

**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  
2018 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](http://www.yokefellowpa.org)  
e-mail: [yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)  
YPM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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. Alexis M. Perry*

**Chairman**  
*Rev. Jesus Ramirez*

**Vice Chairman**  
*Rev. Alexis M. Perry*

**Treasurer**  
*Linda Lovette*

**Secretary/Editor**  
*Norris Lovette*

## A Word From Our Director :

Another year has passed and more souls saved by Our Lord and Savior. Over the years we have received letters from inmates thanking us for our determination to answer the Call of the Lord to share the Word with those incarcerated.

God has expanded Yokefellowship Prison Ministry – Lehigh Valley Council. We now hold Bible studies seven days a week. This year we added a Bible study in another facility. We now hold Bible studies at the Lehigh County Jail, Lehigh County Community Corrections Center and Lehigh County Center for Recovery. God has opened many doors and now we need the "missionaries" to cover those doors. So spread the Word that we are looking for volunteers who will commit to a specific slot. God fed 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish. We trust, as we make the need known, He will also provide the workers to take His message of salvation to the lost and He will call many into His Kingdom.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers who go into the facilities to share God's Word in all types of weather and give of themselves spiritually, physically, financially and emotionally for His Kingdom. You are not only allowing the incarcerated to see His Light shine but you are making an investment in His Family for the incarcerated and their families.

**A big heart-felt thank you for your service for the King!**

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

*(Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version)*

**Be God's light to those who live in darkness and are searching for the door to  
Our Savior.**

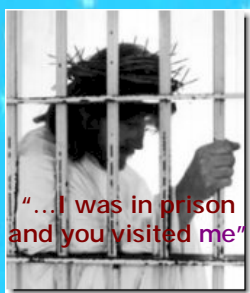
Working for Him Always ...

Lisa M. Perry  
Council Director  
Isaiah 6:8

**Dear God,  
Please send Yokefellowship the  
laborers required to save the souls of  
inmates and returning citizens right  
here in the Lehigh Valley!**

## Get Involved!

**Training Event on March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**See this Newsletter for more  
information.**



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

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

Contact Lisa M. Perry at  
[Yokefellowpa@Yahoo.com](mailto:Yokefellowpa@Yahoo.com)  
610-820-8469

## Give a Bible to an Inmate



Last year we put over 300 Bibles into the hands of prisoners who seek to change.

*We teach inmates to use these Bibles and they are excited to realize that God loves them.*

**God's Word is powerful!**

**Send your contribution to**

**YPMLV Bible Fund**

PO Box 3114

Wescosville, PA 18106

Or use PayPal at

[www.yokefellowpa.org](http://www.yokefellowpa.org)

## Other YPMLV News

- Our local office has moved and is now being operated as a "virtual office". Continue to send mail us at PO Box 3114 Wescosville, PA 18106.
- From now on our newsletter will only be available online at [www.yokefellowpa.org](http://www.yokefellowpa.org) unless you request a paper copy.
- We now have Bible study groups meeting at the Lehigh County Center for Recovery in Bethlehem, PA. Call the office for volunteer information.
- We list churches on our website [Yokefellowpa.org](http://Yokefellowpa.org) that welcome Returning Citizens. Send an Email to be included at [yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)
- We now hold Bible study and discussion groups for inmates seven days a week. Call the office for volunteer details.

## YPM Training March 10th

Our training will be held on Saturday, March 10th at the Cetronia Social Hall, 18 S. Scenic St, Allentown, PA. It is located behind the Cetronia Fire Station.

Other prison ministries are welcome to join us to hear the speakers so spread the word.

**Lunch will be provided! Please RSVP by February 28th.**

**The speakers this year are:**

9:00 am - 9:45 am - Steve Miller, Treatment Supervisor, Lehigh County Jail

9:45 am - 10:30 am - Jim Byrnes, CEO, Allentown Rescue Mission

10:30 am - 11:15 am - Lisa Cope, PA State Parole Officer

11:15 am - 11:45 am - Sara Jarosz, Treatment Supervisor,  
Lehigh County Community Corrections Center

Noon - 1:00 pm - Ed Bachert, Jr., Fountain Hill Police Chief

1:00 pm - 2 pm - Yokefellowship training which will include

Pastor Lex Perry (ex-correctional officer  
and YPM volunteer) and John Wise

(Returning citizen and YPM volunteer) speaking

This training allows us to better serve the incarcerated and it is a time to fellowship with other volunteers. **Please reserve the date.**

**Volunteers are required by the Yokefellowship Home Office to have training every two years and we hold local training annually.**

## Spring Job Fair Coming !

**WHEN:** May 5, 2018 Time: 10 am – 1 pm

**WHERE:** The Lehigh Conference of Churches Fellowship Hall  
457 W. Allen Street, Allentown, PA

***Are You Looking for a Job Opportunity and Have a Criminal Record?***

Background Friendly Employers will be in attendance for Candidates of all ages, Experience levels, and Industries

**Please come prepared with your resume. If you don't have a resume call and make an appointment and we will help you prepare one.**

**Interviewing skills are also offered.**

**Hiring? Are you a background friendly employer?**

**Please contact us:**

**Call: 610-820-8469 Email: [yokefellowpa@yahoo.com](mailto:yokefellowpa@yahoo.com)**

# Attention All YPM Volunteers !

This year we were given the opportunity to hold Bible Studies in Lehigh County Center for Recovery. We now have meetings seven days a week. See below for specifics.

## Sunday Meetings

- Third, fourth and fifth week - 7:30 - 9:00 pm at LCJ Housing Units 2B/2C (men)
- Every week 2:00 - 4:00 pm - CCC (men)
- Fourth and fifth week - 7:30 - 9:00 pm - LCJ 2A/2D (men)

## Weekly Meetings

- Every Monday 7:00 - 9:00 PM LCJ Housing Units 2A/2D (men)
- Every Tuesday 8:30 - 10:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 4A/4B (men)
- Every Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 4C1/4D (women)
- Every Wednesday 8:30 - 10:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 2B/2C (men)
- Every Thursday 8:00 - 9:30 CCC (men)
- Every Thursday 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 4C1/4D (women)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Unit 3B (men)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 3A/3D (men)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 LCJ Housing Units 1A/4A/4B (men)
- Every Friday 8:00 - 9:30 pm CCC (men)
- Three Saturdays a month 9:30 am - 10:45 am LCCR (women or men)
- Three Saturdays a month 10:45 am - noon LCCR (women or men)

## Meeting Places

LCJ Lehigh County Jail  
38 N. 4th St, Allentown, PA

CCC Lehigh County Community Corrections Center  
1600 Riverside Drive Bethlehem, PA

LCCR Lehigh County Center for Recovery  
1620 Riverside Drive Bethlehem, PA

***Be a YPM Volunteer Now!***

***Training is being held on March 10<sup>th</sup>.  
See this newsletter for details and call  
or email our office to participate***

## Stay Focused, Not B.U.S.Y

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, may the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you! It is wonderful to have this opportunity to partner with you and serve those who are at risk. I consider it an honor and privilege to minister the Word with you. I spent some time this week reflecting on the words of our Lord from Matthew 11:29-30. I ask that you will allow me to share a thought He placed on my heart. "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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Jesus spoke these words to contrast the freedom He provides compared to the bondage the Pharisee offered. Today we don't need the help of Pharisee to confine our souls - we willfully shackle ourselves to B.U.S.Y. (being under satan's yoke).

In light of the very heavy schedules that many of us carry, it is important to keep in mind that we are to remain yoked to Jesus as we seek to help others yoke themselves to Christ. We must put first things first, trusting Him to provide as we obey. We have been called to a ministry that will see no end until our Lord returns. That may sound daunting, but we must remember we have not been called to save the world. We have been called to direct the lost to the One who did. Our mission is clear, and we find comfort knowing the Lord will never give us more than we can handle (1 Corinth 10:13). If you are not careful, you will discover it's easy to get overwhelmed when trying to do good (Gal 6:1-2). Planning our volunteer time is critical to our success. I have learned the hard way over the years that "... unless the Lord builds it, we labor in vain..." (Psalm 127:1). In other words, I had to allow God to direct my steps in every aspect of my life, and especially when it came to serving in ministry. My prayer is that we stay focused in our mission, mindful of who we serve, and directed by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May He keep you and prosper the work of your hands in His will.

Pastor Alexis M Perry Sr. (*YPMLV Vice Chairman and Spiritual Advisor*)

## Volunteer Feedback

As long as I have been coming here, 10 years, Yokefellowship has always shown up and given me a reprieve. *Anonymous.*

As of today you gave me strength and I open my heart to God. *J.R.*

Yokefellowship has re-affirmed my faith in the Lord and I'm glad they come back time and time again. *Anonymous*

I'm following Jesus! *J.P.*

You help me to be more God like. I have prayed and read more scripture than I have in many years. *J.D.*

I like the love and knowledge that the Brothers bring. They direct us to the love that God has for us. *L.S.*

Yokefellowship meetings helped me by talking because it feels better to talk about God together. *H.L.*

I feel like I'm home with my family because Yokefellowship cares and really wants to help. *Anonymous*

Thank God and God bless Yokefellowship. Keep doing God's Work. Amen. *Anonymous*

You give us a means of praise and worship while incarcerated. *Anonymous*

John and Barb, I thank you for helping me believe in God. You have helped me open my heart to God and learn more about God. Thank you! *Anonymous*

The word of God is being taught, the Holy Spirit is transforming lives to those who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! The men are always encouraged and thankful for the volunteers going in to present the Good News to those willing to listen and allowing the Lord to change them. *J.G Volunteer*