



## Resurrection Power impacts lives!

**Greetings!** The cross paid for our sin debt through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection assured us of eternal life!!! The tomb could not keep Him and death could not defeat Him! Have you ever thought of the enormous cost of mankind's sin debt which left us all separated and estranged from God? That's exactly why every person is empty inside. We lack a relationship with our Creator. God's holiness demanded perfect justice which brought about God the Father's perfect plan and solution. It was a holy blood sacrifice in which His Son was the Lamb. The Father brought Him into the world through a virgin. He was the God Man Jesus Christ born sinless, and remained sinless even to His final dying breath. You talk about a God who loves! WOW! This thought hit me recently as I was reflecting on these truths in Isaiah 53:10 **But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering.** God's love sent Jesus. His justice killed Jesus. Mercy exchanged Jesus for me! I'm in awe! How about you?

April 4th is the one year anniversary when the volunteers came back into the Jail! What a weekly impact they have on inmates in Bible studies, one on ones and the book cart ministry. All of you have made a great impact as well with your powerful prayers and monthly giving. We want you to know how thankful we are for your faithful partnership.

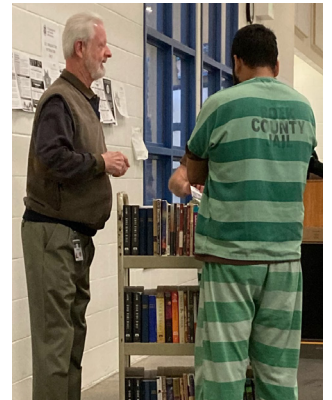
I recently had an interesting encounter with an inmate. He wheeled up to me literally in a wheel chair to talk. He wanted to understand what it meant to receive Jesus Christ. I began with God's creation of Adam and how mankind was created in the image of God. God had a close and intimate daily walk with Adam. Then He gave a command not to eat of the tree of good and evil, but Adam broke it and ate. Sin was the consequence that separated Adam and us from God's holiness and intimacy. The only remedy was God's act of love to send His sinless and Holy Son to be our substitute.

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## Volunteer of the Month: Rodney Ferguson –

Congratulations Rod!! Rod started when volunteers were allowed back after covid restrictions ended. Rod comes in on Tuesday nights and does the faith based book cart ministry. He serves in six South housing units or pods with 64 inmates in each of them. Rod's had many opportunities to pray with individuals, share his testimony, and plant seeds as he distributes books and Bibles. He also makes suggestions of books that have been helpful in his life. Rod

has found the men to be so appreciative, and open to sharing their burdens and struggles with him. He finds the ministry to be very rewarding. Rod points men to Jesus Christ for their eternal good, sows seeds with the Bibles, and the various Christian books he hands out. We are so honored to have him serving in the Polk County Jail Ministry. Thank you Rod for your obedience to God's call.



## Quote of the Month:

***The power of the resurrection is available to help us be overcomers.***



## Jill Sinclair – One of the Harvest!

I started drinking, smoking cigarettes and weed when I was only 11 years old. I was a very rebellious kid, and got into trouble with the law. I started using meth when I was 19 years old, and was stealing from stores to support my habit. That's when I got in bigger trouble with the law, and was in and out of jail a lot. Luckily they were only misdemeanors, so they were very short stays.

I moved to another state in 2000 because I knew if I didn't

I would've ended up in prison or dead. While I was away I found the Lord and became saved. I loved every minute of it. I attended church every Wednesday and Sunday and raised 3 of my 4 kids with Him in our lives. In 2015 I left my ex husband of 15 years and moved back to Iowa. It didn't take long to fall right back into the street life using meth and alcohol. I was self medicating and wanted to escape from reality. I was in and out of jail again, but this time they were longer stays. One of my girlfriends was attending Bible studies while we were in there and invited me to join her. I declined the first couple of times, and then I thought why not. I'm so glad I decided to attend them.

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By placing our faith in His work on the cross we can be saved.

I asked him if he wanted to receive Christ into his life?

He said yes and he did. We then talked about why he was in a wheel chair. He told me he'd been shot 19 times by a single gun man. I said what a miracle that you are alive and God spared you to settle your eternal destiny today. I asked if he had a Bible, but he

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for inmate's sensitivity to the things of God; to read their Bibles, belong to a prayer group in their pod, and sign up for Bible study.
- Pray for former inmates to have a continual daily walk with Christ, connect with a Bible based local church, seek a spiritual mentor, find gainful employment, make godly choices, break off ungodly associations, and make contact at the DOC.
- Continued prayer for former Board member David Hamlin and his wife Edna as they battle cancer.
- Praise the Lord for favor with the Sheriff's office.
- Prayer for a continued mutual working relationship with the Sheriff's office as we are their privileged guests in the Jail.
- Greater awareness of Sunday services at 10:00 AM and a larger number of inmates would awaken to watch. The pod officers are willing to play each Sunday.
- Pray for a hunger of God's Word and the Christian leaders would step up to lead prayer groups and Bible studies in their pods.
- God will mightily use every precious volunteer as they minister the Word of God.
- The Lord will use the inmates who respond to the gospel and are saved to have great impact in their families and would grow spiritually.
- Each inmate would have an insatiable appetite for God's Word.
- Please pray that the ministry would be allowed to go to the south end of the Jail to conduct Bible studies, which are now quarantine units.
- God will keep our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, and Deputies out on patrol safe from harm's way. God will protect the emotional well being of the Sheriff's office staff with all the work related stress with many working over time.
- Brokenness will continue to be evident in those coming to the Polk County Jail, and they will see their ultimate need for a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Speaking opportunities about the ministry would be available in local churches.
- Wisdom from God for daily decisions with ministry needs that arise.

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Jesus was definitely speaking directly to me every time. No matter what the topic was about it seemed to be exactly what I needed. Unfortunately as soon as I was released I went straight to the streets and the drugs. It took going to prison to turn me back to the Lord and He changed my life around. I had lost trust from my 4 kids and parents before I got locked up, and they didn't want anything to do with me. By the time I got out I had slowly started to earn it back with the help of Jesus. It took quite some time but now 4 years later we are all better than ever.

I am now married to the love of my life and have all of the most important people, including the Lord Jesus, back in my life. God is great!!!!!!

said he couldn't read or write due to brain damage. He spoke with difficulty as well but I believe understood his decision to accept Jesus as his Savior and Lord. Please pray for his ability to read and that he'll continue to follow Jesus.

In His service,

- *Chaplain Jerry*

## ANSWERS:

- Thanksgiving and praise to our GREAT GOD for the indescribable gift of His Son!
- Lots of clothes and shoes have been donated. Thanks to all who have participated.
- Noticeable favor from the Sheriff's administration with our ministry.
- Breaking down strongholds in the inmate's lives.
- A noticeable outpouring of the Holy Spirit to see so many respond to the gospel and receive Christ!
- We see how faithfully sowing God's Word through the distribution of Bibles has impacted the Jail population. Inmate leaders are carrying out the Great Commission as they step up and minister to fellow inmates!! To Him be all glory, honor, and praise!! AMEN!!!

## MOST WANTED:

- Paperback books from Jim Cymbala, Gary Smalley, Tony Evans, Gary Chapman and Terri Blackstock.
- Continued need for paper back Christian Hispanic reading materials.

## Ministry Monthly Report: April 2023

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	863	3,487
One-on-One inmate counseling:	753	2,925
Religious reading materials given:	850	2,892
Bible Study groups:	40	147
Inmates involved with studies:	269	909
View Worship Service:	275	846
Volunteer Hours:	249	653
Number of Volunteers:	23	91
Bibles given:	338	1,285
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>

*Here is another changed life made possible by faithful partners like you!*

*Thank you! -Chaplain Jerry*

**Please help support**



**The Polk County Jail Ministry**

(THANK YOU for your financial support! Please make checks out to the Polk Co. Jail Ministries Inc. and use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.)