



**NOVEMBER 2012
– JANUARY 2013**

The Voice of the Yokefellow Prison Ministry
in the Lehigh Valley

Yokefellow Prison Ministry
PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA 18106
610-820-8469 - www.yokefellowpa.org

The Yoke and the Cross brings the latest news and events of the Lehigh Valley Council of Yokefellow Prison Ministry to the volunteers, friends, and inmates involved with Yokefellow.

Council Director
Charles L. Goodge

Council Pastoral Advisor
Rev. Ralph Stevenson

Council Chairperson
Lisa M. Perry

Vice Chairman
Rev. Allen Kline

Treasurer
William Truckenmiller

Secretary
Scott Redfield

The Director's Chair: It is hard to believe that the summer is over, in fact, now that I think of it, it is hard to believe that a year has passed since I began to serve as the Director of Yokefellow Prison Ministry. The new leadership began on October 20, 2011, so we have just started our second year. It has been a very rewarding year, as well as a challenging year. We have endeavored to serve the Lord in the way that He has called us and the Lord has been faithful as always. He has given us so many dedicated volunteers who are determined to serve God in this ministry. It is just a joy to be a part of it. I really appreciate each and every one who has volunteered, supported, prayed for, attended our functions or been a part of this ministry in any way. I thank you and pray that God will richly bless you.

Just to recap some of the events of the past few months, here is a brief summary. On August 26 we had our annual picnic at Lockridge Park in Alburtis which was well attended. Not only was it a special time for all, we were able to welcome a new volunteer, who will be going into the prison very soon. If you missed it you missed a time of fellowship and terrific food. We plan on making this an annual event so hopefully you will make it next year.

On September 29 our annual fund raising banquet was held at Asbury United Methodist. We did raise some money for the ministry. Thanks to Country Cousins Catering of Newmanstown for catering the event free of charge. The gospel singing group "Witness" was the main event and entertainment was supplied by Randall Schieck and Scott Redfield as well. Rev. Al Kline was the emcee and State Director Larry Coleman presented a plaque to Wayne Benjamin (who was not able to attend) for all of his 28 years of service as Director. Scott Redfield accepted it on his behalf. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the banquet possible.

On October 21, the Asbury In Missions (AIM) team put on a mission breakfast at Asbury UMC, and donated the proceeds to Yokefellow Prison Ministries. Several of our volunteers were able to attend and to help out, and it was a very successful event. We received a very substantial donation from the breakfast which is greatly appreciated.

Recently 8 volunteers attended the annual conference of Yokefellow held at the Best Western in Lewisburg, PA. I think everyone who attended was not only blessed by it but also is better prepared to minister to the inmates as a result of the classes there.

As we proceed through our second year, we ask that you pray for us and if so 'called', join us as a volunteer, as we move forward. God is blessing this ministry, and will continue to bless it as long as we are faithful to move in the direction that He has called us and in the way He has called us, and He will bless you if you follow His calling.

Charles L. Goodge

**ANNUAL BUSINESS
MEETING WILL BE HELD
JANUARY 17, 2013
BETHANY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1208 BROOKSIDE ROAD
WESCOSVILLE PA
7:00 PM**

**WE WILL BE
DISCUSSING THE 2013
BANQUET AND PICNIC,
MEMBERSHIP AND THE
COURSE OF DIRECTED
LIFE PROGRAM**

**NEEDED:
NEW BOARD AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
IF INTEREST COME TO
THE MEETING OR LET
US KNOW.**

Every year at Christmas we give Christmas cards to inmates at Lehigh County Prison and the juveniles at Cedarbrook.

We wish to thank you for letting your light shine as a witness to show others the reason for the season as you so faithfully provided cards throughout the many years in the past.

For anyone not familiar with our mission, every Christmas we ask you to get cards together for the men, women and juveniles. Cards should not contain glitter, glue or labels and should not be sealed.

Children can participate in contributing and Sunday School classes can make this a fun project.

Sign your first name only on the card. Please place them in an envelope and mail them to our address: PO Box 3114, Wescosville PA 18106.

Cards will be distributed the week of Christmas to those attending Yokefellow meetings and extra cards will be given to those in prison who do not attend.

Deadline for cards to be received is December 15. Thanks for your help.



The Ungrateful Servant

Read Matthew 18:21-35

I have often read this parable and it was hard for me to relate to it. I have never owed anyone that kind of money, nor would I. Further, I certainly wouldn't be concerned over someone owing me a few dollars, because it isn't that important to me. It's only money. But one day while reading this, I realized, maybe Jesus wasn't really talking about money after all. Maybe He was really talking about sin. Have you ever thought about this parable in that way?

Have you ever wondered how many times in your life that you have actually sinned. I am not talking about the big sins, I mean just simple little sins. Things that you've said, things that you have thought, the ways you've acted towards others, things that you have looked at, etc. I have and I actually tried to figure it out mathematically, which can be very scary. If you are approximately 70 years old, that means you have been alive over 25,000 days. What if, on an average, you have sinned just once a day, that's 25,000 sins. Considering a person is awake about 16 hours a day, what if you sinned once for every hour that you are awake, that's over 400,000 sins, and what if it was 3 sins every hour, that's once every 20 twenty minutes, now you are well over a million sins. Think about it, over a million sins. It is mind boggling.

When you put all of that together, and relate it to this parable, it all makes sense. We want Jesus to forgive us for all of our sins, which are most likely in the millions, and we know He does. But in the same way, we have a problem forgiving our brother, neighbor or whoever, for their few sins against us. No one person, or group of persons, could ever possibly sin against any of us as many times as we have sinned against God. It would be impossible, so why do we struggle to forgive others. It is so simple; it is pride. No wonder God hates the proud and calls us to be humble. Until we learn to humble ourselves, we cannot, and we will not, forgive others, and God will not forgive us.

May we never become that ungrateful servant who cannot, or will not forgive, but let us become humble before God and forgive everyone who sins against us, so that we can ask God, with all confidence, to "forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Read **Psalm 51** to see how David asked for forgiveness from God. We should pray that way every day.

Note: In the interest of good Christian stewardship if you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter, please notify us so we can cancel your subscription. If you would like the Newsletter emailed to you instead please call us with your email address. 610-820-8469 Thanks.

A Favorite Quote: When the power of love becomes stronger than the love of power, we will have peace on earth. Author Unknown

Are you willing to share the Gospel with those in prison but don't know how to start? Come to the Timothy Program, Bethany United Methodist Church, Tuesdays, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm and learn how you can serve the Lord by sharing God's love with those in need of hearing how God can change their lives.



If you would like a group to come to your church to speak about Yokefellow Prison Ministry please contact Chuck at 610-820-8469.

The Lehigh Valley is blessed to have Trio Provisions, a Christian butcher shop whose foundation and success are based on Jesus Christ. Some of us may already shop at Trio and have never been disappointed with the quality, price, service, or the meals we have prepared using their ingredients.

Once you have tried them we are sure you will return again and again. Please save your receipts and send them to Yokefellow Prison Ministry, PO Box 3114, Wescosville, PA 18106. Graciously, Trio will donate 10% on your purchases (some restrictions) to Yokefellow.

Here is Trio's information:
1800 Willow Spur
East Texas PA 18046
610-530-1431
www.trioprovisions.com

Thank you, Dan the Meat Man and His Team, for your willingness to help Yokefellow Prison Ministry.

A Better Way

I tried so hard to understand
How to obey all God's command
There had to be a better way
To live for God each passing day
Then one night while I tried to sleep
Came a still small voice with words to
keep.

Dear child, Please hear the words I say
Utmost attention to them pay
My love exceeds your deepest thought
For with my blood your soul was bought
Why don't you take the worthwhile dare,
To give to me your every care.
Time spent with me will not be lost
Surrender's fruit is worth the cost
Just let go and you will see that
Living for Jesus is pleasing to me.

Jonah, Lehigh County Prison, 09/13/2012

SHARE THE GOSPEL . . .

If you are not able to go into prison but would still like to share the Gospel with those incarcerated, please send your contribution in the enclosed envelope for the Bible Fund. We can purchase a Bible for an inmate for \$6.00.

CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES

If you would like to donate \$5.00 we are willing to purchase gifts for the children of inmates on your behalf and deliver them in the Lehigh Valley area. Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope.

These are great opportunities for churches, Sunday Schools and children to collect monies for those who are seeking the Lord!

Romans 5 - Faith Triumphs in Trouble

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Doers—Not Hearers Only

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and

immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world." *James 1:21-27*

TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU

MY FAITH PROMISE for YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY

- Mr.
 Mrs.
 Ms.
 Mr. & Mrs.

 (Name)

I (We) will be a "Faith Promise" Partner with YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY
 With dependence upon God, beginning _____ I (we) will give
 each month \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 \$10 \$ _____
 Total Gift \$ _____

Instead of sending my gift in monthly payments, I prefer to send it

- Quarterly Annually

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(Return this portion)

Once a year we invite you to be yoked with us in ministry by way of a Faith Promise commitment. Under conviction of Jesus' question, "When did we see you sick or in prison?" and his stunning reply, "To the extent what you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me," you step out in faith. By trusting the Lord to provide the amount you send as an offering, this will enable the Lehigh Valley Council to reach its goal in ministry to help those discharged from prison with their financial needs.

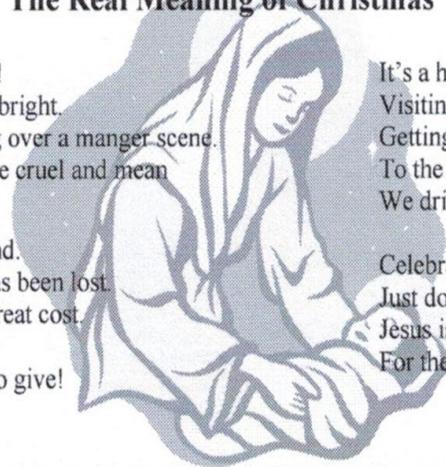
By establishing a pattern of giving based on faith, you take an active part in reaching souls for Jesus Christ that results in changed lives.

We challenge you to show your trust in the Lord to provide by filling out the form and mailing it to Yokefellow. We wish to thank those who have supported us faithfully in the past this way. God bless you with your faith promise and remember . . . We do it all . . . "Because He Lives."

The Real Meaning of Christmas

Look in the nighttime sky tonight!
 There is a star that shines ever so bright.
 'Tis the star of Bethlehem shining over a manger scene.
 The conditions of the manger were cruel and mean

A Savior is born for all mankind.
 Man is lost without a Savior to find.
 The true meaning of Christmas has been lost.
 Jesus died for our sins at such a great cost.
 Jesus died so that we may live.
 So on Christmas day, remember to give!



It's a happy time of year.
 Visiting friends and relatives far and near.
 Getting busy exchanging gifts is fine.
 To the Lord - a toast!
 We drink our wine.

Celebrate Christmas day
 Just don't forget along the way;
 Jesus is the real reason
 For the busy holiday season.

Gary L. Benjamin
 August 16, 1954 - September 19, 2004