER, 400 West Main Street, Ephrata, PA.

This spacious facility has a large auditorium for the main auction, a room for expanded food services, and space for extra auctioneers as needed — all inside a comfortable setting.



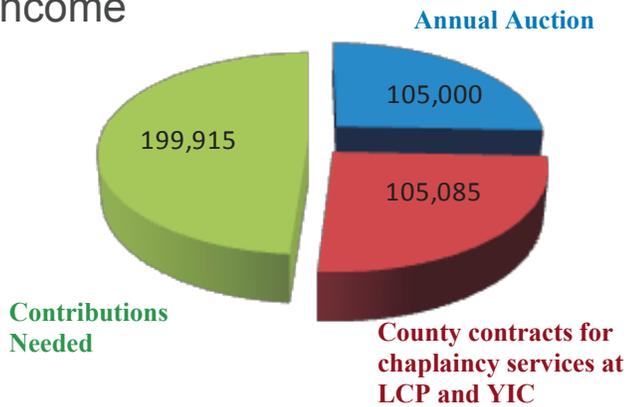
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND HELP US SPREAD THE WORD TO OTHERS.

Check our website’s Annual Auction Pages for more information at www.supportforprisonministries.org
Or our facebook page for pictures of items for sale.

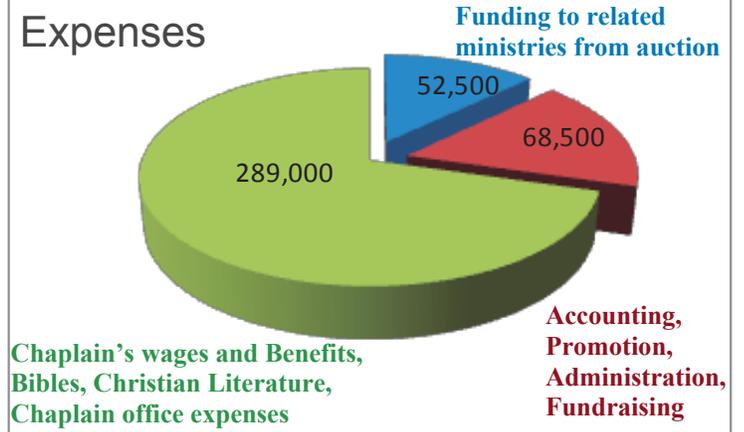
Focus On Finances

2014 Budget: \$410,000

Income



Expenses



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

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

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A NOTE FROM LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON

Recently a female inmate sent this note to the Chaplain's office at LCP:

"I wanted to say thank you for helping me while being here. Jail was the last place I expected to find God. I'm so thankful that my relationship has been rekindled with Him. All along, I thought it was God who didn't want or love me because of my sins, when all along it was me who needed to accept Him. I did not believe in miracles before I came here. The only time I talked about Jesus Christ was when I was mad. It seemed He was allowing my life to get so crazy. Now I know He put out many signs that said repent, but I was just blind and too caught up in my lifestyle to see them. I know now that Jesus died for me. I don't have to live in sin. I can have eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much.
S. C.