



Polk County Jail Ministry

- JESUS ALIVE IN LIVES -

Issue 212 - February, 2023

Ask the Lord for Workers

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer changes things and it changes you and me! Your prayers are divinely powerful to demolish strongholds. *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God* Cor.10:4b-5a. We need your prayers more than ever to do spiritual battle with the enemy of men's souls and watch Jesus Christ set people free from the bondage of sin and darkness. Your financial support allows the PCJ Ministry to meet it's obligations to fund what God is actively doing at the Jail. **Thanks** to each of you for your generosity.

This new year brings a new theme to promote our ministry focus the Harvest is Plentiful and is it ever! The next verse states, *but the workers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field* Matt 9:37-38. Please join me in asking for workers!

As the Lord opens doors to the south housing units for Bible studies, and doing one on ones with men we'll need well equipped teachers and counselors. Continue to pray for an assistant Chaplain that can come along side me to learn the ministry duties with the idea of eventually taking over my role. I spoke at a church recently and a man approached me about being a volunteer. I asked if he had served in his local church in any capacity? His answer was no I'm a regular attender, and try to support my local church. I described the areas of ministry, but knew he hadn't been equipped. Here's someone who wants to serve, but hasn't prepared himself. God is looking for obedient, available disciples who are prepared by their local church leadership along with the individual's areas of giftedness to be used in ministry. Ephesians 4 :11-13. The prayer for workers comes out of this need for God's people to get equipped by their local church.

- Your servant, Chaplain Jerry

Volunteer of the Month: Deb Scrowther

Congratulations Deb!!! Deb ministers to ladies who request one on one's Tuesday afternoons. She has been at the Jail since all the volunteers came back in April of last year. She brings a wealth of experience and a deep love for the Lord Jesus. Deb loves to share her faith and the need for an intimate love relationship with Christ. She has led several to the Lord as so many are desperate and broken by their personal choices. She is awestruck by the openness and hunger for God at the Jail and counts it a privilege to come along side each one. Deb is so amazed each week at how the Lord goes before her to prepare hearts. The Holy Spirit leads the conversations, her respons-

es to the women's interactions and questions. Deb feels it's such an honor to be called to the ministry. She loves to pray with each one and watch God work in their lives. *I'm so excited to be where God is using me weekly. I'm glad I answered the call that God put on my life to go and serve at the Polk County Jail.* God brought us a very faithful worker. Ask the Lord to bring us more workers. Would you?



Quote of the Month: **Prayer is a love language to our Father that moves His heart.**



Tim Rooker – One of the Harvest!

I was once a catastrophic alcoholic and addict with no end in sight. I had been a top flight HVAC contractor for the State of Iowa, married with 4 children, had property investments, and a beautiful home in Ankeny. I went from great success in life, to losing everything. I was arrested 75 times in 150 days and sent to the Polk

County Jail. At the Jail I met Chaplain Jerry. I asked for forgiveness for all my sins, and received mercy and compassion from Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Chaplain Jerry also counseled and prayed with me as I prepared for the Oakdale Prison. After being released from prison I lived under a bridge with nowhere to go for a few months. On 11/12/13 @ 4:45 AM homeless and ready to end my life I cried out to the Lord. *If you are the God of creation and mercy take the suffering away from me!* I pointed

my 9mm semi-automatic weapon to my head, and pulled the trigger. Click. At that moment a voice came to me and said *Tim, it's time to come home, and everything is going to be okay, just follow Me.* I unconditionally surrendered my weapon, bag of dangerous chemicals, and a Texas Fifth of Canadian Club Whiskey. I walked out from under the bridge and a Veteran called out my name. I gave everything to him. He said, *Tim, everything is going to be okay, just follow me for I have a place of safety for you.* He also said *Tim, therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old has passed away, and look new things have come.* He took me to the Drake Park Apartments where I began my recovery and remained for 5 ½ years. The Lord Almighty had heard my cries for help. I have been clean and free from all substances since then. I have a Christ centered relationship with Him to this day. In my years of sobriety and recovery since 11/13, I've assisted men in recovery from alcohol and

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Sensitivity to divine appointments as we minister to the Sheriff's office, their personal staff, and the incarcerated.
- Continued prayer for board member David Hamlin, and wife Edna battling cancer.
- Volunteer Lee Ford is dealing with stomach issues and unable to come into the Jail for the last month. Pray for the doctors to have wisdom to know what's going on.
- Direction and wisdom for the PCJ Board as we endeavor to expand the ministry's Website presence on social media.
- Prayer for Sheriff Kevin Schneider with his rigorous schedule and many commitments.
- Urgency for inmates to surrender everything to the Lord Jesus Christ, experience victory over their addictions, and sinful lifestyles.
- Safety for our public servants the Deputies out on patrol, Detention Officers in the Jail and Dispatch personnel. Help for the stress they encounter daily with their many responsibilities, and the public's disrespect for authority.
- The inmates would see the importance of community within the Jail as they would have a greater desire to participate in Bible studies and the Sunday services.
- God will continue to bring people to the PCJ from all over the world to hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and respond to His message of salvation.
- Inmate believers to faithfully and enthusiastically share their faith with others.
- Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. will increase in attendance as a greater number of inmates awoken to watch and the Detention Officers would play the service weekly.
- Opportunities to preach at various churches and get to promote the ministry.
- The Holy Spirit makes it more apparent to local churches of the need to partner both prayerfully and financially with the ministry, assist released inmates in the community with open arms to shepherd and mentor them through the DOC.
- What started spiritually at the Jail continues in the lives of the inmates who have gone off to prison that they would stay faithful to God's Word, be active in sharing their faith, and experience consistent growth.
- Addictions and other strongholds will be permanently broken by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Two classes are being taught at the DOC pray for hungry disciples who want to grow.

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drug abuse issues by working the AA 12 step program. For some in recovery a 12-step program is suitable. I needed a much bigger book that was alive with the Truth. I was told not to reveal how Christ saved my life and restored my sanity because it would distract from the focus of the program. I said I will continue to pray for you that you will find the 'Real Truth' that Christ Jesus has for your life. I no longer say *I'm Tim, and I'm an alcoholic or addict*, but now *I'm a child of the King, an heir to His throne room, and have access to His Mighty power and authority in my life*. I always remember *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come* 2 Corinthians 5:17. God and recovery must come first. Everything else in life is secondary.

After some time I became very depressed, lonely, frustrated, and sad that I could not find a recovery group that wouldn't restrict me from my testimony of Christ Jesus. I was a 'Dry Drunk' with no spiritual plan of action for my recovery or sobriety, but that was about to change dramatically. In June of 2022 I was driving in West Des Moines screaming and pleading with the Lord to please help me find a place of refuge and safety for my sobriety and recovery. I was in tears of depression and total anxiety on the verge of a catastrophic relapse when the Lord spoke

ANSWERS:

- Huge answer with the ministry hiring an Administrative Assistant!! She brings lots of experience and tremendous skills with excel programs. PTL!!!
- Men and women are coming forward to be disciplined with the DOC curriculum.
- Inmates are learning daily disciplines of Bible reading and prayer.
- Brokenness is apparent with the inmates as we witness conviction and repentance.
- I have witnessed among the detention officers and deputies a growing awareness of their own personal spiritual needs.
- Lots of clothing and shoes have been donated.
- Special events where the Sheriff asked for my participation as their Chaplain. I've been very honored.

MOST WANTED:

- Heavy coats only - please all sizes men and women
- Smaller sized jeans for men
- 6 paper back copies - The Cross and the Switch Blade by David Wilkerson

Ministry Monthly Report: February 2023

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	958	1,835
One-on-One inmate counseling:	724	1,393
Religious reading materials given:	620	1,325
Bible Study groups:	32	66
Inmates involved with studies:	149	315
View Worship Service:	135	375
Volunteer Hours:	104	253
Number of Volunteers:	24	45
Bibles given:	336	666
Number of New Believers:	13	27

to me *That you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart* Jeremiah 29:13. *For the Lord of Hosts will come down from Mount Zion to fight on its hill* Isaiah 31:4b. With a tremendous anointing of His Spirit, I was led by a church with the name West Des Moines Open Bible. At that moment a hand came down from heaven and touched my face directing me to the banner which read **Sober Soldierz, God and Recovery Must Come First**. I knew in my heart that the Lord Jesus Christ had heard my pleas for help. My renewed sobriety and recovery journey began when I spoke to TJ Vasquez. I have been an active member of this family ever since. I carry my Sword of the Spirit the Word of God with me wherever I go. I am so thankful for being a part of the Sober Soldierz Recovery Family that God and Recovery Must Come First in my life. This is my testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

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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.)