

MY NEW LIFE BEGAN IN PRISON

By Rev. Jaime Santiago as told to Nelson Martin

Nelson: Jaime is currently the director of the Lancaster Teen Challenge Induction Center. When I met Jaime and his wife Pam recently in their office at Rehrersburg, I was fascinated by a fast-moving story of God at work over the past 20 years. Here are some highlights.

Jaime: I grew up in a dysfunctional family in New Jersey. My mother was illiterate and had mental problems and my dad was a chronic alcoholic. By age 10 I was breaking into local houses. That started a journey of being in and out of juvenile courts and prison facilities. In my teen-age years, my life was controlled by alcohol and drugs.

Nelson: How did you come to live in Lancaster, PA?

Jaime: By age 19, my life was a disaster. Because of the pain of my brother’s suicide, I moved to Lancaster to find a new life. I realize now that I moved here but kept the same luggage with me. I had good intentions but no heart change. I got a good job in Lancaster, but was soon drinking more than ever. I got involved in a string of convenience store robberies and was arrested and sent to Lancaster County Prison (LCP) in February 1988. I had made a promise to myself when I left New Jersey, that if I get in trouble again, I would kill myself. I thought that was my only option. I was in such pain and felt that if I died, I would at least be at peace.

Nelson: So what happened next?

Jaime: One day I signed up to go to chapel (whatever that meant) because I needed something to do. It was Easter week of 1988, and Chaplain Dave Myer explained the meaning of resurrection and the power that Jesus gives to have power over sin. I thought Easter meant fancy clothes and eating chocolate bunnies. I had never heard about this Jesus although I thought there was a God. When Chaplain Myer told me I could be forgiven of EVERYTHING I had ever done, I was shocked. I felt the power of the Holy Spirit come over me. I began to weep . . . my shameful life flashed before me . . . I cried out to God for help . . . and I felt a kind of peace that I never had before in my troubled life.

Nelson: How did your life change from that dramatic day in 1988?

Jaime: Praise God, I became a new person but I had so much to learn. I did many Bible studies and asked Chaplain Myer hard questions. When I was moved to Camp Hill prison, I led my cell-mate to the Lord. I finished my sentence at SCI Retreat in Luzerne County where a godly chaplain walked with me. I then did 6 months of my sentence at a York Community Correctional Center, graduated from the Harrisburg Teen Challenge Induction Center and Rehrersburg Training Center program and lived and worked in Lancaster

(Continued on page 3)



SFPM Director, Nelson Martin
with Jaime Santiago



**COME TO THE ANNUAL AUCTION
OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2008
FARMERSVILLE AUCTION GROUNDS**



**This year's auction is SFPM'S
SILVER ANNIVERSARY**

Friday Evening:

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

5:00 P.M. Auction of quality merchandise, hardware, flowers, gift certificates, Winross trucks and collectible toys, and a big selection of meats and groceries.



Saturday:

6 A.M. Delicious Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

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.

Our auction goal is to clear \$90,000 after expenses, to be shared with LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON and YOUTH CENTER CHAPLAINCY PROGRAMS, EXIT (Ex-Offenders in Transition), FREEDOM GATE, TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY and WE CARE PROGRAMS.

Handmade wooden & leather items made by inmates and paintings done by inmates will be sold throughout the auction



Donations of quality merchandise, theme baskets and gift certificates are needed. Volunteers needed to help prepare for and work on Auction Day. Attention Quilters: We have tops to be quilted if you can help. For more information, call: Nelson Martin (717) 625-0232, Glenn Hoover (717) 569-2475 or Cliff Martin (717) 336-6411.

MANY VALUABLE GIFT CERTIFICATES

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

Specialty items to be sold:

Pedal tractors, framed paintings, quilts, wall hangings, shrubbery, flowers, nursery stock, tools, hardware, farm and home items, food, groceries, produce, fruits, and meats.



Brand New Farmall Super H tractor



NEW & ORIGINAL WOODEN 3-D PICTURE BY LORRAINE REIFF. COUNTRY SCENE FROM LANCASTER COUNTY

Delicious homemade foods and baked goods Friday and Saturday

Since the SFPM annual auction began in 1984, over \$1.4 million has been contributed to prison ministries.

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



Check it out at:
www.supportforprisonministries.org

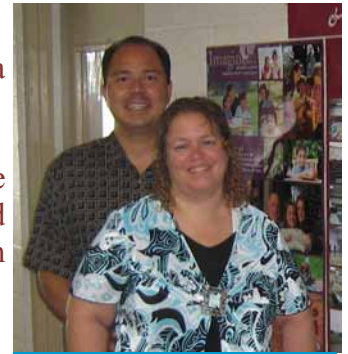


You'll find information about the auction, pictures of items for sale, an interactive map and much more!!

My New Life Began in Prison....continued from page 1

County for 9 years. Two highlights were being baptized by Chaplain Myer in a creek near Ephrata and becoming married to Pam.

During this time we were mentored and loved by many Christians that helped shape our lives. Since many persons encouraged me to continue my education, we moved to Florida. I enrolled in and graduated from a Bible college with degrees in Church Leadership and Business.



Jaime & Pam Santiago

Nelson: Tell me how you got involved at Teen Challenge?

Jaime: When I finished Bible School, I was hired by Teen Challenge. This has been a blessing, since I can relate to and help many men who have similar backgrounds to mine. Currently, as director of the Lancaster Induction Center, we are seeking to expand to a bigger center in Lancaster County. Pam and I are seeking God's direction and working hard to open a center that will have more room than we have here at Rehrersburg. **The new life that began for me inside LCP continues to grow and develop. I praise God for protecting my life and for giving me a peace that changed my entire life.**

Nelson: As I drove home from this exciting meeting (and I could have made this article much longer with all the stories and testimonies I heard from the Santiago's) I kept reflecting on two things:

1. Praise the Lord that in the early days of Support for Prison Ministries in 1988, Chaplain Myer had this opportunity to lead Jaime to the Lord. Since then, many faithful chaplains and volunteers have continued this ministry at LCP.

2. This year is the 50th anniversary of Teen Challenge. It was 1958 when a naïve country preacher named David Wilkerson went to New York City to preach to those criminal boys that he read about in the newspaper. Today Teen Challenge Centers and programs stretch around the world. **Praise God that Jaime Santiago, who found Jesus in a LCP prison cell 20 years ago, now is a leader in this international ministry that continues to bring new life to many.**

Come and See — Part 2

By Joel Bare

In the last SFPM newsletter I briefly described Jesus' call to "Come and See" as mentioned in the first chapter of John. Within the walls of the Youth Intervention Center (YIC) God continues to show the impact that phrase has on my life. In each young man that I have had the pleasure of spending time with, I have seen pieces of myself; how sin manifests itself in ugly, sometimes brutal ways, as well as ways that are so subtle that they are barely recognized. That is true in all of our lives. More importantly, the deeper truth is that each young man displays God's workmanship in an unbridled, enthusiastic yet often misguided way.

A conversation that I had with one young gentleman sums up this point perfectly. His story is typical of the juveniles at YIC. No positive male influence, poor choice of friends and poor decisions. His charges aren't important to this article but they are serious. One evening we were casually playing basketball talking about anything from sports to fast food when the conversation turned spiritual. He had been doing Bible studies so I asked if he would have wanted to spend time with Jesus when he was here on earth? He enthusiastically exclaimed, "**** Yeah!" Why? "Because He was cool and did all those miracles." Then the question was raised: Was Jesus fun? Again, "**** Yeah" was the response said even more emphatically.

I didn't like the offensive word he used, but let's take a moment to look beyond the language to the heart from which it is being said. Like David, Jeremiah, and our Savior himself, who didn't follow standard religious procedures, his hunger is real. He is reaching for something tangible. This young man wants to rest in the arms of Jesus; he desperately wants to be with Jesus in his humble incarnation. How much more does he want to see Christ in his glorious exaltation? Oh that we would all have the same desire to know the unquenchable fire of God's furious love.

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



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

Sharing God's
love and hope to
those in prison. ❤️

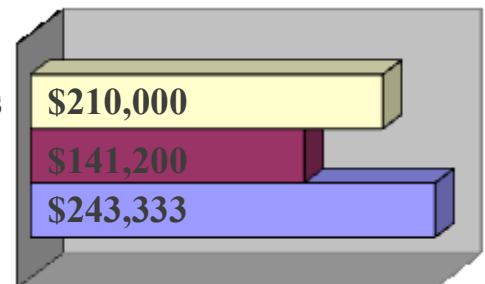
Proclaiming
freedom for
prisoners and
hope for their
families.

Focus On Finances

January 1– August 31, 2008

SFPM's annual current budget is \$365,000. Of this amount, about \$178,000 will be needed from contributions that come from many churches, businesses and interested persons. As you can see from the financial graph, expenses stay fairly constant for the year (chaplain salaries and program costs) while contributions are smaller during spring and summer months. An envelope is enclosed for you to be a partner with us.

Expenses
Income
Budget



Thanks for your generous gifts!