



Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

Volume 21
Number 83
December 2020

“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

Well Done Good and Faithful Chaplain



Isaias Maldonado has been a chaplain with Support For Prison Ministries since 2001 and is retiring at the end of 2020. In addition to chaplaincy he has also pastored Iglesia Cristiana Carismatica Maranatha Church in Lancaster.

He lives in Lancaster with his wife Cecy. Isaias has been a vital member of the SFPM chaplaincy team at Lancaster County Prison. We will all miss Isaias at LCP and SFPM. He was interviewed recently about his tenure at LCP.

What called you to Prison Ministry?

A woman that was visiting our congregation asked me if I would visit her husband and older son in prison who just got arrested for drugs charges. I said I would try and that was my first exposure. After that I started as a volunteer and eventually came on staff.

Who was in prison chaplaincy when you started?

Chaplain Al Huber, Chaplain Marvin Reed, Chaplain Cody Hall, Chaplain Faye Stauffer, and Diane Pistone as secretary among volunteers like Al Hocke, Dick Yorgey, and Karin White.

(continued on page 2)

SFPM Chicken Dinner Fall 2020

By Del Burkholder

After the SFPM Board realized it would not be able to operate the 37th Annual SFPM Benefit Auction due to State PA COVID-19 restrictions it was decided to operate a multi-site, drive thru Chicken Dinner. Because of the size and income of the Auction we knew we could not totally replace the lost income it brings to the ministry, but the chicken dinner seemed a good alternative.



Chaplain staff and families packing meals

Starting something new is always a challenge because you need to account for the unknown. We did not know how much chicken to order, or how much would be left. Board members and families, with a few volunteers, manned the sites of Martin’s Country Market, Ephrata and Good’s Store, Blue Ball. While SFPM chaplains and staff manned the Mellinger Mennonite Church site in Lancaster. The SFPM Food Committee oversaw the event, and is led by Darel and Jen Seibert and Dennis and Sharon Sensenig.



Chaplain staff and families serving meals at Mellinger Mennonite

(continued on page 3)

Well Done Good and Faithful Chaplain (continued from page 1)

What are some highlights or stories of your prison work?

Inmates receiving lesser sentences because of prayers; families not losing their homes because of prayers; inmates with suicidal thoughts that didn't hurt themselves when they heard that Jesus loved them and was there for them. Praying with officers and staff members that were going through hard times. I remember when 9/11 happened I had just finished a one on one time with an inmate and came back into the office and heard the news. We stopped and prayed for our country.

What is a good day in prison ministry?

A good day is when an inmate says "yes" to Jesus and becomes born again. A good day is when I inform an inmate that his baby has been born and is healthy or when I pray with an inmate for his court hearing and later he tells me good news about it and recognizes that it was because he trusted Jesus. A good day is when we don't get calls about an inmate's family member being terminally ill or there has been a death in the family.

What are some disappointments in prison ministry?

One of the biggest disappointments for me is when you trust an inmate to be able to stay out of prison and get back on track once they get out of prison, then some days or weeks later you hear that he died of an overdose or committed a bigger crime.

How has prison chaplaincy changed over the years for you?

We have been blessed to have been given opportunities to minister at LCP for so many years and to see how open the institution has been for the chaplaincy, especially in the last 5 to 10 years. SFPM has done so much ministry not only to the inmates but to so many families of inmates through the various other ministries associated with it. We find ourselves using different methods of ministry through books, Bible studies, and lately using a lot more of the media system so that every inmate receives the message of salvation and redemption through Jesus. There have been challenges in all these approaches, but the message continues going forward and making changes in so many lives.

A favorite verse or saying that you hold close to your heart?

Luke 4:18-19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* That's what it is all about!!

What is next for you, Isaias?

Both my wife and I want to continue doing missions ministry. We are going to be living partly in Lancaster and partly in Puerto Rico. We are planning to visit different mission fields our church is working with in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala and other countries. We also want to visit the west and south of US and some other countries. That should keep us busy for a while.

Anything else you would like to share?

It's been a very wonderful experience to be able to minister, guide, teach, help, and encourage so many men and some women all these years and do it alongside so many brothers and sisters who are ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The love and desire to serve others that they have shown me has always inspired me to do a little better every day. They have been the best co-workers I have ever had. The Workers of the Kingdom of the Most High GOD!

THANK YOU, CHAPLAIN MALDONADO, FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE!



**Meet Ivonne Ronquillo:
New Chaplain at the Youth Intervention Center**

My name is Ivonne and I live in Coatesville, PA, but I'm originally from New Jersey. I moved to Coatesville 6 years ago. I attend Narrow Door church in Coatesville where I am a youth leader. I have worked with youth since 2015. I enjoy doing Bible Studies with the youth and getting to work closely with them. I went through a lot in my life as a youth and I always needed someone to be there for me spiritually and to know someone cared. Now as an adult, God is giving me the privilege to give back to youth.

I have done missionary work in Guatemala, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. A verse that lifts me up when I feel like giving up is Psalm 46:5: *"God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day."* I know that God is always with me.

Welcome to the Chaplaincy team at YIC, Ivonne!

Meet Alvaro Febus: New Chaplain at Lancaster County Prison



My name is Alvaro Febus. My wife, Maria, and I live in Marietta. We attend Iglesia Cristiana Carismatica Maranatha, where I am transitioning into the pastor role. The desire of being part of a prison ministry is something that God has put on my heart for a long time. The Lord has opened the door and I look forward to ministering and doing God's will.

May the Lord continue to bless the staff and volunteers in the chaplaincy ministry. A verse that has meant a lot to me is Isaiah 61:1: *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me. Because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."*

Welcome to the Chaplaincy team at LCP, Alvaro!

Chicken Dinner (continued from page 1)

Here are some comments from board members: "I had the honor and privilege to serve at the Good's Store location. I was overwhelmed with the generosity of so many that recognize Support for Prison Ministries as an opportunity to share the Gospel. Thanks to all that participated. You have been a blessing to the ministry." SFPM Board member Mike Martin

"What a great afternoon and evening watching a team of workers putting meals together, greeting, and serving those who purchased meals, and then cleaning and packing up when it was all done. What a blessing to see God's hand in providing funding for 2021!" Ken Martin SFPM Board Chair

We would like to thank the businesses and individuals that helped sponsor the cost of the dinners and individuals who helped purchase several hundred leftover dinners that SFPM donated to a food bank at the end of the sale.

Through the generosity of many the event exceeded our expectations. In this difficult year, we came away blessed by God for his kindness to this prison work. And on a side note the SFPM Chicken Dinner tasted great too!

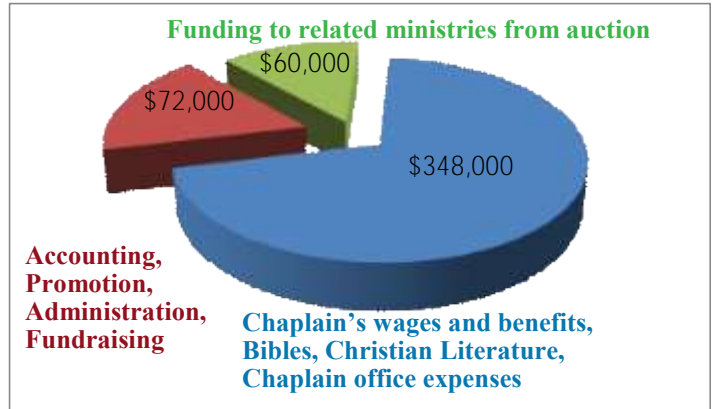
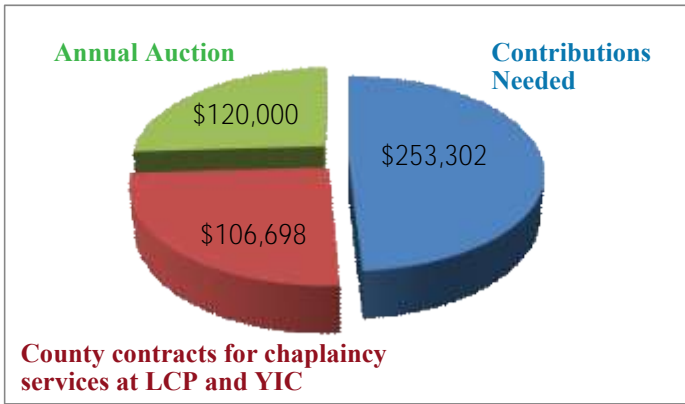
And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Focus On Finances

Income

2020 Budget: \$480,000

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

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

Email: info@supportforprisonministries.com

(717) 859-5519
P.O. Box 134, Lititz, PA 17543
Support for Prison Ministries

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. And if you are able to give a financial gift to support our ongoing ministry we would appreciate it. Your gifts will help us balance the 2020 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.