

2017
YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT



***Helping at-risk youth, inmates, and returning citizens
yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.***

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STATEMENT OF FAITH (REVISED 01/18/18)

We in Yokefellowship Prison Ministry believe:

- **God** - There is one eternal, almighty, and perfect God, in essence revealed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are faithful to the biblical revelation that in one sense God is one and in a different sense He is three.
- **Jesus Christ** - Jesus Christ is true God and true Man, born of a virgin, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and will return in glory and power.
- **The Holy Spirit** - When a person becomes born again, by believing and receiving Jesus Christ, God resides in that person through the Holy Spirit. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit.
- **The Word** – The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God given through the Holy Spirit for the purpose of teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.
- **The Fall** - God created mankind in his own image, but through the fall in the Garden of Eden man was removed from the Garden and separated from God. Thus, we are all sinners and cannot earn God’s favor on our own.
- **The Plan** – God’s original plan to give mankind eternal life was rejected by Adam and Eve. In God’s redemptive plan, man is rescued from death by the priceless shed blood of Jesus Christ. His atoning death on the cross ended the separation for all those who come to Him.
- **The Call** – Everyone who is reconciled to God through Christ Jesus is called to be a minister of reconciliation – an ambassador of Christ. As Yokefellows, we are called to provide a ministry of reconciliation to those who are or were incarcerated.
- **The Body of Christ** – All believers are members of the body of Christ. With Christ as the “head,” every member is called to have a personal relationship with Him, to be His disciple, to love one another, and to use our gifts for the body.
- **The New Covenant** – Those who yoke themselves to Christ are no longer part of the Old Covenant. Though the OT law is good in that it showed us our need for Christ and how to please God, Christians live by and are under a new covenant of grace alone. Having been released from the law, we are to live by grace and our lives are to continually reflect the glory of God.
- **The Reward** - For taking the message of God’s transforming love and forgiveness to captives and sharing the grace that has been given to us, great will be our reward in heaven.

Adopted by unanimous consent at YPMLV Board Meeting January 18, 2018.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL DIRECTOR . . .

Another year has passed and more souls have been 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 have available times to hold Bible studies seven days a week. This year we added a Bible study in another facility which enables us to 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 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. Thank you for giving 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 heartfelt thank you for your service for the King.

As the scripture says:

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

"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."

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

God Bless.

Working for Him Always ...

Lisa M. Perry
Council Director
Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
Lehigh Valley Council
Isaiah 6:8

ABOUT YPM

YPM's mission is to "help at-risk youth, inmates, and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives." YPM is a 501(c)(3) umbrella organization of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry located in central Pennsylvania with Lehigh Valley Area Council being one of 15 Area Councils serving throughout Pennsylvania. Each Area Council has its own governing body; recruits, trains, and assigns volunteers; has its own treasury and budget; and is asked to contribute 25% of its net income to the parent organization. Through these Area Councils, hundreds of volunteers are entering nearly half of the county and state correctional institutions in Pennsylvania.

YPM grew out of a fellowship movement started by Dr. Elton Trueblood, a renowned author, speaker, and theologian, in 1955. Trueblood believed being a Christian was synonymous to being yoked with Christ (Matthew 11:28-30) and that we need to heed the call of PHILIPPIANS 4:3 to help others, "*Yes, I ask you loyal yokefellows...*". Regarding incarceration, Trueblood stated, "*Separation from the world for a while is justified if new life emerges.*"

***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.
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."***
MATTHEW 11:28-30

YPM focuses on **small group discussions** for spiritual and personal growth through learning and practicing Bible-based disciplines. The result is the changed lives of those we serve as well as our own. The following selected attributes of discipleship are highly valued and taught as "marks" of a Yokefellow:

- ❖ **Commitment** - Hearing Christ's call "Come to me" a Yokefellow knows this answer gives a center of stability in life as he or she also joins Christ in lifting the burdens of others.
- ❖ **Discipline** - A Yokefellow voluntarily accepts:
 - **Discipline of Prayer** - pray daily.
 - **Discipline of Scripture** - read reverently and thoughtfully a portion of Scripture daily, following a definite plan.
 - **The Discipline of Worship** - to share, at least weekly, in the public worship of God.
 - **Discipline of Money** - give a definite portion of my income to the promotion of Christ's cause and as an act of worship.
 - **Discipline of Time** - use my time as a sacred gift, not to be wasted, striving to make my daily work, whatever it may be, a Christian vocation.
 - **Discipline of Service** - daily lift some human burden.
 - **Discipline of Study** - develop mental powers by careful reading and study.
- ❖ **Witness** - A Yokefellow is one who knows that faith in Christ is not a private affair; to be kept it must be shared.
- ❖ **Ministry** - A Yokefellow is one who participates in the universal ministry. The New Testament is clear; all are called and all are recruits in Christ's cause (Ephesians 4:1).
- ❖ **Fellowship** - It is impossible to be a Christian in isolation. A Yokefellow finds or produces a redemptive Christian fellowship.

YPM - Lehigh Valley
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(AS OF 12/21/17)

CHAIRMAN (2016)

Jesus Ramirez

VICE-CHAIRMAN (2017)

Pastor Alexis "Lex" Perry

SECRETARY (2017)

Norris "Nick" Lovette

TREASURER (2017)

Linda Lovette

BOARD MEMBERS

Marty Buss (2017)

Barbara Hewlings (2017)

Clarence Kreider (2017)

Pastor Lexis "Lex" Perry (2017)

Lisa M. Perry (2016)

Ricardo Rivera (2017)

Barbara Thomas (2017)

The YPMLV Board of Directors usually
meets the third Thursday of the month in
January, March, May, September, November
at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1208 Brookside Road, Wescosville, PA at 7 pm

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

This year we were given the opportunity to hold Bible Studies in the Lehigh County Center for Recovery. We now have available times to hold Bible studies seven days a week.

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 - 10:20 am LCCR (women or men)
- Three Saturdays a month 10:30 am – 11:20 am 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

YPM HAD A PRESENCE IN 40 CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

<p>PA State Institutions Benner Township Cambridge Springs Camp Hill Coal Township Fayette Forest Frackville Houtzdale Huntingdon Mahanoy Muncy Pine Grove Rockview Smithfield</p>	<p>PA County Institutions Berks County Jail System Carbon County Correctional Facility Centre County Correctional Facility Clearfield County Prison Clinton County Correctional Facility Cumberland County Prison Dauphin County Prison Elk County Prison Franklin County Jail Indiana County Prison Lehigh County Community Corrections Center Lehigh County Jail Lycoming County Prison & Pre-Release Mifflin County Correctional Facility Montgomery County Correctional Facility Northampton County Jail Northumberland County Jail Perry County Prison Pike County Prison Schuylkill County Prison Snyder County Prison Tioga County Prison Union County Prison Wayne County Jail Westmoreland County Prison York County Prison</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Aftercare Programs Berks County - New Person Ministries Lancaster County - Lancaster Re-Entry Management Organization Lycoming County - Transitional Living Center Mifflin County - Stepping Stones to Freedom</p>	

Regarding Incarceration By D. Elton Trueblood (founder YPM)

“The primary purpose is the improvement of persons. Separation from the world for a while is justified if new life emerges. But, Yokefellows know that new life does not emerge of itself. It comes only if there is consistent and loving effort to give embodiment to the divine potential in each person made in God’s image. That is why we work; we are trying to combine the warm heart and the clear head. We are well aware of the possibility of failure, but we never give up, because the prize is one of real magnitude. If one person is truly changed, all of the effort expended is worthwhile.”

See more on YPM history at <https://yokefellowpa.org/history>

YPM FINANCIAL REPORT

January - December 2017

Income

Donations

Churches/businesses	\$3,350.00
Individuals (\$315 designated for Bibles)	\$1,748.00
Miscellaneous	\$ <u>433.79</u>

TOTAL INCOME \$5,531.79

Expenses

Office supplies	\$1,278.80
Postage/PO Box	\$ 392.05
Phone	\$ 341.47
Bibles for inmates	\$1,432.25
Teaching resources	\$ 323.91
Special events	\$ 948.80
Training	\$ 319.28
Donations	\$ 350.00
Website maintenance	\$ 366.03
Bank charges	\$ 35.00
Christmas gifts (inmates' children)	\$ 199.24
Miscellaneous	\$ <u>111.24</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$6,098.07

NET LOSS \$ 566.28

SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO OUR 2017 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Bethany United Methodist Church

Anonymous donors

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry – Lehigh Valley Council
is a 501(c)(3). Your support and contributions
will enable us to continue on God's mission
and improve the lives of inmates,
returning citizens and their families.
Since we are a volunteer organization,
100% of your donation goes to the mission and is tax deductible.

A donation of \$5 will provide an inmate with a Bible.



“Here I am!
Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.
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.”
Matthew 11:28-30

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