



Polk County Jail Ministry

- JESUS ALIVE IN LIVES -

Issue 213 - March, 2023

God Answers Prayer! PTL!!

Greetings! Spring is right around the corner, and we'll soon see farmers preparing fields and planting their seed. It's all in expectation of the bountiful harvest to come this fall. Last month I challenged us as believers and disciples to allow our local churches to help equip us to work in harvest fields all around. This month I have a literal example of someone newly equipped and now serving in the harvest field at the Polk County Jail.

We requested prayer and each of you sought God to answer our great need for an administrative assistant. Let me introduce you to **Tammy Craft**, and share about this exciting divine appointment. Recently I was a guest speaker at *Westchester Evangelical Free Church*, and their administrative assistant is a friend of ours. She knew Tammy wanted a part time job, so I met her and we talked about the opportunity at the Polk County Jail Ministry. It was God's perfect match! She brings the needed skill sets with over 20 years of accounting experience, and a love for Excel programming. Tammy said, "I live, dream and breathe Excel!" She expressed her goals as our administrative assistant this way, "I just want to free you up Jerry, to do what God has called you to



do. I'll take care of the office details, so you can be more active in seeing inmates and connecting with the Sheriff's office staff." Your powerful prayers have moved God's hand to provide for this need, and your financial support also is so appreciated. Thanks to each of you for your faithfulness to actively participate in what God is doing in countless lives!

I recently received a request to visit with a woman who's cousin had committed suicide. They were very close growing up, and she was grieving this great loss. He was a drug user, and had been missing for awhile. She is also a drug addict and in third stage heart failure due to meth usage. This woman had been reading her Bible and realized how much she needed the Lord in her life. I asked if she was prepared to die? She said no, so then I asked if she wanted to make sure of her eternal destiny? She said yes, so we prayed the sinner's prayer. **PTL!!!** Her cousin's son is currently at the Jail as well, so I was also asked to give a death notification to him. He already knew about his Dad's death, so I asked about his spiritual condition. I told him that at 19 my heart was empty inside, and I had no meaning, purpose or direction in my life. He said that was me before I gave my life to the Lord recently at another county Jail. I related that his cousin had asked Christ into her life today. He was very excited for her decision. The love of God is powerful! How high, how deep, and how wide is the love of God for us! God is so good to orchestrate these divine appointments. **Amen!!**

In His service,

- Chaplain Jerry

Quote of the Month: **Partial obedience is disobedience**



Stephanie Hardwick — One of the Harvest!

Ever since I can remember drugs, abuse, and violence have been part of my life. My family members and their friends abused me. I was so used to living this way that I thought it was normal and that everyone was being abused, not just me. This created a lot of anger in me, and I even felt comfortable being angry. When I was a child

God would take me away from my abuse in daydreams. I wasn't aware that this was Jesus until He saved me. My Mom told me about God, and we attended a Catholic church a little. When my parents divorced my siblings and I went to a Catholic school for a year. So much had happened to me in my life that the only way I could escape and be numb to it was to use drugs. I started using

when I was only 8, and harder stuff when I was 11. I was always a truth seeker and had researched and tried to find out the truth about when my Mom died. After she was killed I went seriously off the deep end and lost everything 3 times. I tried and failed countless rehabs. Opiates and meth were my favorites. I would get so messed up that I would fall asleep in car washes with the doors shut, and my car engine running. My own brothers trafficked and tried to pimp me out, and it all made me so angry that I wanted to kill people! I was angry not just at them but others that were involved and allowed that sort of evil to happen to not just me but many others as well!! But God had a bigger purpose for my life!! I realized that the battle was never mine to begin with!! Jesus met me exactly where I was walking down the street in the middle of winter. As I walked and talked with Him He

(Continued on back ►)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- May God bring revival to America!
- Pray God's people align themselves with the need for body life, become faithful to the Body of Christ in fellowship with one another, and attend a local church.
- God will use my efforts as I partner with the Holy Spirit to have an impact on the entire Jail population, and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel.
- Board member David Hamlin and his wife Edna to be healed of cancer.
- Prayer for volunteer Lee Ford as he undergoes testing for stomach issues.
- Volunteers to be effective with the inmate students who come to Bible study.
- Favor with officers in the Jail and the administrative staff.
- Prayer that we regain access to the inside of the housing units to do Bible studies, and we could get into the South end of the Jail to do them also.
- An Assistant Chaplain who's called and uniquely prepared by God.
- God will make the hearts of inmates sensitive as we emphasize the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter season.
- God will keep our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, and Deputies out on patrol safe from harm's way. Also those in dispatch would have emotional strength and quick judgment in dealing with their job and related daily stress.
- Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. will be well attended, a greater number of inmates wake up to watch, detention officers would realize their importance, and play them.
- The Christian inmates will daily exercise more self discipline in their efforts to grow.
- An awakening of local churches to participate in this incredible ministry prayerfully, and financially as a viable mission's effort.
- Inmates who have gone off to prison will stay faithful to God's Word, and be active in sharing their faith.
- Believers who've left the PCJ or any prison would begin to contact us at the DOC for follow up discipleship.
- Brokenness will be evident in new inmates to the Jail, they'll see their need for a relationship with Jesus Christ, and message me to talk about it.

- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come along side in this great work of God. Consider how they might impact this ministry.
- Need daily prayer for spiritual oppositions that come against the ministry.
- Opportunities to speak at local churches about what God is doing in the Jail.

ANSWERS:

- What a huge answer to prayer dear partners with Tammy Craft as the new Admin. Assistant!! PTL!!!!
- There is a hunger and thirst for the Scriptures in each pod.
- Giving out many Bibles.
- Favor with administration and staff.
- Clothing donations have been strong.
- Good health!

MOST WANTED:

- Clothing closet needs - jeans and tennis shoes all sizes for men only.

Ministry Monthly Report: March 2023

	<u>Monthly:</u>	<u>Ytd:</u>
Inmate Request:	789	2,624
One-on-One inmate counseling:	779	2,172
Religious reading materials given:	717	2,042
Bible Study groups:	41	107
Inmates involved with studies:	325	640
View Worship Service:	196	571
Volunteer Hours:	151	404
Number of Volunteers:	23	68
Bibles given:	281	947
Number of New Believers:	20	47

(Continued from front ▼)

revealed the truth to me that I am chosen, I'm His and I've been His since before the day I was conceived!! He had a plan and purpose for my life!! Psalms 139:13-16, Jeremiah 29:11. He reached out and saved me Isaiah 59:15-21. Yes, I quit using the day He saved me which was Feb. 9th, 2019. He took the taste and desire right out of my mouth, but I was still angry about everything. I broke a very expensive window, got a felony criminal mischief charge, and went to jail. They put me in lock down all by myself. When they tried to let me out I opted to stay there. I didn't want to be around people. I only wanted to read the Bible and pray. I had jail church sessions where I would scream out verses of the Bible. I'm sure people thought I was nuts, but I didn't care at all. I wanted everyone to know Jesus, and that He loves them all. Chaplain Jerry came and spoke to me. Two things that he said really stuck out and I live by them today. The first is that we can hate the evil but we can't hate the person, and the other is pray to stay humble and needy of Jesus. So I do this everyday. I now have everything I thought I could never have; a wonderful new adoptive family in Christ who truly love me, want what is best for me, and who are always there for me. I never have to worry about any

of them abandoning or hurting me in any way. God has surrounded me with His love in every aspect in my life. Since I see that and am truly in love with Him I choose to obey Him every single day. It has been more than 4 years since I have used drugs. I don't smoke cigarettes anymore, or do vaping either. I haven't even missed it. I no longer sleep around because I cherish my purity, and celibacy. What Jesus has done for me He can do for you. He's right there knocking on the door of your heart. Will you answer? What do you have to lose? It's worth a shot, and I promise that it's a choice you will never regret!!

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