

JESUS ALIVE IN LIVES

Jesus Sets the Captives Free!

Isaiah 61:1-3a:
**LEADING
CAPTIVITY
CAPTIVE**



Greetings! May the blood of Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings draw us ever nearer to the One who gave His all for us. Jesus wants to set the captives or prisoners free Ps 146:7. The Lord doesn't force us to choose Him, but He does want all of us to see our spiritual condition before a holy God. He wants us to respond by surrendering our hearts and lives to Him to be set free from sin's captivity. So many see themselves as good, and believe they make few mistakes, but all of us are held captive to our sinful natures. No wonder we are good at sinning it comes natural to us and that's what we choose. The apostle Paul was a religious pharisee and tried to please God by his works. That's what religious people do. It's about their efforts toward God and not God coming toward mankind which He did through His Son. Paul was held captive by sin and then he met the Lord on the road to Damascus and it changed his life forever. His life was now held captive by the Lord's eternal love. Prayer changes things. It changes you and me! We need your prayers more than ever to do spiritual battle with the enemy of men's souls. We can then watch Jesus Christ set people free from the bondage of sin

and take them captive to do His will. It all comes back to being empty inside. Sin leaves us incomplete and separated. We were made for a relationship; not to practice religion. Only Christ can fill the void in one's heart.

So many inmates sit, listen to my testimony, and look at me in agreement like I am describing their life. That was one man's experience as he used drugs to mask pain. So many do just that. Some trauma looms large over their minds that they just can't shake. No wonder addiction is rampant in our country, and it's not just illegal drugs, but pharmaceuticals as well. Let's face it, people are hurting! This guy was. He tried it all, and was still empty. I said, do you want to fill the void in your heart and ask Jesus to come into your life like I did? His answer was yes, so we prayed and he gave his life to Christ. **PTL!!!** The love of God is powerful, and able to reach anyone who calls on His glorious Name! How high, how deep, and how wide is the love and grace of God for us all! **Amen!**

Your servant,
Chaplain Jerry

Volunteer of the Month: Beth Fuller

Congratulations Beth!!! She began as a volunteer after Covid restrictions were lifted in 04/22. She brings a passion for teaching, and a deep love for the Lord Jesus. She states, *"Coming into the Polk County Jail to do Bible study with the women means a lot to me. I want others to know the kind of peace I have found in my relationship with Jesus. Having the obedience to speak Jesus with the women at the Jail*

(Continued on back ►)



Tip of the Month: **The purpose of prayer is that we get a hold of God, not of the answer.**

A captive soul rescued!! – Hana Boccella

I think we could all agree that at some point in our lives we experience something that completely changes everything we were taught to believe about life. For me that event occurred just over five years ago. I was a single, stay at home mom of two girls. I had a great condo in Urbandale, a bachelor's degree in business management, and in my opinion, I was living my idea of the perfect life. Unfortunately, that all changed when I lost custody of my children

addicted to meth. I was arrested in 2018 in Polk County. I saw Chaplain Jerry several times. He prayed with and helped me reconnect with my Mom. The next 5 years of my life revolved around warrants, jail stays, and failed attempts in treatment centers. The last time I was on the run for 2 years, and exhausted. I remember thinking that this was all my life was ever going to be, and I had officially lost hope. Thankfully, God had other plans. I got in a car, we got pulled over, and I was arrested. I was sentenced to Prison, and it

(Continued on back ►)



in a DHS case. Unable to effectively cope I turned to drugs and things went from bad to worse quickly. Within months I found myself living homeless on the streets

(Continued from front ▼)

has grown my confidence in my faith and sharing. It has been a blessing to me"! Beth's also done some one on ones after class, and has had the privilege to see some give their hearts to the

Lord. 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." The Lord Jesus brought us a very faithful worker in Beth. **Thank you** for serving!!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Sensitivity to divine appointments as we minister to the Sheriff's office, their personal staff, and the incarcerated.
- Continued prayer for previous board member David Hamlin, and wife Edna battling cancer.
- Volunteer Rich Baker is recovering from open heart surgery.
- Pray the South end will open up to have Bible studies.
- 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. Set the captives free!
- 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 will 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.
- Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. will increase in attendance as a greater number of inmates awakened to watch and the Detention Officers would play the service weekly.
- Opportunities to preach at various churches and 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 in churches and the DOC.
- What started spiritually at the Jail continues in the lives of the inmates who have gone off to prison so 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.

ANSWERS:

- The clothing closet ran out of heavy coats during last month's cold spell for men. We announced the need all around town and immediately received many coats. 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, so thank you!
- Special events that the Sheriff's staff asked for my participation as their Chaplain, and I've been very honored.

MOST WANTED:

- Heavy coats men only - please all sizes
- Men's shoes only, not women's. Smaller size jeans for men
- 6 paperback copies - The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman

Ministry Monthly Report: February 2024

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	741	1,500
One-on-One inmate counseling:	655	1,327
Religious reading materials given:	602	1,183
Bible Study groups:	35	72
Inmates involved with studies:	239	461
View Worship Service:	141	248
Volunteer Hours:	147	287
Number of Volunteers:	23	46
Bibles given:	308	605
Number of New Believers:	14	26

(Continued from front ▼)

was the best thing that could have happened to me. I spent 7 months in Mitchellville, and during that time I was able to look at my life. I began to notice so many ways that God had been working, but I had been too wrapped up in my personal feelings to notice. I was born and raised Catholic and although I always believed in God I didn't have a real relationship with Him. I used my time in prison to change that. I read my Bible, went to Bible study, and even got baptized again. I realized the night that I got into a car and was arrested was when I surrendered to God. My whole perspective began to shift. After my time in prison, I went to the Beacon. I remember many times walking past The Beacon when I was homeless wishing I had the courage to walk in and ask for help, but my feelings of guilt and shame were so strong I couldn't bring myself to do it. I had no idea what to expect when I walked in those doors as I had gotten so used to being defined by the stigmas and stereotypes associated with drug addicts, a seven-digit inmate number, and the label felon. What I found was treatment with love, dignity and respect. They told me I could

give my heart to Jesus and accept Him as my Savior. I did that and was treated like the new person I was despite the poor choices I had made. Most importantly they believed in me until I was strong enough to believe in myself. Today I am happy to report that my family is back in my life. I own my home, and I work for the Beacon as an administrative assistant. The last 5 years of my life have not only been the hardest that I have lived so far, but also the most important. It took losing everything to bring me closer to the Lord, and now with each new blessing I appreciate the hard times I went through even more. I experienced miracles and learned lessons that I could have gotten no other way. I am proud to be living proof that Jesus changes everything!

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

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.)