

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PRISON CHAPLAIN

*Recently Nelson Martin, director of Support for Prison Ministries, spent parts of several days walking with chaplains on their assignments at Lancaster County Prison. The following is a composite story of what happens in a day behind the walls.*

**7 A.M.** Five chaplain staff sign-in about the same time at the main control center. From the lobby to the second floor chaplains office, there are seven locked doors to pass through, each requiring a wait until control staff electronically open for passage.

**7:45 A.M.** Staff go to line-up room, a time when incoming correction officers report for the day shift. Here they receive daily assignments and any special instructions. Chaplains are able to chat with staff, giving them encouragement and sometimes answer questions or share information.

**8 A.M.** Volunteer Dick Yorgey leads a Bible study in the small second floor chapel. Today it is hot and very humid. Several large floor fans at least move some hot air. Seven guys read and discuss Acts 12. They talk about the power of prayer, and how to better know God personally. This class has to clear out by 9:20, so Faye's group can have access to the chapel. The eleven women begin their time by enthusiastically repeating "God is good . . . all the time, all the time ... God is good." The leader challenges them to give their lives totally to God, and to turn away from the enemy of their souls. Scriptural emphasis

was from Luke 7, the story about the sinful woman who Jesus forgave much, and then how she came back and anointed Jesus feet, in brokenness and worship.

**10 A.M.** While group Bible studies are going on in the chapel, office coordinator Diane is reviewing inmate requests with Al. She also has a large quantity of Bibles and literature ready for Marvin to distribute to inmates, as per their requests. Last year about 2,000 Bible correspondence courses were completed by inmates. Isaias (Spanish language chaplain) and J.R. are out in the housing units doing counseling and follow-up.



*Chaplain Office staff standing outside LCP: (L-R) Marvin Reed, Faye Stauffer, Isaias Maldonado, Diane Fulmer, J.R. Fisher, Rebecca Scanlan and Al Huber.*

**11 A.M.** - While housing units (pods) are locked down for lunch, chaplain staff gather in office to do paper work, plan afternoon activities, and grab a bite to eat. Rebecca keeps answering the phone (an average of 12 outside clergy visits happen per day and these are all scheduled through the chaplains office) and sorting the incoming mail.

Staff consult each other about placing an order for Bibles. Staff also have opportunity to share with each other about how best to help certain inmates. A corrections officer (who is a believer) stops at the chaplain office to see how staff are doing today.

**12 - 3 P.M.** Staff have opportunity for more Bible studies and group sessions. Medical Housing Unit has a video "The Incredible Power of Prayer." This video reviewed some of

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Kimberly's Story

I came to jail with a 2-5 year minus 1 day sentence. I had left my first love. I was pregnant with my 4th child when I came to Lancaster County Prison.

My first week in prison all I could do was cry. I remember writing to the chaplain's office, asking to get a Bible. Along with the Bible, I received a pen-pal, who is a wonderful woman of God.

That first week I remember being locked down. I read the Bible from cover to cover. I also remember telling God, "O.K. Lord, you've got me where you want me. Your will be done, not mine". From that minute on I have had the peace of God in my life.

After being in prison 6 months, I gave birth to my 4th child. The hardest thing I've ever had to do was to leave her in the hospital to go back to jail. But God remained faithful even then. He raised me up out of the depression I had allowed myself to get into.

After 10 months in prison, I had my first inner healing session. And oh my Lord, I've never felt better than after we finished. I can tell you that the ladies with whom I do my inner healing know more about me than my own mom does. I can also tell you I have been healed from molestations that have occurred in my life, including the two abortions I had. I can honestly say the old devil no longer has me in bondage to many, many things that I was bound by when I came to prison.

I can actually cry through my pain now. My hurting fragmented self is being made whole by Jesus Christ. He has been doing that in my life a little at a time through inner healing.

I began praying for a girl who was in prison with me. I asked God to just get a hold of her and now she is saved and walking with God. Another woman in here with me found Jesus because of the peace she saw in my life. I'm not saying these things to brag, but it does blow my mind how God has been using me. Yes, me of all people, to get people saved.

The Lord Jesus is again my first love. When I leave here soon, I'm taking the Lord home with me!

*Kimberly Lane has been released from L.C. P., is living in Lititz, and is worshiping with and active in a cell group at DOVE Christian Fellowship, Manheim.*



administration and fund raising.

**Currently we have a new challenge.** Lancaster County, which contracts annually with SFPM for chaplain

## *A Day in the Life of a Prison Chaplain*

*Continued from Page 1*

the history of Christianity in America, and gives powerful examples of the blessings of answered prayer as well as the down falls when prayer was neglected. Chaplains use afternoons in the prison to have longer one-on-one or inner healing sessions with inmates.

**3-4 P.M.** Some of the volunteer chaplains have gone for the day. Staff try to finish some paper work, make notes for volunteers on the next day, and try to return some phone calls. Some calls will have to wait because time keeps moving on. Late afternoon, staff lock up the chaplains office and begin the walk down the halls, waiting again for the locked doors to open. Sounds echo sharply behind them through the long halls. Chaplains are tired because they have given much "output" today and have been involved in spiritual warfare. Chaplains need more persons who will pray regularly for them as they battle daily the forces of darkness.

**As the final locked door clangs behind them and they step into the lobby they are also joyful and at peace, confident that some seeds were sown, some were watered, and tomorrow there will be more harvest.**

## **A CHALLENGE FROM SFPM DIRECTOR .....**

We continue to receive strong offerings from churches and generous giving from persons and some businesses. **For this we are most grateful.** We try to be good stewards of all funds that we handle. For the past number of years, we have spent 85-88% of income on direct chaplain ministry and programming, using 12 - 15% for

services and gives us some reimbursement for our services, has changed their guidelines, requiring us to purchase General Liability and Professional Liability insurance coverage for all paid staff at the prison and youth center. After a lot of work, we found a suitable policy that covers us but the annual cost is \$4,120. This, of course, was not budgeted in this year's financial plan.

**So that we can keep our budgeted funds flowing to direct ministry, is there someone who may feel called to pick up this unplanned expense?** Maybe a business, a Sunday School class or special church or family project could pay all or part of it? I'd be glad to talk more to anyone about it. Call me at (717) 626-6301 or email: [nelsonmartin1@juno.com](mailto:nelsonmartin1@juno.com)

# We Care Program

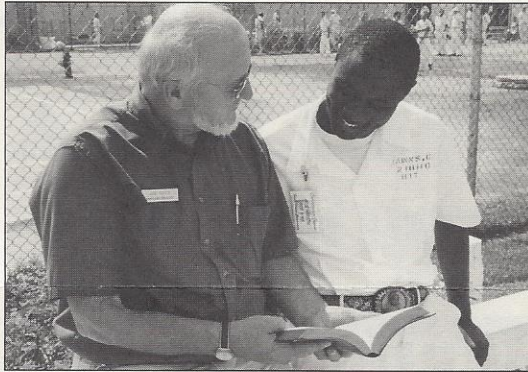


**SUPPORT FOR PRISON MINISTRIES HAS HAD A LONG AND FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH WE CARE PROGRAMS. Some of the funds from our annual Benefit Auction are shared with WE CARE. David Landis, We Care President, shares this update:**

For over thirty years We Care Program has provided prison chaplaincy services throughout Alabama and several adjoining states. Since 1970, God has used over two hundred staff and volunteers to share the love of Christ with criminal offenders. Although other ministry programs were offered from time to time, the heart of its mission has always remained with those behind bars.

Much has changed since its inception in 1970. Prison ministry then was rare, and those with pioneer spirits answered the call of God to reach those hurting behind America's prison fences. Chaplaincy in Alabama's prisons was non-existent. Through the dedication of We Care founder Martin Weber, a movement was begun which propelled others to launch various prison ministries around the country. Today, every major state facility in Alabama employs a chaplain who is assisted by a wide variety of free world ministries who present Christ's love in numerous ways.

Even the world-view of the American inmate has changed. Society has replaced the absolute truths of God's law with moral relativism. The gospel of Jesus Christ has



*Assistant Chaplain Joe Yoder (Fountain Correctional, Atmore, AL) sharing with Christopher Gunns.*

become one of many ways to God. Psychological concepts have replaced Holy Spirit empowered transformation, making it an even greater challenge for the Bible-believing Christian to preach God's truth in the prison setting.

The major thrust of most prison ministry in the past was evangelistic in nature. While saving the lost remains a vital part of ministry, discipleship programs and practical teaching are also important. We Care places staff persons within the prison environment to walk alongside the inmate, responding to the daily struggles of the Christian behind bars.

Today, nine full-time and five part-time staff persons serve in eight different correctional facilities. We praise God for real-life changes that are being witnessed day after day amongst our staff as many years of faithful seed sowing bears fruit.

The transformation of society's outcasts spurs us on to continue answering God's call to visit those in prison and make disciples of all nations. Many would say our efforts are futile,

but the love of Christ compels us, calling us to even greater sacrifice. The cost of discipleship includes the willingness to stay with the man or woman who falls, picking them up, cleaning them off, and helping them to navigate life's pathways in the light of God's word.

An ever increasing prison population provides multiple doorways of opportunity for the prison missionary. Perhaps the time has come for YOU to consider tithing a portion of your life into the service of the King. In the greatest place of darkness you will no doubt meet Him face to face.



## INTRODUCING A NEW STAFF PERSON

My name is Rebecca Scanlan, a part-time secretary for Support for Prison Ministries. My time is split between two chaplain's offices. One at the Lancaster County Prison, where my mom Diane Fulmer is also employed, and the other at the new Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center.

At the LCYIC, I also spend some time with female residents. I have had the opportunity of praying with several girls and also becoming a friend. They say that the teacher always learns more than the students. God has taught me a lot through working with the girls. I am excited about learning more and seeing God work in their lives.

I became a Christian at the age of three when I simply fell in love with Jesus. For the most part, I was raised in a loving, Christian home and I was raised in church.

At a young age I learned that life doesn't become painless just because you're a Christian. Our home was far from perfect and, as usual, the devil took advantage of that. A void that only God could fill grew in my life. This left me feeling frustrated and angry, and I soon became resentful.

This anger eventually took over my life and began to alienate me from family and friends. After I saw how this was destroying my life, I began to pray and seek counseling. Eventually, I started releasing my anger and began to receive healing and forgiveness. Finally, I was able to forgive those who had hurt me.

In less than two years, God has completely changed my life in every way. He has restored relationships that I once destroyed. He has given me more happiness than I had ever dreamed of. God has blessed me with a loving, supportive family. He is restoring the years that were lost. He also has greatly blessed me with a wonderful, loving husband named Kevin Scanlan. **We were recently married on June 8, 2002.**

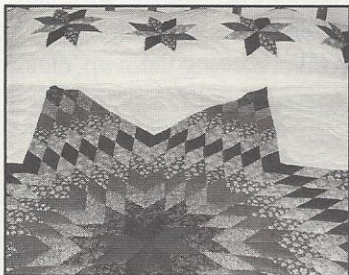


Support For Prison Ministries  
 P.O. Box 134  
 Lititz, PA 17543  
 (717) 626-6301  
 Email: nelsonmartin1@juno.com

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Permit #1746  
 Lancaster, PA  
 17604

# COME TO THE AUCTION

*Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26, 2002*



## Specialty Items to be Sold

- \* Hand-carved 3-D Picture
- \* Pedal Tractors
- \* Framed Paintings & Hand-crafted Items  
(some done by inmates)
- \* Beautiful Quilts and Wall Hangings
- \* Moore Teddy Bears, childrens toys and games
- \* Valuable Gift Certificates from area businesses
- \* Tools, hardware, farm and home items
- \* Food items, groceries, produce, fruit and meat

Food, fun, and fellowship while providing funds to be shared with ministries that are dedicated to prisoners, Aftercare programs, and prisoners families.



*Located at the Farmersville Auction Grounds, Farmersville  
 (Northwest of New Holland, Lancaster County) PA*

## Schedule of Activities

### Friday, October 25

Chicken Barbeque .....4:00 - 7:00 PM  
 Sale of Hardware, groceries, meats and crafts .....5:30 - 9:00 PM  
 Winross and Collectible Toy Sale .....7:30 - 8:30 PM

### Saturday, October 26

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast .....6:00 AM  
 Benefit Auction begins .....8:30 AM  
 Quilt Auction .....1:00 PM



OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO NET \$65,000 TO GIVE TO SIX MINISTRIES THAT ARE SHARING HOPE AND HEALING TO PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

QUALITY MERCHANDISE AND GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THIS AUCTION.

If you have donations, call Nelson Martin 626-6301 or Glenn Hoover 733-7301.