

Jesus Makes the Difference

"Testimony of Wally Tillman"

If you knew me before I met Jesus, **you would be shocked to know how different I really am.** Before I had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I was a very angry person getting mad at everyone and everything. **But Jesus has made me peaceful, calm, relaxed, and not on edge.**

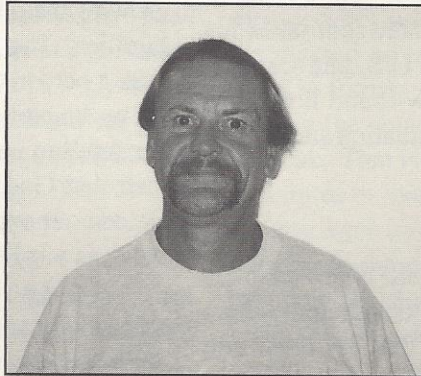
For 25 years, my life consisted of drugs, alcohol, prison and three marriages. In 1998, while I was at Lancaster County Prison, I met Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. My life has not been the same since that time.

While I was in Lancaster County Prison, I began a healthy relationship with David Hornsby, who was an Assistant Chaplain at the prison and the pastor of Faith Covenant Church in Ephrata. David took me through deliverance sessions as my soul and body were deeply influenced by the enemy. It was because of the freedom those deliverance sessions brought to me that I was able to understand and meet Jesus Christ personally.

While in prison I went to Bible studies and read all the books about God and the Bible which David gave to me. I also began to build relationships with people from David's church. The foundation which I needed on the outside of prison started on the inside because **building those relationships, while in prison, contributed to my not going back into the relationships which influenced me to live a sinful lifestyle.**

Upon my release from prison I settled into Ephrata. I got a good job and became active in Faith Covenant Church of Ephrata where families took me into their homes and loved me with the love of Christ. God is so good!

I praise God for the chaplaincy ministry within the walls of Lancaster County Prison. God used the ministry to bring me to Himself!



TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY PILOT PROJECT HAS BEGUN

One of the biggest problems in many prisons, especially at county and state levels, is the high rate of recidivism (repeated or habitual relapse into crime, numerous entries and releases from prison). Studies show 60 - 70% of inmates released will return to prison within a 2 year period.

Support for Prison Ministries is working on a new cutting-edge "Transition to Community" pilot program which could be innovative for other prisons. This is a two part program involving teaching spiritual disciplines and life plans. Part 1 involves a commitment by inmates to work on a pre-release/life plan development. Study courses, to be guided by an individual mentor, are faith based Prison Fellowship materials. Part 2 involves churches and mentors to relate closely with the inmate's life upon release from prison. This is multi-faceted, including helping in the transition period, treatment for dependencies, counseling, financial planning, employment, and assistance with legal issues.

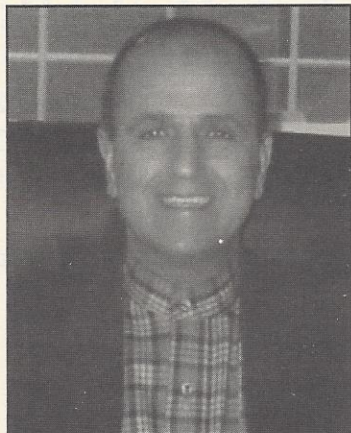
Three inmates began this training in January 2001. Others are being processed for involvement. SFPM's director Nelson Martin and chaplain Cody Hall have been coordinating efforts to get this new program in motion. They are working with numerous county agencies and faith based ministries that have interest in being a part of this life-changing "Transition to Community" program.

310 PERSONS REGISTERED FOR THIRD ANNUAL PRISON MINISTRY TRAINING SEMINAR

Held at the Worship Center near Lancaster on March 14 - 17, 2001, training classes were given for Basic and Advanced persons. Sponsored by Support for Prison Ministries, over 80 different congregations were represented at the 16 hours of training. Teaching was done by Prison Fellowship area director David Sawtelle and Lancaster Prison chaplain Cody Hall.

Rivers Of Living Water Ministries

From the Board-----



Jim Newsom

Each year, SFPM distributes proceeds from our annual benefit auction to a variety of other prison ministry programs. Directed by Jim Newsom, ROLWM has developed a three dimensional ministry that is designed to educate young people, to encourage inmates, and to equip the church.

1. "GET SMART"

The "Get Smart" Drug Presentation has been at the forefront of drug and alcohol awareness since 1984. Thousands of young lives have been impacted as Jim Newsom takes his presentation into schools throughout the U.S. and Canada. Jim's own story, one of despair and new-found hope, has inspired many to face the reality of their situation and to seek help.

2. "GET FREE"

In this ministry, inmates learn that the Lord is not as interested in getting them out of prison, as He is in helping them "Get Free" of those things in their lives that got them into prison. Getting out is easy, but staying out is difficult.

Instead of trying to get out of their captivity, they are challenged to deposit something into their captivity.

ROLWM ministers in county, state and federal prisons throughout the United States. "The Lions' Den Seminar", developed by ROLWM team uses the book of Daniel to teach inmates how to respond to both their captivity and their captors in a redemptive way. Instead of trying to get out of their captivity, they are challenged to deposit something into their captivity.

3. "GET GOING"

The third ministry of ROLWM is called "Get Going." This is a ministry to the local body of Christ and is designed to move the church from a "maintenance mode" into a "mission mode."

SFPM is glad to partner with Jim Newsom as he travels widely sharing a message of hope and healing.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:20 that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think".

There is nothing more exciting in our walk of faith than to see the Lord keep His promises and exceed our wildest expectations! For the Board, staff, and supporters of Support for Prison Ministries, the year 2000 was an opportunity to experience God's exceedingly abundant provision.

In early 1999, the Board of SFPM sought the direction of the Lord on how to best continue to meet the ever growing need to minister to those who are in prison and their families. The Board sensed that the Lord was directing us to seek a person to serve as a part-time director of the ministry. As we began to trust the Lord to provide that leadership and the funding needed to support the position, we never imagined that God would not only answer our prayers, but also exceed our expectations in calling Brother Nelson Martin to serve as our Director.

As a result of God's provision and Nelson's leadership, the year 2000 was the strongest year ever both financially and in the number of persons involved in supporting the ministry of SFPM. And because of the Lord's "exceedingly abundant" provision, SFPM is continuing to expand our presence in the Lancaster County Prison and Barnes Hall and is strengthening our partnerships with other prison ministries in new and exciting ways.

Please continue with us in prayer for Nelson Martin, the chaplains, and chaplaincy staff of the Lancaster County Prison and Barnes Hall, and the other ministries supported in part by SFPM. And please pray that our vision would continue to extend beyond what we can comfortably see and touch today, and the SFPM would continue to step out in faith to bring hope where there is despair and light where there is darkness.

Brian Black, *Secretary*



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Marvin Reed

(usually mornings) at Lancaster County Prison.

Nelson Martin, SFPM director, recently interviewed Marvin for this update.

What are your Chaplain assignments at Barnes Hall?

I do spiritual counseling, one-on-one talking with the youth, and schedule all church services and pastoral visits. I am glad for several youth groups that regularly come into Barnes Hall. We house 25 to 30 young people, ages 10 - 17. Many of these young people are from dysfunctional families. They have such brokenness, but many of their hearts are not yet hardened. So we show them love and caring. That is well received by most.

How did you get involved in Prison Ministry?

I credit my interest in mission outreach to my parents. When I was a young teen, they drove from Martindale (Lancaster County) to Tamaqua (Schuylkill County) to help with a Mennonite Church mission. My wife Grace and I were farming and raising a family when God called us to do more in outreach. In 1983, we sold the farm and moved to Atmore, AL for a 1 year chaplain assignment in the Fountain Prison. That was a challenging year for me. In 1986, I began coming into the Lancaster County Prison and since 1987 have been full-time chaplain at Barnes Hall and LCP.

Meet the Chaplain of Barnes Hall Youth Detention Center

Marvin Reed, from Denver, PA is ordained by Lichy Mennonite Church for prison ministry. Marvin currently is chaplain in charge of Barnes Hall. He also spends regular time

What energizes or encourages you about your work?

I enjoy reaching out to others. I endeavor to plant seeds of hope in these young lives. I am thrilled to occasionally get a note or letter from a young person thanking me for "making a difference in their life". I also keep contact with several persons who I shared with here and are now imprisoned somewhere else. Charles Campbell, a brother we met in Alabama prisons, is now at Lewisburg, PA. Federal prison. He has a life sentence but is a victorious Christian and productive person. He has quite a talent for painting. I love to visit him and bring his paintings out for others to enjoy in the free world.

What discourages you or makes you have a bad day?

I suppose it is in sowing seeds and realizing persons don't care or don't want to change. It is so sad to hear of some of the messed up homes of the young persons. I see many of them in Barnes Hall, and then a few years later again meet them in the county prison. Destructive patterns are so hard to break. That is why we teach them about Jesus and Biblical principles to live by.

Do you have a favorite verse you hang on to?

An Old Testament passage continues to impact my life. It is the prayer of Jabez from I Chronicles 4:10 "Oh that God would bless me and enlarge my territory. That God would keep His hand on me, and keep me from harm and evil". God is good and gives me many opportunities to share that with others. I have known sorrow and pain, but He is always there. His hand is upon me.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the walls?

I like to ride bike and play basketball. Grace enjoys quilting and needlework. We have been blessed with 5 children and 24 grandchildren. We enjoy spending time with them.

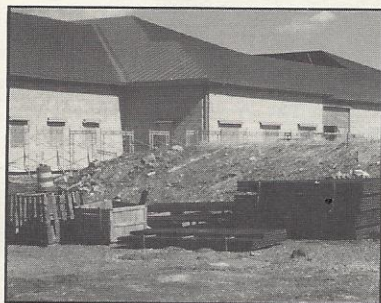
✓ UPDATE ON THE NEW JUVENILE CENTER CONSTRUCTION

The present crowded and aging Barnes Hall building is being replaced by a huge facility being built on Sunnyside peninsula. Construction is scheduled to be finished by December 2001 with 96 beds completed for youth offender residents. An additional area will accommodate up to 24 dependent care juveniles in a separate wing, or "pod".

This is an \$18 million project which will also have a new name "Lancaster County Youth Intervention

Center". In addition, Lancaster County has built a \$1.4 million bridge to the area. They hope to attract some residential and commercial properties to this developing area.

Support for Prison Ministries, who currently have a 1/2 time chaplain on staff at Barnes Hall, are preparing for expanded ministry in the new center. Building plans call for a small chapel, along with chaplain and counseling offices.



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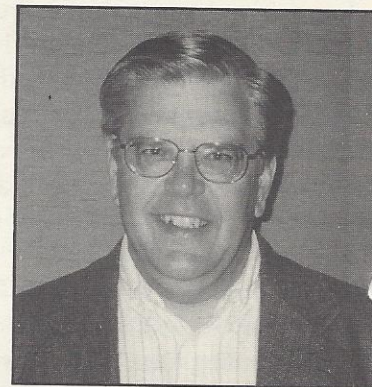
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A Report From Our Director

Prison ministry is alive and well both **NEAR AND FAR!**

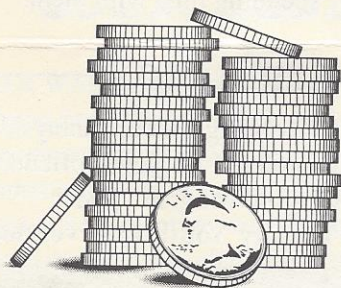
Near: As I have increased contacts with interested individuals and churches, spend time with many who attended our third annual Prison Training Seminars, and hear continuing stories of changed lives of inmates, I realize that God is doing great things today behind the walls of prisons.

Far: In January, my wife Anna Mae and I spent a week in Montgomery, Alabama, where we joined over 200 others who ministered in 13 different Alabama correctional facilities. This annual crusade, a project of We Care, brought men and women counselors, evangelists and singers together from 14 states and 1 Canadian province.



I appreciate the partnership many of you have with us as we proclaim freedom through Jesus Christ. Quantities of this NEWSLETTER as well as a DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURE are available at no charge for churches or individuals to distribute. Let me know if you can use literature, need more information, or have any questions or concerns. Write, email, or phone.

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Focus on Finances

OUR 2001 ANNUAL BUDGET TOTAL IS \$227,969. OF THIS AMOUNT, \$100,878 IS ANTICIPATED FROM

CONTRIBUTIONS. GIFTS COME FROM CONGREGATIONS, BUSINESSES AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.

WE INVITE YOU TO USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO SHARE A GIFT WITH SFPM. A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT WILL BE SENT FOR EACH CONTRIBUTION.

January - March 2001

