

“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

GOD AT WORK DURING THE AUCTION

Nelson W. Martin

While we were busy setting up for the annual Prison Ministry Benefit Auction on October 20, a lady approached me and started to ask some questions. She wanted to know what we are about and then she said she spent time in Lancaster County Prison (LCP). When she was imprisoned, she knew little about God. She received a Christian book from the chaplain’s office and was so impressed with the message that she asked to see a chaplain. Chaplain Kim Martin talked to her, led her to the Lord, and she said her life took on new meaning. When she was released to her home, she realized the author of the book was also one of the leaders in a local congregation and she is now learning more about God from this church. Stories like this make all the auction work worth it.



As director of Support For Prison Ministries I want to thank everyone involved with the auction. Thank you to the score of volunteers, including churches, ministry agencies, auctioneers, after care residents etc. Also, a special thank you to all the businesses and donors that have so graciously gave of their goods to give the sale interesting items for bidders. To those buyers that find great bargains at discount prices and the buyers that pay “slightly higher” than market value prices. To those that donate to cover costs of food and resources needed to put the auction on. To those we cannot individually thank, we say THANK YOU for making the work of Jesus Christ possible to prisons and aftercares.

Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

Also this year in addition to the board and other friends who helped set up, run items to buyers, clean up, etc. we had a large group of volunteers who are residents of the aftercare agencies that share in the auction proceeds. Several of these persons were new Christians and so eager to help in some way. One young man told the audience how his life was changed by reading a Bible that was given to him in LCP. He thanked those who supported prison ministries and clearly stated how his life was different.

Again this year, we had an abundance of donated items to sell. During the auction, which is rather intense and fast moving, we stopped twice just to reflect on God’s work and faithfulness to those in prison and aftercare ministries. During these times of quietness, we simply asked auction attendees if they wanted to hold up their auction cards to donate for buying Bibles. The response was overwhelming. In the end, 70 bidders gave \$5,700 to this cause. (continued on page 3)

WHAT’S INSIDE?

- Volunteer Spotlight... ..pg. 2
- Chaplain’s Corner.....pg. 3
- Focus on Finances.....pg. 4
- Director’s Report.....pg. 4



Volunteer Spotlight: Bud Roda

“Volunteers are special and they make a difference”

Chaplain volunteers give about 75 hours per week. This spotlight features one of these committed persons who shares so much inside the prison walls.



Bud Roda is a volunteer at LCP and also works with the Potter’s House in placing men into aftercare.

THE CHURCH INSIDE THE PRISON

I have had the privilege of going into LCP for almost 20 years and consider this a mission field. Preaching and teaching are very different than in churches. The men know they are sinners and that their ways are not working. We give them good news, there is another way; that Jesus died for them and will change the way they think and transform them.

God wrote a book giving them a way of life.

We teach them how to fight a different way, not with fists and guns.

We teach them that they are in a spiritual battle and they are losing everything. So they need to fight with spiritual weapons (2 Cor. 10). Their strongholds and addictions can be destroyed with prayer, scripture, putting on the armor of God, taking every thought captive, and walking in the spirit...daily.

My church, Harvest Bible Chapel, has a team of men and women who teach these principles. The men and women who join the church and get baptized and who get involved in ministries in the church rarely go back to prison. We have a mission field in our back yard. We have the answers to close the prisons. **Jesus is the answer.** The world’s answer is to build more prisons, more rehabs, legalize drugs, and spend more money.

The church needs to step up and help the ex-offenders. They are extremely needy with fines, costs, and life style changes. I believe the church is the place for this.

The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Our Lord came to give us life and truth.

THANK YOU, BUD, FOR YOUR MINISTRY BEHIND BARS!!



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 2016 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.

Chaplain's Corner

**Kenny Bowman is a chaplain who spends time meeting with inmates;
listening, praying, and sharing**



I have always had a passion to help people better themselves. Until recently, my passion was primarily equipping teenaged boys with the tools to overcome life's obstacles. For the past 15 years, I have worked with many young men in the juvenile justice system. As their counselor, we were blessed to develop meaningful relationships. God has worked through me as a coach, counselor, barber, and as a leader in my local church. My influence came through touching the hearts of these young people.

Now God is using me to help men apply their lives for His purpose. Each day that I walk through the hardened prison structure my hope is to see chains breaking; chains of generational thinking errors due to a worldly focus that have many men bound. I know that I am only able to reach these men because of Him. I am proof that God often uses the least qualified to accomplish His will.

God raised me from a fatherless child. Now He is using me to raise up men. When I think about my life's journey and how God is using me now, I am humbled. I put my faith in Jesus Christ, that through Him many of these men will have life in abundance. And, it will decrease the amount of young men in the justice system dramatically. I am trusting and believing that the fruit that will come from their lives will multiply to their sons, nephews, and brothers.....The kingdom of heaven will grow, and the Lord our God will be glorified. I am reminded of Ephesians 3:20 that says, "Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."

GOD AT WORK DURING THE AUCTION...continued from page 1

Overall, this 33rd auction was a great success. Our goal was to raise \$110,000 after expenses. When the final tallies were done, we had \$112,401 that was shared between Support for Prison Ministries LCP chaplains and the Youth Intervention Center programs, Freedom Gate in Reading, TTC/Potter's House in Leola and New Holland, Revelations of Freedom Ministries in Blue Ball, and the We Care Programs throughout Alabama. Since the auction began 33 years ago, almost \$2.5 million has been raised through these events. God is at work through this auction. To Him be the glory!!

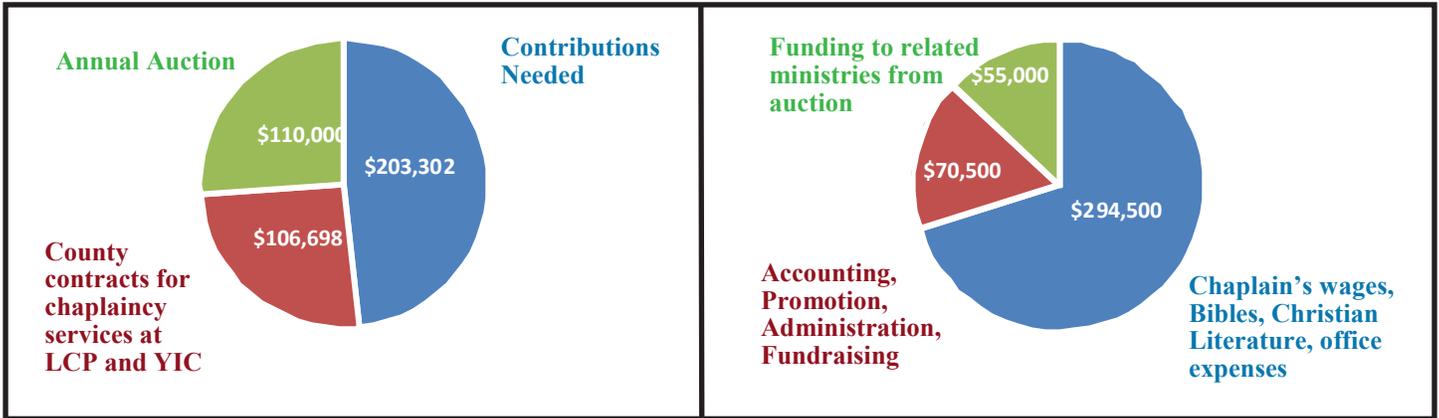


Focus On Finances

2016 Budget: \$420,000

Income

Expenses



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

Check out our website for updated photos and information: www.supportforprisonministries.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #1746
Lancaster, PA
17603

Email: info@supportforprisonministries.org
(717) 859-5519

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT By Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

As I travel in the state prisons preaching, I like nothing more than to hear an inmate come to me and share his salvation story. It usually starts at the county level where a chaplain or a volunteer talked to them one on one, tenderly sharing Jesus Christ; not a one-time meeting, but usually several meetings with the inmate with the chaplain first listening to the seeking inmate, then sharing what Christ has done in his own life.

The great evangelist D. L Moody often said that you can take fruit off a tree by two ways, one by shaking the tree and it falls off. With this method, it may be possibly bruised or not in the best condition, this he described as the large crowd method of evangelism, and is not the best way to win people to Christ. The great preacher describing the other way of gathering fruit, "I prefer hand picked fruit every time!" This he credited as the preferred way of evangelism.

We are thankful for the work of all our chaplains at Lancaster Prison and the Youth Intervention Center as they counsel with individual inmates, or work in small groups, modeling the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider Support For Prison Ministries with a portion of your end of year gifts to continue making this work possible behind prison walls.