



Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

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“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

A LOOK INSIDE THE YOUTH INTERVENTION CENTER

By Chaplain Rachel Bernard

Within the small 12 ft by 15 ft office space the Chaplains call home within the Youth Intervention Center (YIC) is the hub for many inspirations and the moving of God. The Chaplains meet to pray, brainstorm, and ask Jesus to move in the way only He can do so. God has promised that where two or three are gathered in His Name there He will be! The Chaplains at YIC take this promise of God to heart; and because of God’s promise they can go forth boldly into the hallways and units with God’s power, His hope, and the message of Salvation.



The YIC chaplaincy team is led by Jeryl Zimmerman and includes; Gray Good, and Tyler and Rachel Bernard. Each of the chaplains work closely with Bryan Hubbard, the program coordinator of YIC, to organize and place various Bible studies, programs, and groups on the youth’s schedule. These times of concentrated discussion on a topic from the Bible models for the youth ways to seek God and open the arena for the youth to ask questions.

Some evenings the Chaplains bring an organized topic within the framework of a prearranged Bible study. Other evenings the chaplains float between units, staff lounge and supervisors’ offices, taking time to engage and listen to the heart of the staff, and introducing themselves to new residents. Due to the nature of the facility, the turnover rate of both the youth and the staff is significant. The window of time that the chaplains have to share God’s love to any specific resident within the facility averages a few days to a month or so at the most. Moreover, the youth that pass through the Youth Intervention Center are typically skeptical and at times uncertain of people they do not know.

Thus, the Chaplains at times are met with questions such as “who are you...or what are you doing here?” This lack of trust is easy to understand when you hear the heartbreaking stories of loss and framework of manipulation that they have lived with prior to coming to YIC. Broken homes, living on or running the streets from a young age, deceased caregivers, abuse, neglect, emotional, physical and most of all spiritual pain. Their heart’s cry out for love and someone to understand them. In order to bridge the gap between the youth’s uncertainty of the chaplains and the short window of time that they have to build relationship and speak the love and hope of Jesus into their lives, the Chaplains hone in on rapport building. A favorite of the youth males are the monthly basketball nights where the chaplains and program coordinator break out their athletic skills to take on a unit on the basketball court. Other nights you will find the Chaplains sitting quietly engaging the adolescents in a hand of rummy or spades. It is not unusual to see the youth begin to share about their lives or ask questions about God over a card game.

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MEET JERYL ZIMMERMAN Youth Intervention Center Chaplaincy Coordinator

Jeryl grew up in Bowmansville, PA and attended Bowmansville Mennonite Church. He graduated from Faith Mennonite High School and then earned an Associate Degree in Social Science and Criminal Justice from Harrisburg Area Community College.

After high school, Jeryl entered the YES program with Eastern Mennonite Missions and served in Queens, New York. In total, Jeryl spent about 12 years in Queens, where he was part of Immanuel Community Church and played a number of roles including youth and young adult ministry. He still commutes regularly for Sunday services and considers that his home church. In Queens, he also was on staff at Street Life Ministries helping the homeless and poor. Additionally, he was the administrator of Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, a nonprofit in the community.

Eighteen months ago, Jeryl returned to Lancaster County. In total, Jeryl worked for the Youth Intervention Center (YIC) as a Youth Care Worker for 4 ½ years before moving to Support For Prison Ministries as a chaplain at YIC.

Jeryl takes over as YIC Chaplaincy Coordinator for Katie Harnish who had served in that position for several years. Katie will remain an advisor to the YIC chaplaincy program but she will be focusing on her role as Chaplaincy Coordinator at Lancaster County Prison.

Jeryl answered the following questions:

Why did you become a Chaplain instead of remaining as YIC staff? I recognized a calling on my life to minister to young people and have been concerned with their struggles. Switching from being a Youth Care Worker to Chaplain I am able to show God’s love and forgiveness in a different kind of way.

What is the key with connecting to young people with problems?

Just be genuine and show them that you really care about them. There is enormous value to that as long as you prove you care about them.

SFPM is excited to have Jeryl be part of our team. Welcome, Jeryl!



CONGRATULATIONS TO GRAY & BETHANY GOOD.
They got married August 10. Gray is a chaplain at the Youth Intervention Center. We wish you many blessings as you start this new journey together!



A Look Inside the Youth Intervention Center...continued from page 1

It is in these moments that they catch a glimpse of the love of Jesus. When Jesus walked on this earth in human form, He too utilized this model of meeting people where they were. Jesus demonstrated for each of us what it was to meet the woman at the well, stop and heal a blind man, or call Zacchaeus down from the tree. Jesus did not miss an opportunity to engage anyone, and we too must walk in His footsteps.

Once that rapport is built and the youth find that they can trust the Chaplains; the discipleship continues. Bibles and devotionals are distributed as requested, with the Chaplain team always ready to assist the youth in getting into God’s Word and give an answer for the hope that is within them. God’s truth shines brightly, and God is the Author of the incredible miracles witnessed within the lives of the youth at YIC. A few examples include youth pursuing continued discipleship upon being released from the center. Letters and ongoing communication result in Chaplains having had the opportunity to continue to mentor the youth, attend a past resident’s baptism, invite past residents to church services and introduce them to the family of believers within the framework of church activities and youth retreats. God is doing great things and the harvest is ripe. The Chaplain team humbly stands in awe of God’s greatness in their own lives; and strive to share the hope of the miracle working Savior with everyone they meet.



On **November 16**, Support For Prison Ministries will be part of Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County's Largest Day of Giving.

Any donation made online at www.extragive.org on that day will be stretched by \$500,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

Please consider supporting us on November 16. Thank you!!



Pedal Tractors, tools, and Winross trucks

COME TO THE **35th** ANNUAL AUCTION

OCTOBER 26 & 27, 2018
EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER
400 W. Main St, Ephrata



Chicken Dinner from 4-7 Friday night
 Take out meals at Martin's Country Market



Two 3D pictures made by Lorraine Reiff will be sold Saturday
 Both are detailed and original



Theme Baskets



Quilts, afghans, wall hangings

Many Valuable Gift Certificates from area businesses for food, lodging, professional and home services.



Ways you can help with our auction:

- Make theme baskets to be sold Friday night and Saturday
 - Offer a Share-a-meal dinner to be hosted at your home and sold at the auction
 - Help on Thursday and/or Friday with set up
- If interested, contact us at sfpmjds@gmail.com or call 717-203-8587

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

HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!!

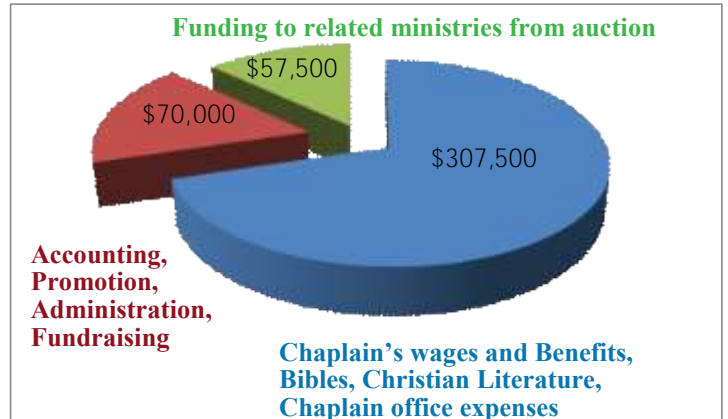
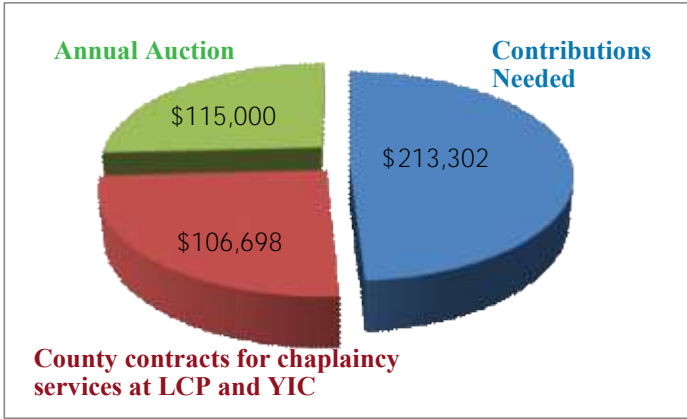
OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL EXPENSES PAID BEFORE THE AUCTION SO THAT THE ENTIRE AUCTION PROCEEDS CAN GO TO PRISON MINISTRIES.

Maybe you will not be able to attend this year, or you may want to send a contribution now to go toward auction expenses. Just clip this coupon and return it in the enclosed envelope with a check made out to SFPM.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to help with benefit auction costs.

NAME _____





You can make on-line donations to Support for Prison Ministries.
www.supportforprisonministries.org
 Click on the Donate tab



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

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

Several times in the past month, as I have been going into prison, I witnessed women weeping or brushing away tears in the waiting area as they wait to visit their spouse. This quickly brings the reality of the tragedy and hurt of incarceration on families.

The fear of a loved one being imprisoned can be very troubling. My advice is for the family to encourage the individual incarcerated to get involved in the prison church and Bible studies. Not only does the Bible have merit in itself but getting around other Christians is healthy. *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them,”* Jesus said.

At Lancaster County Prison individuals are often introduced to Christ for the first time. SFPM's subsidiary ministry, Streams of Life, which ministers at the state level, concentrates more on discipleship and working with the established prison churches. No matter which of the many ministries we do at SFPM the goal is to help ease the tragedy of one's incarceration and point them to Jesus Christ, the Great Healer. Please continue to pray for the many families broken by crime.