

# Our Sins Are Stacked To The Heavens!

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



On July 4th we celebrated our nation's birthday. With sadness of heart I think about our country's decline from when our forefathers fought so bravely to defend us against tyranny and assaults on our religious freedoms. These patriots were men with convictions and courage willing to die for a greater cause than themselves. All of them sacrificed and risked it all for the freedoms that we take for granted.

America sadly leads the world in about every category of debauchery that one can only imagine. Pornography - we lead it! Human trafficking (women and children) - we lead it! Abortion (murdering the unborn) - we lead it! Right now some states in our nation are even looking at legislation to make it legal to be a pedophile! Our debased culture has moved from truth to relativism, from mutual respect to disrespect, from working to welfare, from unity to discord, from discipline to rebellion, and from law and order to anarchy.

Folks, we need revival fires to break out across our land! I believe they will start in prisons and jails across America as the Holy Spirit changes hearts. I want to encourage you prayer warriors to never quit praying!

Your prayers are mighty for the tearing down of strongholds of every kind. Do you understand the power of prayer that moves the hand of God to the sinner's plight? God is still changing lives one at a time in the Polk County Jail, the Sheriff's office, and around the world. **Amen!!**

Here's another example. I was in one of the housing units when a young man pleaded with me to see him. We went into a private area where he poured out his heart of how addictions were destroying his life and everyone he cared about. With tears running down his cheeks he begged for deliverance. I said, "You can be delivered right now by calling on Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins." He fell to his knees in desperation and called out to the Lord for salvation. Through your faithful partnership in prayer and financial support we are able to make a difference in presenting Him to them.

**Thank you!**

*In His Service,  
Chaplain Jerry*

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**Tip of the Month: We say God bless America, but we don't bless God.**

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## **A captive soul rescued!! – Joseph Thornton**

I was born in Eldora, IA on 03/04/78. My parents were still children themselves as my mother was 17 and my father was 18. My Grandma and Dad's side of the family were raised Catholic, and I ended up at the Catholic Church too. My mother was a Methodist. From a young age I knew of Jesus and prayed a silly prayer my parents taught me every night. My father was my best friend from the day I was born and still is to this day. Even as a child I was proud of my father for putting food on the table and doing ok for us. He was and still is an addict but he found a way to make it

work better than it could have been. Along with his addictions came drama, and tragedy after tragedy of almost killing himself. More than once he rolled his service truck and escaped death each time. One day I was playing in the yard when a man came to the door and told us he would like my sister and me to give the Lutheran Church a try. I ended up getting baptized and confirmed Lutheran, but let's be honest I was more interested in girls, drinking and such. It wasn't long after that when I started

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## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Our Banquet/Fundraiser is Tuesday October 1st at 6:00 pm Grace Church. The PCJ Ministry presents a night to remember with this year's theme Leading Captivity Captive. Come hear how God is taking captive the souls held captive by sin's strong grip. God is using the Jail to rescue people and the volunteers to have an eternal impact on countless lives. This night will change you! Please invite others and pray! There will be plenty of seating and good food.
- Pray for hearts that are tender and receptive to God's changing power.
- Pray more would come into His kingdom.
- I can get discouraged with the battle, but pray I keep my eyes on the Commander of the Lord's army who renews me daily to take up the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.
- Pray for an assistant chaplain who is called and burdened to come alongside me in the ministry.
- Continued prayer for David Hamlin as he does dialysis and Edna his wife who is also fighting cancer.
- Prayer for continued favor, and a mutual working relationship with the Sheriff's office as we are privileged guests.
- Safety for our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail, those Deputies out on patrol and dispatchers handling multiple calls.
- God would grant more preaching opportunities to tell of the changed lives.
- More inmate-led Bible studies and prayer groups would begin in each pod. Those spiritual leaders would see their personal responsibility, step up and more inmates would then respond to the gospel because of them.
- Sunday services at 10:00 am would be greatly attended by the inmates.
- The inmates who have gone off to prisons would stay faithful to Jesus Christ, be actively sharing their faith, and read His Word daily.
- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come alongside in this great work of God.
- We need daily prayer for spiritual oppositions that come against the ministry.
- Local churches would partner with us in receiving men and women released from the PC Jail, offer mentors, and support for their spiritual growth. This is a key component to sustain what God has begun in each life.

- God would create a crowd for the DOC's greater impact. The seeds we've sown will create fruit in those desiring to be disciplined. We have new curriculum for this Fall.

## ANSWERS:

- Many opportunities to speak the gospel in open hearts and see lives changed by trusting Christ as their Savior.
- A growing number are attending Bible classes.
- Continued favor with the Sheriff's office!
- A growing number in pods of inmates sharing their faith and large groups doing Bible studies.
- Many soft cover books have been donated. Thank you!

## MOST WANTED:

- Desperate need for men's jeans and slacks smaller sizes 32 to 34. We have plenty of women's items.
- Need for the books *Five Love Languages*, any Terri Blackstock books.

## Ministry Monthly Report: July 2024

	<u>Monthly:</u>	<u>Ytd:</u>
Inmate Request:	857	5,795
One-on-One inmate counseling:	770	5,170
Religious reading materials given:	1,129	5,714
Bible Study groups:	59	315
Inmates involved with studies:	473	2,409
View Worship Service:	173	1,312
Volunteer Hours:	194	1,174
Number of Volunteers:	26	169
Bibles given:	401	2,571
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>115</b>

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getting in trouble stealing cigarettes. I fell in love very fast with all the things that kill your soul. I felt like when the devil chose me he was happy. It seems Satan has been trying to whoop me my whole life. Don't think I'm blaming him. I very much know I'm my biggest problem. My whole life it seems I've been trying to win a battle that can't be won, and that's not even the worst of it. Who cares about me? All of the sudden now I'm bringing everybody else down also. They all get hurt. I've always had a problem with instant gratification. I want the pain to be gone right now too. Due to my struggles with meth addiction I spent 5 times in the Jail, and a lot of time in prison. I met Chaplain Jerry at the Polk Co. Jail. On 11/21/23 I gave my heart to

Jesus! My life has taken a turn for the better. I completed prison, am off parole, and living a life free from meth. Now the Holy Spirit lives within me. I'm getting baptized Aug. 11th and married Sept. 7th. Really I think I'm just trying to do the next right thing. I'm a very slow learner it seems. I have one more positive thing to say. Today as I sit here writing this I'm more sure that Jesus is who He says He is than ever. He's helping so many people.

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.