

“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

PEOPLE WITH HEART AND MIND TO WORK!

**By Nelson W. Martin
2019 Benefit Auction Coordinator**

This year’s 36th annual Benefit Auction was a fast moving, well attended event held at the Ephrata Business Center on October 25 and 26. Recently I had read the account of Nehemiah’s wall re-building project. I felt like this year’s prison ministry auction was a “re-telling” of Nehemiah’s experience.



The Bible says that Nehemiah got his people together, viewed the broken down walls and rubble in Jerusalem and did something about it. “So we rebuilt and joined the walls together, for the people had a mind (some translations also say heart) to work.” We had a successful auction because many people had minds and hearts to work. Some gave products to sell, some unloaded trucks that brought food and merchandise, some parked cars, some set up tables and chairs, some carried purchases to people’s cars. Many of you reading this know the tasks and routines and we are so thankful. And thanks is not just coming from the auction committee, but on behalf of those in prison who will get spiritual help from these much needed dollars.



We closed with **\$120,615** after expenses to share with six chaplain and reentry programs. This was down a bit from the last two years, which both had set sale records. Food stand sales were again strong. We also received \$3,200 from area businesses for matching funds. This meant that a number of designated items were doubled in price by the matching fund.

Four times during the auction, we called for a halt in the action to hear an update or testimony from persons being helped by prison ministries. Auction attendees were then asked to donate dollars to buy Bibles or to help with chaplain wages. 83 donors gave \$10,025. These donation times became like “holy moments” from generous people.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Del Burkholder

Recently I received a call from a top Lancaster County Prison official to thank us for the strong work of our chaplains at LCP. As an administrator of this ministry, it makes me feel good that our chaplain's office is recognized and appreciated by the institution they serve.

Throughout this past year I was blessed to be able to spend time with many of our chaplain staff at events and in meetings. I love their humble spirit in serving God. Through the leadership of Chaplaincy Coordinator, Katie Harnish, there is a pleasant team atmosphere in the prison office, and you can tell that our chaplains like their work that God has called them to do. This fall SFPM office administrator, Jewel Sensenig, also began working inside the prison in the chaplain's office. Almost 100% of our staff work directly in prisons, rather than in office space outside the walls of prison.

When you contribute to SFPM your dollars do not give to unnecessary overhead, but directly to individuals working with prisoners and changing lives. Whether it is LCP, Youth Intervention Center, Schuylkill County Prison, or state prisons with Streams of Life we continue to see God moving.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.

Romans 10:14,15

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas season.

People with Heart and Mind to Work

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Auction set up, sale day work and clean up was done by board members, agency volunteers and men from the aftercare ministries working side by side. This was a new and exciting adventure for several ex-inmates who had recently been released. They got the work done because they had a heart and mind to work, just like Nehemiah's people in the Old Testament.

Support For Prison Ministries is deeply aware that the auction is much more than dollars received. As one agency director emailed at the close of the auction, "The outpouring of people who support this event every year is amazing! Our communities care and God shows up!"

THANKS BE TO GOD AND TO ALL INVOLVED.



Katie Harnish Chaplain of the Year

September 17-19, 2019 the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains Association (PPCA) had their annual conference. Wednesday evening, September 18, there was a dinner and the announcement of who was chosen for the Chaplain of the Year Award. SFPM is pleased to announce that Katie Harnish, SFPM Chaplaincy Coordinator, was named this year's chaplain of the year. Here is what was shared at the dinner.

Katie Harnish is this year's 2019 County Correctional Chaplain of the Year recipient. She currently serves as the Chaplaincy Coordinator at Lancaster County Prison, where she began as an office assistant to the chaplains in 2003. Her first experience in ministry began right after high school serving on a mission team for six months in Cusco, Peru. Since that time, she earned Social Work and Bible degrees from Lancaster Bible College. Several years later, she began chaplaincy for women inmates at Lancaster County Prison where she has continued ever since.

Katie is licensed for ministry through the Lancaster Mennonite Conference and supported through Support for Prison Ministries. She and her husband, Anthony, attend Mellinger Mennonite Church. Her supervisor, Deputy Joe Shiffer characterizes Chaplain Harnish as a "kind, genuinely compassionate and faithful servant to all who encounter her. Her faith and heart for service shows through daily interactions and is especially noteworthy during critical periods in the lives of both our inmates and staff. In such a 'dim' and not so comfortable place, Ms. Harnish brings with her a ray of sunshine."

Amongst her regular duties, Chaplain Harnish leads a Meditation and Resting Prayer group and co-leads a Women's Bible Study. Although she never expected to be called to prison ministry, she considers it a privilege to walk alongside the women she meets and encourage them to find hope and purpose.

For her faithful service and ministry, we are honored and blessed by the opportunity to recognize Katie! Congratulations!

SFPM is blessed to have Katie leading our Chaplain's office at LCP.

Thank you, Katie, for your service.



Prison Ministry Seminar

Saturday, March 7, 2020

8am - 3pm at Hinkletown Mennonite Church

Breakfast and lunch provided

Learn more about prison ministry with seminars by chaplains and prison evangelists.

Presented by Support For Prison Ministries, We Care, Outward Focus, and others.

**Featuring Jim Newsom, John Schmid, Dave Klink, Women's Chaplain Panel,
and many more fulltime prison workers.**

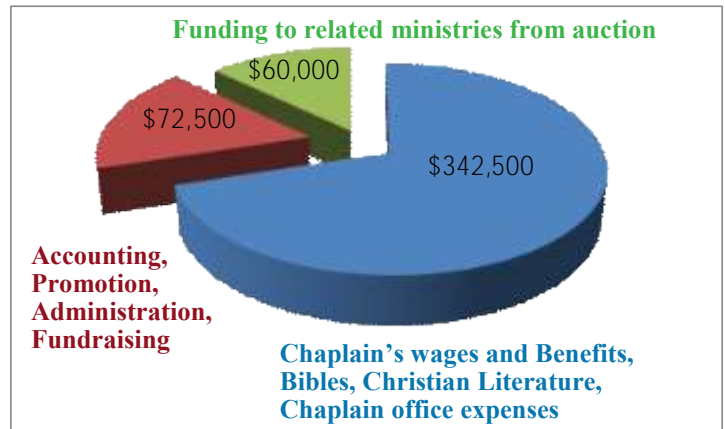
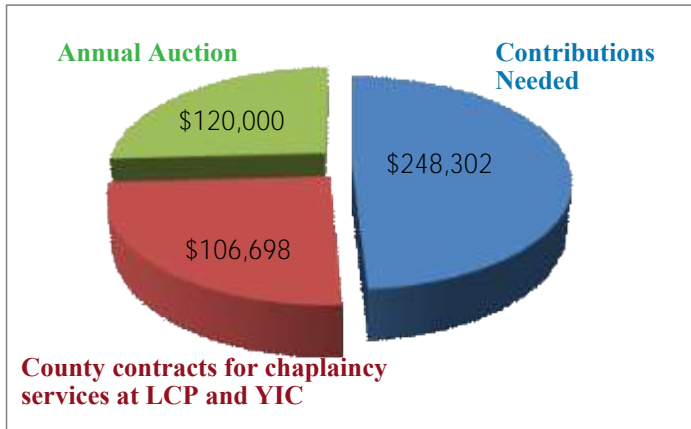
For more information email sfpmdb@gmail.com

Focus On Finances

Income

2019 Budget: \$475,000

Expenses



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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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 **\$65,000** in contributions during December. Your gifts will help us balance the 2019 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.