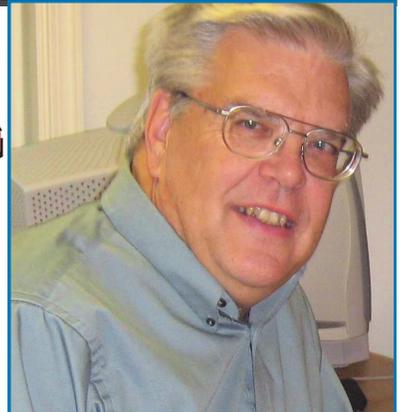


THE VALUE OF KNOWING AND DOING

By Nelson W. Martin, SFPM Public Relations



Our chaplains have countless opportunities to share God’s good news with many inmates at LCP (Lancaster County Prison). To some inmates, that makes a difference as they find new hope and healing from past hurts. There are others who are not yet ready to commit to God’s ways. And sadly, some want nothing to do with God in their lives.

As you can imagine, there are a wide variety of personalities and spiritual understandings to be found in the inmate population at LCP. Recently I was thinking again about two conversations I had with inmates a number of years ago. These happenings demonstrated extremes on both sides of the spiritual life perspective.

One was a young man who wanted a Bible, “Maybe a Jewish one since Jesus was Jewish” and he believed his mother was also. He asked about what that “born again” expression meant. As we talked, it felt to me I was having the Nicodemus story all over again. This young man grew up in a local town but had no understanding of whom Jesus was or God’s plan of salvation.

The other conversation was with a young man who talked a lot and “had the answers.” Something he said reminded me of Philippians 2 about Jesus giving up his heavenly kingdom home and coming to this earth. While I was paging in my Bible to read him the passage, he startled me by quoting it from memory. “Oh”, he said, “that’s the part that says, ‘Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped’”

In the first conversation, the inmate had no knowledge. He wasn’t taught about God. In the second situation, the inmate had knowledge, but it apparently wasn’t working for him. As I reflect on these two extremes, I remember James 1:22, “Do not only listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. But do what it says.”

That is the lifestyle of both knowing and doing. What a challenging and exciting way for us to live!

WHAT’S INSIDE?

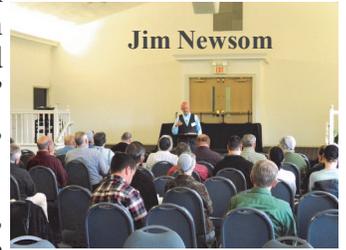
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March 5 Prison Rally



David Bucher

On March 5th a group of people gathered at Hinkletown Mennonite Church for a prison rally. The day began with coffee and donuts and then Jim Newsom, from Outward Focus, shared on “Hearing the Groaning of the Prisoner.” After a short break, David Bucher, from We Care Program, shared on “Lessons I Learned from Being a Chaplain.”



Jim Newsom



Lunchtime fellowship

SEI Catering provided a delicious lunch. While eating, attendees had a chance to interact with each other and share about their experiences in working and volunteering in the prison.



Nelson Zeiset

Following lunch, Nelson Zeiset, who is a chaplain in a state prison in PA, shared on “The Inmate Mind and How it Relates to Prison Religion.” Then there was a panel discussion on “The Mission of the Chaplain.” Four chaplains were part of the panelist discussion. Both veteran and new prison workers and chaplains left feeling renewed.



Panelist Discussion

The rally ended, in the evening, with a concert by the Wilson Family from Mississippi who blessed us with acoustic music featuring guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, and violin. Jim Newsom then shared an inspiring message. We thank God for a great day of hearing about His heart for the lost.



Wilson Family



Mark your calendar!!



COME TO THE 33rd ANNUAL AUCTION
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Framed pictures
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Many Valuable Gift Certificates from area businesses for food, lodging, professional and home services.

Since the SFPM annual auction began in 1984, over \$2.3 million has been contributed to prison ministries.

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

Chaplain's Corner



In October, Glenn Hoover began part-time employment with SFPM as interim chaplain, preparing to fill the lead chaplain role when Chaplain Al Huber gets the call for his lung transplant.

Upon arriving, I received a warm welcome from the Chaplain's office staff. I spent my time observing and learning the office procedures and duties. Chaplain Al Huber has the office running smoothly, with very capable secretaries Diane Pistone, and chaplain/secretary Katie Mininger.

The work of the chaplaincy is supported by 19 chaplaincy staff. The staff conduct many Bible Study classes, one on one sessions, schedule clergy visits, answer inmate requests (approx. 45 a day), distribute 140 Bible Study Courses (monthly), process clergy clearances, coordinate 8 church sessions weekly... to name a few. The office is very busy, with many more additional duties.

My first impression of the building was daunting. Four floors, each with multiple dorms, with lots of halls and doors.

I was blessed to learn of the many different ministries that happen on a daily basis. Evangelism and discipleship Bible classes are an integral part of the programs. I've enjoyed the heart of the staff teaching these persons how to live in victory and freedom through faith in the Lord Jesus.

Al Huber is to be credited for his many years of service here at LCP. Al has positioned the chaplaincy well, to serve the inmate population with caring hearts, preaching and teaching the word of God, and redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christ and His church. Glenn Hoover

Al Huber update

Al Huber, SFPM Head chaplain at Lancaster County Prison, was diagnosed with Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis (scarring of the lungs) in 2012. Since then his lungs have continued to deteriorate and it became evident that he would need a lung transplant.

On January 16, 2016 Al received a call saying there was a lung available and he needed to head to Philadelphia immediately. Within hours he was in surgery receiving a new lung. After surgery his family reported, "By 8AM he was out of surgery and by 11AM the ventilator tube was coming out. Often this doesn't happen until a lot later, so Al is doing really, really well!" Praise God.



Al, with his wife Anna, being discharged from the hospital.

14 days after surgery Al was discharged. Al & his wife, Anna, stayed in Philly for several weeks to monitor his lung and to receive physical therapy.

49 days after surgery, on March 4, Al was able to return to his home in New Holland! He is thrilled to be in his home again and sleeping in his own bed. He will continue to receive physical therapy and learn how to live with his new lung.

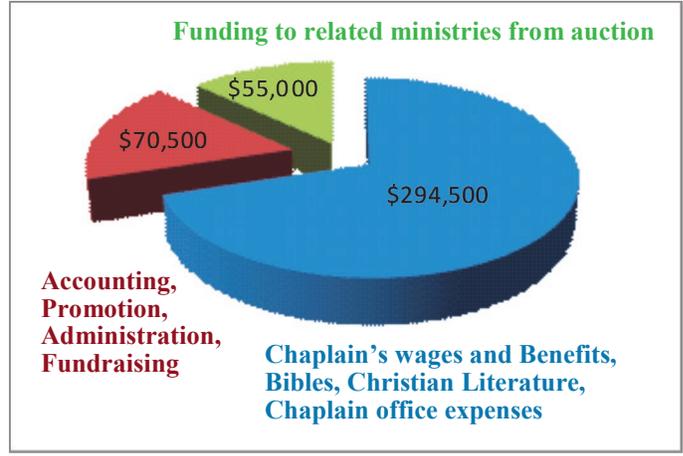
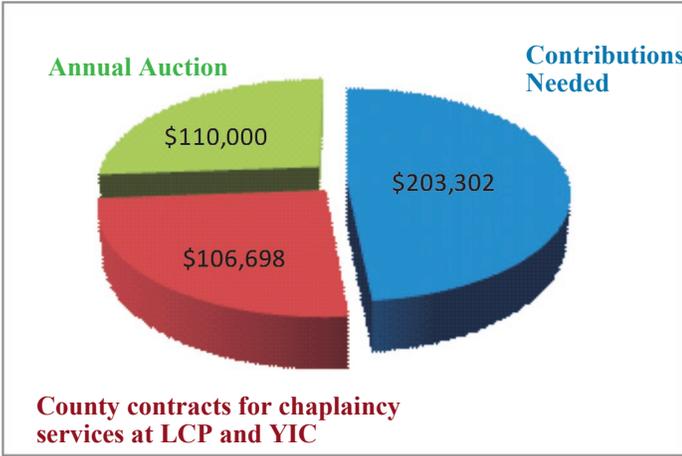
All in all Al is doing very well. Here are some words straight from Al, "Thank you all for your prayers, care, and support. We have some awesome support people. May God bless you beyond measure as He has me."

Focus On Finances

Income

Expenses

2016 Budget: \$420,000



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

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT By Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

After I finished my message in a state prison, there was a lineup of men wanting prayer. It is this part of the ministry that is rewarding to me: to meet prisoners personally and pray for their hurts and needs. There was a well groomed young man that stood in front of me appearing like an inmate that would have it all together. Instead he explained to me the torment within himself and then showed me the scars on his arms where he tried to end his life. To have the right words in a minute and pray the right words is difficult. I prayed and then tried to direct him to his chaplain for some resources that could help.



This encounter made me think of and appreciate our chaplains at Lancaster prison that are able to take the time to listen, pray, and counsel with these inmates. I would ask that you remember our ministry in your prayers and tithes as we continue to make a difference in prisoner's lives.

"To hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death." Psalms 102:20