

NO SHORTAGES???

Nelson W. Martin, SFPM Director



Nelson Martin, SFPM Director, with Al Huber, Chaplain.

I recall a gospel song from a few decades ago that warned about coming shortages, debt crisis, and not enough basics for many persons. But then I also remember the “punch line” . . . NO SHORTAGES IN GOD’S PROGRAMS, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE PLENTY TO GO AROUND. Every day we hear news of serious hunger, of deep poverty, of financial failures, of shortages and serious troubles as financial and sustainable resources are stretched. But praise God, His love supply never gets empty. God’s mercies are new every morning. There is still plenty of room in His family.

This is being realized by many inmates as they hear from our chaplains how God can give them new and abundant life. I recently heard one middle aged inmate, after viewing a “Transformations” video that highlighted God at work in miraculous ways throughout the world, say, “That just warmed my heart and my inner spirit.” God could pour out His mercy in Lancaster County Prison (LCP) like that as well. Another LCP men’s Bible study group took time to stop and pray for one of their regulars who was at a court hearing. They prayed, “May your will, God, be done in _____’s life and help him have courage for whatever is ahead.” A chaplain at LCP was told how two inmates led another man in their pod to the Lord. “We shared our faith with _____ because he was searching for something.” And a young lady at Youth Intervention Center (YIC) expressed interest to a chaplain in “believing again in God” after having turned her back on God for a few years.

Yes, we acknowledge our world has many problems. Our nation has unemployment and shortages of many kinds. War and violence and crime and addictions are destroying many lives. But know that there are no shortages with God. And many people, including prison inmates, are finding new purpose and abundance in their lives. As the prophet Jeremiah said many centuries ago, “Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed. His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is God’s faithfulness.”

YOU, AS SUPPORTERS AND PRAYERS, ARE VITAL PARTNERS WITH OUR STAFF AT LCP AND YIC. WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT AND EXCITING HOME MISSIONS PROGRAM RIGHT IN OUR COUNTY – ONE THAT JOYFULLY PROCLAIMS THERE ARE NO SHORTAGES WITH GOD.



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Focus on Volunteers

“Volunteers are special and they make a difference”

Chaplain volunteers give about 75 hours per week. This spotlight features these committed persons who share so much inside the prison walls.

MIKE OSTERMAYER-CHAPLAIN VOLUNTEER AT YOUTH INTERVENTION CENTER

Mike has a ready smile, a big heart for teens and keeps an active schedule. He spends 4 – 6 hours per week as a volunteer chaplain at YIC. He loves talking with and relating to troubled young people. He has enthusiasm to show them the hope that God can bring to their lives. One YIC staff director said, “Mike brings an added dimension to the YIC chaplaincy program. He is bilingual (English and Spanish) and grew up on the streets of Lancaster city.” Mike feels like he grew up in two cultures; the church was white and conservative while many extended family members were Spanish and street-smart.



Mike Ostermayer

Mike is working on his Master’s Degree from Lancaster Bible College. A few years ago, Mike got into YIC as an LBC intern as a Wednesday evening gym teacher. This led to a job at YIC on detention staff for 1 ½ years. Currently he works as a counselor for PA Counseling Services. In the 2011-2012 school year, he will divide his time between Youth Intervention Center and the Lancaster Community SE School (for alternative or needy kids). In addition, Mike values the volunteer chaplaincy time to sow seeds of hope into kids lives. His passion for life is to follow God and to live out each day as an example to others. Mike says enthusiastically, “I consider YIC a mission field. I am so glad to be part of the chaplain’s office as a volunteer.”

THANKS, MIKE, FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND JOYFUL SHARING TO THE KIDS AT Y.I.C.

A word from Anthony Martin, SFPM Board Treasurer

Recently, as I was studying the attributes of God, such as God's infinity, His goodness, His mercy and His justice, I came to a deeper appreciation of how gaining even a small understanding of the person of God can completely change a person's outlook on life. The realization that the earth is but a footstool to God and that God is ever so much bigger than we can comprehend, but yet God loves and cares for each person, that God desires to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" Math 25:21, and most importantly, that God was willing to sacrifice his Son in order to allow us to spend eternity with Him, are truths that can change a person's life in ways that nothing else can. While these truths are life changing to those who hear and believe them, Romans 10:14 asks the all important question: "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"



From the perspective of the Support for Prison Ministry board, I am grateful that the dedicated staff, chaplains and volunteers at the Lancaster County Prison and Youth Intervention Center have responded to the question found in Romans 10:14, and are giving of their lives to ensure that the youth, men and women who find themselves behind the prison walls have the opportunity to hear and to experience the person of God though the lives of these dedicated men and women.

I am also thankful that individuals, churches and businesses are helping to answer this question by giving of their financial resources to enable the staff and chaplains to continue to focus on bringing the Truth to those who may have never heard, to those who need to hear again, and to those who have heard, have believed, and now need encouragement and teaching to continue on.

The challenge to give our lives and resources to spread the Word is for all of us. May God bless you as you fulfill your part in building His Kingdom.



HERE COMES THE AUCTION!!

October 28 & 29, 2011 at Farmersville Auction Grounds

Friday Evening:

4-7 P.M. Chicken Barbeque (Donation)
(Eat in or take out)

5:00 P.M. Auction of quality merchandise, furniture, meats, produce, groceries, theme baskets, wallhangings and framed pictures.

6:00 P.M. Additional Auction of tools, hardware, potted plants, and Winross trucks and collectible toys

Saturday:

7 A.M. Start your day with a Delicious Pancake and Sausage Breakfast (Donation)

8:30 A.M. Auction begins with quality merchandise for home, farm, and business, including framed pictures, quilts, hand-crafted items, pedal tractors, and theme baskets.



These items to be sold around 12 noon



Allis Chalmers B Tractor - 1943

Fully restored, newly painted

Our auction goal is to clear \$90,000 after expenses, to be shared with Lancaster County Prison and Youth Center Chaplaincy Programs, Freedom Gate, The Potter's House, Spirit & Word Ministries, Transition to Community, and We Care Programs.

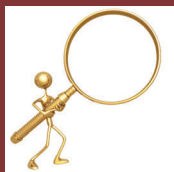


MANY VALUABLE GIFT CERTIFICATES
From area businesses for food, lodging, professional and home services.



HOME MADE FOODS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SALE

Have you looked at our website recently?????



Many people are checking it out and getting updated information at:
www.supportforprisonministries.org

On our website, you'll find pictures and updates about the auction right up until the sale day. There is an an interactive map to Farmersville, pictures of items to be sold at the sale, and details about the sale.



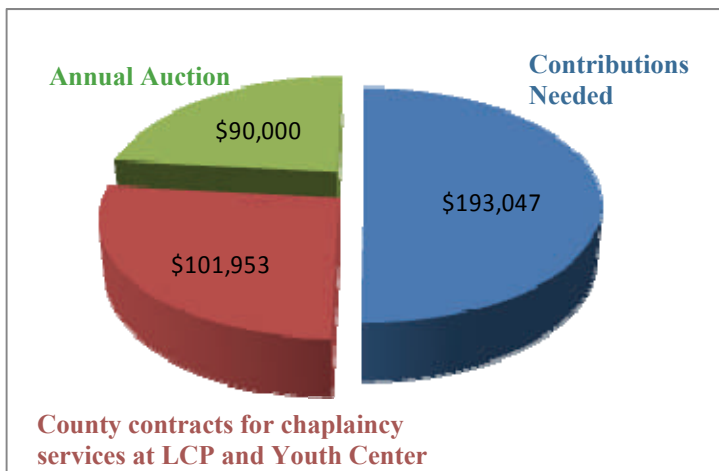
Also read about the SFPM staff, mission/vision statements and get information about area prison ministries and aftercare programs.

Check out our website for updated photos and information: www.supportforprisonministries.org

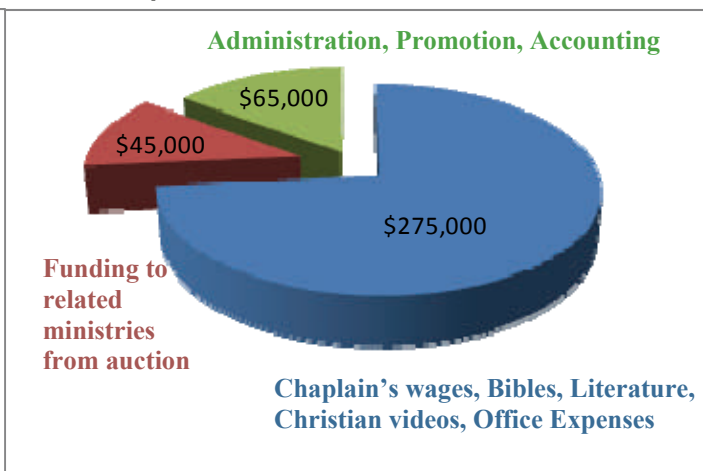
Focus On Finances

In addition to contributions, we can receive gifts in other ways: donations of stock, real estate, life income plans, bequests and charitable designations from wills.

Income 2011 Budget: \$385,000



Expenses



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

NEWS YOU CAN USE !!

Ray Taltoan, from Landisville, has been hired as a full-time chaplain to men inmates at Lancaster County Prison. Ray is an assistant pastor at Bright Side Baptist Church, Lancaster. Watch for his story in the next "Freedom Focus" newsletter.

"Coming to a church near you". SFPM director, chaplains, and several ex-inmates are available to speak for Sunday sermons, mission conferences, breakfast meetings or share groups. Find out about local mission opportunities. Rejoice with what God is doing behind bars today.



Sit in a jail cell! SFPM has a full size 6' X 8' furnished model prison cell that is an effective visual aid/teaching tool that can be set up for Sunday services, mission events, or community outreaches. Call Nelson Martin at (717) 625-0232 for more information.