

Yokefellowship  
Prison Ministry

*Sharing the Good News*

Lehigh Valley  
Council

# The Yoke and The Cross



*"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I and gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."*

August 2014

October 2014

*The Voice of the Yokefellowship Prison  
Ministry in the Lehigh Valley*

**Yokefellowship Prison Ministry**

PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA 18106  
610-820-8469 - [www.yokefellowpa.org](http://www.yokefellowpa.org)  
e-mail: [yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)

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

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*Rev. Gary Morrison*

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Vice Chairman  
*Rev. Allen Kline*

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## The Director's Chair :

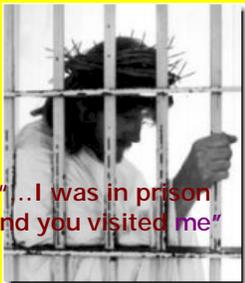
Blessings to all of our Yokefellowship volunteers, friends and supporters. I trust you all have had a happy and joyous summer, and like me, are not particularly ready for summer to be over. I have a cousin in Ohio who does an 'end-of-summer' picnic every year and it is coming up in two weeks. Where does the time go?

We are just finishing up our plans for our annual fund-raising banquet, once again being held in the Wesley Center at Asbury United Methodist Church located at 1533 Springhouse Road in Allentown, PA., on September 27 at 6:00 pm. We have scheduled our Pastoral Advisor, Pastor Gary Morrison to be the emcee. He is originally from South Africa and is currently the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Dorneyville, PA. Performing will be the Bob Vasile "Heart Street Band" as well as Bill Kunsman. We plan to have testimonies from some of our former inmates, which will be good to hear. The food is to be prepared by Country Cousins Catering, as it has been for the past few years, and they do a superb job of it. It will be a night to remember. Although we do not charge for the dinner, and we do allow walk-ins, we would certainly appreciate it if you could advise us if you plan on coming. Last year we had so many more walk-ins than we had planned for, we ran out of food, which we hope to never happen again. So please join us for an exciting evening, and if possible, let us know that you are coming. Thank you.

We have just completed our new web page at [www.yokefellowpa.org](http://www.yokefellowpa.org). We have been working on moving our domain name to the new server since May of this year and the website should be available within a week. With the previous server, it was very difficult and time consuming to make changes or to update the web page. Now we have links to several ministries, devotions, prison links and much more. Please look at it, and make any comments or suggestions to improve the web page and make it more user friendly.

Our Timothy Program/Bible Study is being held at 2043 W. Union St. Allentown, PA and all are invited to attend. Nick Lovette is teaching the class, which is currently studying the book of James. Any volunteers, potential volunteers, former inmates or interested parties are welcome to attend. Just as an aside: Nick Lovette, besides going into the prison on Fridays, serving as a spiritual adviser and recording secretary, is now the Editor of the newsletter. Thanks so much for your service Nick. God bless you.

**Get Involved**



*"...I was in prison  
and you visited me"*

*Think about it! It will be a  
blessing to you and to others  
also.*

Contact Chuck Goodge at  
[Yokefellowpa@Yahoo.com](mailto:Yokefellowpa@Yahoo.com) or  
610-820-8469

Charles L. Goodge





## Spring 2015 Training

All Yokefellowship volunteers must attend a training event at least every two years.

**Watch this news letter for details.** If you do not receive an email or call the Yokefellowship office.

## Fund Raising Banquet



**Good Music**

**Good Food**

Mark your calendars for the **Yokefellowship Banquet** on September 27<sup>th</sup>. See details in the **Director's Chair** article page 1.

**R.S.V.P by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> to [yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)** or call us at 610-820-8469.



## Provide a Bible to an Inmate

Bibles are \$6.00 and we are able to put the Word of God into the hands of Prisoners who are seeking to change.

You can give to the Bible Fund By sending a check to the **Bible Fund**  
Payable to:  
Yokefellowship Prison Ministry  
PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA  
18106

## God's Word Must be the Foundation

Prison has a way of changing an individual and making them feel inferior and dependent by its very nature. However, the Bible teaches that we are precious to God and that He wants to give us an abundant and successful life. The hopelessness of prison sets a vivid background for this wonderful message of God's love and acceptance through Jesus Christ.

**Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)**

**James said, "...humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:21)**

Jesus, the Living Word, wants to give us an abundant life and James tells us that Word is planted in us as we read, hear, and understand the Bible. The Word is the precious seed, planted in the heart and when we humbly accept it and allow it to grow it leads us into a joyful and meaningful life.

**"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)**

When a person hears the Word of God and receives it, it cuts through to the core issues in their lives because it is living and active. It forces them to think seriously about their relationship to God and to others and shines light on the secrets of the heart. God's promises bring true understanding, hope and healing.

**Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them (or make holy) by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)**

Many inmates have never read the Bible, and some shy away from any reading altogether. So, it is necessary to teach them how to memorize scripture and to meditate upon it. Those who can read must be taught what the Bible is and how to understand its many parts. As they become familiar with the books of the Bible they will have a foundation for their new-found faith.

**It is the seed of the Word implanted in the heart that produces a holy life pleasing to God.**

**"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."**  
Ps. 119:11

Once an inmate leaves prison he will be faced with many challenges and temptations that could easily put him back in prison. But if he has become comfortable with using the Bible and has memorized some key verses, the Holy Spirit can use them to bring stability into that persons life. If we ask a prisoner what parts of God's Word have special meaning to him, hopefully he will remember a portion of it and be able to tell you about it. If he cannot, then it points out the need to help him hide God's Word in his heart. Teaching them how to memorize and meditate on the Word naturally leads them to want to pray and ask God for understanding.

**Therefore a major focus of the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry is to provide Bibles to inmates and to teach them how to use and understand the Bible.**

Nick Lovette





## The Heart Street Band

*is coming to the  
Yokefellowship Banquet!*

The Heart Street Band is a new paring of older Christians that enjoy sharing original songs of encouragement, testimony and commitment.

**“Our goal is to aim at the heart of the issue** and in doing so we are reflective of our fallen nature, the sacrificial and redemptive action of our Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary and our hope in the gift of new life and the resurrection of the body.”

The group is Barry Madden, of Wind Gap, PA, who has served in worship music for 25 years and Bob and Jan Vasile of Nazareth PA. With a degree in keyboard music, Bob plays piano and organ. Janice has been singing with Bob since their shared conversion in 1977.

Everyone will enjoy the blended pop contemporary songs with hymns and praise choruses from older traditions of praise, worship and gospel music.

*See you There on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> !*

## save Yokefellowship Money

**Receive your copy of the  
Yokefellowship Newsletter by  
e-mail.**

**This will save the ministry  
money and time that can be  
invested in the men and women  
who need our help.**

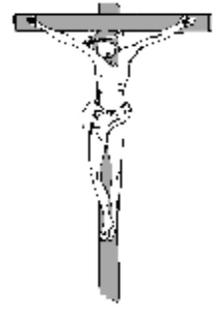
**To get the newsletter by e-mail  
Just send us an e-mail at this  
address:**

**[yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)**

**Put “Send YPM Newsletter” in  
the subject line. That’s it!**

## Isaiah 53:3

**“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”**



A powerful passage of Scripture, one that forces us to think about the humanity of our Savior. Jesus was despised and the Word of God emphasizes this by mentioning the word twice for us. Jesus was regarded as utterly useless, worthless, of no value, a "waste of space" by his contemporaries. Yes, of course that does not mean by every single human being, but it does mean by every single human being unregenerated by the grace of God!

Jesus was rejected as worthless, what a statement, even when I look around and see some terribly fallen men and women. When we engage them in conversation, we can still see some worth in the them, especially as they talk about their families, their fears, and their faith. Getting close to people teaches us a lot about them, I can however, with some difficulty I can imagine considering someone as worthless, if for instance they had committed mass murder or some other gross indecency. Yet the Bible still tells us that we are not worthless, unworthy yes, but not worthless. Jesus died for us, we cannot have been

**The Bible tells us that  
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**Since Jesus died for  
us, we cannot have  
been worthless to him**

worthless to him, for him to make such a sacrifice. Jesus was regarded as worthless, he was of infinite worth, infinite glory, infinite perfection, he was regarded as worthless by the very people he came to die for!

## Gary Morrison

*Yokefellowship  
Spiritual Advisor*



## Remember to Pray for Yokefellowship Prison Ministry

This is a spiritual battle that needs your prayers. Every day a Yokefellow is ministering to a prisoner or ex-prisoner in Jesus Name. **Please Pray !**

# Useful Resources

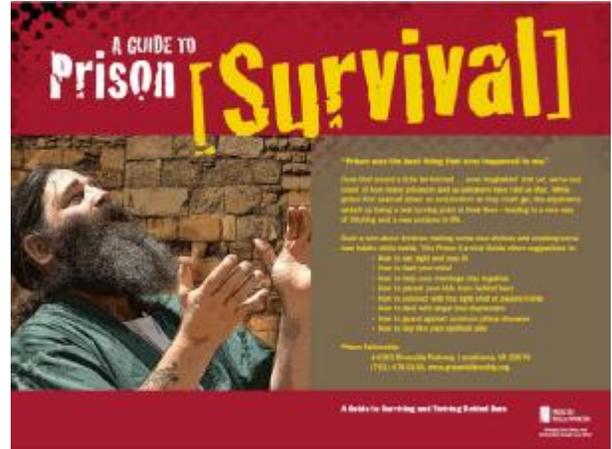
**[A Guide to Prison Survival](#)** Published by *Prison Fellowship* has the following statement on the cover:

*“Prison was the best thing that ever happened to me”*

Does that sound a little far fetched, even laughable? And yet (at Prison Fellowship) we’ve lost count of how many prisoners and ex-prisoners have told us that. While prison at first seemed as rock bottom as they could get, the experience ended up being a real turning point in their lives -leading to a new way of thinking and a new purpose in their life.

Such a turn-about involves making some new choices and creating some new habits while inside. This Prison Survival Guide offers some suggestions in:

- § How to eat right and stay fit.
- § How to feed your mind.
- § How to help your marriage stay together.
- § How to protect your kids from behind bars.
- § How to connect with the right kind of people inside.
- § How to deal with anger and depression.
- § How to guard against common prison diseases.
- § How to tap into your spiritual side.



[A Guide to Prison Survival](#) is published by Prison Fellowship (founded by the late Charles Colson). You can download a copy from the [Prison Fellowship website](#) for free.

Prison Fellowship, 44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, VA 20176. [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)

## **[Transforming Together: Authentic Spiritual Mentoring](#)** By Ele Parrott



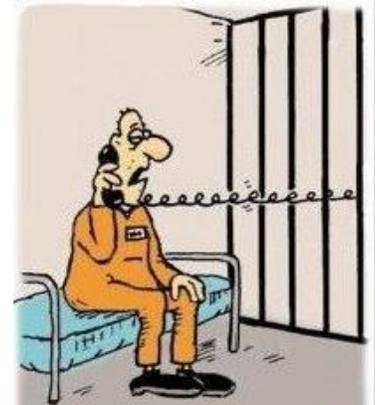
***I have not found a more helpful book on how to mentor someone. I recommend this to anyone with a heart to mentor in Christ. (Nick Lovette)***

“Young women are crying out for someone older to care about them, to help them. Older women desire to be useful and productive. Those who have invested years of walking with the Lord themselves desire to be teamed up with this generation of younger women who are yearning for someone to show them how to walk through life with genuine faith in Christ.

Transforming Together presents the model for genuine spiritual mentoring through the power and work of Christ in the lives of women faithfully pouring into one another. Women, both young and old, will appreciate the dual focus on the roles of mentor and mentee. Building on real life testimonies and her experience as a committed mentor, Ele Parrott will guide women as they seek to walk with one another to greater faithfulness in Christ.” \*

\*from : [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) books

**A prisoner went to the clinic to see his doctor. Prisoner:** “Hey, doc, you’ve removed my tonsils, my spleen, my kidney, and my appendix. I thought you said you could get me out of here?!” **Doctor:** “That’s right, I meant piece – by – piece!”



**“I SOUND FUNNY? YEAH, I’M CALLING FROM MY CELL PHONE!”**

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)