

***“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”***

## **Mark Adams, “Fisher of Men”**

Mark Adams was a much-loved Christian Correction Officer at Lancaster County Prison (LCP). He is now living with Jesus and his family generously established “The Fishers of Men Memorial Fund,” that people donated money for Bibles at Lancaster County Prison. SFPM has a Bible fund and with the permission of the family, we are permanently re-naming it “The Fishers of Men Fund,” in memory of Mark’s constant witness to inmates, while an officer at LCP. This fund will also be used to buy Bibles for other prisons throughout our country.



Diane Pistone, LCP Chaplain’s Administrative Assistant says the following: “It’s all about relationship.” That’s what Mark Adams heard as a member of Faith Covenant Church pastored by LCP Volunteer Chaplain David Hornsby. Mark didn’t just hear that statement, he put it into practice.

It was not unusual for Mark to call the Chaplain’s Office with a prayer request for someone who was struggling or had a need in their life. These requests were not only for inmates but for his dearly appreciated fellow COs. He would also pull Chaplains aside as they were doing their rounds to alert them to the needs of those under his watchful eye in his housing block.

Anyone who knew Mark knew he liked fishing. He not only liked it...he did it as often as possible and shared it with anyone who was interested. All his grandchildren have wonderful memories of fishing with ‘Grandpa Mo’.

Mark was a man who always had his eyes open to see who needed to know the love of his Jesus. He was more than a fisher of fish, he was a fisher of men!

Mark’s life was an open book. You knew when he was happy and you knew when he was struggling. No matter what was going on in his life, you also knew he loved the Lord with all his heart. You could not meet Mark and not know there was something different about him. His love and dedication to God and His Son was evident to all. He willingly shared nuggets of truth the Lord gave him in his quiet times and words from songs that had special meaning to him.

Mark will be greatly missed at Lancaster County Prison by everyone...staff and inmates. He left his mark on each one he met and his prayers are still being answered for each one.

Mark’s wife Patty had the following to say: It was Mark’s heart’s desire that every inmate would realize their need for Jesus and that Jesus was the only answer for their lives. Mark took every opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ to any inmate who would listen. Many times, Mark would come home from LCP and say, “Honey, the Spirit was there with us when we were talking. It was so neat to see their faces change when they heard the truth from God’s Word.” What a blessing it was to see God using Mark in his own mission field at LCP for 28 years. God is so very good.

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## Volunteer Spotlight: Kent Martin

“Volunteers are special and they make a difference”

Chaplain volunteers give about 75 hours per week, collectively. This spotlight features one of these committed persons who shares so much inside the prison walls.



I posed a question to the guys during a recent Mental Health Unit church service. “What is freedom?” It created quite a discussion as everyone expressed their opinion on freedom. Two young men thought they could create a good debate as they countered with what they thought freedom really was. They said freedom is doing whatever you think is right to do. I shared with the men that many people have a pattern of thinking that says, “What can I get away with? How close can I get to the line?” Their perspective is wrong. This kind of thinking leads to bondage and destruction.

Freedom is the power (God's grace or ability in us) to say no. True freedom asks, “What is right with it? How will my thoughts or actions draw me closer to God? What pleases Him?” The perspective is completely different. Paul said in I Corinthians 6:12(Amp), “*Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful.... Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power.*” If something can override the Spirit of God in us, we are a slave to it. There are a lot of things we can do or be part of, but they are not always the best thing. Sometimes I choose to say no to an activity or opportunity, not because it's wrong in and of itself, but it will consume time or energy that will take me away from the best, the Kingdom of God.

True freedom is what Galatians 5:16(Amp) says. “*But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).*” True freedom is living and walking in the Spirit. You keep the rules (in prison, in society, or in the Bible), not because you have to, but because the Holy Spirit is convicting and leading you to do so. The only way we can overcome the flesh and this world's system is a life in the Spirit.

My prayer is that I can be a part of connecting men to a relationship with the Father, His Son, and His Spirit. When the inmates learn to hear His voice and respond to it, they will have the power to overcome in life and succeed. This lifestyle isn't easy. The answers are not always clearly defined. It will cause us to fall on our face and cry out for His help! This is where true freedom and life are found. The inmate's connection with me may end, but the Holy Spirit will always go with them. I appreciate everyone who prays for LCP, the chaplains, and volunteers! God bless you.

P.S. Recently, God healed a man's eyes! He is no longer wearing a patch, and he can see clearly!



# CONGRATULATIONS!!

**On August 26, 2017 SFPM'S Chaplaincy Coordinator,  
Katie Mininger married Anthony Harnish.  
Best wishes!!**



**Learn more about prison with seminars by chaplains and prison evangelists.  
Presented by Support For Prison Ministries, We Care, Outward Focus, and more.**

**Hinkletown Mennonite Church, Saturday, March 3, 2018**

**More info to come in our next newsletter.**



On **November 17**, Support For Prison Ministries will be part of Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County's Largest Day of Giving.

Any donation made online at [www.extragive.org](http://www.extragive.org) on that day will be stretched by \$500,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

Please consider supporting us on November 17. Thank you!!



Pedal Tractors, child size gator, tools, and Winross trucks

## COME TO THE **34th** ANNUAL AUCTION

**OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2017**  
**EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER**  
**400 W. Main St, Ephrata**



Two 3D pictures will be sold Saturday  
Both are detailed and original  
Abner Zook (2002) pictured above  
Lorraine Reiff (1998) see website  
for picture



Theme Baskets



Quilts, afghans,  
wall hangings

Many Valuable Gift Certificates from area businesses for food, lodging, professional and home services.



Interested in Volunteering during our Auction? We could use volunteers on Thursday, October 26, to help set up chairs and tables and to receive goods. Some lifting and walking up steps involved. Also volunteers appreciated to receive goods on Friday, the 27th, during the day. If you would like to be a runner Friday night or Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> that would be appreciated also.

If interested, contact us at [sfpm@dejazzd.com](mailto:sfpm@dejazzd.com) or call 717-859-5519.

Check our website's Annual Auction Pages for more information at [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)  
Or our facebook page for pictures of items for sale.

### HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!!

**OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL EXPENSES PAID BEFORE THE AUCTION SO THAT THE ENTIRE AUCTION PROCEEDS CAN GO TO PRISON MINISTRIES.**

Maybe you will not be able to attend this year, or you may want to send a contribution now to go toward auction expenses. Just clip this coupon and return it in the enclosed envelope with a check made out to SFPM.

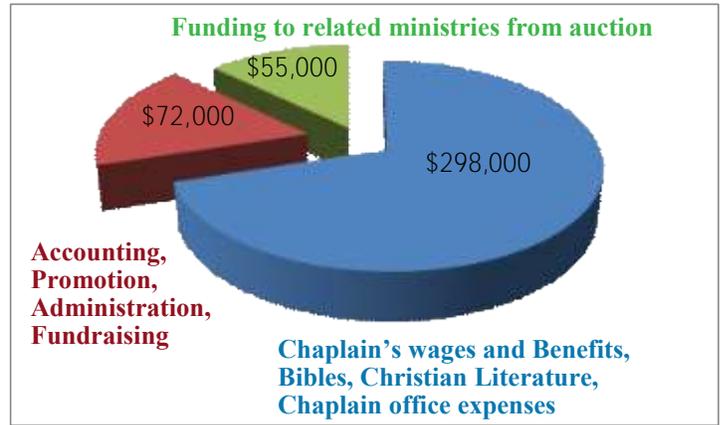
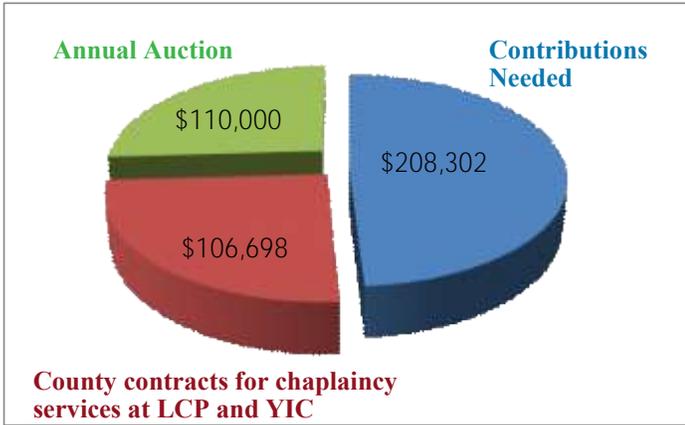
Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help with benefit auction costs.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



# Income **Focus On Finances**

Expenses **2017 Budget: \$425,000**



**A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM. THANK YOU !!**

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

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## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** By Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

Recently, as I was walking across the parking lot to the prison, I noticed a young woman strapping her child into the backseat of the car, and talking so sweetly and gently to her child as a loving mother does. My heart was touched with sadness over the separation of the family through incarceration. This lady is no different from any other mother who tenderly loves her child. We often forget that inmates and their families are just like you and me, but with a transgression that splits their family harmony.

Inmates themselves are normal people that often love family and community like us. I have found prisoners to be very thoughtful while incarcerated. It is not unusual for them to present a card for me to sign when I am worshipping with them. It may be for a sick volunteer, or his wife, or a new chaplain. Prisoners are very good at caring about those that reach out to them, in fact community is the word I often think of when I am in prison. There is a very tight bond that happens within the prison walls.

*Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. **Hebrews 11:25***