

## TAKING HOPE BEHIND THE WALLS

Each weekday morning, several chaplains arrive early at the **Lancaster County Prison (LCP)**. After going through security and a number of electronically locked doors, they arrive at their small office on the second floor. Here they work on daily schedules, programming plans and details of various ministry functions, while the day shift Correctional Officers (C.O.’s) are reporting for their shift assignments.

Currently, Support for Prison Ministries (SFPM) has 8 paid chaplains that are inside LCP over 200 hours per week. In addition to weekday hours, some staff take turns with Saturday and Sunday church services and emergency situations. In addition, SFPM has 13 regular chaplain volunteers, who have county approved badges. These volunteers give about 80 hours per week. Chaplains assist with Bible studies and church services, do lots of one-on-one counseling and listening, and share with and respond to many requests from the inmate population. The chaplain’s office schedules clergy visitation to inmates. Many Christian books and 125-150 Bibles are distributed monthly. Annually, about 2,600 Bible correspondence courses are completed by inmates. Chaplains also have some significant ministry opportunities with LCP’s administrative staff and C.O.’s.



Back : Marvin Reed, Al Huber, Katie Mininger,  
Michael Booth, David Hain  
Front : Faye Stauffer, Isaias Maldonado,  
Diane Fulmer

Even though LCP is over populated, recidivism rates are high and area crimes seem to be increasing, **SFPM chaplains are busy sharing hope and healing to those behind the walls.**

**The Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center (LCYIC)** is located in the Sunnyside area of Lancaster city. Since school is in session at LCYIC, chaplain staff spend most of their time in the late afternoons and evenings. They also do some Saturday and Sunday hours. Currently four staff do about 50 hours per week meeting with juveniles, ages 10 – 17 who are waiting court hearings. They also minister in a Shelter Care area, a unit for non-criminal juveniles who temporarily need a place to live. A number of churches, youth groups and community volunteers are involved. Pastors have access to visit young people from their congregations or neighborhoods.



Carl Carpenter, Joel Bare, Marvin Reed, Katie Mininger

**SFPM chaplains are planting seeds  
of hope in many young lives.**

*Socheat Ban is a young man who became a Christian while in prison. He recently shared his story with Nelson Martin, SFPM Director.*



**Nelson:** Tell me a bit about yourself.

**Socheat:** I was two years old when my family came to America from Cambodia. I am now 28, live near New Holland and am a member of Petra Christian Fellowship Church. I grew up in Lancaster County, but knew very little about Jesus since my family was Buddhist. As a teenager, I had a desire for money and made decisions that were not good.

**Nelson:** When did you go to prison?

**Socheat:** In the summer of 1999, I went to Lancaster County Prison (LCP) for receiving stolen property and drug possession. I was imprisoned several times in LCP and later in Lebanon County Prison.

**Nelson:** How did you find God during this journey?

**Socheat:** At LCP, a couple guys got together and did Bible studies. This was new for me. I asked many questions. I thought maybe Jesus was president of Israel or something like that. I didn't know He died for my sins and that God loved me very much. These guys in Bible study said that I had to accept Jesus, but I wasn't ready. Another prisoner, who also came to these Bible studies and was not ready to follow God, suddenly died in his cell. That spoke so much to me and I gave my life to Jesus. My family didn't understand and were upset at first, but my mother and two sisters are now believers.

**Nelson:** How did others help you along the way?

**Socheat:** Chaplain Al Huber became a close friend and mentor to me. He explained so much about how to live with faith and hope. He gave me a lot of "tough love". I have been free from prison now for four years, and Al continues to be my special friend. Also when I served time at Lebanon County Prison, Chaplains Don Martin and Kent Martin helped me in many ways. I also lived in a discipleship house with three other guys that was operated by Transition to Community. That helped me prepare for my return to the community.

**Nelson:** Anything else you wanted to share with our Freedom Focus readers?

**Socheat:** I thank God for a good job, a caring church and many helpful friends. The Bible is a treasure to me. I love to read and study it. Ecclesiastes 7: 13, 14. "Consider what God has done. Who can straighten what has been crooked? When times are good, be happy. When times are bad, consider; God has made them both." I have had bad and good times in my life. God has been very loving and faithful to me. He restored many blessings to my life when I decided to follow Him. Because of Jesus suffering and death for me, I have been made a new creation.

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Nelson Martin co-ordinates the growing SFPM prison ministries from his home office near Lititz, PA. In his role, he gives direction to the chaplain and staff functions, serves as a liaison between the board and prison administration, and works at new programs and developing more local opportunities for prison ministries. He also oversees SFPM finances, does some fund raising, and speaks to area churches and community groups about what is happening in prison ministries today.

Jewel Sensenig is a part-time Administrative Assistant. From her home on East Orange St. (near LCP) she does accounting and payroll, designs the newsletters and promotional brochures, keeps the website updated, and helps with many office details.



# Facts & Figures



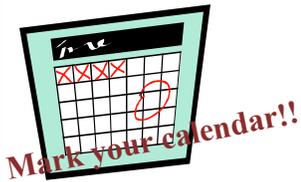
The U.S. rate of recidivism (that inmates will re-offend and return to prison within a 2 year period) is about 66% or 2/3 of all inmates.

Last year at LCP:

Number of visits made by area pastors to inmates: 3,520

Number of inmate requests/contacts handled by the chaplains office: 13,750

Note received by chaplain from LCP inmate. *“I was in state and county prisons for over 20 years. I never seemed to learn anything during those many years. I was out for two years, and now am again an inmate at LCP. Your chaplains have reached out to me. God has changed my heart. I now see the error of my previous ways. Your chaplain services have really connected with me.”*



## COME TO THE ANNUAL AUCTION OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2009 FARMERSVILLE AUCTION



Delicious homemade foods and baked goods available Friday evening and Saturday



Framed pictures painted by various artists and some made by inmates.

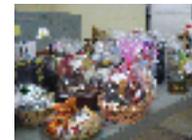
Large 3-D Handcarved Picture



Pedal Tractors



Quilts, wall hangings, and afghans



Theme baskets

MANY VALUABLE GIFT CERTIFICATES

From area businesses for food, lodging, professional and home services.

New Auction Services for 2009:  
Provided by Kline, Kreider and Good Auctioneers

Since the SFPM annual auction began in 1984, over \$1.5 million has been contributed to prison ministries.

Check our website's Annual Auction Pages for more information at [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)

**FOUNDATIONS**



P.O. Box 134, Lititz, PA 17543  
 (717) 625-0232  
 Email: info@supportforprisonministries.org

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Permit #1746  
 Lancaster, PA  
 17604

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

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Nelson W. Martin



### BONDAGE OR FREEDOM?

Humans all struggle with temptations and sin. We live in a fallen, evil world that battles against Godly principles and values. I heard a sermon recently that really challenged me. The Scripture passages were from Romans 7 and 8. Chapter 7 shows Paul struggling with sin, trying hard to follow the law, doing what he doesn't want to do, and going back to his natural, sinful ways. The result was discouragement, bondage, death and feeling like a wretched man. In contrast, Chapter 8 states the true "fix" is being set free by Jesus and living in the power of the Spirit. That results in life and peace, no condemnation, experiencing God's grace and real freedom, "heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ."

PRAISE GOD, WE CAN ALL BE MORE THAN  
 CONQUERORS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!

### Focus On Finances

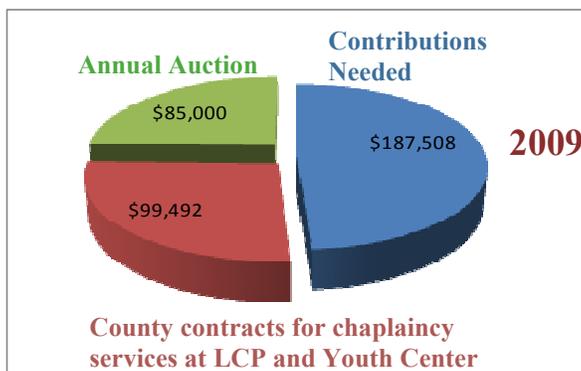
In spite of economic uncertainties and some persons experiencing financial downturns, SFPM IS SO THANKFUL that contribution income continues to be strong. Our total contributions for 2008 year were down less than 2% from 2007. So far in 2009, our contributions are up slightly from the same period last year. As a Christian financial planner said recently, "Gifts in a time of recession have good benefits. They become priceless heavenly treasures that never erode. What a great investment".

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

#### Income

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM

#### Expenses



**2009 Budget: \$372,000**

