



The Harvest is ready will you work for Him?

Greetings! Recently our country celebrated Labor Day when we honor the work force of America. It's amazing that there are fewer and fewer that make up the workforce in our country, and with the countless millions of unborn that have been killed the workers are even fewer. Baby boomers are a large segment of our population and they have put in their hard work. Now it's time to enjoy the blessings of retirement. Thus employers can't find those who want to be gainfully employed. It's not unusual to see *HELP WANTED* signs everywhere you look. Many businesses are changing hours or close early, and some have gotten out altogether. These thoughts go along with our theme for the year **The Harvest Is Plentiful, but the Workers Are Few** Matt 9:37. Jesus completed His thought and said the solution is prayer. **Ask** the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send **workers** into His harvest field Matt 9:38. The fields are truly white unto harvest at the Jail. The Body of Christ must become equipped to do ministry, wherever God calls us to serve Him. We must be prepared to tell our salvation story aka our testimony. It's the story of when Christ came into my life and changed me. Show compassion and concern for the lives of others. Be a friend to the lonely and helpless. Be a listening ear to those needing to share their lives and struggles. Point people to Christ as we pray and trust Him as the only answer to their burdens. Let's ask, "Do you want to enter the fields for our Master and work with Him?" The results are so

fulfilling as we glean the crop God has cultivated and prepared. As I enter the fields at the Jail God has prepared so many open hearts to hear and receive the gift of salvation. I recently spoke with one man who was so open to the gospel. I did the death notification for his dad the last time he was in our Jail. He also lost his mother while he was in prison. "I'm back on a parole violation, but what caused me to use is the pain of losing both of my parents. I never got to tell my Dad that I loved him, and I've really never grieved." He didn't think he could while incarcerated, and show weakness with fellow inmates. He admitted he really didn't know how. He's got a baby coming, broke with no home, and the future looked bleak to him. It takes a lot to get some people broken and desperate, but God specializes in getting our attention and bringing us to the end of self. I said that Christ is ready to take your load of sin, guilt, shame and give you meaning, purpose and direction to become the man you were created to be. With tears he prayed, and surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life. PTL!!!

Your partnership is making an eternal difference through sacrificial **giving** and countless **prayers** for this ministry. **Thank you** for partnering with us!!

In His service, - *Chaplain Jerry*

Tip of the Month: *Our Father is always working. May we join Him and watch Him change lives!*



William Butcher – One of the Harvest!

I grew up in a small town called Indianola I-Town. My mom was the best mom you could ask for, but both my parents were kids trying to raise kids. My dad drank a lot. His drinking worsened and he started getting owis. I found out that my dad would get drunk, black out and have night terrors. He jumped up on the bed screaming crazy things, and a couple

times he flipped the mattress over scaring my mom. My parents got divorced when I was 11. One day he was just gone. My mom did what she had to do. She knew things were getting out of control, and she had 3 kids to worry about. I don't remember seeing my dad too much after that. He never came to pick us up. If we got to see him it was because we would go find him in one of the bars. Every bartender knew us and would let us in to play pool and listen to the jukebox. I was never taught how to be a man. My

understanding of being a man was drinking and fighting in bars. I got attention from my dad when I started acting crazy. I craved attention from him. I had this void I needed to fill. I was young and just wanted to feel loved. I was a momma's boy. I was a crazy kid looking for the wrong kind of attention. I first used drugs at 15. Started smoking weed and drinking too which led to harder drugs. Meth was my downfall. I skipped school and snuck out of the house. You couldn't tell me nothing and I started fighting in school. I was hanging around with the wrong crowd. I've been to several kids lockups at the Eldora state training camp and after school programs for disturbed kids. Jail came when I was old enough, and next was prison over 10 times. I have spent half of my life incarcerated. The first time I was interested in something different was in the Polk County Jail for the 100th time. This guy would show up religiously every Sunday and his name was Chaplain Jerry. I wanted something different and this guy always had a smile on his face that seemed real to me. I decided to just

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- This year's Banquet Oct 3rd @ 6 Grace Church; pray for 300 to attend and that God's Spirit would work on each heart present.
- Prayer for an Assistant Chaplain that he would be called and prepared.
- Continued prayer for Board member David Hamlin, and his wife Edna as they are battling cancer.
- A hedge of protection around each volunteer and their families.
- Pray for true repentance, and godly sorrow with those to whom we minister.
- God will stir the hearts of staff, and the incarcerated with the Gospel message as communicated through His Word, faith based books, and other materials.
- Safety for our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, and the Deputies out on patrol as they drive our roads and highways.
- Prayer for the Dispatchers with all the stressors of their daily responsibilities.
- Those who are disciples would see their personal responsibility to testify, and lead others to Christ. More inmates would then respond to the Gospel because of them.
- Inmate led prayer groups in housing units would grow and sow seeds.
- Inmates would awaken to watch Sunday services at 10:00 AM, also that the detention officers would make the services accessible to the inmates.
- More and more local churches would participate in this incredible ministry prayerfully, and financially as a viable mission's effort.
- God will move in hearts of family members of the incarcerated as the new believers share the gospel. Then they too will understand the glorious Gospel, and receive the LORD as their Savior!
- Those who have gone off to prison will stay faithful to read God's Word daily, and be active in sharing their faith.
- Prayer for released believers to have the self-discipline to go, and belong to an active Bible believing local church where they will use their spiritual gifts for God's glory. They might find love and acceptance from the congregations.
- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come along side in this great work of God.
- Prayer warriors to do battle for the inmate's lives who have strongholds that are generational. They might find victory and begin a new legacy for their families and future.
- Upcoming speaking engagements would be empowered by the Holy Spirit in local churches.

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show up one Sunday. I knew I would take heat from other inmates. I wish I could tell you that's where my life changed but that wasn't the case. I went back to prison, got out, and right back to the life I knew. This time things got worse. I lost custody of my kids for good. I gave my own flesh and blood away for meth. I hated myself and the pain was too much. May '12 I was robbed, shot in the back and the bullet nearly hit my heart. The guy also pistol-whipped my girlfriend's face. I thought it was the end. I remember waking up after surgery in a hospital bed. Over the next couple years I lost people I was close to from overdoses. Some got killed, and others went to federal prison. I also lost my dad. He passed away from cancer, the effects of drinking and poor life choices. I watched him suffer terrible pain. My dad died 4 days after I was in jail, and I missed his funeral. I also lost my grandma and my uncle. Everybody has been through struggles and life problems. I want to stress that God can heal your heart and make you great if you're obedient! I confessed and admitted I was a sinner and Jesus died on the cross for yours and my sins. I

- God will use the upcoming Christmas event to touch cold and indifferent hearts of the inmates.
- Bible studies would be well attended with 12 being the maximum.
- God would open the south end of the Jail for volunteer led Bible studies.

ANSWERS:

- Inmates are leading fellow inmates to Christ PTL!!!
- Inmate requests have really increased significantly each week.
- Many inmates coming to weekly Bible studies led by volunteers.
- Divine appointments are occurring with one on ones.
- God is faithful to bring back to Jail those who have turned again to their old ways before it's too late.
- Noticeable hunger and thirst for God's Word. I get many Bible requests. PTL!

MOST WANTED:

- 2500 stamps for the two Christmas cards given to each inmate.
- Clothing closet needs: Men & women's coats & shoes
- Six copies of The Five Love Languages by Gary Smalley paperback. Also any of Tony Evans paperback books.
- Funds for Ink Jet Printer - \$150

Ministry Monthly Report: September 2023

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	677	7,499
One-on-One inmate counseling:	671	6,426
Religious reading materials given:	869	7,304
Bible Study groups:	31	343
Inmates involved with studies:	266	2,119
View Worship Service:	156	1,934
Volunteer Hours:	161	1,477
Number of Volunteers:	22	203
Bibles given:	366	3,103
Number of New Believers:	24	157

asked for His forgiveness, and then I could be saved. I gave up my old life. I'm not perfect at all, and I fall short of God's glory daily. I say I'm sorry God at least 30 times a day because my flesh sins. I try to make each day more about Him. I'm a member at Grace Church where I try getting involved. I say all this for the fact that if Jesus is working in my life He can work in yours. I've been through the ringer, had some real hardships happen, have seen some things that still give me chills, but with God anything is possible!

*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.