



Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

Volume 22
Number 87
December 2021

Till We Meet Again

By Del Burkholder

On September 4, 2021 Al Huber, one of the patriarchs of our chaplaincy program, passed away and gained his eternal reward. Al was a Chaplain with Support for Prison Ministries (SFPM) at Lancaster County Prison (LCP) 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 LCP, eventually being hired by SFPM and then taking the role of Head Chaplain after Dave Myer left in 1994.



Al Huber, Chaplain

Al was loved by inmates, his chaplain staff, volunteers, and prison staff and many gathered at Petra Church to reminisce of Al as a chaplain. Al’s memorial service was a who’s who of retired chaplains, current chaplains, ex-inmates, and prison staff and officials. Chaplains, ex-inmates, and prison staff gave reflections of Al’s work at LCP during his memorial service.

SFPM Chaplaincy Coordinator, Katie Harnish, worked alongside Al for many years. She talked of how Al’s influence, even now, remains with the chaplains he worked alongside. She talked of “Al-isms” which are catchy Al quotes that are still being used in the chaplain’s office today. His wisdom is still felt with the chaplains in the office daily.

Soheat, an ex-inmate who was in and out of LCP, recalled how Al showed him tough love telling him, “Until you get real with God, I am not spending time with you, but you know where my office is when you are ready to get serious.” Al’s persistent work with Soheat paid off as Soheat is now a believer, good citizen, and an engineer, living on the West Coast.

Al made a difference in the lives of individuals who were heading in the wrong direction and turned them in the right direction to Jesus Christ. That is a life well lived! The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ.” That can be said of Al’s devotion to Christ.

A job well done, Al...Till we meet again....Thank you for all you did for the Kingdom!

LOOK WHAT IS INSIDE

Chicken Dinner.....page 2

Financial Update.....page 4

Christmas Greetings.....page 3

Director’s Report.....page 4

Chicken Dinner

by Del Burkholder

On a rainy Friday in October, Support For Prison Ministries had our Annual Chicken Dinner. Similar to the former SFPM Auction, multiple prison ministries helped and benefited from the Chicken Dinner. They included We Care, Potter's House, Revelations of Freedom, and Freedom Gate.



We were grateful for Mellinger Mennonite Church to allow our chaplain staff to work from the kitchen and sell under the carport. And grateful that Shady Maple allowed us to set up inside to sell, while Good's Store allowed us to sell under shelter. Both Shady Maple and Good's Store are longtime friends of prison ministry and aftercare programs.

We are also grateful that Martin's Country Market graciously allowed us to put up a tent. As I pulled onto the lot at Martin's Country Market, I witnessed a scene that will be forever etched in my mind. A torrential rain, and a double line of cars with a stoic Leon Martin, Board Vice Chairman, in a wet suit directing traffic as the cars entered a tent full of volunteers preparing dinners. At this point and time, I realized how committed the SFPM Board and our volunteers are, and also how serious they are about funding prison ministry.

Board Member and Kitchen Committee member Dennis Sensenig summed up the sale at Martin's like this: "We served at Martin's Country Market and God was definitely there. We had a line of vehicles that started lining up at 3:30, and we started serving dinners early. Around 5:30 we ran out of chicken as the last car in the line was served. Thanks to everyone that came out in the pouring rain to support our ministry and praise God for the awesome turn out."

Only a small amount of Chicken Dinners remained at one of the locations and they were donated by SFPM to a local food bank. In a rain soaked afternoon and evening we found chicken dinner sales income to be up at all the locations from 2020.

Many thanks to everyone that came out to volunteer, prepare, and cleanup. We also thank the businesses and individuals who donated to cover the cost of the food. And a huge thank you to everyone who bought dinners, sometimes even paying significantly above suggested price (What a Blessing!) THANK YOU!



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 2021 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.

A Thankful Christmas

It was March 2020 when COVID-19 hit the prison hard and changed prison work greatly. Our chaplains have worked through these times, some with personal sacrifice. As we enter this season of celebration, our chaplains wanted to take time to express to our readers and supporters what they are grateful for this Christmas.

This Christmas I am grateful for health, strength, family, and my Lord and Savior who is my everything! **Jason Mckinney, Chaplain**

I am grateful this Christmas for the gift of God to be a part of his kingdom. **Jorge Nazario, Chaplain**

I am grateful for a second grandchild on the way. Thanks be to God! **Stacey Catigano, Chaplain**

This Christmas I am grateful for such a wonderful and supportive community of friends and family. **Katie Harnish, LCP Chaplaincy Coordinator**

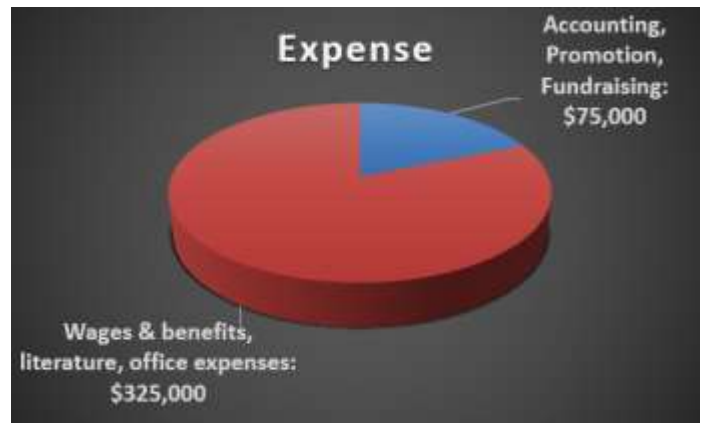
I'm thankful for healthy ongoing relationships with residents, staff, and admin at the Youth Intervention Center. I'm also thankful that it's not by my might or my strength but by God's spirit that He accomplishes His purposes within the facility. **Jeryl Zimmerman, YIC Chaplaincy Coordinator**

I am thankful for my kids, my family, my friends, and laughter. I'm also thankful for ministry which involves chaplaincy, inmates, church, and the flock. I'm thankful for life in abundance that has been provided by the Lord. **Alvaro Febus, Chaplain**

This Christmas I am thankful for the health of my family. Many families have been affected by illness and loss recently. So I do not take for granted the blessing of having my family. **Kenny Bowman, Chaplain**

This Christmas I are grateful that our son & his wife moved home from Montana and our daughter moved home from New York. It is a joy to be together again as a family. **Jewel Sensenig, Chaplain Office Administrator**

On behalf of all the SFPM prison staff we wish everyone a Merry Christmas!



**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

Support for Prison Ministries
P.O. Box 134, Lititz, PA 17543

Families of Incarcerated at Christmas

By Del Burkholder, Director

Our chaplains wrote about things they are grateful for this Christmas season and most of them are family related. During Christmas, please remember the many families that have a parent incarcerated and the severe blow that is to children and adolescents. At LCP, the chaplain's office provides Christmas cards to inmates to send to their families. Over the years I receive many calls asking what a person can do to be part of prison ministry. I would encourage you this Christmas season, if there is a family living near you with a parent in prison, reach out and do an act of compassion for that family; even just sharing a smile or word of encouragement. The children often bare hidden scars of shame that mold them for life and one act of kindness by a follower of Jesus Christ may leave an impression on them for eternity. Wishing all our readers a blessed Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord!

For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me. Matthew 25:35-36