



Your influence becomes a harvest field for God!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! This hymn came to me as I was walking. Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves we will come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves. This sounds like the heart of God as we enter His harvest fields. Please understand that the Jail isn't the only harvest field. Wherever you have influence, that is your harvest field. One of mine is the Polk County Jail. Proverbs 11:30 says *He who is wise wins souls*. We have much to rejoice over this month with many who have responded to the gospel! Opportunities to witness usually begin when an individual declares the end of their cycle of addiction or a situation has shaken them deeply. In some cases they've experienced a recent family death. God has been at work in their lives to bring conviction of sin and a broken contrite heart. This is just the type of soil God is looking for. When I join the Father in His work individuals are ready for change and they surrender their hearts to Christ. He comes into their lives to take over and bring lasting change.

I'm so thankful for each of you who pray faithfully for this ministry and give generously. You are making an eternal difference as you partner with us. I'm thankful for changed hearts and lives that are radically different because of Christ. Here's an example of an inmate who was hanging out close by as many others surrounded me asking for

Bibles, Turning Point magazines, Daily Bread, or In Touch devotionals. I could tell he was struggling with something. He began to tell me about two devastating losses; his Mom and sister. This man could hardly deal with his grief and the overwhelming loss. They were both Christians who had a profound influence on his life. He didn't see much purpose in living another day without them. He knew his life was as empty as they come, and he was ready to go a different direction. Right there on the bench in front of the whole pod he trusted in Christ! It didn't matter to him who was watching. He was through with his old life and ready for a new one! Praise the Lord!!! He told me a few weeks later that had I not showed up and connected with him he was planning to hang himself to death that very night! Sometimes God's visitation is a matter of life or death. He's always right on time when someone needs Him most. What are you thankful for? God inhabits the praises of His people. The Psalmist tells us to enter His courts with praise. Praise and thanksgiving release God's power. The Lord wants thankful hearts so He commanded us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*. Thanksgiving is a key to watching God do what seems impossible. I'm also thankful for our Sheriff

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Tip of the Month: GOD FILLS US TO SPILL US OUT FOR HIM!



Brian Marks – One of the Harvest!

Growing up wasn't easy. All I wanted was to fit in and be a part of something, anything. I wanted to be loved unconditionally, so I went looking in all the wrong places for it. I tried being someone that

I was not. I was always falling and getting back up.
Proverbs 24:16 *For a righteous man falls seven times,*

and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of disaster and collapse. Deep into addiction and crime I thought I found my calling. I finally fit in. Did I really? I was still feeling lost. I was sitting in Jail looking at 92 years. God used a voice and sent another man to me to introduce a book called The Purpose Driven Life. I started reading and following directions 1 chapter a day for 40 days. I got to a chapter in the book and Revelation 3:20

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Kevin Schneider. His Deputies, Detention Officers, dispatchers, and clerical staff of the entire Polk County Sheriff's Office give endless hours of faithful service to our

county. There are hundreds of dedicated men and women who keep us safe and protected. We have so much to be thankful for, don't we? Amen!!

In His service, – *Chaplain Jerry*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- The Chief is allowing us to do the annual Christmas event of pop, popcorn and two stamped Christmas cards for the inmates by going into the housing units on Dec. 1 & 2! The volunteers will come into the roll call room to stuff sacks of popcorn, and have a brief volunteer meeting. Please pray that the Spirit of God will move in the hearts of the inmates in a powerful way, draw them to the claims of Christ His sacrificial gift of salvation for all mankind, and see His love demonstrated.
- Prayer for David Hamlin and his wife Edna as they both battle cancer
- Pray for the DOC Discipleship Outreach Center for a growing interest in personal discipleship of those getting out of Jail. Please pray for our director Pastor Charles Hundley as he interacts with those interested at the DOC.
- Prayer for volunteer John Fry with a health issue.
- Continued spiritual growth and discipleship for the inmates who recently came to Christ.
- Prayer for released inmate believers that they will daily seek the Lord and are faithful to attend a Bible believing church, get a mentor, a job, and connect at the DOC for their discipleship.
- Safety for our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail as they supervise the incarcerated, and for those Deputies out on patrol as they protect our communities.
- A greater number of inmates would watch Sunday services at 10:00 A.M.
- More and more local churches will participate in this incredible ministry as a viable mission's effort both prayerfully, financially and pray for the DOC.
- Family members of the incarcerated have their lives touched by the undeniable changes that God has brought about, and to see their own need for redemption as they too experience brokenness.
- Inmates who have gone off to prison will stay faithful to read God's Word daily, and be active in sharing their faith where they've been planted.

- There will be a host of faithful prayer warriors lifting this ministry before God daily.
- Pray that God will soften the hardest of hearts.
- Pray that the Jail will open up for volunteer led Bible studies in the South end.

ANSWERS:

- Thank God for each volunteer and their faithful commitment to serve.
- Praise the LORD for all those who gave their hearts to Jesus Christ this month!
- God is faithful to change and mature new believers through His Word.
- Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus for all He's doing and has done in this incredible ministry all year long!
- Praise God for so many who've given stamps! Thanks to every one of you!

MOST WANTED:

- Men's winter coats and all types of shoes.

Ministry Monthly Report: November 2023

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	718	8,934
One-on-One inmate counseling:	589	7,601
Religious reading materials given:	826	9,016
Bible Study groups:	43	437
Inmates involved with studies:	327	2,791
View Worship Service:	124	2,245
Volunteer Hours:	152	1,829
Number of Volunteers:	24	250
Bibles given:	269	3,669
Number of New Believers:	43	212

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happened. *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears my voice and opens the door I will come into him and will sup with him and he with Me.* Boom! Instant change happened in my soul, mind and body! Understanding I never had before and revelation hit me. The gifts of the Holy Spirit came onto me. I was, I am a new man! Who I used to be is no longer who I am today. My past is just a story I can give. Whatever path God has aligned for me is okay with me. I never have a bad day, just not so good days. Now today I have what I always was looking for, unconditional love from Jesus!

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.