

Pastor's and Prison Care

We, at SFPM, greatly admire pastors that take an interest in visiting prisoners, and working with released prisoners in helping to bring restoration to their lives. Mark Mentzer is Lead Pastor at Stumptown Mennonite Church, and is one of the many pastors who does an excellent job at going out of the way to touch inmates' lives.

What started you in being led to minister to prisoners?

It was a bunch of things all at once. Radical conversion, friends in jail, my mentor setting the example, going to a church that did out of the ordinary ministry but mostly seeing people that made mistakes and wanting them to experience the same freedom in living for Jesus that I had found.



Pastor Mark & Cathy Mentzer

What are some pitfalls you have encountered ministering to prisoners or ex-prisoners?

Some would be.....the “System” is stacked against them, identity issues, addiction issues, family issues, individuals that live the “whatever is easiest” lifestyle and employ that to Christianity.....once out and life gets hard they default back to destructive decision making and leave Christ behind. Helping people to emerge from the corrections system is difficult work. It takes lots of time and patience. Another thing would be spending time preparing good Bible studies and coming back week after week and seeing no effort put into the study by the

inmate. The pitfall here would be the lack of encouragement in between visits to spend time with Jesus.

What keeps you from not giving up writing Bible studies and meeting with prisoners?

There are a lot of reasons. I have had such great experiences so far coupled with the way God made me. I don't get frustrated very easily and find it easy to stay positive. God has put something inside me that keeps me fueled to

love being with and connecting with people. I personally love to get hand written notes, that leads me to write to others. All told I just enjoy this way to live my life. It's how I want to spend my days. After what The Lord has done for me..... I can't keep it in.

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

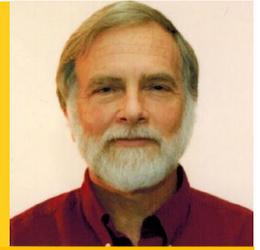
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Volunteer Spotlight: Darrel Hostetter

“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.



“Seeing Jesus in the Prison”

This may sound strange for a chaplain to say, but it is so true. Coming to Lancaster County Prison (LCP) with the expectation of seeing Jesus brings joy, hope, and anticipation. You see, Jesus spent much of his time in ministry with the marginalized of society-lepers, demon possessed, sick, poor, sinners, and outcasts. In fact, in Matthew 25, Jesus implied that He was hungry and the righteous gave Him food; He was thirsty and they gave Him something to drink; He was a stranger and they welcomed Him; He was naked and the righteous gave Him clothing; He was sick and they took care of Him; He was in prison and they visited Him. Jesus implied that when we minister to the least of these brothers and sisters, we have done it unto him.

Let me share with you some of the ways I have experienced Jesus among the prisoners and staff at LCP:

- ◆ When a brother learned to make peace with someone who wronged him.
- ◆ When another brother began to meet with other inmates in his cell block to pray and have Bible study. Later he served communion with four others using a nutty bar and coffee in their cell block.
- ◆ When a brother asked me first how it is going for me and proceeds to listen and then pray for me.
- ◆ When a brother recently shared with me, very excitedly, that he had accepted Christ the other night with Chaplains Kenny and Tyrone. He was so excited he could hardly speak.
- ◆ When I heard an inmate being thankful for being in prison because he needed to stop the life he was living and to start over. Coming to prison has helped him begin a new life.
- ◆ When Diane, who works in the Chaplain’s office, graciously tells me that I should be writing up a report when an inmate’s close relatives are very ill or in the hospital because we as staff can care for them more compassionately and offer them a phone call with their sick relative.
- ◆ When I meet a Correctional Officer who always wants to talk and catch up, anytime we meet.
- ◆ When I experience the new warden of LCP coming into a church service for the first time and staying until after the service to connect with those facilitating the service. She also realized that some of the blocks were limiting attendance of some of the inmates when there was not a need to any longer.

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

Did You Know???

SUPPORT FOR PRISON MINISTRIES CAN PROVIDE SPEAKERS FOR:

**SUNDAY SERMONS, MISSION CONFERENCES, SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS TEACHING
BREAKFAST MEETINGS, BANQUETS, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS , SEMINARS...**



**Contact us for sermons, lectures, a full size prison cell, ventriloquism, and other options.
Prison chaplains and ex-inmates are also available to share testimonies and life stories.**

**Email us at sfpm@dejazzd.com or call 717-859-5519
to ask questions or check available dates.**

Chaplain's Corner

Tyrone Hightower is a chaplain who spends time meeting with inmates;
listening, praying, and sharing



First, I would like to thank my Heavenly Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ for giving me the opportunity to be a chaplain at the Lancaster County Prison. I count it an honor and a privilege to be able to speak the Word of God into the lives of men. I am a witness; the Holy Spirit is changing men's lives in LCP. Currently one of my duties as a chaplain is to teach a Bible study class on Friday mornings from 8:30a.m. to 10:00a.m. I gather men from 3 different housing units. Those who sign up for Bible study ranges from 10 to 20 men weekly.

We pray, sing, and listen to praise and worship music. Then we have a discussion on a particular topic or a verse from scripture and allow the Word of God to give us the answers. I also share with the men my testimony of how the Lord Jesus Christ delivered me from a 16-year drug addiction and all kinds of other bondages.

My love and gratefulness to the Lord keeps me serving and living for Him. I thank God everyday for His grace and mercy upon my life. After class I go throughout the prison on different housing units from ground level to 3rd floor level handing out reading materials, Bibles, Bible studies, and answered requests. Also, I do one on one visits, I pray and encourage the men to hold on to God and submit their hearts to the lordship of Jesus Christ. I am honored to be a part of the chaplaincy team at LCP. We all have the same goals and commitment to serve and to minister to inmates who have hit a hard place in their lives.



HEARD IN PRISON

An inmate told his grandparents that the only thing he looks forward to and what makes his stay at LCP bearable is his interaction with SFPM chaplains and the hope they give to him while he is there.

Our 34th Annual Benefit Auction will be held October 27 & 28 at the Ephrata Business Center. More details to come but mark your calendar now!!



Pastor's and Prison Care (continued from page 1)

How do you balance being a pastor at an established church with mainstream citizens to a prison work where you are dealing with individuals that often have problems being model citizens?

Balance has proven to be hard work for me so I rather look at it as a rhythm. I go for a while where I have 3 or 4 relationships with inmates in lock up and then it's a season where they are out and I have those relationships and maybe none incarcerated. Some join us for Sunday fellowship for a while and some move on. Then there might

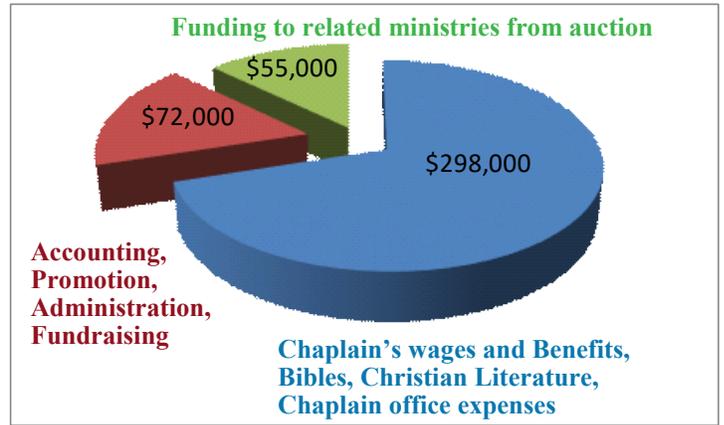
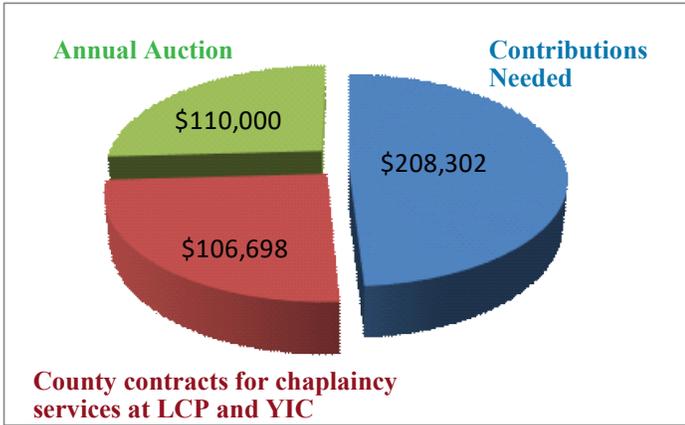
be a while when there is no one on the list for me to visit. It's changing all the time. If I look at it as balance.....it leaves me more in control, and that's a lot of variables to balance. But when I think in terms of rhythm, my objective becomes, what God is already doing and how can I get in step with this rhythm. For me, it's easier this way.

What is your message to those that are afraid to take a chance of being involved with prisoners, because of the possibility of the prisoner backsliding?

Take a chance!!!! You will not be disappointed.

Income **Focus On Finances**

Expenses **2017 Budget: \$425,000**



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

I was recently ministering at a state prison and a Corrections Officers made the comment to a chaplain and me, "You can't turn a corner anymore without bumping into a new psychiatrist." He was commenting on how many new psychiatrists were being hired to try and combat the problems of inmates, and probably from a Corrections Officer perspective questioning why so much state money was being appropriated for this. My stating this is not to put psychiatrists in a bad light, or comment on his thought, for mental health workers are very useful in corrections and serve a purpose. It did cause me to think from a ministry standpoint though, why we believe in the transforming work of Jesus Christ in one's heart, through chaplain and religious volunteers. It is a situation that even secular Corrections Officials acknowledge the many benefits of religious programs for inmates. Ecclesiastes 1:9 tells us, "There is no new thing under the sun." In the days of electronic technology, something new seems to appear almost every day, and it seems this is an oxymoron of a statement regarding people today. In reality it is not, for with man's heart and rebellion toward God there really is nothing new from the time Solomon penned this. Because of sin there will be a need for chaplains to present the message of the Cross, and victory in Jesus Christ over sin. Thank you for the continued prayers and support of our men and women inside the prison proclaiming the simple message of Jesus Christ.