

**The Voice of the  
Yokefellowship**

**Prison Ministry  
Lehigh Valley Council**

# The Yoke and The Cross



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



**Our Mission**  
**To help at-risk youths, inmates and ex-offenders yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.**

**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.

**Council Director**  
*Lisa M. Perry*  
**Spiritual Advisor**  
*Rev. Gary Morrison*  
**Acting Chairman**  
*Jesus Ramirez*  
**Vice Chairman**  
*Jesus Ramirez*  
**Treasurer**  
*Ilda Perna*  
**Secretary/Editor**  
*Norris Lovette*

**Don't Forget!**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

**Date:** December 15<sup>th</sup> 2016  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** Trinity Baptist Church,  
689 S. Hillview Road,  
Allentown, PA

**All Yokefellowship members are required to vote at the Annual Membership Meeting.**

Without your vote on the important membership business the ministry cannot go forward.

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING!**

## **Thank You Allen Kline For a Job Well Done !**

Allen has faithfully served the Yokefellowship ministry since 1987. Recently, as Chairman of the Board, it has become necessary for him to resign from that position due to immediate health issues. Our vice Chairman, Jesus Ramirez, will fill-in for Allen.

Allen has faithfully served the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry since 1987 and worked closely with Wayne Benjamin, founder of the Lehigh Valley Area Council, to help establish the ministry. He has ministered to inmates and returning citizens at the county and state levels as a volunteer, Spiritual Advisor and Pastoral Advisor for many years. We will certainly miss Allen's leadership as Chairman and we know that God will guide Allen in continued fruitful service fitting for his situation.

## **The Director's Corner**

As we are ending this year, our Council has had several changes within the year. Charles Goodge resigned at the beginning the year as our Council Director and I was voted in as his replacement in May. We have added several new volunteers who give the Council fresh breath and new ideas. Some volunteers attended Bethany UMC to spread the Word about what we do, 18 volunteers attended the annual conference for a refresher course on how we can better serve and we have added an additional Bible study at the CCC (Work Release). Also as you can see above our Chairman has resigned due to health issues. He was a true asset to this Council and will be greatly missed.

May God watch over you and your family during the holidays and may you have a blessed New Year. May your faith be a light on the hill to those around you.

*Lisa M. Perry, Council Director*

**"Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!"**  
*Psalm 80:3*

We really do need the Lord to turn his favorable disposition in our direction, to shine the light of his eyes to fall upon us. We need him to look at us in grace, and mercy, if not we are undone, we would be consumed by his righteous and holy wrath.

May he look with favor on all those he loves.

May the Lord bless us on His day

*Gary Morrison, Council Spiritual Advisor*

## Yokefellowship 2016 Annual Conference



We had a great time of training and fellowship at the Yokefellowship 2016 Annual Conference on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Country Cupboard Inn in Lewisburg, PA . Watch for details of the 2017 conference dates and speakers. Hope to see you there!

## Timothy Program

A time of Fellowship, prayer and Bible study for YPM members, Returning Citizens and their Families is held every Tuesday 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Trinity Baptist Church, 689 S. Hillview Road, Allentown PA.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Gary Morrison, will be presenting a Bible Survey Series. Come for fellowship and encouragement in the Lord.

**Call the YPM office for a ride to the meeting if needed.**



**Santa will be delivering a Bible and gifts to inmate's families again this Christmas!**



**You can help by sending funds and new Bibles to the Lehigh Valley Council Office at the above address by December 1, 2016**

*An email will be sent out to volunteers with directions for taking names for inmates' children the week of December 11-17 only.*

## Do You Have an Answer ? Share it With an Inmate !

Here are some questions that inmates asked us about during a recent "Rap" session at Lehigh County Jail. Could you answer a few of these questions with some Godly advice? Why not share that advice with inmates who are seeking a better life? Consider becoming a Yokefellow Volunteer. Contact us today!

1. *Why do people like being here so much? Why do they love coming to jail?*
2. *Why does God allow us to have such trials and tribulations in life?*
3. *Is sex a sin?*
4. *What is my purpose here?*
5. *Why is God continuing to punish me?*
6. *If people don't believe in Jesus do they go to hell. If so what about people in other countries who were brought up in different religions?*
7. *How can we make our faith stronger?*
8. *What is love?*
9. *How do we get saved?*
10. *Why do people turn their back on you in your time of needing them most even when you were there for them when they needed someone?*
11. *Are there any sins that God doesn't forgive us for?*
12. *Why do I always end up in bad relationships?*

## Love an Inmate Through the Glass!

***Did you know that the most effective way we have found to give an inmate hope and possibly change their life is simply to show them you care about them and are praying for them?***

When someone from church visits a person in jail it makes a HUGE impression. They feel abandoned and isolated from life, so just your showing up is a blessing and a surprise. They don't get many visits because it takes the love of Christ to break through the hurt and shame of prison. So take the opportunity to visit them "thru the glass". It will give them hope and nourish your soul!

***Here is how you go about visiting someone in the Lehigh County Jail:***

1. Call the officer in the jail lobby (610-782-3270), give the first, middle and last name of the inmate and ask for the days you can visit.
2. On the visit day park in the 4<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton st. garage next to the jail.
3. In the jail front lobby hand the officer your driver's license or other photo I.D. and ask to visit the inmate.
4. If you came on the wrong day, or if the inmate has already had a visitor or does not accept your visit (they don't know you, are sick, etc.) you will be denied. Don't let it bother you and come back. Don't give up!
5. Take the token from the officer and put all your valuables in a locker.
6. Take a seat and wait for the inmate's name, floor number and seat number to be called. Then walk thru the metal detector to the elevator.
7. Go to the floor and sit in your seat number next to the glass window.
8. Wait until the inmate comes to the glass and pick up the phone.
9. You will have 30 minutes to talk. Let them know you're not ashamed of them and that people are praying for them and love them.

## Someone Needs You!



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

**Find out how to become a  
Yokefellow Volunteer!**

**Contact Lisa M. Perry at**

[Yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:Yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)

610-820-8469

## Christmas Cards



**You Can provide  
Christmas cards**

for us to hand out  
in jail. Please drop  
cards off at the  
office. Please call  
the office about  
special rules as to  
what the jails can  
accept.

## New Expungement Law

**"I get rejected for jobs because of  
bad decisions I made years ago.  
I need to work to support my  
family."**

A new law allows many in  
Pennsylvania convicted of second  
and third degree misdemeanors to  
have their records removed from  
public view.

Learn more by contacting the  
Pennsylvania Bar Association.  
Call 888-799-4557  
or visit [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org).

## Volunteers Needed!

Become a trained Yokefellowship volunteer and join a team to visit the Lehigh County Jail or Community Corrections Center and minister to incarcerated men and women who are hungry for the hope that is found in Jesus Christ!

***In addition to "Visiting Thru  
the Glass" why not minister  
directly in jail or write letters?***

If you feel the Lord is calling you to join a prison visitation team, attend the Timothy Meeting any Tuesday 7:30 to 9:00pm at Trinity Baptist Church, 689 S. Hill View Rd. Allentown, PA. You will meet other Yokefellowship volunteers and returning citizens at this meeting and discuss your interest. After you have been approved you will be able to join a visitation team as a guest to see if it is something you would like to do. See the complete meeting schedule below.

### Help needed in Bible Study/Discussion groups at the Lehigh County jail:

- Monday afternoon for men.
- Tuesday evening for men.
- Wednesday evening for men.
- Sunday evening for men.
- Friday evening at the Community Correction Center.



Volunteers needed to help with Bible Study Friday, 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Community Corrections Center Work Release, 1600 Riverside Drive, Bethlehem.

Volunteers needed to help minister to women twice a month Sundays, 3:30 to 4:30 PM at Carbon County Correctional Facility, 331 Broad Street, Nesquehoning, PA

### **Meetings at the Lehigh County Jail:**

- 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays 7:30-9:00 PM, Unit 2A / 2D, 2B / 2C Bible Study.
- Every Monday 1:00 - 2:30 PM, women's Bible study.
- Every Monday 7:00 - 9:00 PM, men's units 2A / 2D.
- Every Tuesday 8:30 - 10:00 PM, men's units 4A / 4B.
- Every Wednesday 6:30 - 8:30 PM, women's unit.
- Every Wednesday 8:30 - 10:00 PM, men's units 2B / 2C.
- Every Thursday 7:30 - 9:00 PM, women's unit.
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 PM, men's units 3A / 3D
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 PM, men's unit 3B.
- Every Friday 8:30-10:00 PM, men's units 1A / 4A / 4B.

### **Meetings at the Community Corrections Center**

Every Thursday from 8:00 - 9:30 PM

Every Friday from 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Located at 1600 Riverside Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18016

See our website at [www.yokefellowpa.org](http://www.yokefellowpa.org) for more information

## ***We are putting Truth into the hands of Those in Jail!***

We don't just send them a Bible, we meet them personally and show how the Bible tells about Jesus Christ. We show them how to study the Bible.

This year we have put over 200 Bibles into the hands of inmates.



***Give a Bible to an inmate***  
by sending a check to the Bible Fund.

Make the check payable to:

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry  
PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA  
18106

## ***Celebrate Recovery Help for Returning Citizens***

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ Centered 12-step addiction recovery program that has helped many find Christian help and friendship in the local community.

Attend a Celebrate Recovery Program at one of these locations:

- Faith Church, 6528 Hamilton Blvd.  
Allentown, PA  
Every Monday, 7:00 – 9:00pm  
Dinner before the meeting last Monday of the month, 6:00-7:00pm  
See: [www.faithefc.com/events](http://www.faithefc.com/events).
- Bethany Church, 1208 Brookside Road, Wescosville, PA  
Every Thursday, 7 – 9pm, 6 – 7pm  
friendship & snacks  
See: [www.bethanyumchurch.com](http://www.bethanyumchurch.com)
- Bridge Church, 3561 Old Rt. 22, Hamburg, PA  
Every Monday, 7 – 9pm,  
See: [www.hamburgbridge.com](http://www.hamburgbridge.com)
- Morning Star Fellowship,  
429 S. 9<sup>th</sup> st., Quakertown, PA  
every Wednesday, 7 – 9pm, Dinner 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday of the month, 6 – 6:45pm  
See: [www.mstartqtown.org](http://www.mstartqtown.org)

## ***We Are Making A Difference !***

I met Mark, an inmate in jail for many D.U.I.'s. He was very discouraged from being in and out of jail. I met with him and prayed with him as well as reading scripture and going over Bible studies. Today, he is working at a restaurant in Florida as a server and just got married without ever touching alcohol. Only through the power of God can people such as Mark conquer their demons and succeed in life. It truly is an honor to give of myself to these men and to pray for them, along with their families. I am humbled. (*Yokefellow Volunteer, men*)

Praise God if you don't have a Son, Daughter, Mother or Father in jail. If a loved one was in jail wouldn't you want someone to help them? You could be the one to make a difference in someone's life. When we met Jen in jail many years ago she shook badly from drugs. Praise God that today she is on her own with four children. It was a long hard road, but remember that one soul is worth more than the whole world. Every soul we meet is going to spend eternity in one of two places. Please help someone get to the right place. Eternity is a long time to be in the wrong place. (*Husband and Wife Yokefellow Volunteers*)

The inmates are constantly very appreciative of the Bible we provided for them and our time spent to visit them. Some of them have shown spiritual growth or a renewal of faith. I would say Yokefellowship benefited the inmates and also us, the volunteers. (*Yokefellow volunteer, women*)

John came to our Bible study regularly and after release from jail we fished and laughed together and talked about Christ. I lost contact with John but two years later he showed up in jail with multiple charges. This time his attitude changed and he cried out to the Lord to save him and forgive him. He remembered Yokefellow and is coming to our meetings. John is excited about his faith and telling others about Christ. He is a tough guy, fending for himself since childhood. He said he can talk to murderers, rapists, thieves and dangerous gang members on the inside, where we can't. God is using him to break up hard soil. Praise God! (*Yokefellow volunteer, men*)

The women thank the volunteers for coming and not being judgmental. They say how much they enjoy the Bible studies and life application discussions. The ladies tell of answered prayer and mended relationships that our visits encourage. (*Yokefellow Volunteer, Women*)

The inmates are so thankful for the volunteers who show up every week to not only do Bible study but who care enough to listen to their life struggles and pray with them for jobs, housing, healed relationships. (*Volunteers for men*).

C.E. is a 28 year old inmate who has spent half of his life incarcerated. Now he has continued contact with a Yokefellow volunteer. He is excited about being in a dog training program and is learning skills for a business he plans on starting when released from SCI Coal Township. (*Yokefellow volunteer, men,*)

H.H., an inmate in SCI Forest, says he is thankful for 5+ years contact with a Yokefellow volunteer who keeps him grounded through letters, phone calls, and prayers for safety due to violence in prison. (*Yokefellow volunteer, men*)

A.R., an inmate in SCI Retreat, says he is thankful for volunteers believing in him because sometimes within this dark place it feels as if no one remembers me. Thanks for writing" (*Yokefellow volunteer, men*)