



Freedom Focus

"Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners"

Special Update for January 2022

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.

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

We are thankful for the start of a new year and thankful to each one of you who continues to support prison ministry. 2021 was a tough year for prison ministry all throughout the country as restriction continued to limit volunteers and services in prisons. Our Chaplains again faced being exposed to COVID while doing their jobs and responded with courage in presenting Christ.

All through 2021, Lancaster County Prison (LCP) allowed our paid Chaplain staff to be on the inmate blocks to visit and counsel, distribute Bibles and books, and to also support the officers and administration. Volunteers and clergy continued to not be allowed in to minister.

In March of 2021 administration allowed Virtual Clergy Visitation through zoom. Our Chaplain's facilitated the zoom visit between an inmate and an approved clergy on the outside. We are grateful for technology that allowed these visits to happen in a safe way.



Then in July 2021 we were excited as all badged volunteers were again permitted to come in for in person one on ones. Inmates were grateful for these visits and the chaplain staff were thankful for the extra help in ministering. We were also able to start doing group Bible Studies again. Unfortunately, when a new COVID surge hit the area in August, LCP shut down all groups and in person visits and this has remained unchanged. Thankfully, Chaplains continue to be on the inmate blocks every day.



At the Youth Intervention Center (YIC) SFPM chaplains have been allowed to continue with programs throughout the year. Clergy visits and in-person volunteer religious programs were not permitted until the beginning of August. YIC Chaplaincy Coordinator Jeryl Zimmerman stated, "I'm glad that religious volunteers were still interested in ministering to the young people in the facility even after not having access for so long." However, after only a month of volunteers returning they were shut down because of COVID protocols similar to LCP.

SFPM Board of Directors worked on several fundraisers to raise money for SFPM and some Biblical based prison ministries and aftercare programs. These fundraisers included a motorcycle group fundraiser and the Annual SFPM Chicken Dinner in late October.

As we enter 2022, we continue to be impacted by Covid protocols. Our chaplains will continue working daily, and we ask that you pray that church services, Bible studies and volunteers can return.

With no church services or Bible studies in most PA and surrounding state prisons SFPM subsidiary, Streams of Life, is putting more efforts into basic Bible teaching in its printed newsletter that is sent to state inmates.

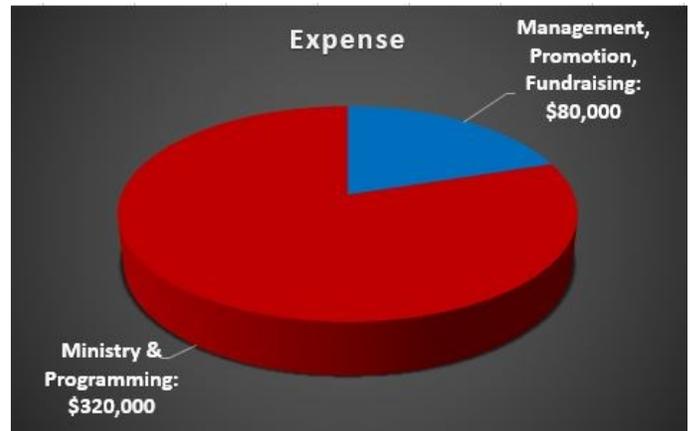
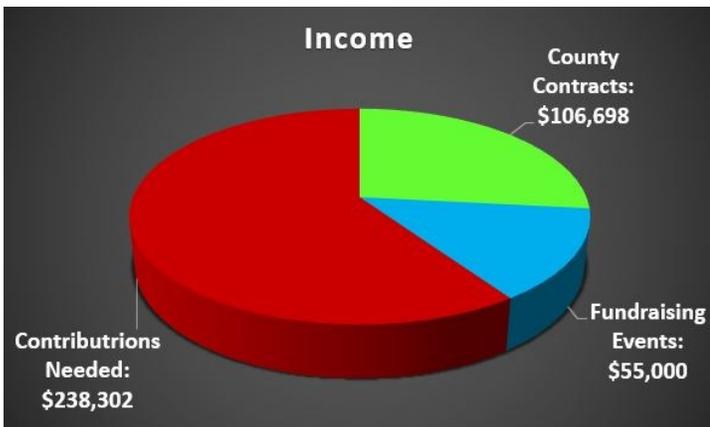
Thank you for partnering with SFPM as we navigate the changing landscape of prison ministry. *Thank You!*

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

FIND US ON FACEBOOK or www.supportforprisonministries.com

Focus On Finances

2022 Budget: \$400,000



DONATIONS TO SUPPORT FOR PRISON MINISTRIES HELP TO CHANGE LIVES FOR ETERNITY IN THIS NEW YEAR OF 2022.

Donations come from churches, businesses, and interested families and individuals. About 20% of income is used for management and promotion, leaving the remaining 80% 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 2022!!

Recently an ex-inmate attended the church of one of our correspondence course graders. They began to talk and when the grader told the ex-inmate she had been the grader of his lessons his face lit up and he started telling her exact quotes of things she had written to him. He said that those lessons were so helpful in him finding his way back to Jesus. We are so grateful that we can continue offering correspondence courses and for the people who faithfully grade them. Thank you!

Godly Hope

At the time of this writing, two more of our chaplains are out with Positive COVID results. I am hoping this COVID threat for all will soon be over. It makes me hope for better days to come in prison ministry and that this new wave of COVID will pass rapidly. When we as Christians hope, it should be a reliance on God to fulfil our expectations.

My background was first generation removed from the Plain Mennonites on my father's side, and second generation removed from the Amish on my mother side. In these groups there is a Dutch expression, "Ich haap hoffnung" which translated to English is, "I have hope." While this is usually pertaining to more eternal thought, this expression has made me think of Godly hope.



**Del Burkholder,
Director**

The definition of the Greek word Elpis (hope) in the Vines Greek to English Word Study is, "a favorable and confident expectation." The expression I have used from my study over the years on the Biblical teaching of hope is a confident anticipation of things to come from God. When we look at hoping from a Biblical perspective with God involved we have a reason for optimism.

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. Romans 8:24-25 NIV

My challenge to you in 2022 is to stay on course during these trying times and continue to look for hope in Jesus Christ and He will deliver to you in His time.

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