



Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

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“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

REFLECTIONS FROM AL HUBER



Al Huber was a Chaplain with Support for Prison Ministries at Lancaster County Prison from 1994-2016, when pulmonary fibrosis and a lung transplant caused Al to step down.

Al started in prison ministry in 1981 after hearing a call from We Care founder, Martin Weber, for chaplains to go help in his work in Alabama, then called New Life Foundation. Al, his wife, Anna, and four young daughters moved to Alabama for a year to be a Chaplain Assistant at Fountain Prison near Atmore, Alabama.

In 1989, Al began volunteering in prison ministry at Lancaster County Prison under Chaplain Dave Myer. Dave was a great example and wonderful mentor. Al witnessed how successfully Dave ministered and modeled his way of chaplaincy after Dave, who left in 1994.

Are there any ex-inmates that you stay in contact with?

There is an ex-inmate who currently lives on the West Coast. God showed up in a might way and changed his life. I keep in contact with him today and he has a very successful walk with the Lord. Then there is the one that I call son and he calls us mom and dad. He has a strong walk with the Lord. He has been a part of our family since 1994. He has been very supportive of me during my transplant journey.

How did you counsel prisoners?

I try to teach them to quiet their mind and listen, coaching them on hearing from God. I remember a man that was set free from hating his dad. I was praying with him and God spoke to him and like a switch the man forgave his dad and began sharing the good and fun things they did together.

I also had great help from volunteer chaplains. Chaplains Lenny Pelsinski and still current Chaplain Ed Bare of Keystone Church were two chaplains, in particular, who were instrumental in helping inmates deal with their past to get freedom and healing.

A verse that always helped me in counseling was John 12:47, *“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”*

I embraced this verse and that allowed me to get close to those of all walks of life including Satanists. This friendship resulted in one Satanist wanting to put curses on people for my benefit. Obviously, I did not accept this from him but it gave me opportunity to share God’s love.

I also had many opportunities to befriend the LCP staff and that created a bond between the chaplaincy staff and the LCP staff.

Were there difficult situations you encountered?

A suicide in prison would put the inmates on the edge. After this would happen, chaplains would flood the block to talk to the other prisoners and calm them. Also death notices of a family member and breaking the news to the inmate was usually difficult. But at times it would allow us to build a lasting relationship with the inmate.

(continued on page 4)

WHAT’S INSIDE?	
Meet baby Bernard.....	pg. 2
Thank you, Smita.....	pg. 2
Auction Planning.....	pg. 3
Focus on Finances.....	pg. 4

Congratulations to Tyler & Rachel Bernard

on the birth of their daughter, Avalyn Hope. She was born on June 14. Avalyn means, "Beautiful breath of life" and she is beautiful!

Tyler & Rachel are both chaplains at the Youth Intervention Center. Having a married couple serving together at the Youth Intervention Center gives a unique opportunity. They have given the troubled youth a perspective of what a family unit can be when God is in the center.

Thoughts from the new parents: Tyler: "Our daughter has shown me how to love unconditionally with a father's heart without anything in return."

Rachel: "Christ continues to show me glimpses of the kingdom of God through daily life applications with Avalyn's precious life."

What a joy it has been for them to welcome their first child. Congratulations, Tyler & Rachel! And welcome to Avalyn Hope!!



Rachel Bernard is our only female chaplain at the Youth Intervention Center. She took the summer off for maternity leave. Support for Prison Ministries is grateful to Smita Groff, who was willing to come back for the summer to fill in for Rachel so that we could continue to provide chaplain services for the young ladies at YIC. Smita shared the following:



Hello, my name is Smita Groff and I am 22 years old. I was adopted from India when I was baby and have lived in the United States my whole life. I live in Manheim, Pennsylvania, and attended Manheim Central High School. I attend Lives Changed By Christ (LCBC) in Manheim, PA. After I graduated from High School, I attended Lancaster Bible College for Human Services and minored in Criminal Justice. During my time at LBC I had an internship at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, and then became an employee. I worked on the Detention side and eventually left to start a new career path. Due to my internship God stretched me in many ways. I graduated from college in December of 2018.

God has led me in many different directions where I have been stretched, knocked down, and built back up again. I have been blessed to have the life I have. Growing up, my favorite verse was Psalm 139:14 which says "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

This is a reminder that God made me for a specific reason, and he has a wonderful plan for my life. I plan to live my life sharing God's Word with those around me and showing a Christ-like attitude. We are to love each other and help one another. Having the opportunity at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, I have made long-lasting relationships with the staff and have been able to spread God's Word with them.

Thank you, Smita, for your service to the young ladies this summer!

- † Young people, ages 10-17, are detained at YIC while waiting for court hearings. There is also a shelter care, which is a separate housing unit for noncriminal or minor offenders.
- † The chaplains area includes a chapel, library space, and counseling offices.
- † The Chaplain staff of three, Jeryl Zimmerman and Rachel & Tyler Bernard, provide one-on-one counseling, group Bible studies, distribute Bibles and books, and provide listening ears and friendship.



Youth Intervention Center (YIC)



On **November 22**, 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 22. Thank you!!



Pedal Tractors, tools, and Winross trucks

COME TO THE **36th** ANNUAL AUCTION

OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2019
EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER
400 W. Main St, Ephrata



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



3D picture made and signed by Abner Zook, Womelsdorf, PA
July 1988
51" x 21"



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.com
Or our facebook page for pictures of items for sale.

HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!!

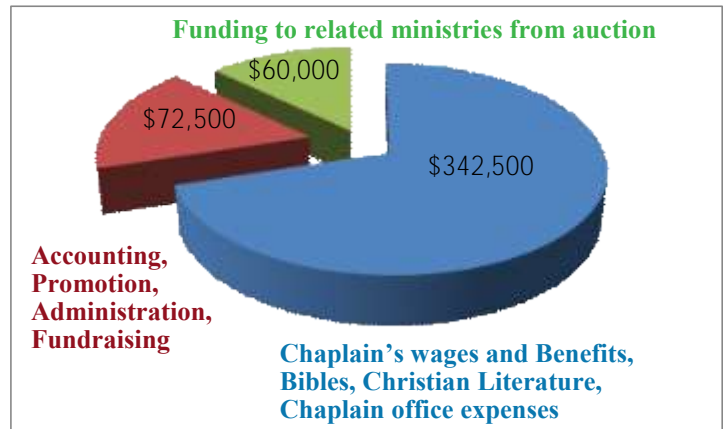
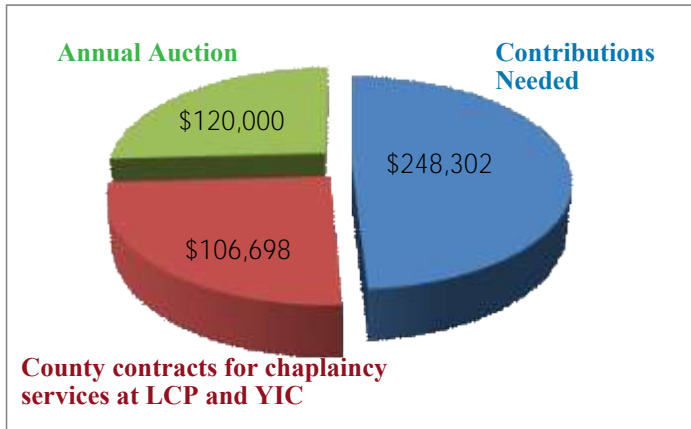
OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL EXPENSES PAID BEFORE THE AUCTION SO THAT THE ENTIRE AUCTION PROCEEDS CAN GO TO PRISON MINISTRIES.

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 also make a donation on line through our website.
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.com

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

Email: info@supportforprisonministries.com
(717) 859-5519
P.O. Box 134, Lititz, PA 17543



What were good days for a chaplain?

(continued from page 1)

A good day was when the temperature in the chapel was pleasant!! The heat of summer and the cold of winter greatly impact the chapel! But on a serious note, good days were when there were no lockdowns, staff were in a good mood, and inmates were in good moods. A good day for the inmates was good news on a phone call home or a visit or a birth in the family.

After years of Chaplaincy, what advice would you give to those thinking about prison work?

Love the inmate without judgement, recognize their brokenness, pray with them, help them to process. The large amount of mental health inmates has changed prison work and requires chaplaincy in a different way. Kent Martin and Jake Riehl are chaplain volunteers who work on the Medical Housing Unit and have my deepest respect.

Respect and honor the prison staff. This was modeled by Chaplain Myer and Prison Councilor, Ben Snively. This resulted in a closer relationship with staff and numerous salvations. One thing to remember is: when we minister successfully to an inmate, then that inmate will minister to his cell mate. When we minister to a Correctional Officer, they will affect the whole housing unit.

Al is now retired from chaplaincy, but he is happy that the work is continuing in LCP. Al is now enjoying spending time with his daughters and fifteen grandchildren. Al and his wife, Anna, are part of Petra Church in New Holland.