



Mothers have powerful prayers

Greetings! Welcome to the monthly **J.A.I.L.** Ministry newsletter. It's a labor of love in His **harvest field** of souls both for the incarcerated and the Sheriff's staff. We're sowing seed daily and striving to have an impact as we conduct Bible studies, distribute faith based Christian books and Bibles through the book cart ministry and to interact with those wanting one on one counseling. This is a God sized assignment! It's possible only as we together seek God's wisdom, favor, and the Holy Spirit's power through continual prayer. That's why we need your prayers more than ever. **Thank you** for your faithful prayers, and generous giving to support this ministry effort. You are making an eternal difference!

Happy belated Mother's Day! I hope each of you Moms were blessed! On many occasions I've listened to mother's aching hearts who've lost their children to DHS due to neglect, abuse, or addiction issues in their homes. These mothers understand the why but have difficulty with the emotional anguish of the every day loneliness, emptiness and guilt that their decisions have produced. Some have blamed something or someone else, but others have taken ownership for their part in the debacle. In any case I've tried to help them know that God loves their children more than they do, and they can find solace in the fact that He will look after them. They can then focus on their change to be the Moms their children need.

Sometimes people are so obsessed with their circumstances that they miss what God is trying to do to get their attention and their heart's affection. God is tearing down so He can

rebuild people into who He created us to be. The contingency is if we encounter new life in Christ. The world is saying elevate self, but Jesus said die to self. It's interesting as I've heard young people believe having a child will fix them as if it's a cure all for what ails them. I've witnessed mental age children have babies with slim chance for those kids to have productive lives. This creates a cycle of repeated sins generation after generation. It's foolish thinking. These kids won't fix you, but test you to the core of your being. Raising children is a task for the unselfish because it requires self sacrifice to the benefit of the child. That's why parenting is such a daily challenge.

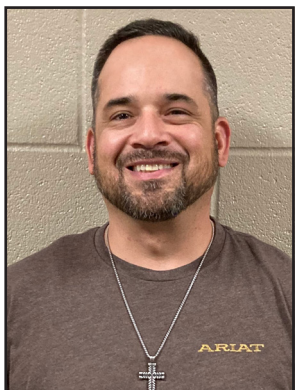
When I do a death notification for someone who has lost their Mom I often say, "Your Mom loved you and has prayed for you. Now that she is gone would you want to have her prayers answered by surrendering your life to Christ?" Many had promised their moms to change, but never had any intentions of following through. Now the reality hits them that she's gone, my life is not going well, and it's out of control. I need something to bring lasting change. An introduction to Christ is what they need, and many invite Jesus Christ into their lives. Now true life change can begin. Amen!!!

In His service,

- Chaplain Jerry

Quote of the Month:

God has dispersed the gifts of the Holy Spirit to His body that His church might work.



Thad Oppenheim – One of the Harvest!

My name is Thad and I am 42 years old. I have done a total of 5 years in prison and battled addiction for my whole adult life since I was 17. I was widowed at the age of 28 and the year before that my Father committed suicide. I found him dead. The year after that my step son was shot and killed. The following year I was raided

by the police for having controlled buys done on me. I never dealt with the issues I had faced head on. Until I did and turned to my

faith and sobriety it would have been an unwinnable battle that could and probably would have killed me in more than one way or another. I turn to my faith when I am in the trenches and need help the most. While at the Polk County Jail Chaplain Jerry was a nice, and reassuring face that showed me God is always present even in the hard times. Without Chaplain Jerry's guidance my love for Jesus Christ, and the tools I have been given by the Kingdom Living program my life would not have changed. When Jesus entered my heart, and helped me face my addiction issues and get a grip on my life as a whole everything came full circle. I

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayer for volunteers who have struggled with health issues John Fry, Jose Maldonado, and Lee Ford.
- Prayer for former board member David Hamlin as he receives oral chemo treatments for leukemia. Also for his wife Edna battling cancer.
- The Jail environment can be an easy place to get discouraged. Pray for a renewed fervor for each volunteer, so they will know and sense their efforts are not in vain.
- The inmates would not be easily distracted from the lessons that God is trying to teach them while He has their attention. I've noticed a change where inmates are slow to engage with spiritual opportunities. They act numb to the reality of our presence. Covid had an influence that made individuals become self reliant.
- Prayer for favor and a continued mutual working relationship with the Sheriff's office as we are privileged guests especially with administration changes.
- God uses our ministry presence with the Jail population and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel. May we be faithful to sow seed through our words and actions.
- Bible studies are limited to 12 and are no longer in the housing units, but in the class rooms by the control areas. Pray they would let us have studies in all sixteen units. Participants would be hungry spiritually.
- Safety for our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, Dispatchers, and those Deputies out on patrol with the stress and pressure they each are under.
- God will use me by the power of the Holy Spirit in speaking opportunities this summer as I share about the ministry and effectively teach God's Word to congregations.
- Spiritual protection for the volunteers in their personal lives and families. Also to have a deeper walk and humility in the Lord for each of us.
- Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. would be greatly attended as a larger number of inmates wake up to watch. Detention officers would realize its benefit to their pods.
- God will prompt local churches to participate by opening their doors to the formerly incarcerated, and to support this local mission's effort prayerfully and financially as we experience growth.
- Those inmates who have gone off to prisons or back to the streets will stay faithful to Jesus Christ, His Word, His church, and be active in sharing their faith.
- Pray for brokenness and open hearts to hear, and receive the Word as it is shared through book distribution, one on ones, Bible studies, and Sunday services.
- We need daily prayer for spiritual oppositions that come against the ministry, trying to disrupt and destroy it.
- The seed of God's Word daily sown will bear much fruit.
- The annual PC Jail Ministry banquet/fund raiser Tuesday Oct.

3rd at Grace Church would be attended by over 300. The theme is **The Harvest Is Plentiful** so pray for people to catch the vision and partner with us.

ANSWERS:

- A supporting church donated a 4' x 8' oak bookshelf that matches the other selves they had also donated. PTL!!!
- Sowing seed through the DOC ministry with active classes; the fruit is coming.
- Praise God for the salvations, attendance in Bible study groups, and life change evidenced!
- Praise God for all the former inmates saved and living for Him!
- Assorted outside encounters with inmates that are truly divine appointments.
- Praise and thanksgiving to God for all that He does in orchestrating the administration, planning and the events of the ministry day by day.
- The obvious hand of God on this ministry in every way.

MOST WANTED:

- Paperback books by Tony Evans, David Jeremiah, CS Lewis, Jim Cymbala, Watchman Nee
- Left Behind books 6-12
- Anyone interested in purchasing easy to read Bibles can help purchase one case of 20 for \$79.80. When we order two cases we get the third for free.

Ministry Monthly Report: May 2023

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	771	4,258
One-on-One inmate counseling:	668	3,593
Religious reading materials given:	916	3,808
Bible Study groups:	41	188
Inmates involved with studies:	203	1,112
View Worship Service:	237	1,083
Volunteer Hours:	161	814
Number of Volunteers:	23	114
Bibles given:	372	1,657
Number of New Believers:	14	74

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am sober from alcohol for 14 years today, and going into my second year of sobriety from drugs. I sponsor other men and help them understand the 12 steps of AA that were explained to me. Life is always challenging and ever changing, but I can live sober and be the family member, friend, worker, and overall better person that I am today. I have been a union carpenter for 14 years and work at Allied Construction. This would not be possible without these changes that I had to make in my life. These changes saved my life and today since I have Jesus and AA in my life I am untouchable. That's the power of God! I can't explain it but take the step, faith is nothing without the works. You've got to put in the effort to get the results.

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.)