



A DAY IN PRISON

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The following article reflects some of the events in two recent days that SFPM director Nelson Martin spent inside LCP.



It was a Tuesday afternoon. A local pastor was teaching a weekly Men's Bible study to about 40 inmates from Ground floor pods. He was enthusiastically making the point "Knowing Jesus is not following 'must do' rules nor a demanding relationship. It is rather an intimate, knowing relationship that changes you from the inside out. As believers, we don't HAVE to obey the law, we'll WANT to obey Jesus as our Lord".

He was suddenly interrupted by a young man who said "I find that living the Christian life is easier inside prison than when I get out." The teacher seemed surprised and asked "why is that?" The man replied, "In prison I am scheduled, regulated . . . I need something to do with my time, so I choose to go to worship and Bible studies, to have daily time with God. But in the past when I got out, I couldn't find time for those things. . . I had so many other things to do with my life." And the teacher bluntly said, "You just named the

to change that pattern and defeat the cycle that keeps happening. God will help you but you must be willing." A number of men nodded affirmatively.

Earlier that Tuesday morning, several staff met for their weekly 6 AM breakfast at a local restaurant. After a time of fellowship, they drove to LCP, signed in between 7-7:30 A.M. and began preparations for a busy day. Diane Fulmer, chaplain office coordinator, starts answering the phone and organizing schedules and inmate lists for the day. Lead chaplain Al Huber reviews emails and "must do" messages. On this Tuesday there were Spanish Bible classes, taught by Isaias Maldonado, Women's Bible study led by Faye Stauffer, and class sessions led by Al Huber and Michael Booth. In addition, there were hours of one-on-one inmate counseling with chaplains, as well as volunteers and local pastors who spend time talking to and listening to inmates. After lunch, Steve Martin, SFPM board member, arrives for his weekly afternoon of assisting with

The following Wednesday morning began with an early buzz of activity in the chaplains office. Even though a few inches of snow is falling outside, staff report on time. Katie Mininger prints schedules for the various programs for the day.

Volunteer chaplain Bud Roda, with an elder from his church, lead out in a sexual purity study, from the book "Every Man's Battle." About 25 men sit around pod tables, with questions and discussions about how to choose to live pure lives, anywhere and everywhere they may be. Many Bible scriptures are given, and men write them in their books or tablets.

Sounds of singing are heard from the second floor chapel. About 20 women are in a weekly service with Lenny Pelsinski and several local women Bible teachers as an extension of the ALPHA program. There is much worship, seeking God and prayer ministry. How refreshing to hear testimonies of women who have been set free . . . to see and hear them sing, through

There are no "typical or average" days in the life of chaplains and Support for Prison Ministries staff inside Lancaster County Prison (LCP).

A Day In Prison (from page 1) smiles and tears, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain for me" . . . and "At the Foot of the Cross, I trade these ashes for beauty. . . and I lay every burden down".

Several "Addict to Disciple" classes will be in session today, led by David Hain, as well as Pastor Mick Wolf teaching "Inside/Outside classes". Marvin Reed distributes Bibles and books throughout the prison, taking time to chat with and encourage inmates.

Volunteers, including Dennis Nolt and Karin White, spend time ministering to many inmates. By mid-afternoon, some volunteer chaplains leave for the day. Other staff finish paper work, make notes for next day assignments, and try to return some phone calls. Then they lock the office and begin the long walk down the halls, through seven locked, electronically controlled doors to the front lobby. They are tired, having worked hard and given out much today. But they also have joy and are at peace,

knowing God was with them in this important work.

SFPM Chaplains (both paid and badged volunteers) log about 275 hours per week inside Lancaster County Prison. They serve with enthusiasm, concern, and with a servants heart. They believe the Biblical promise "God's Word that goes out will not return empty or void, but will accomplish what I (God) desire and achieve the purpose for which it was sent". Isaiah 55: 11. May that result continue to happen, to the glory and praise of God!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS READY TO SERVE

LARRY FOX AND KEN G. MARTIN (l-r) joined the SFPM Board of Directors, as of January 2007.

LARRY is a self-employed builder. He and his wife, Cindy, live near Bowmansville. They have 5 children and 1 grandchild and are members of Bethany Grace Fellowship Church. Larry has been involved for years with the January We Care prison crusade in Alabama. There he has served as a team leader for those ministering at Draper Prison near Montgomery.



Ken is General Manager at Lawn Care Distributors. He had worked at Four Seasons Produce for 28 years. Ken and his wife, Esther, live near Denver and have three young adult children. They attend Petra Christian Fellowship, where Ken serves as a deacon and Esther is Early Childhood Coordinator. Ken has a passion for prison ministry and for reaching out to share the Gospel with others.

THANKS TO KEVIN HAHN AND WARREN FOX, who finished their terms as board members. Their faithful service and support for a number of years is MUCH APPRECIATED.

Board of Directors for 2007

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OVERHEARD IN PRISON

A note from a female inmate that came to Chaplain's office at LCP

"All of the chaplains here at LCP are quite comfortable to listen to you, and easy to talk to. I know your work is never done. Reading the Bible gives me peace and calmness."

Written on a request form from a male inmate

"When I get out of here I would like to teach my children of Jesus. I don't believe anyone ever spoke to them that Jesus loves them. I know now it is important to follow God."

The Potter's Hand at the Potter's House By Shawn Weaver, Director/Coach Leola, PA

He looks at the lump of clay on his wheel with a grin. It doesn't look like much right now. Unformed... dirty.....common....discolored. As a master potter he has seen seemingly endless lumps of clay turned into masterpieces. All around his house sits the trophies of what his hand and creativity can accomplish. What's different about this one? What caught his attention about this dull lump of mud? The difference is he can envision the work of art that it will eventually be. He knows the process of turning an unsightly handful of clay into something beautiful.

The wheel starts to turn. A smile emerges as he gently begins to work the clay.....

We are all a work in process. We are all on the potter's wheel, being molded into what He has envisioned for us. However, we must know that He is the master potter, and only our God can turn a lump of dirt into a work of art.

That is the dream and the greatest goal for us here at the Potter's House.

The Potter's House is a small 2-apartment house just off of Hoover Lane in Leola. The house can take up to 10 men and has been dedicated for helping them transition from life behind prison walls into a life of greater freedom.

Nineteen years ago Lloyd Hoover was offered the house, which originally stood along route 23. After some discussion he agreed to take it. The house was picked up and moved across the field and

came to a new resting place along Lloyd's farm lane.

Ever since then this born again house has been used to help heal the brokenhearted and give opportunities for new beginnings.

The focus of the house is relationship with God and then relationship with each other. Bible studies, meals, group events and assignments are aimed at helping each man come to grips with the truth of God and the truth of their own lives.

The house is not intended to be another prison outside prison. They live their lives with freedom, but they now have a family that surrounds them and is there to help them take the steps they need to take.

Therapy groups, Bible Studies and financial accountability are things that the men agree to before they ever set foot in the house. These things help them to learn to make better choices now so later on the right choices won't be so difficult.

The men are given freedoms such as working during the days and some evenings free. They assume responsibility for their own meals, and they become involved in a church they want to attend.

The ultimate goal is to learn how to let the Potter mold the clay the way He wants to. We must learn to release each one into the Potter's hand. Because, after a year the men will not have the Potter's House, but they will still have the Master Potter.



The Potter's House staff and residents eating a meal together

EVERY MAN'S BATTLE

Every Man's Battle by Steve Arterburn is a book on winning the war on sexual temptation one victory at a time. This book is being taught to the men at Lancaster County Prison. Bill Burgoon and Bud Roda, from New Song Fellowship Church, are teaching the principles of sexual purity to these men.

We live in a world that is so sex oriented from TV, movies, Internet, magazines, and books. Our culture is saturated with the world's ways and then we lock men up for following the ways of the world. The men are surprised to learn that God actually has a standard for the way men are to conduct themselves. The principles taught in this book come straight from the Bible.

The deterioration of the family, the absent father figure and instruction from dad is missing. The prison is filling up with this misguided man. The book, Every Man's Battle, has aided in men seeing a need for change in their lives. This book is purchased by members of New Song Fellowship, Support for Prison Ministries, parents of those in (or now out of) prison, and others. The book is given to them if they complete the 8-week course. This course presents clear, practical principles for sexual purity.



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

WE GO TO THEM

Director's Report, Nelson W. Martin



"You are the light of the world. . . let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven". Matt. 5: 14,16

I've been reading Jim Montgomery's challenging book "I'm Gonna Let it Shine". The author challenges believers to move outside of the church and relate more to neighbors, friends, and associates. Jim writes "every Christian can do 3 things in their own way; pray, care and share". He makes a strong case, using many Biblical references, for not expecting unbelievers to easily come to our churches but for us to "go to them", to live out the Gospel each day of our lives as we move among people.

As I was reflecting on that, I thought, "YES, IN PRISON WE DO GO TO THEM." Those incarcerated do not have a choice of where to go to a church on the outside. They cannot worship with family or choose which Sunday School class or Christian seminar to attend. BUT WE HAVE FAITHFUL CHAPLAINS WHO ARE AVAILABLE TO GO TO THEM ANY DAY TO LISTEN, SHARE, AND SPREAD GOD'S WORD OF HOPE AND HEALING.

We can only do this with your continued prayers, financial gifts and encouragement.

AND FOR YOUR MANY INVOLVEMENTS, I AM MOST GRATEFUL. BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY !!

That helps us take the Gospel behind the bars.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



OUR HUGE PRISON MINISTRY BENEFIT AUCTION WILL BE OCTOBER 26 & 27, 2007 At Farmersville Auction Grounds.

Quilts, paintings, theme baskets, 3-D handcarved picture, tools and hardware, flowers, gift certificates, collectible toys.

Chicken Barbeque Dinner, delicious pancake and sausage breakfast, home made foods, prison ministry display tables and chaplain information.

Our total budget for year 2007 is \$338,000. About \$165,000 is needed in contributions. Gifts come from many churches, businesses and interested individuals.

Only 13% of our total expenses go for administration and promotion, leaving 87% of all income for chaplain wages, prison ministry programs, Bibles and Christian literature, and services to inmates and ex-inmates.

Remember SFPM in your estate planning and long-term giving. Counsel is available to help you with will preparation, asset distribution and tax savings.

THE LORD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.