

The Voice of the Yokefellowship
Sharing the Good News

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."

Spring
2017 Edition

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
 e-mail: 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
- Chairman**
Rev. Jesus Ramirez
- Vice Chairman**
Rev. Gary Morrison
- Treasurer**
Jess Hong
- Secretary/Editor**
Norris Lovette

A Fond Good-Bye to Wayne N. Benjamin Our Founder and Mentor

Wayne N. Benjamin, our beloved founder of the Lehigh Valley Area Council, went home to the Lord on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at the age of 86. Wayne faithfully served the Lehigh Valley Area Council of YPM as it's Director for 28 years and for many of those years also served as the Yokefellowship Eastern Regional Director. Wayne left Yokefellowship with a legacy that will continue to bare fruit. His trust in the Lord and his enthusiasm and faithful service to the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry has left a strong example for the council. It has been no small task for the Lehigh Valley Area Council and the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry to move ahead in his absence. Wayne is survived by his children David, Larry and Mark Benjamin, and by 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. *What a Blessing !!*



Director's Corner

Spring is the time of the year for new beginnings in nature. We can also look at it as a time to encourage inmates who feel lost, abandoned, and in a pit of mud and mire. They also can have a new beginning. As we share the Living Word of God with inmates or juveniles, the Lord will do only what He can do, draw many to Himself and give them *New Life in Christ*.

For the Inmates that know Christ and who have stumbled, they can also have a new beginning. Christ can turn their failures into victories as they learn to depend upon Him and become His bondservants.

My prayer is that God will fill you with His Spirit and may you be a bright light to shine in this dark world.

Working for Him Always,
 Lisa M. Perry

Spring 2017 Training

On Saturday May 13, 2017, Yokefellowship Prison Ministry will be holding its annual training sessions.

(RSVP by May 5, to yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)

All Yokefellowship volunteers who directly minister in jail are expected to get yearly training. We also welcome anyone who would be interested in finding out about prison ministry. Guests are welcome at all the sessions. Other prison ministries and pastors are welcome so we can network in order to help returning citizens succeed. Northampton County Council of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry will be joining the Lehigh Valley Council for training. (See page 3 for more information.)



Provide a Bible to an Inmate

In the last 12 months we have put over 300 Bibles into the hands of inmates in the Lehigh Valley who are seeking to change. We meet each inmate and show them how to use the Word of God and teach them to apply it to their lives.

Help Provide Bibles
 send a check to
Bible Fund

Payable to:
 Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
 PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA
 18106

Someone Needs You!



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

We have Volunteer openings at Lehigh County Jail and at the Community Correction Center in Bethlehem. YPM Training is available next month, see page 1.

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

Contact Lisa M. Perry at

Yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

610-820-8469

**Serve the
Lord with
Gladness!**

**Attention
Returning Citizens**

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, leads us in our study of God's Word. Come for fellowship and encouragement in the Lord.

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

The Power of Two

I love Warren Wiersbe's succinct definition of ministry: "Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God." Paul and Barnabas could have sat for that portrait. Why did Paul and Barnabas experience such pleasure in serving together? No competition. No battle of egos. No one threatened by the other's gifts. No hidden agendas. No unresolved conflicts. Their single-minded goal was to magnify Christ. It didn't matter if the crowds multiplied to thousands or shrank to only a few. All that mattered was that Christ be proclaimed and worshipped.

Praise God for the power of two!

After watching and listening to Dwight L. Moody preach and witnessing the incredible results of the ministry of that simple man, the well-respected theologian, Dr. R. W. Dale wrote, "I told Mr. Moody that the work was most plainly of God, for I could see no real relation between him and what he had done. Moody laughed cheerily and said, 'I should be very sorry if it were otherwise.'" No defensiveness, no feeling of being put upon, no embarrassing uneasiness. Moody was the most surprised of anyone that God chose to use him so mightily.

That was Paul. No wonder Barnabas wanted Paul to lead the program in Antioch. What a duet they sang! For an entire year these two men served side by side, and God was greatly glorified.

(Excerpted from Charles R. Swindoll, [Great Days with the Great Lives](#))

Dear Members and Donors

Yokefellowship would like to say thank you for your financial donations and support of our organization. As you know, our mission is to "help at risk youths, inmates, and offenders yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives." Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, Lehigh Valley reaches these people in many different ways. We hold Bible Studies at the Lehigh County Jail, at the Community Corrections Center (Work Release) and on Tuesday evenings at the Allentown Trinity Baptist Church for those who've been released (see insert at left).

In the past twelve months we have held over 250 bible study sessions, distributed more than 300 bibles and we are excited to have had over 1500 men and women participate in and hear the unfiltered, unadulterated Word of God!

Mentoring also occurs individually on a weekly basis as requested by inmates. This allows for a more personal opportunity to solidify and inspire that inmate's walk with Christ. Letter writing is an additional means of staying involved with inmates.

I so clearly remember hearing a story about a young fellow who recently attended one of the Friday night bible studies. As they went around the circle in prayer thanking God for their own personal intentions...all he could say was that he was "thankful to be there in jail...heroin free for 13 days...and to have a praying Mom on his side." Later on he shared that his Mom often told him he needed God in his life. She would be so happy to know that he was finally reaching out to God and looking forward to receiving his Bible in the mail. PRAISE GOD! HIS WORD is so powerful and so mighty and so transforming!

Know that every dollar we receive is greatly appreciated and wisely spent! We THANK YOU for your contributions and support. May 2017 be a year of All God's Best bestowed upon you. Be well and Be blessed!

Fun Raising Banquet



It's not a typo! This will be a FUN raising Banquet. Come and see!

Jail Music Jail Food Lots'a Fun

Mark your calendars for the **Yokefellowship Banquet** on September 16th 6 to 9 PM
At Bethany UMC Church,
in Carlson Hall

1208 Brookside Road
Wescosville, PA

R.S.V.P by Sept. 4th to
yokefellowpa@yahoo.com or call us
at 610-820-8469.

Yokefellowship Picnic



Returning Citizens and Volunteers,
*we hope to see you all there for
fun, food and fellowship.*

July 15th, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

At Trinity Baptist Church,
689 S. Hillview Road, Allentown, PA

The Picnic information will also be
posted on our Web Page at
www.yokefellowpa.org

Invite a Yokefellowship Group to Your Church

**Learn More About what the
Yokefellowship Prison Ministry.**

Find out what Yokefellowship is doing
to help prisoners find Jesus Christ
and a new life. God may have a place
for you in this outreach.

**Call Lisa M. Perry at 610-820-8469
or email her at**
yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

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!

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

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening for men.
- Thursday, Friday and Sunday evening at the Community Correction Center.

Meetings at the Lehigh County Jail:

- 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays 7:30-9:00 PM, 2B / 2C 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 8:00 - 9:30 PM

Every Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Located at 1600 Riverside Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18016

See our website at www.yokefellowpa.org for more information

**Training will be at Trinity Baptist Church,
689 S. Hillview Road, Allentown, PA 18103.
May 13th, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
(bring a bagged lunch – drinks will be provided)**

The training schedule is as follows:

9:00 am – 9:30 am – Steve Miller, Lehigh County Jail Treatment Supervisor
9:30 am – 10:00 am - Jim Byrnes, CEO, Allentown Rescue Mission
10:00 am – 11:00 am - Lisa Cope, PA State Parole Officer
11:00 am – 11:45 am – Sara Jarosz, Treatment Supervisor, Lehigh County CCC
Lunch break
Noon – 1:00 pm – Laura Savenelli, Northampton County Re-Entry Coordinator
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Yokefellowship Training – Lehigh and Northampton Councils



Some Important Events To Remember...

- **Yokefellowship Training**
May 13th, 9 AM – 2 PM, Trinity Baptist Church. 689 S. Hillview Rd. Allentown, PA
- **Lehigh Valley Area Council Board Meetings**
May 18th, Sept 21st, Nov 16th 7 PM
Trinity Baptist Church
- **Yokefellowship Picnic**
July 15th, Trinity Baptist Church
- **Fun Raising Banquet**
September 16th, 6 - 9 PM, Bethany UMC Church 1208 Brookside Rd. Wescosville, PA
- **YPM State Conference**
Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg, PA October 6th and 7th.
- **Annual Membership Meeting**
December 21, 7 PM,
YPM Members must attend.
Trinity Baptist Church.

Save Yokefellowship Money

We would like to send you the Yokefellowship Newsletter by email to reduce cost. So, if you get the newsletter by U.S. mail but would like to get it by email instead, let us know. To get our newsletter by email or to cancel the paper copy of the newsletter send an email to:

yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

Just put "Send YPM Newsletter by email" in the subject line. That's it!

Volunteer Feedback

From Yokefellowship Volunteers ministering at Lehigh County Jail and the Community Corrections Center .

"Your visits and Bible teaching mean so much to us! Please know that we really appreciate you coming."

"An inmate told me last Friday that learning about the Bible and Jesus Christ has changed his outlook. He has found hope and a new purpose for his life. He said he could never love, but is feeling it for the first time."

"I have found hope that God will help me care for my family!"

"I'm not focused on numbers, but Sunday evening there were 19 men who attended Bible study. Several accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Praise God!"

"Meeting with these guys at work release has become an incredible experience. I missed talking about God to these guys the days that I could not go."

"The men appreciate that we are bringing them the Word of God. They want to know why God allows the things that happen in our world. We use this opportunity to teach them the about God's love for everyone thru Jesus Christ."

"I've been ministering to inmates for many years. There are disappointments and ups and downs, but one soul is worth everything. I can't rest when I know God is bringing in the harvest. I find when inmates understand the Bible for themselves it makes all the difference. I've seen good results and we stay in touch with some when they get out, rejoicing with them and encouraging them in the Lord."

"The women really appreciate getting a Bible and learning to use it for devotions. Our Bible Studies give them practical applications that they find very helpful. They especially love the sharing time we have together in the Lord. Being in jail is a lonely, terrible experience. They are so thankful that we come spend time with them. It is a joyful experience to share God's love with them. "