

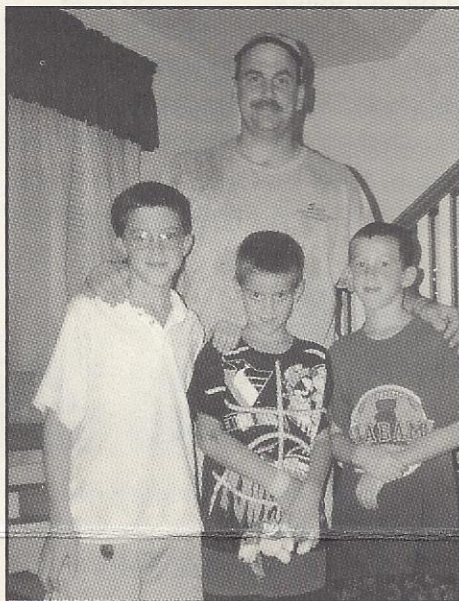
Hope to Live

My name is Matthew Adams and I've been incarcerated 6 times in 3 states. I'm an ex-felon and ex-addict.

I have tried to change many times to no success. Until I met the person of Jesus Christ permanent, positive change was not possible in my life. Once I committed my life to Him, I saw my life changing. I received a hope that my life was worth living and that my life had value because God loved me.

Through the course of my 17 year addiction, I've hurt many people; people I loved dearly, I burned bridges with family members, lost my wife and children and friends I'd known my entire life. Finally in a jail cell in August of '95 I lost the will to live. My thoughts were overrun with guilt and failure. I knew I'd never change and I was only an embarrassment to myself and my children. I'd never be a father they would be proud of or look up to. So as I lost the last of my will to live, I took the shoestrings from my shoes, laced them through the vent above the sink in my cell, made a noose on the other end and stepped off the sink. At the

moment I stepped off the sink, a guard walked past, called a code, and ran into my cell to grab my legs and support me until other guards could come and cut me down.



Matt Adams and his 3 sons

From there I went to MHU (Medical Housing Unit) and spent 3 days in a camera cell. One day when I was out of my cell, I ran into a Chaplain from the prison. He recognized me from a previous time in prison and helped me get plugged into some solid Christian brothers, got me a Bible, and dropped by to talk with me. Because of the time and love those people showed me, I dedicated my life to Christ. Life has never been

better. I have attended the same church for 5 years. There has been healing with my children and family.

For the past 5 years I have concentrated my focus on Jesus, and his will for my life. There have been many wonderful blessings in that period of time. The relationship with my 3 sons has been restored. We spend weekends together in Fall and Winter, and weeks together in the summer.

My dad, stepmom, brother, and sister no longer make me empty my pockets before and after a family meal or holiday. Praise God!

I attend Faith Covenant Church of Ephrata where the Lord has blessed me with the privilege as serving as Youth Leader, Deacon, and sound man. And after 5 years of unsuccessful attempts to get back into LCP with my church Prison Ministry Team, the Lord has now opened that door for me. What an honor it is to go back inside and share my experience with the men and women there. To tell them how a loving, forgiving God can give a second chance to anyone who asks, even a wretch like me! God bless,

Matt Adams

From the Board...

Dear Friends,

He is Risen! He is not here! Behold the place where He lay. Hallelujah, the tomb is empty. Celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord is a refreshing time for the



Christian. Spring time also reminds us of new life, observing the earth again come to life with all its beauty. Sharing the Gospel to a people often forgotten and separated from society is a real privilege. Hearing the testimonies of lives being changed from SFPM staff is real exciting. Pray for the Spirit of God to work in the lives of those in

prison, with whom the life changing Gospel is shared. Pray also for God's wisdom and direction for our board members. We have 11 committed persons, from a variety of Mennonite and Brethren Churches, who meet every other month to give oversight to this ministry. Your giving financially enables us to be God's ministers to those of the prison population. Thank You.

Glenn Hoover, Board Chairman

NEW BARNES HALL JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

Construction is currently underway on the Sunnyside peninsula for a new Barnes Hall building. Barnes Hall houses young people, ages 10 - 17, until their cases are processed by the courts. Construction contracts were awarded by the county in December 1999. The New Barnes Hall will be a 96 bed facility, with two unfinished shells that could allow expansion to 144 beds. This will replace the existing over-crowded 23 bed facility located at 900 East King Street.

Chaplain Marvin Reed, who currently provides one-on-one counseling, has group Bible studies, shows Christian videos, and arranges worship services at Barnes Hall is looking forward to the new building. Construction plans call for a small chapel, a chaplain office and counseling room; much needed space for our ministry.

NEEDED for Auction

Craft items, quality items, quilts (quilt tops also available to be quilted). For quilt information, contact Judy Hoover at 717-733-7301. For other information, contact Glenn Hoover at 717-733-7301 or Nelson Martin at 717-626-6301

Mark Your
Calendars Now!

Come to the Sale!

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

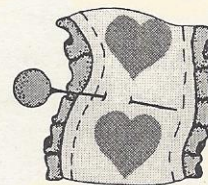


Friday, October 27, 2000

Chicken Barbeque	4:00-7:00 PM
Sale of Hardware, flowers, toys, and crafts	6:30-9:00 PM
Winross and Collectible Truck Sale	8:00-9:00 PM

Saturday, October 28, 2000

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

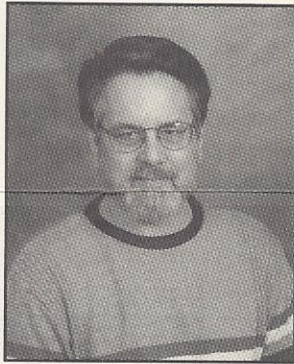


Located at the Farmersville Auction Grounds, Farmersville (Lancaster County) PA

Meet A Chaplain

An Interview, by Nelson Martin, SFPM Director, with Al Huber, Chaplain, Lancaster County Prison

NELSON: Recently, I caught up with Al to chat about his prison ministry. Usually he is out in the pods (prison housing units), talking with pastors or prison officials on the phone, or surrounded by other staff in the overflowing 11 x 15 foot chaplain's office on the second floor of the massive Lancaster County Prison, "home" to almost 1,000 inmates. *Al, tell me about your call to prison ministry.*



AL: Years ago, God spoke to me through Martin Weber at a revival meeting. Martin told of his exciting work with prisoners in Alabama. I helped there at an annual week of revivals. In 1980 our family spent one year in V.S. at the Fountain Prison in Atmore, AL. That was a year full of challenges and growth for me.

NELSON: *How and when did you become involved at Lancaster County Prison?*

AL: After our year in Alabama, I returned to the family business. But God's call to prison ministry stayed with me. In 1989, I began regular one-on-one visits to inmates and also tried to build relationships to a number of persons who were released. In 1994, I was appointed full-time chaplain. Currently, I am here about 30 hours a week, working along with 4 other paid staff and 12 regular volunteers.

NELSON: *Tell me about a typical day "behind the walls".*

AL: (Chuckling) Typical days don't happen here. There is so much variety and action. I often have crisis situations to deal with. I coordinate the office activities, Bible studies, and counseling. We line up many worship services, and all religious mail and scheduling of clergy visits go through our office.

NELSON: *What energizes you?*

AL: To meet one-on-one with guys and share about Jesus' love. To see them open up to God, to seek inner healing and then watch the change that comes when Jesus touches their inner pains.

NELSON: *So what is the worst part of your job?*

AL: I get frustrated with inmates who choose "ignorance", in other words they are told what is right but don't want to change. Another very difficult situation is the need to go to inmates to deliver official notice of a death or tragedy in their family.

NELSON: I can see much evidence here in prison, Al, that God's blessings are continuing on your ministry. Someone told me recently "*Al, has 4 daughters and no sons. But, he has many "spiritual sons" in prison and some that have returned to the free world.*"

AL: That is true, and that gives me great joy. However, some of my "sons" are a little delinquent right now.

Pray for our Staff

CODY HALL, Gordonville, PA
Chaplain at L.C. Prison, previous corrections officer
Ordained minister by the Worship Center
DIANE FULMER, Ephrata, PA
Secretary/Office Coordinator in L.C. Prison Chaplain's office
CRYSTAL HOOVER, Ephrata, PA
Secretary/Accountant for SFPM Director and office
AL HUBER, New Holland, PA
Chaplain at L.C. Prison, ordained minister by Carpenter Community Church. (See article with more information)

NELSON W. MARTIN, Lititz, PA
Director of SFPM, also serves as bishop of 4 Lancaster Mennonite Conference churches in the Lititz area.
MARVIN REED, Denver, PA
Chaplain at both Barnes Hall and L.C. Prison
Ordained by Lichty Mennonite Church
FAYE STAUFFER, Manheim, PA
Chaplain to women at L.C. Prison, Licensed by Kauffman Mennonite Church.

Support For Prison Ministries
P.O. Box 134
Lititz, PA 17543

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A Message From Our Director



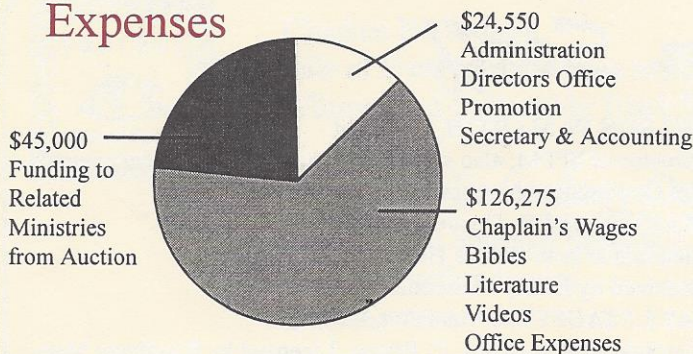
I am glad to present you with our first issue of "FREEDOM FOCUS" newsletter. Since I came on staff in September 1999, many changes and program expansions have occurred. God is truly at work in prisons today. We are grateful for many opportunities to share the message of God's love and hope to those in prison. Thanks for your partnership with us as we proclaim freedom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Quantities of this NEWSLETTER as well as a DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURE are available at no charge for churches or individuals to distribute. Please let us know how many you can use. Also, we'd like to hear suggestions for this newsletter, any change of address, questions, or concerns. The phone number for SFPM is 717-626-6301. WISHING GOD'S BEST TO YOU ALL.

Nelson Martin

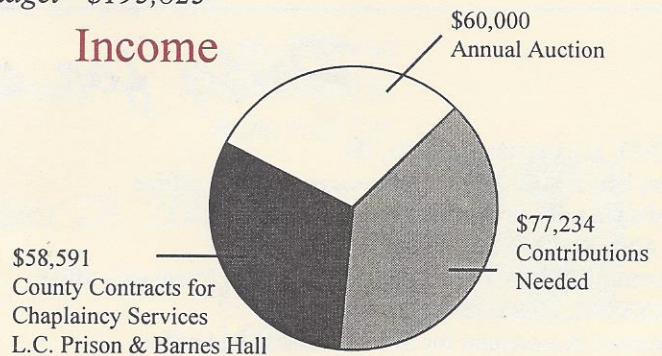
Focus On Finances

Total Annual Budget - \$195,825

Expenses



Income



**We encourage you to use the enclosed envelope to send us a gift as the Lord leads you.*