



# Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

*“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”*

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## Thank You!

As the sun began to rise on Friday, October 28, SFPM board members and volunteers began making the chicken for our 3rd annual chicken dinner. Last year it rained hard all day long but this year the Lord blessed us with a beautiful fall day. As the day progressed the chicken grilled, the gourmet potatoes were made, the green beans were cooked and the meal was ready to be served by 3 pm.



SFPM board, chaplains, and volunteers plus persons from Potter’s House, Revelations of Freedom, and We Care came together at three locations to serve the meal to the community. Each location had a system for packing the cold and hot dishes and serving them to persons as they drove through the pick up line.

A big thank you to Mellinger Mennonite Church, Martin’s Country Market, and Shady Maple/Good’s Store for allowing us to use their parking lots to serve the meals. What a blessing!



Special thanks to the many business and personal sponsors who helped cover the cost of the food.

Thank you to each person who came, bought dinner, and gave above and beyond the suggested donation.

Our 3rd annual chicken dinner was a success and we are grateful for your support. If you missed it this year....be on the lookout for the last Friday of October in 2023!!



THANK YOU!

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



**Veronica Jimenez**  
is a volunteer chaplain who  
spends time meeting with  
inmates;  
listening, praying, and  
sharing

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. I met my husband, Michael, there and we raised our family in Queens, New York. When my husband retired from being a police officer, after 20 years, we decided to leave New York and moved to PA. My husband had family who already lived here, and we would come to visit on holidays and always loved Lancaster. We decided it was a great place to relocate when we were ready to leave Queens.

Michael & I have been married for 32 years. We have been blessed with four daughters and one son and now we have sons-in-law and two granddaughters. As you can see above, we are a large family.

When I was 15 years old, I was in a girl's home for a year. It was a difficult time in my life, and I was lonely. Since then I've had a compassion for anyone who is incarcerated. I had relatives in prison, and I was a pen pal to people incarcerated.

Jesus healed me from a host of mental health issues after we moved to Lancaster. I developed a curriculum called "Sound Mind Awareness" and started teaching classes to people. Ken and Teresa Nitchman attended one of my classes. They were involved in prison ministry at Lancaster County Prison (LCP) doing church services with their church. They asked me if I'd be interested in coming into LCP with them to share my testimony. I was thrilled to be able to go into the prison and share with the inmates what Jesus had done in my life.

For 3 years I ministered at LCP during church services and then Covid hit. I ached for the inmates during Covid and I prayed and asked God to open a way for me to return. As Covid was winding down, I remember specifically praying on a Monday asking God to make a way for me to come back in. Katie Harnish, head chaplain at LCP, called that Thursday and asked me if I'd have any interest in coming in to work as a volunteer chaplain one day a week. Yes! God answered my prayer.

I volunteer every Friday with the women at LCP. I also come in with my home church, ACTS Covenant Fellowship and do church services. I love the team of chaplains at LCP. They are a dedicated group of men and women who are full of integrity. They serve humbly and wholeheartedly. They take the ministry seriously and show that it is an honor to serve. I feel God's presence everywhere in the prison. This is one of my favorite places to be!

The Bible verse that I live by is: 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

**Welcome to the team, Veronica! It is a blessing having you serving along side of us!**



## PRISON MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 4, 2023  
8 am to 3:30 pm at Hinkletown Mennonite Church  
Breakfast and lunch provided

Learn more what prison ministry is like with sessions done by chaplains, prison teachers and prison ministry leaders. Presented by Support for Prison Ministries in conjunction with We Care, Outward Focus, Jubilee and other prison ministries and aftercares.

Everyone welcome!  
Registration required.

For more information email [sfpmdb@gmail.com](mailto:sfpmdb@gmail.com) or call 717-859-5519

# Spring Fundraiser

Drive through Roast Beef Dinner  
Saturday, March 4, 2023  
Hinkletown Mennonite Church  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm or sold out



*We hope to see you there!*

Roast Beef  
Mashed Potatoes  
Corn  
Green Beans  
Dinner Roll  
Applesauce  
Whoopie Pie  
Drink

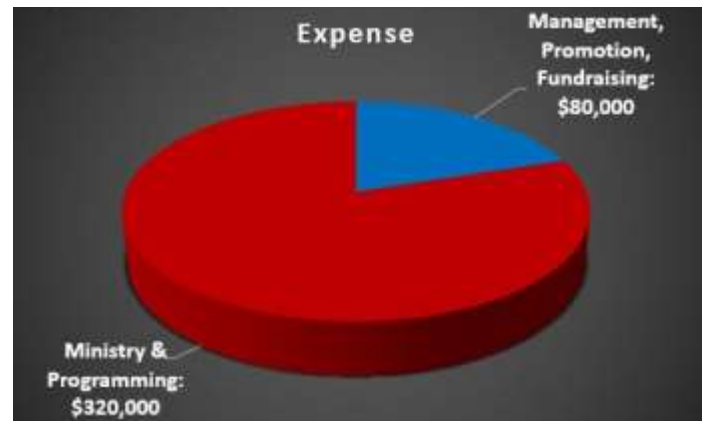
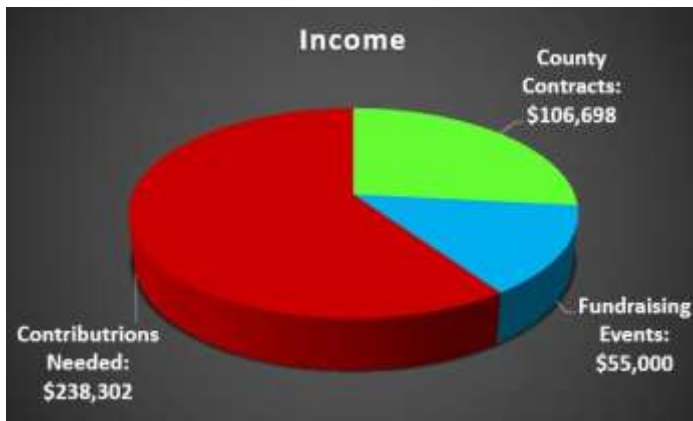
## THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER

It's that time of year again when much is made about the giving of gifts. Families, friends, churches, and community events emphasize sharing with others. People spend a lot of time trying to find the right or perfect gift for the ones they love. Many people are generous, so charities and needy people are also helped at this time of year.



That can all be good but let us not forget the very best Christmas gift ever given. Apostle Paul told us, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift." Jesus Christ was God's wonderful gift from heaven to provide salvation to lost humans.

The board of directors, support staff and prison chaplains of Support for Prison Ministries wish you a joyful Christmas, as you celebrate the best gift ever!! And thanks also for your prayers, financial gifts, and interest in bringing hope and healing to those behind prison bars. God continues to set prisoners free.



**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](http://www.supportforprisonministries.com)*

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### Director's Report Del Burkholder

As the year ends I want to personally thank you for your interest in prison ministry and your prayers for what we do at SFPM throughout the year. As we think of Christmas, I think of the aged Simeon who, when seeing the baby Jesus proclaimed, "He will be a light to the whole world." The context of that verse is from the Old Testament in Isaiah 42:6-7 where the Lord calls the righteous to bring out the prisoners from the prison and to bring those that sit in darkness out of the dungeon and into the light.



While our chaplains strive to do that throughout the year in bringing inmates from darkness to light, let us all as Christians remember that a world without Christ is darkness. As children of God, let's not forget the mission field in our neighborhoods, and be that beacon of light this Christmas Season!

Have a blessed Christmas in the Lord!

*"A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." Luke 2:32*