



Freedom Focus

"Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners"

Special Update for January 2021

IMPACTING LANCASTER COUNTY, PA and BEYOND by:

Sharing God's love and hope to men and women in prison; **Assisting** the church and concerned persons to get involved in prison ministry; **Inviting** churches, businesses, and individuals to partner financially with us.



As COVID-19 came to Lancaster County Prison this past year, like most U.S prisons, we went into lockdown. Only SFPM paid staff were allowed in the prison. All volunteer chaplains were restricted from going into LCP. All programming was cancelled, including Bible studies, church services, and pastor visits. At the Youth Intervention Center, SFPM paid chaplain staff were allowed, but access to volunteers, clergy visits and groups that did services were also restricted. And in a prison setting, where infection spreads quickly, some of our staff tested positive for COVID and battled through as God in his grace and favor healed them.

On the financial end we were not sure how the diminished revenue and economy would affect businesses, churches and individuals and how that would affect giving to this prison work. On top of that it was becoming apparent we could not have our SFPM prison auction with indoor COVID restrictions by the state in place. God has provided for our needs and has overwhelmed us with your gifts and support as it has exceeded our expectations. We, at SFPM, have been praising God for the financial response from you in keeping the needed resources flowing for our prison operations. We are so grateful to each and every one that has prayed and gave to this prison work. All of us at SFPM say a humble thank you in turning a test into a testimony!

Longtime Board member and Vice Chairman Leon Martin shared this, "Coming from a board member who's been on the board for 35+ years I'd like to say thank you. It has been quite a blessing to see how well you have financially helped Support For Prison Ministries in the past, and especially this year. We have been blessed by many that have been giving over and above. We as a Board say thank you and God bless you for what you have given. It certainly has been a blessing to see how God has moved through his people in such a difficult year."

We do not know how another year of COVID will impact our ministry in 2021, so we ask you to keep this prison work in your prayers, and also your tithes as God enables you. And from all us at SFPM we say a very grateful THANK YOU!

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. 2 Corinthians 8:12



Our annual prison ministry conference that we normally have in March is cancelled for 2021 due to lingering Covid-19 restrictions. See you in 2022!

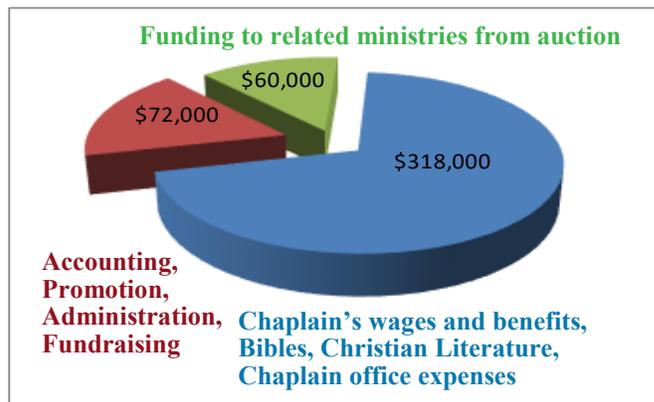
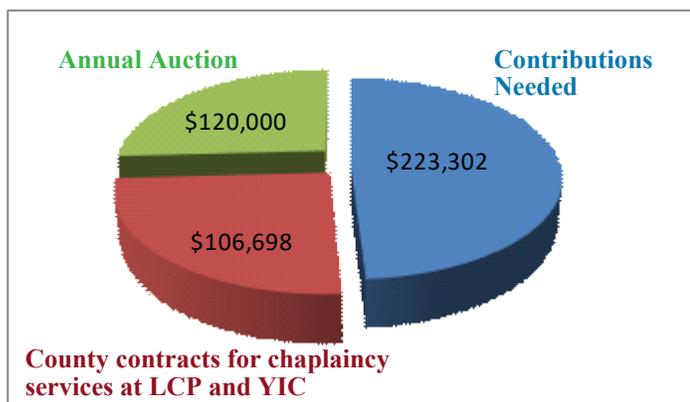
FIND US ON FACEBOOK or www.supportforprisonministries.com

Focus On Finances

Income

2021 Budget: \$450,000

Expenses



DONATIONS TO SUPPORT FOR PRISON MINISTRIES HELP TO CHANGE LIVES FOR ETERNITY IN THIS NEW YEAR OF 2021.

Donations come from churches, businesses, and interested families and individuals. About 15% of income is used for management and promotion, leaving the remaining 85% to go directly to chaplains, Bibles, in prison and/or aftercare ministries.

 **On line donations can be made on our website or a self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift.**

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS. LIVES WILL BE CHANGED IN 2021!!

Note from a Lancaster County Prison inmate to Chaplain's Office:

"Thank you for the kind gesture of giving me a Bible for my own keeping. I came in here mad at God for putting me here. I'm leaving knowing there was a purpose in it...establishing a stronger relationship with Him. You giving me the reading material really helped."

Many will be glad to see 2020, the year the earth stood still, pass on. But there is much for us Christians to be thankful for. A phrase you often hear from redeemed prisoners is, "I woke up this morning." If you are reading this and don't have COVID, be thankful. If you had COVID and survived, be thankful. If we wake up, we should be thankful.

In the household I grew up in, my parents had many Anabaptist books available and encouraged us to read stories of our Anabaptist history. Our Anabaptist forefathers were persecuted and oppressed by government for hundreds of years being driven from their homes, suffering disease, and setbacks because of their faith in Jesus Christ. But through it all there was always a theme of being thankful to the God they served. During times of government uncertainty and disease I believe we can learn from those that went before us.



**Del Burkholder,
Director**

I've never forgotten the part from Robinson Crusoe (based loosely on the real story of island castaway Alexander Selkirk) that even though he was abandoned on an island he counted the many things God had provided for him on that island from the wreckage of the ship and came to the conclusion he was thankful and blessed by God. My encouragement to you in 2021 is be thankful and stay blessed.

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. Psalms 9:1

Support For Prison Ministries
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