



Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

"Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners"

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REJOICE – TRUE LIGHT HAS COME

By Nelson Martin, SFPM Director

On behalf of SFPM staff, chaplains and the board of directors

I love to see lights at the Christmas season. It might be the twinkle of stars in a dark sky, the colored lights around a room or on an outdoor fence, or glowing candles on a window sill. These all remind me of Jesus, the light of the world. He only can bring the true light and hope of this season and every season into our lives. That should cause us to rejoice and be glad.

The prophet Isaiah, hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, foretold of a Lord coming with “light for the way” and “to be an everlasting light.” Inmates in our prisons have much darkness, hopelessness, and despair. But many are finding new guidance and direction as they learn about God, who loves them and has a plan for their lives.

This Christmas I want to be like the wise men in Matthew 2:10, “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” Will you join me in rejoicing and giving thanks for Jesus, the light of the world?

OUR BEST BENEFIT AUCTION EVER!!

The 30th annual Prison Ministry Benefit Auction was held at Farmersville Auction Grounds Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, 2013. The auction goal was \$100,000. We exceeded all expectations and had net receipts (after expenses) of \$115,240 to be shared with 6 prison chaplain ministries and aftercare programs. At about 8 PM, during the Friday evening auction, Director Nelson Martin “interrupted” the selling to announce that everyone there was part of a history making event. The \$2 million mark had just been passed since the auction began in a small way in 1983. There was time for clapping and giving of thanks.



The auction attendance packed the Farmersville facility. We had excellent help from many volunteers. Persons picked up merchandise from businesses, set up displays, were sale runners and auctioneer helpers, and worked hard to clean up after the busy two days. The Friday evening tasty chicken dinner made by Big John's was a huge favorite. This year, the food committee ordered extra meals, only to run out of some dinner items. Other food stands and baked goods did well, also. And we had many donations of merchandise and gift certificates from area businesses. Some gave generous donations to help cover auction costs so that auction proceeds could go directly to the ministries. New this year, was an anonymous donation of almost \$3,000 that allowed matching funds to be added to several items.

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

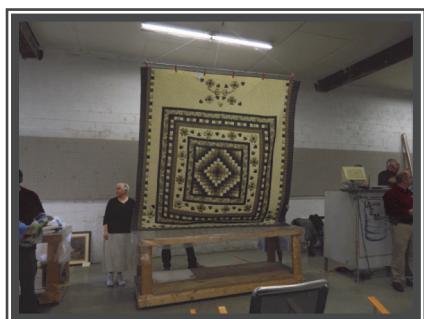
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HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUCTION:

- * 3-D original art work by artist Lorraine Reiff. A beautiful detailed and full color farm scene near Hinkletown \$4,400
- * 1953 Ford Jubilee Tractor – fully restored \$3,750
- * Metal Collectible Mack Dump Truck \$260
- * New Chest Freezer \$450
- * Trip Around the World with flowers Quilt \$500
- * Thirty-one bag full of Dutch Valley snack foods \$160 + matching funds of \$160
- * Wooden NFL Footballs (made by prison inmate) \$85 each
- * New custom made wooden storage shed \$2,150 + matching fund of \$2,150



About 50 business gift certificates were sold on silent auction tables. Another 15 higher value certificates (carpenter and paving services, tree trimming, bed and breakfasts, lawn services, etc.) were auctioned with Saturday's specialty items.



WE THANK GOD FOR ANOTHER GOOD AUCTION. WE WISH GOD'S BLESSINGS ON ALL WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE. AND WE REJOICE THAT MANY INMATES AND EX-INMATES WILL BENEFIT FROM THESE PROCEEDS !!

THE BENEFIT AUCTION IS MOVING

This was our last year to use the Farmersville Auction facility. During the auction, Nelson Martin and Board Chairman, Ken Martin, gave special thanks to Larry and Bev Rutt and their staff for their many years of donating this space and working closely with us.

We have outgrown the building and parking area. We are still reviewing locations for our October 24 and 25, 2014 sale. As soon as we confirm our plans, we will spread the word: website, facebook, newsletters and mailing lists.





NEW EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AT LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON

A new training, TARP (Turn Around Re-entry Program), is being introduced to Work Release inmates at LCP. In regular class sessions, led by Joe Bird, a SFPM chaplain, it teaches principles of how to go about a job search, how to develop positive attitudes, and how to expand life's goals and direction. The classes specifically focus on job interviews and developing job skills. Practical applications are discussed such as time use, transportation needs and financial budgeting. Joe is hoping to have potential employers come to LCP to talk to inmates about preparing for the work place.

In the first class group, one member got an entry level job when he was released. Several others have committed to being dependable and doing the best they can as opportunities come. Joe also reports that another ex-inmate "already got a promotion and a letter of commendation" from his new employer.

TARP is overseen by Joe Shiffer, LCP Deputy Warden for Inmate Services.

ANNUAL PICNIC AND VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR

About 65 persons (SFPM board, paid staff, volunteers, and spouses) held their annual picnic at the Middle Creek Church pavilion in September 2013. This is an annual event sponsored by the board to say **THANK YOU** for staff jobs well done. Following a delicious meal, catered by board member, Darel Seibert, who owns SEI Catering, there was time for singing, story telling, staff gifts and a challenging message by J. R. Fisher, who had previously been a SFPM chaplain.



LENNY PELSINKSI WAS RECOGNIZED AS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Lenny has been doing chaplain work at LCP for about 15 years. He teaches inner healing and prayer principles to guide inmates to open themselves for God's healing. Lenny directs Spirit and Word Ministries, which works with inmates as well as doing ministry to ex-inmates, aftercare houses, and needy individuals in our communities. Lenny and his wife Tammy live in Lancaster and have 2 young adult daughters. They are active in a house church in Lancaster city.

UPDATES FOR YOU

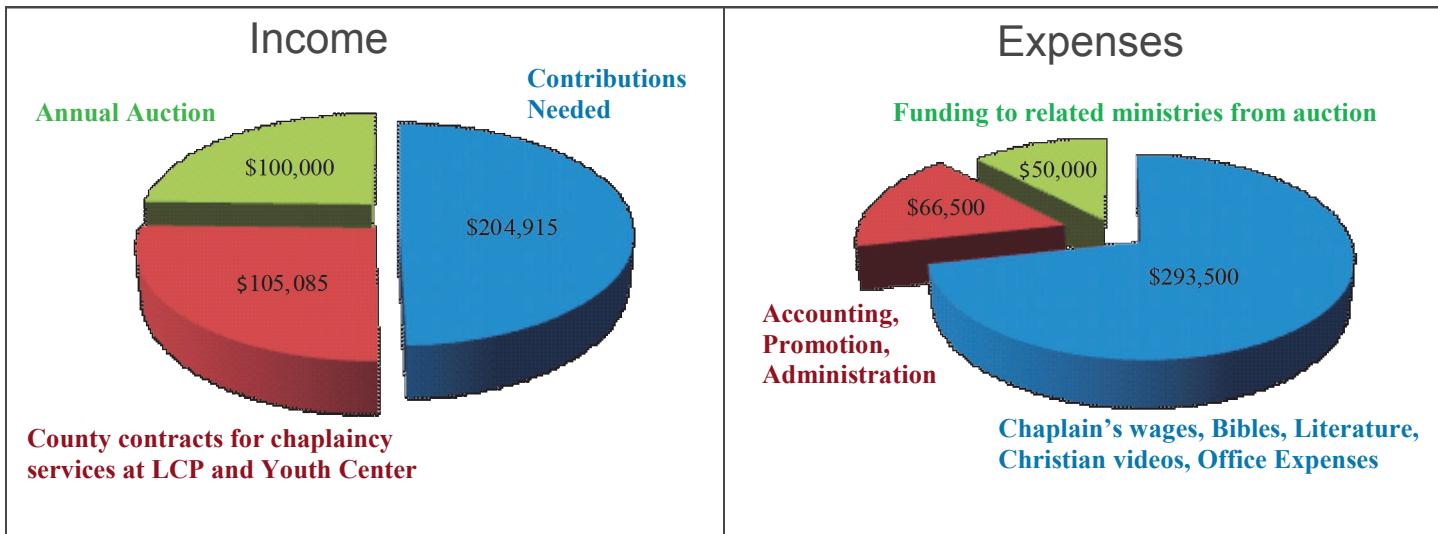
SFPM plans to add another part-time chaplain to the Youth Intervention Center staff. This will happen sometime in December. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

SFPM CHAPLAIN HOURS (Paid staff and regular volunteers) at Lancaster County Prison (LCP):
about 1,200 hours monthly, over 14,000 annually.

During the past year, about 2,200 Bible correspondence courses were completed by LCP inmates.
Many Bibles and Christian books continue to be distributed.

Focus On Finances

2013 Budget: \$410,000



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

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2013 YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES/FINANCIAL PICTURE

We continue to operate our local mission program with a full schedule of chaplains and prison services. We are grateful that during 2013, contributions to SFPM have been somewhat stronger than the same time last year. We also had strong receipts from the Benefit Auction.

We need about \$60,000 in contributions in December. Your gifts, by December 31, will help us balance the 2013 fiscal year and provide some funds to begin the new year. In addition to cash contributions, we can receive gifts in other ways; donations of stock, real estate, life income plans, and bequests and charitable designations from wills. Professional financial counselors are available.

AN ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOU TO PARTNER WITH US.

