



PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO YOU ... YOU ... AND YOU !

This familiar greeting from Luke chapter 2 is a wish for your Christmas season from all of us at **Support for Prison Ministries**. Many will routinely mouth this saying without much thought of its meaning. Others may even question if this could ever be true, since there is so much violence and war in our world. Still others will be moved to humbly ask God to make them a better person in light of the eternal, hopeful message that Jesus Christ brought to this dark and troubled world.

This greeting is really about who Jesus is. If we know Jesus who came as a baby but is really God’s unique Son and our Saviour, then we will have peace with God (our hearts quieted within us) and we will have peace and good will (favor and cooperation and caring) for others who share space on this earth.

One commentator put it like this, “When you hear Christmas music this year, may it be like angels whispering in your ear. And may the message be going right down deep into your heart.”

SO MAY IT BE FOR YOU ... YOU ... AND YOU !

**From the staff, chaplains and board of directors
Support for Prison Ministries**

RECORD SETTING AUCTION AND SNOWSTORM

Our 28th annual Prison Ministry Benefit Auction was held at Farmersville Auction Grounds Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29, 2011. Volunteers and staff, busy setting up on Thursday of that week, endured much rain and wind. When Friday morning dawned clear with a breeze there was hope that surrounding fields could be used for parking. Then came the unusual weather report, “A powerful wet and cold nor’easter was moving up the East Coast, producing a forecast of record breaking snow on Saturday.” As many of you experienced first-hand, the storm did arrive Saturday, with wet snow that made travel hazardous, broke many trees and brought down power lines. Weather records were set for late October.

Meanwhile, we had a very strong auction on Friday night, with record attendance and good sales. A few less persons than usual were there Saturday, but we had good merchandise, strong bidders and a warm building to be in. **THE RESULT WAS A RECORD SETTING AUCTION, THE BEST WE EVER HAD!** For this we are most grateful to God and to everyone who made this event a huge success.

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RECORD SETTING AUCTION AND SNOWSTORM (continued)

Our goal was \$90,000 from auction and food stands.

Our net proceeds (after expenses) were \$96,801, almost \$8,000 more than the 2010 auction!

Here are some highlights of the day:

- 3-D original art work by Lorraine Reiff, beautifully detailed and full color Amish farm scene \$4,750
- Minneapolis Moline Pedal Tractor \$500
- Wooden NFL Football (made by prison inmate) \$185
- New custom made wooden storage shed \$1,250
- Finely detailed Good's Disposal Service truck \$225
- Beautiful Twinkling Star Quilt \$400
- Kitchen Goddess theme basket \$150



Auction attendees also enjoyed lots of good food, including a Friday evening chicken barbeque dinner, a Saturday breakfast of sausage and pancakes, and delicious food items throughout the day. Homemade pies, baked bread, a fresh salad bar and fruit trays gave many choices for hungry appetites.



Another highlight of the day was a personal visit by State Senator Mike Brubaker. He auctioned a 10 person tour of the State Capital, with lunch, for \$1,500. He also sold the first of 8 pedal tractors for \$500. He gave a moving speech about his prison reform concerns and thanked the SFPM staff for all they do. Mike talked to many persons as he moved among the attendees.

Thanks to the countless volunteers who helped with picking up merchandise and setting up, food services, auctioneers and sale runners, office staff and clean up crew. Many persons worked together to make this day a success. This annual auction is a cooperative between seven prison ministries. Funds go to Lancaster County Prison and Youth Intervention chaplain services, Spirit and Word Ministries, Freedom Gate, Transition To Community/Potter's House and We Care Programs. Since the auction began, almost \$1.8 million has been contributed to prison ministries. 2012 Auction Dates are planned for October 26 and 27.



YEAR END FINANCIAL PICTURE/GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

During the 2011 year, contributions to SFPM have been about 10% less than the same time last year. We continue to operate with a full schedule of chaplains and in prison services. We need about \$90,000 in contributions in December, \$25,000 more than last December. Your gifts, by December 31, will help us balance the 2011 fiscal year. In addition to cash contributions, we can receive gifts in other ways; donations of stock, real estate, life income plans, bequests and charitable designations from wills.



**AN ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOU TO PARTNER WITH US.
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS.**

Meet Chaplain Ray Taltoan

Ray Taltoan joined the SFPM Chaplain staff at Lancaster County Prison (LCP) in August 2011. Ray grew up in Coatesville, PA and is continuing his education at Lancaster Bible College. He is an associate pastor at Bright Side Baptist Church in Lancaster. There he works with leadership training, does some preaching and teaching and assists with many congregational responsibilities. Ray, his wife Minneva and 3 children live in Landisville. They enjoy singing and giving inspirational programs together as a family. Ray has many experiences with city outreaches, working with needy teens and counseling hurting persons.



SFPM: What is your role at LCP? As a chaplain I do regular Bible studies on third floor and respond to inmate requests throughout the prison. I do a lot of one-on-one counseling, which involves a listening ear. Sometimes chaplains are called upon to delivery emergency messages to inmates, such as when a family member dies or has an emergency happening in their life.

SFPM: How did you become involved in prison ministry? Bright Side has had a number of persons and teams who have been visiting and sharing at LCP for years. I participated in several of those teams. I worked as a counselor with Prescott House, a community based residential program for juvenile boys. More recently, I worked as a counselor and in administration at a York County juvenile facility. I care about hurting people and want to help them find a better life.

SFPM: Can you share something about your personal faith? My Christian walk began around the age of 21. I had been active with sports in high school and realized I needed to surround myself with good friends. One day I went to a church just to check it out. There I found new friends, but I also found hope when Jesus came into my heart. My whole life and goals were changed. The hate and malice all left me. I was free on the inside. My life's purpose now is sharing that good news with others.

SFPM: What discourages you? I see many persons returning to prison again and again, not learning from their previous incarcerations. It seems like too many people in our society take life for granted. I am saddened when good lives with much potential are wasted.

SFPM: What makes a positive or good day for you? The best day is when someone turns their life over to the control of God. I enjoy teaching persons and seeing them learn and follow new truths. It is exciting to see how lives can be transformed by the power and hope of God.

Did you know? During the past year:

Amount of Bibles given to LCP inmates - **ABOUT 2,000**

Visits to LCP inmates by area pastors – **ABOUT 3,000 – (10 – 12 per day)**

LCP Chaplain requests from and contacts with inmates **13,000 (about 1,100 per month)**

Two Lancaster County based aftercare ministries, **Transition To Community and The Potter's House**, have now merged into a new organization. Brian Fountain has been hired as director. They operate 3 aftercare houses in the area and will be expanding their counseling and discipleship training programs for those getting out of prison.

Evangelist Nicky Cruz was a blessing to hundreds of persons who gathered at Shady Maple banquet center on October 6 and 7. Sponsored by the Lancaster Teen Challenge Center, Nicky shared his dynamic testimony. Known as the "Billy Graham of the streets", Nicky's stories told in "The Cross and Switchblade" and "Run, Baby Run" continue to be much requested reading by prison inmates.

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

SFPM STAFF



LCP Staff

Diane Pistone, Marvin Reed, Kim Martin, Al Huber
Katie Mininger, Isaias Maldonado, Ray Taltoan



YIC Staff

Marvin Reed, Joel Bare, Katie Mininger

Other Chaplains receiving SFPM Funds



Karin White,
Women's Chaplain,
working with Spirit
& Word Ministries



Joe Bird, Addictions
Counselor, working
with Beginning In the
Right Direction



Office Staff

Nelson Martin, Director, and Jewel
Sensenig, Administrative Assistant