



God the Perfect Father

Greetings! Have you ever thought about- what it must have been like for Joseph to be Jesus' father? He was a role model for the Son of God! The Bible records that Joseph was a righteous (doing what's right) man and was obedient to God's commands. It goes to show that one can have a profound impact on a child without being a biological father. 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. We gain our view of God from our own fathers. If he was absent how can you trust that God will be there for you? If he was abusive or angry then you may struggle with trusting God's nurturing love. Our response is we really don't want to entrust our lives to that type of God. 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 the children they father. This reflects the downward slide of our nation. I believe there is an even greater crisis. Men don't know what authentic manhood looks like let alone

how to be a father to their child. If you don't know what a man is, how can you replicate that in your relationships, marriages, and raising children? Most men have punted, given up, and relinquished all responsibility. Many are stuck with an adolescent mentality that life is simply a game to try the next daredevil antic. I believe the starting place for any father is to know Christ and have Him as a role model or example to follow. That's where the Word of God becomes so vital for us to know how to love, obey and serve Jesus Christ, God's Son. **God is the perfect Father we have always needed!** Jesus is and will always be the best role model anyone can follow. He was perfect in every way and is literally the only One who can say, ***I am the way. Learn from Me.***

His mighty hand is definitely 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 with your powerful prayers and financial gifts! 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 19th Anniversary

June 2nd was my 19th 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 10/08 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 nearly 1000 inmates. I also have the privilege of working with the Polk County Sheriff,



his Deputies, and various other county employees. These are the unselfish men and women who serve and protect our homes, communities and county. They work long hours in a thankless 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.

Tip of the Month: Christ can make the mundane meaningful!

A captive soul rescued!! – Nicole Ross

I grew up in a home filled with love, stability, and a strong sense of religion. From the age of six sports like softball, basketball, and track became a significant part of my life. My dedication and talent in softball led me to earn a college scholarship to play. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that at the age of 24 I would find myself addicted to methamphetamine. Looking back I realize now that I

was chasing the highs I experienced during my softball career. Unfortunately this led me down a dark path. I lost my two children, my marriage, my home, and inflicted immense pain on the people I loved most. The guilt and shame I felt drove me to use more drugs as a form of self medication. Throughout this period my family never gave up on me, and they continued to pray

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray the Word of God would go forward in power as it's taught.
- PCJ banquet/fundraiser would be well attended Tuesday October 1st the theme is Leading Captivity Captive @ 6:00 Grace Church.
- God will bring a man ordained, equipped, and called to be the Assistant Chaplain for 20 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 has kidney dialysis and for his wife Edna who's also battling cancer.
- Prayer for volunteer John Fry as he heals from rotator cup surgery on his right arm.
- 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 by 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 AM 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 alongside in this great work of God.
- That there will be a huge visible contrast between darkness and light as inmates stand back and watch ministry go on.
- Continue to stay in step with the Holy Spirit for divine appointments.
- God will take the seeds sown in the DOC discipleship ministry and bring a great host of new believers who desire to go deeper in Christ.
- Prayer for Pastor Charles Hundley the Director of the DOC as he oversees that ministry and deals with recent upper respiratory issues.
- This fall the DOC will have 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.
- Huge answer to prayer! The ministry is in the South end of the Jail with two evening Bible studies inside the housing units! Nearly 20 attend in each study.
- This winter and spring the DOC had classes to help with practical issues such as Boundaries and Receiving Your Blessing.
- Openness for the gospel 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.
- New volunteers who are doing a great job of ministering Christ.
- The Holy Spirit's power as we remain faithful to His call.
- Tammy Craft, our administrative assistant, is doing a great job! What an answer to prayer she is. Also pray for various health issues with her heart.

MOST WANTED:

- Neil Anderson *The Bondage Breaker* and *Victory Over the Darkness*
- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- Any soft cover books by Terri Blackstock
- Men's shoes specifically large size tennis shoes

Ministry Monthly Report: June 2024		
	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	863	4,938
One-on-One inmate counseling:	769	4,400
Religious reading materials given:	747	4,585
Bible Study groups:	47	256
Inmates involved with studies:	399	1,936
View Worship Service:	220	1,139
Volunteer Hours:	173	980
Number of Volunteers:	24	143
Bibles given:	387	2,170
Number of New Believers:	16	97

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fervently for my recovery. One night at around 1a.m. my grandma prayed to God to get me off the streets. Within an hour I was pulled over and arrested for the first time. Although I was released on pretrial this time, I found myself arrested two more times along with multiple failed inpatient treatments. Despite these setbacks my family never stopped praying for me. On my final arrest I met Chaplain Jerry. It was through our conversations and the church services led by him that he opened my heart to God. It had been closed off for so long. Upon my release I began attending church with my family. It was during one of these services that I went forward to the altar, and received the Holy Spirit. With God beside me and the Holy Spirit within me, my life began to change in ways I never thought possible. Today I have two successful jobs, I am living with my children, and I am on the

verge of getting my driver's license back. None of this would have been possible without God's grace and the unwavering prayers of my family. I am a living testimony that no matter how far one has fallen, God's love and redemption are always within reach. My life has been transformed, and I am eternally grateful for the second chance I have been given. Ephesians 1:7 states *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

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.