



# THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

Polk County Jail Ministry

- JESUS ALIVE IN LIVES -

Issue 216 - June, 2023

## The Death of a Nation - Fatherlessness!

When Father's Day rolls around most of the inmates give little attention or any significance to this American holiday. This is most likely due to their own fatherless condition. Where have all the fathers gone? The vast majority of the inmates at the PCJ come from fatherless homes as the cycle of fatherlessness continues. Children who live without their biological fathers are more likely to be poor, use drugs, experience educational, health, emotional, or behavioral problems, be victims of child abuse, and/or engage in criminal behavior. The Jail is full of men like this. Men who see no obligation or responsibility to help raise these treasures from God. This reflects the death of our nation. I met a man in Jail who said he was in an affair with a longtime girlfriend, while at the same time his wife was sticking by his side. He also mentioned that he has 20 children! I asked by how many women? 13 women was his answer. He said, "I let my wife know up front that this was the way it was going to be." All the while he was quoting Scripture

with me that he had memorized over the years. What a mockery! All I could think about were those 20 children who had no father! I believe the starting place for any father is to know Christ and understand his own need to have a role model or example to follow. That's where the Word of God becomes so vital for us to know, love, obey and serve Christ, God's Son. Jesus is and will always be the best role model anyone can follow. He was perfect in every way and the only One who could say, ***I am the way, learn from Me.*** His hand is on this ministry, and His powerful Holy Spirit is at work in lives. **Thank you** for partnering with us at the Polk County Jail Ministry! What an opportunity to participate with what the Father is doing to draw lives to Himself and make disciples. **Thank you again** for your role in spreading the Gospel through this great and unique ministry! Amen!!

In His service, *- Chaplain Jerry*

## Chaplain Jerry Celebrates 18th Anniversary

June 2nd was my 18th anniversary as Chaplain! How quickly the time has gone, and with so many changes. The biggest change was the construction of and move to the new Jail. We all moved in October '08 after my third year. It's a state of the art facility in the Midwest, and with 7 acres under one roof it's larger than most of the prisons in Iowa with 1000 to 1100

inmates. The old Jail was cut down from eight floors to two and completely revamped. It is now the Criminal Court House. The following are all Polk County Sheriff's Office facilities that house Deputies and various employees. The new Justice Center handles civil and juvenile cases. River Place has offices for administration while the old Polk County Court House is being remodeled. Last October the new Polk County Sheriff's Administration facility was completed. It's also a state of the art facility housing patrol, gun permits, training technology, and IT. Dispatch is in the previous administration building

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**Quote of the Month: *An inmate shared, "Prophecy was meant to instruct us not to scare us!"***



## A'Lee Wheatley – *One of the Harvest!*

I grew up in a church but when I became a teenager I decided to go my own way by hanging out with the wrong crowds, getting drunk, high and I dropped out of school. I wandered lost for many years but always believed just never believing I was worthy. By the time I was 35 I had 2 children with 2 different women

contributing little to either. I'd gotten separated from my wife, was an alcoholic, and addicted to meth. After a rocky relationship in my youth, my mother and I reunited and became very close. I got a call in October of '16 that she had stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

She passed in March of '17 and that shattered my world. I went deeper into my addictions and further away from my faith. I was arrested in '19 for drug possession and child endangerment. My Mom's passing left a huge gaping hole in my chest. While in Jail I attended church services, and on one particular Sunday I stepped aside waiting for everyone to get settled. I prayed to God that He would enter my life, and take the pain away. I was tired, weary and no longer wanted to carry the burden. I can tell you that God answered that prayer right then and there. I felt a great pressure lift off me and the emptiness that had dominated my life had filled up. I no longer felt empty. I served my time and was released, but I was not done with that life style yet. I went another

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next to the new facility. One of my greatest privileges is to work with our Sheriff's Office staff. They are the unselfish men and women who serve and protect our homes, communities and county. They work long hours in a thank-

less job. Law and order is under attack at an unprecedented level. These officers are special agents of God (Rom 13:1-2) who bring order and peace. They need our prayers, support, and respect more than ever in these troubled times.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray the Word of God would go in power as it's taught.
- PCJ banquet/fundraiser would be well attended Tuesday October 3rd with the theme The Harvest is Plentiful at 6:00 Grace Church.
- God will bring a man ordained, equipped, and called to be the Assistant Chaplain 5 to 10 hours a week with the goal of taking on the lead Chaplain's position eventually.
- Continued favor with the Sheriff's office.
- Prayer for former board member David Hamlin as he takes oral chemo treatments for leukemia, and for his wife Edna also battling cancer.
- Prayer for volunteer Rod Ferguson who suffered a concussion from a fall.
- God will use the ministry presence within the Jail population, and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel and His amazing love.
- Safety for our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, and those Deputies out on patrol. Both can be dangerous places for staff with the unrest in our communities.
- Both the volunteer and inmate led Bible studies would have a profound impact, be used of God to affect the overall atmosphere of the pods, and bring conviction in ones who are skeptical about the gospel.
- Prayer for an increase of viewers for the Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. in the pods. More will awaken to watch, the detention officers would see the benefits to the inmates, and turn the service on.
- The inmates who have gone off to prisons would stay faithful to Jesus Christ, daily read His Word, and be active in sharing their faith.
- Pray they'll make good choices and have protection from the Lord as the enemy tries to tempt them.
- Released inmates would attend a local church to be fed God's Word, spend time with believers to help them grow and be disciplined.
- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come along side in this great work of God.
- That there will be a huge visible difference between darkness and light as inmates stand back and watch.
- Pray that we can soon return inside pods to conduct Bible studies.
- Continue to stay in step with the Holy Spirit for divine appointments.
- Prepared, called and burdened men volunteers to partner with us at the Jail to teach Bible studies, do one on ones, and the book cart ministry.
- God will take the seeds sown for the DOC discipleship ministry and bring a great host of new believers who desire to go deeper in Christ.
- Pray for Pastor Charles Hundley Director of DOC as he oversees that ministry.
- This fall to start DOC family night Christian movies to create a crowd to introduce them to discipleship opportunities.

## ANSWERS:

- The Lord has provided faithfully with your giving. Thank you to each one who has responded to God's prompting to pray and give.
- This winter and spring the DOC had classes to help with practical issues such as Boundaries and Receiving Your Blessing.
- An openness for the gospel to be shared and received by inmates with many coming to Christ.
- Incredible favor and blessing bestowed on the ministry and my position as Chaplain of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.
- Thankful for God's intervention for those bent on self-destruction. In essence God rescues them from certain death.
- The Holy Spirit's power as we remain faithful to His call.
- Tammy Craft the new administrative assistant is doing a great job.

## MOST WANTED:

- Neil Anderson *The Bondage Breaker* and *Victory Over the Darkness*
- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- Adult *Left Behind* books 7-12 and Kids *Left Behind* all paperback books
- Men's shoes specifically tennis shoes all sizes.

## Ministry Monthly Report: June 2023

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	869	5,127
One-on-One inmate counseling:	747	4,340
Religious reading materials given:	727	4,535
Bible Study groups:	35	223
Inmates involved with studies:	191	1,303
View Worship Service:	243	1,326
Volunteer Hours:	156	970
Number of Volunteers:	23	137
Bibles given:	349	2,006
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>101</b>

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12 months or so doing drugs and getting arrested. In December '20 I was arrested for a 3rd possession charge, and as part of a plea deal I agreed to go to a place called the Door of Faith. It's a faith based recovery program. It was there that I learned more about God, Jesus and the gift of salvation. I learned more in the 5 months of that program than I had the 40 years prior. I understood finally what it all meant, but I went back for more research. I spent 4-5 days getting high, and also buried my dad. I was on a bike trail in Indianola trying to figure out how I had gotten so far away from reality so easily. I prayed and asked God to once again help me. If He could just get me out of that place I would try harder. Wouldn't you know that 5 minutes later I got arrested and sent to Fort Des Moines. I tried harder, and moved into Kingdom Living. I've been sober since June 1, '21. I couldn't

have done it without the Lord and some answered prayers. My hope is that this finds somebody that is struggling and gives them hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

*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 and use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.**