

***“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”***

## When God Shows Up

By Katie Mininger, LCP Chaplain

I have the amazing privilege to work as a chaplain at the Lancaster County Prison. Coming back from a YES assignment in Cusco Peru, with Eastern Mennonite Missions, I was desperately job searching. After many months of closed doors, I remembered hearing about Support for Prison Ministries in re-entry. I contacted them and found out they were hiring at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center and Lancaster County Prison. That was 12 years ago!



took one wrong step she would fall – she had no solid ground beneath her.

She was worn out and tired from living the drug life, knowing that if she went back to it, she would most likely end up dead due to the amount of drugs she was taking. Her body would not be able to handle it. She was tired of the stealing, conniving, and manipulation that went along with the drug life but didn't know

how to get out of the web of burdens she had spun.

I feel so blessed to see God's hand at work in many women's lives while at Lancaster County Prison. One of the physical locations of the prison I see this is the restricted housing unit (RHU), where women will spend time in a solitary cell with no special privileges. Being housed in this unit is brought on due to the person's behavior and actions. They broke prison policy, got into a fight, or manipulated the system in some way.



One lady who landed here attempted to have her boyfriend bring drugs into the prison. She was a drug addict for most of her life with heroin being her drug of choice. She got caught and was sentenced to the RHU for what she thought was an extremely long and unfair sentence.

We began to talk weekly and each week as we met in RHU – God met her in that cell. We spoke about standing on solid ground - Jesus Christ. And about how the quality of fruit our lives produce tells us what type of soil our roots are drawing life from. We spoke about the Holy Spirit changing our hearts and healing our hurts. And how when we come to Jesus, he takes our burdens and sin and give us rest and new life. This was truly good news and rest for her tired soul.

Over time the anger disappeared and a joy and light began to shine in her eyes. She was soaking up the Bible, digesting it, and applying it to her life. She learned that Jesus cared for her, and began to trust his gentle and humble ways.

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The 1<sup>st</sup> day I saw her she was angry, you could see the hate and anger pouring out of her eyes; “The system is SO messed up. This is SO unfair,” she complained. “I'm going to go crazy while in here, they just want to make an example out of me.” She was furious! She was also mad at God and didn't really know if she could believe in a God who would allow this to happen to her. She described it as feeling like she was straddling a cliff and if she

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# 2015 Auction Update

By Nelson Martin, Auction Coordinator

A verse that kept going through my mind as we had the busy auction week-end on October 23 & 24 was, "The Lord has done great things for us . . . and we are glad !!"

Net proceeds, after expenses, were **\$110,710**, an increase of 10% over last year's auction.

The Ephrata Business Center is a spacious and comfortable setting for this annual Benefit Auction. We had wonderful cooperation from many persons who donated merchandise, picked items up, set up the sale, were auction runners, and clean up helpers. The hundreds in attendance kept the auctioneers busy. Food stands also did very well. Many generous donations from area businesses and individuals helped cover auction costs.

ON BEHALF OF THE MANY INMATES AND EX-INMATES WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THESE PROCEEDS, THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU !!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR'S AUCTION: OCTOBER 21 & 22, 2016**



# MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Youth Intervention Center Chaplain

**Gray Good** lives in Mt. Joy. He attends HACC and helps in the family business. He is a youth leader at Threshold Church in Millersville.

“I began my journey with the Lord when I had a close friend whose life had been radically transformed by the Lord and he challenged me to sincerely pursue God with all my heart. I responded to the challenge by diving into God's word and seeking him in prayer. After that I saw God transform my life from the inside out. He opened up my heart, showed me I'm his son, and gave me a revelation of his love, grace, and power. I have a desire to work with youth because I believe God wants to reach into their lives the same way he reached into mine.”

## When God Shows Up (continued from page 1)

She prayed and met with Jesus, you could feel His presence in her cell. The same cell where when she first moved in, she was so angry, tired, and bitter and always the victim.

What's the difference? God showed up! As she came to Jesus, he met her in that small, lonely cell and began transforming her hurt and pain. He removed her sin, and guilt, and carried her burdens. The change was visible.

God is SO good!!! He is a gentle and humble God who cares about his children - no matter where we find ourselves. Jesus' words are truth in Matthew 11:28: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*



Youth Intervention Center Chaplain

**Ethan Balman** lives in Ephrata with his wife Leah and their children Erik 10, Chloe 7, and Charis 4. He currently works at Lancaster Bible College while studying for his Master of Arts in Ministry.

“I am passionate about our youth and at risk teens-they are our future! I love sharing the love of Christ with everyone I meet.”



Lancaster County Prison Chaplain

**Glenn Hoover** lives in Lancaster with his wife Judy. He previously worked as a counselor with Life Counseling Ministries and is an ordained minister through Martindale Mennonite Church.

Glenn is one of the original founders of Support For Prison Ministries. He is looking forward to now working in a chaplaincy role himself at the prison.

## Learn More Prison Ministry Workshop

Hosted by



## STREAMS of Life

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Hinkletown Church

Ephrata, PA

For more information, call or email  
717.859.5519 | delspeak@dejazzd.com

## SEASON'S GREETINGS



On behalf of the board of directors and the chaplain staff of Support for Prison Ministries, we wish you all a blessed Christmas. May you take time to truly worship Jesus, not only as a baby in the manger, but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Just as the wise men came with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, may we give our resources, talents, and hearts to follow the Lord Jesus.

We also encourage you to pray for and remember those in prison during the holidays. For many, this can be the loneliest part of the year, as they remember past times with family and loved ones. Our ministry needs about **\$60,000** in contributions during

**December. Your gifts will help us balance the 2015 year and have funds to begin another year, as we continue to share God's hope and healing to those behind the bars.**

INCREASING YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING: Donors can maximize their tax deductible giving. In addition to cash contributions, Support for Prison Ministries can receive gifts from wills, trusts, donations of stocks or real estate, life income plans and bequests. Professional counsel is available through SFPM staff and Everence Financial advisors.

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

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**Support for Prison Ministries**

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT By Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

Those of us that have done prison ministry for a long time have to be careful that we do not become stoic or calloused to all the tragedy we have heard in our years in the ministry. One of the areas though that tugs at my heart every time, is when I walk out from a prison after a Sunday service and see the young children in the lobby that have been brought to visit their dad.

It is not to hard to imagine the shame, hurt, and scars these children have to grow up with. We, as a Christian community, need to do our best to break this cycle of pain and slow down these young ones from following in their parent's footsteps of incarceration.

At Support For Prison Ministries we are doing our best to change the hearts of those incarcerated to be better fathers and mothers in their return to society and we pray for the day children can be with their parents in church on a Sunday instead of visiting a parent in prison.

