

New Horizons

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Newsletter
Volume 4 -- Issue 1 -- Spring 2008

Did you know?

1. There were 201 baptisms at the Allen Co Jail in 2007? Praise God!
2. The chaplaincy has been asked to perform court-ordered weddings in the jail? Inmates who want to get married while confined in the Allen County Jail must get permission via court order from the Federal Court. Once the paper work is completed, the chaplain proceeds with arrangements for the wedding in the chapel of the jail.

Several Items are on our Wish List. If you can help, please call Chaplain Dick Sievers at (260) 449-7215

- * Paperback dictionaries, and paper back books with very little color in them.
- * Bibles (\$354 donation purchases 200 Bibles.)
- * Concordances
- * Volunteers
- * Underwear for both men and women

Bible underwriters wanted!

We need individuals or churches to underwrite the purchase of Bibles. Each year, we give approximately 1,200 Bibles to inmates. Through the American Bible Society, we can buy one Bible and get one FREE! That means we can buy two Bibles for \$3.50. The Bibles we purchase also meet the security requirements enforced by the jail. With shipping included, \$354 buys 200 Bibles. If you or your church are interested in helping, please contact Chaplain Dick Sievers at (260) 449-7215. Thank you!

Do you want to help with chapel services?

Chapel services are held on Monday through Thursday evenings. If any church would like to participate, call Chaplain Dick Sievers ahead of time at (260) 449-7215 for information.

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy
417 S. Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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ACJC

ACJC wishes to say "THANK YOU" to these churches, businesses, and foundations for their financial support

Throughout this newsletter you've read about lives being changed and servants being put to work for Jesus Christ. The work being done inside the walls of the Allen County Jail is possible because of the prayers and financial support of the churches listed below. If you see your church in the list, give your pastor a big Amen. If you don't see it listed, please ask your pastor or outreach committee to consider helping us financially. No gift is too small.

We have a video and brochure that you can use to help us get the message out to the community. God Bless each of you for helping us bring Jesus Christ into the lives of the men and women in the Allen County Jail.

Churches

- Avalon Missionary Church
- Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren
- Bethel United Methodist Church
- Blackhawk Baptist Church
- Broadway Christian Church
- Calvary United Methodist Church
- Cedar Creek Church of Christ
- Christian Praise Fellowship Church
- Colony Heights Church of Christ
- Covenant United Methodist Church
- Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church
- Evangelist Center
- Evangelical Lutheran St. John Church
- Fellowship Missionary Church
- First Assembly of God
- First Baptist Church
- First Missionary Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First Wayne Street United Methodist Church
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Grace Christian Church
- Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Grace Gathering
- Grace Presbyterian Church
- Grow Ministries
- Harvester Missionary Church
- Hope United Methodist Church
- Huntertown United Methodist Church
- Jubilee House Ministries
- Life Bridge Church
- Lifeway Wesleyan Church
- Living Word of God Ministries
- Markle Church of Christ
- Morning Star Class
- Markle Church of Christ

- Memorial Baptist Church
- New Hope Worship Center
- Northeast Christian Church
- Oakridge Temple Church
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Queen of Angels Catholic Church
- Saturn Christian Church
- Saint Vincent DePaul Catholic Church
- The River Christian Church
- True Love Baptist Church
- Westview Alliance Church
- Woodview Church of God
- Zanesville Church of God

Businesses

- ABZ Realty
- AG Edwards- Tim Gibson
- American Sealant Inc.
- Baden, Gage, Schroeder
- Beckman Lawson LLP
- Best Roofing Co.
- By His Design, Inc.
- Custom Poly Packaging
- Fort Wayne Medical Society
- General Credit Union
- Gray & Friend LLP
- Kallsen Midwest Inc.-Carl Kallsen
- M.J. Farms- Mick Lomont
- Physical Medicine Consultants LLC- Dr. David Stensland
- Sheggrud Insurance Agency

Foundations

- Brotherhood Mutual Foundation
- Lutheran Foundation
- Tippman Foundation
- Charles Tippman Foundation
- Mary Cross Tippman Foundation

Thank You

ACJC 2007 Board of Directors

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Prayers & Petitions

- * 201 inmates were baptized in 2007. Pray for them and their spiritual growth
- * Pray for those making decisions to accept Christ as Savior and Lord
- * Pray for Cell Group Leaders (Bible study volunteers)
- * Pray for the officers and our ministry to them
- * Pray for financial support of the ministry
- * Pray for more churches to financially support ACJC
- * Pray for our Sheriff Kenneth C. Fries, and our jail commander Chuck Hart

Allen County Jail Chaplaincy News

is published three times per year as a communication vehicle for those who care about and support the ministry. Please feel free to submit suggestions for making this newsletter a good servant.

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Sheriff To Speak At Banquet

Allen County Sheriff Kenneth Fries will be the featured speaker at the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy spring banquet fundraiser on May 13, 2008. The banquet will be held at Ceruti's Catering in Fort Wayne. Fries became Sheriff in January 2007 following a 25-year history in local law enforcement. After graduating from Leo High School and the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Fries became a Certified Indiana Law Enforcement Instructor and Certified Advanced Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor.

Fries later served as a member of the Allen County patrol team, SWAT team, K-9 Division, and Criminal Investigations Division. He is a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee; Crime Stoppers Advisory Board; School Safety Commission; Mentor Program for Northwest Allen County Schools; Center for Domestic Preparedness Committee; Child Death Review Team; and Integrated Public Safety Commission.

Fries and his wife, Candice, have three sons.

The banquet will begin at 6:15 pm. Special planned events include the announcement of a Chaplain Volunteer of the Year and the testimony of a former inmate helped by the ACJC. An offering to support the ACJC will be taken following the meal.

For more information call the Chaplain's office at (260) 449-7215

Life Skills Class: Interview with Brad Collins

Three out of four ex-prisoners are re-arrested within four years of their release. This statistic, according to chaplain volunteer Brad Collins, is because the incarcerated have no goals for their lives. "They may want to change, but they don't have any targets to shoot for," he says.

To combat that statistic, Collins and other volunteers at the Allen County Jail are teaching incarcerated men how to cope with society after their release through a Life Skills Class.

In the Life Skills Class attendees learn about goal setting, keeping a job, finding a church, what to do with leisure time, finding constructive support, handling money, and how to avoid self-destruction.

Brad Collins, a volunteer at the jail for more than 20 years, teaches the 8-hour, 4-week course, along with Pastor Phil Miller, Elisha Harris, and Brad Foster.

According to Collins, one of the goals of the program is to get inmates to think about the problems they will face when released. "We want to show them how they can overcome the obstacles once they have a felony on their record," he says. "They will have a hard time finding a job. There will also be sexual temptations, conflicts with family and rejection from people."

"I tell them life is affected by good and bad choices. Are you going to try to make it on your own or with God? You can mock the Bible and not accept responsibility, but it doesn't work. Read the story about the prodigal son. He was with women and living on the street. He didn't honor his parents, even though his father had more experience than he did."

Collins also tries to help the men think about their lives using what he calls a Proverbs Punch. "I go to the book of Proverbs because it talks about things that punch you in the nose like the importance of family, positive friendships, and the fear of not making it."

Collins says when he presents these questions to the men, sometimes using handouts, they realize they do want to succeed. "They don't want to stay on the bottom. They want a nice car and to own a home. I tell them you can't sow corruption and reap blessings. The principles in the Bible are not going to change."

For more information about the Life Skills Class contact Chaplain Harris.



Sheriff Kenneth Fries

Enclosed Envelope



The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is experiencing lots of exciting, new growth on several fronts and would appreciate your support to help us continue to serve and comfort others. Please use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to send your tax-deductible contribution to the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy, 417 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

Video Tape Available!



A video tape is available which explains the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy ministry. If your church would like to show the video to members of your congregation, please call Chaplain Dick Sievers at 449-7215. The Chaplaincy can also send a representative to your church to help present the video and answer questions about the ministry.

Inmate Profile: Lee Essex



Lee Essex

Lee Essex was born in Alabama, but moved with his family to Fort Wayne where he worked in his father's bar.

By 14 he was selling dope. Once when he found a gun, Essex gave it to someone who used it to kill two people.

Essex was jailed for seven months. After his release, he attended college in Miami but resumed his chaotic lifestyle. When his girl friend got ovarian cancer and died, Essex doubted God's existence.

Over the next few years Essex moved back to Fort Wayne where he was shot, stabbed, and thrown out of a moving car into the river. He was often angry and he assaulted a police officer. Jailed, Essex fought again – this time a jail guard. He was put into "the hole" within the jail for 13 months.

When another inmate gave Essex a Bible, Essex read the story of the Prodigal Son. It made sense to him. He had wondered why he was always in trouble. No one else in his family was in trouble. Essex felt like his life was a pig sty and prayed, asking God for help. His anger disappeared as he humbled himself.

Today, Lee Essex has a job, family, and a home. He attends church with his fiancé and their daughter at Broadway Christian Church. Whenever Essex tells his story, he says, "Who would have thought being in a pig sty would be so good? I never knew life could be so good."

Spotlight on Volunteers Tomi Cardin:

In 2004 when Tomi Cardin's friend asked her to help with a church service at the jail, she agreed. Cardin says from the first moment she entered the jail, she was on fire with enthusiasm. "I saw myself in those women," she says. "It felt like a place I was supposed to be. The women and I bonded in a natural way."

Cardin applied to be a jail chaplain volunteer. When approved, she introduced her pastor's Bible study program to the women she taught. "Pastor Al Jennings at Summit Church created a spiritual development tool he calls The Winning Track," she says. Cardin says 350 women have completed 600 levels of lessons to earn certificates. "The women take their completed certificates to court to show

2 judges and send them to their attorneys to show they are

working toward changes. I've gone to court to testify on the behalf of several to let the judge know of the progress I've seen in them."

Cardin is also involved in a weekly Bible Study for women who get out of jail. "They come to support each other," she says. "When they get out of jail, they're in new surroundings and learn new values." Two groups have been organized and a third is about to start.

Cardin is hoping to organize a transition home for women released from prison. "Several homes for women who have been released from jail exist in Fort Wayne," she says, "but there are always more women in need than places to go." Cardin says she has started the paper work for the home and hopes to have it open this year.

Cardin visits the jail three times a week while working as a partner of a new Fort Wayne-based business called VIP Lifestyle Management. She is glad to give of her time to the ministry as she works it around her job. "Working at the jail is my passion," she says.

Cardin says she benefits from the interactions with the women. "It has forced me to keep praying and studying. Some of them consider me their spiritual mother. I'm like a mentor to them and I have opened my life to them."



Tomi Cardin

Carolers at Jail Bring Cheer



In the spirit of sharing with others at the season of Christ's birth, 70 volunteers arrived at the jail in December to carol and distribute gifts to the inmates. Chaplain Sievers divided the volunteers into three groups and each group sang to designated cell blocks. By the end of the afternoon, each of the 800 inmates at the jail had the opportunity to hear songs of hope and cheer.

While in the blocks, the groups distributed bags of goodies to each inmate, including apples, homemade cookies, candy and an address book from the chaplaincy.

All of us offer our sincere thanks to your giving spirit, and thank God for each one of you.



Golf Outing Sets Record

The 2007 ACJC Golf Fundraiser raised a record amount of money for the ministry, according to chairman Mark Witmer. "We raised about \$3,500 more than in the past five years," he says. Witmer adds that only eight church teams signed up, which is down from the previous year of 10 church teams. "We did have 14 hole sponsors and we are thankful for them," he says. "Our goal next year is to build on the hole sponsorships and try to sign up more church teams."

The winners were from Emmanuel Community Church: Thad Winter, Denny Miller, Pat Jones and Mark Hoffman. They were awarded the Chaplain's Cup. The order of finish was as follows:

1. Emmanuel Community Church
2. The Chapel
3. St. John's Catholic Church (New Haven)
4. Blackhawk Ministries
5. First Assembly of God
6. Grace Gathering
7. Living Word of God Ministries
8. Grace Christian Church

The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is a tax-exempt religious non-profit corporation. All proceeds from the golf outing benefit the ACJC.



Chaplaincy Retreat Offers Fun, Education & Fellowship

Twenty five chaplaincy volunteers attended the 2008 ACJC Volunteer Retreat held in January at Camp Luther Haven. Keith Leatherman, educational officer for the Allen County Jail, spoke on jail safety. He showed the group examples of weapons made by inmates in the jail from daily items like toothbrushes. The purpose of the demonstration was to alert volunteers to the potential problem items can be in that environment.

Chaplain Sievers also taught the group about the importance of caring for a care giver. This is important so that the care giver has something left to give to the ones to whom God has called him to minister.

In holding with past tradition, ACJC Board member Charlie Hatten and Chaplain Sievers served an egg casserole and pancakes to the volunteers on Saturday morning. Eric Bass from Cedar Creek Church of Christ provided special music.

