

## LORD, HELP ME !

By Nelson W. Martin, Director, Support for Prison Ministries

“Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. O Lord, come quickly to help me.”  
Psalm 22: 11 and 19

We all get into situations in life that we need to call out to God. Sometimes those calls are for quick and desperate help in trouble. Sometimes they are more relaxed as we seek direction or wisdom. My special cry “in time of trouble” happened about thirty five years ago. I could still take you to the street.

Our family was living in Pottsville, PA where we owned a Christian bookstore and helped in a mission church. We befriended Bill (name changed) during that time, who had a troubled marriage and dysfunctional family. Bill had interest in spiritual things, loved to talk, and was a gentleman when sober. But alcohol controlled more and more of his life and he was often angry and irrational. Early signs of palsy made him unsteady.

One day, he had a big fight with his wife and came to talk to me. He was upset. As I was driving him home, he suddenly pulled a pistol out of his pocket, brandished it around in the car and said, “When I get home, I’m showing my wife who is boss.”

I don’t remember what words I prayed but it was short. It was probably, “Lord, help me.” Maybe it was “Lord, come quickly!” Bill showed me later, as we sat in the car and talked and prayed together, that the gun was not loaded and he only intended to scare his wife. I tried to explain how that would not be a good idea. The Lord protected me that day, for which I am grateful.

We moved from Schuylkill County and I lost track of Bill. I was told he died an early death from an alcohol related disease. Now fast forward 25 years to a morning when I was with our chaplain staff at Lancaster County Prison. On the census sheet, I saw a name that was the same as my friend’s son. I went to his cell, thinking it may be someone with a similar name. What a surprise. It was Bill’s son. He remembered me, even though he was now 44 years old and had last seen me as a 19 year old teen who was in trouble in the community. We had lots to talk about from our “former lives” in Pottsville.

I met with him several times since then and discovered he is so much like his dad; addictive lifestyle, can’t find or keep a job, family relationships destroyed and not much knowledge about a God who loves and cares for him. So again my prayers go up for help. This time that Bill’s son would come to faith in the God who created him and has a plan for his life. God is waiting to be his helper and deliverer.



### WHAT’S INSIDE?

Annual Employee Awards ...pg. 2

Senator Mike Brubaker visits LCP and YIC.....pg. 2

2009 Auction Highlights.....pg. 3

Focus on Finances.....pg. 4

Coupon to support Bible Classes taught in prison.....pg. 4

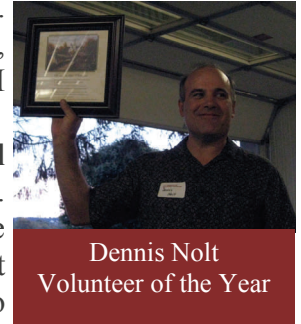
## SFPM GIVES ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARDS



Al Huber receives award for 20 years of chaplaincy work.

About 60 persons spent a delightful September Sunday evening at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren picnic grove. The annual event, hosted by the SFPM Board of Directors, is a time to say THANKS to chaplains, regular volunteers and their families. There was lots of food, visiting and singing together. Bryan Hubbard, Program Director at Youth Intervention Center, spoke about his work with youth and the partnership with SFPM chaplains.

A 20 year staff award was given to lead chaplain Al Huber. Al began chaplain ministry at LCP in February 1989. Even though the prison population and the chaplain staff were much smaller then, the basic needs of the inmates have not changed much in 20 years. Al is blessed to have been able to bring God's hope and healing to MANY inmates over the years.



Dennis Nolt  
Volunteer of the Year

The SFPM Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Dennis Nolt. Dennis, an employee of Musselman Lumber and member of Petra congregation in New Holland, volunteers about 5 hours per week in LCP. He has done this for the past 9 years. Before that, he was a chaplain with We Care programs in Alabama.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS THANKFUL FOR DEDICATED, HARD WORKING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS. A SPECIAL APPRECIATION THIS YEAR TO AL HUBER AND DENNIS NOLT.



(l-r) Al Huber, Senator Brubaker, Warden Guarini, and Nelson Martin at LCP

## STATE SENATOR MIKE BRUBAKER VISITS CHAPLAIN PROGRAMS

To learn about the SFPM chaplains and programs, Senator Mike Brubaker recently visited both the Lancaster County Prison (LCP) and the Youth Intervention Center (YIC). At the prison, he walked through the halls, met several inmates in a housing pod, received updates from the warden and spent time in the chaplains office, asking questions and receiving much information.

At the Youth Intervention Center, Senator Brubaker toured the entire facility, met with administrative staff, and spent time in the chapel with SFPM staff.

Senator Brubaker was very encouraging to SFPM staff. He supports the work they do. He seemed genuinely interested in the ministry that is done with inmates. He plans to return to the prison in February to sit in several chaplain teaching sessions.



(l-r) Katie Mininger, Senator Brubaker, Joel Bare and Marvin Reed at YIC

THANKS TO YOU,  
OUR PARTNERS,  
WHO SO GENEROUSLY  
GAVE CONTRIBUTIONS  
AND PRAYER SUPPORT  
THE PAST YEAR.

WE PRAISE GOD FOR SO MANY  
OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE  
GOOD NEWS  
BEHIND THE WALLS!

## BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2010

Chair – Ken G. Martin  
Vice-Chair - Leon Roy Martin  
Secretary – Warren Hackman  
Treasurer – Anthony Martin

THANKS TO STEVE MARTIN, Womelsdorf, PA, who has finished his term as a board member. Steve served for 6 years on the SFPM board of directors and was treasurer for 5 years. Steve plans to spend more time as a chaplain volunteer at LCP, as well as work with David Hain's Etsah Ministries, who minister inside and outside prison with persons who have substance abuse and addictions.

# AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Crowds of people came to Farmersville on the fourth week-end in October. There they enthusiastically supported the 26<sup>th</sup> annual benefit auction for prison ministries. There were almost 600 bidder numbers given, delicious food, lots of fellowship and prison ministry displays for persons to receive information and meet chaplains and staff. Volunteer auctioneers, led by Randall Kline, did a super job. Board members, friends of SFPM and a number of persons from the aftercare programs worked hard with many details of this annual auction. This year, all expenses of the auction were paid in advance by businesses and sponsors. Total net proceeds of \$89,736 were distribute to six ministries: Chaplain programs at Lancaster County Prison, Youth

Intervention Center, EXIT (Ex-Offenders in Transition), Freedom Gate, TTC (Transition to Community) and We Care Programs. Since this auction began in 1984, almost \$1.6 has been given to numerous prison ministries and aftercare programs.



## Here are some highlights from this year's auction:

- Collector's set of 3-D art work by Aaron Zook \$2,440
- 2 wooden carved footballs (Eagles and Penn State) made by an Alabama inmate \$160 each
- "Front Porch" framed painting by Amish artist Susie Riehl \$190
- New Bernina Activa Sewing Machine \$525
- Phillies Gift Theme Basket \$180
- Rohrer's Quarry – model truck \$410



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2010 BENEFIT AUCTION.  
October 22 and 23 DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING EVENT !!**

*Overheard in prison (by a male inmate)  
"When I got out of prison in the past,  
I was free physically,  
but I was never really free  
until I was changed inside  
by the power of God."*

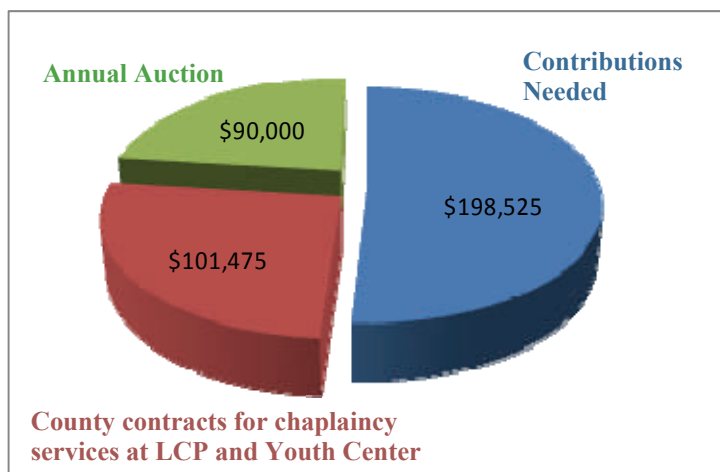
**SAVE THIS DATE . . . MORE DETAILS SOON  
Saturday, May 1, 2010  
Prison Ministry Training Conference  
"Aftercare – no longer an Afterthought"  
including prison ministry teaching, seminars,  
training for prison workers and a panel discussion  
To be held at the Gap Family Center**

Check out our website for updated photos and information: [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)

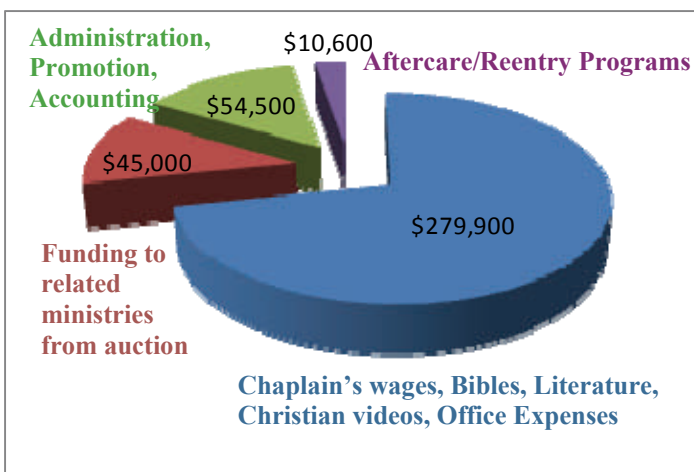
## Focus On Finances

**2010 Budget: \$390,000**

### Income



### Expenses



**A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM. Thank You!**

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

Support for Prison Ministries offers a variety of classes that inmates can take to help overcome addictions and learn about God. Here are two ways you can help:

1. \$50 provides 2 hour Chaplain teaching session: \_\_\_\_\_ teaching session(s) x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
This includes addictions counselor, study books and class supplies
2. \$15 buys books for classes: \_\_\_\_\_ book(s) x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A receipt will be sent for all donations.

**Clip this coupon and mail to:**

SFPM  
P.O. Box 134  
Lititz, PA 17543

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_