

2013 Year-End Report	
Facility	Baptisms
Jail Facilities	
CDC - Davidson County	26
CJC - Davidson County	108
HDC - Davidson County	48
McMinn County Jail	11
Sumner County Jail	90
White County Jail	4
Wilson County Jail	43
CCA - Nashville	10
Shelby County Penal Farm	100 est.
State Prisons	
MLCX - Memphis	5
CBCX - Nashville	2
TPFW - Nashville	21
RMSI - Nashville	7
WCFA - Whiteville	54
NECX - Carter County	3
Federal Prisons	
ALDERSON, WV	15
Total Baptisms	553

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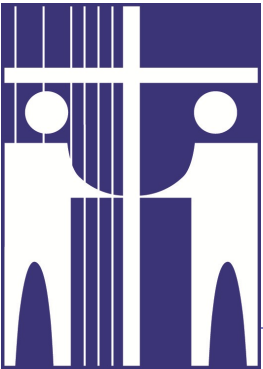
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Behind the Bars



Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry

My Father’s Journey

Growing up in the home of an alcoholic parent is an experience that too many children know and one that I personally lived. As a child I remember my father (Tommy Snow), pictured below, struggling with anticipatory anxiety and panic disorder. Watching your father have a panic attack, believing he was having a heart attack and unable to breathe was very frightening as a child. Seeing your father passed out in the hall or seeing his truck in the driveway after he was involved in a hit and run while intoxicated brought special challenges to our family. Throughout most of my childhood, my sisters and I lived with a father who struggled with mental illness and alcoholism. When I left my home in Texas to attend Freed-Hardeman University, it was like a breath of fresh air. I was suffocating at home. To be away from chaos, confusion and unbelievable stress in our family was a blessing. I would leave Texas at the age of 20 to never return home to live (except for an annual trip to visit family during the holidays).

Dad continued to struggle with alcoholism for several years after I left and we suffered the long-term consequences of family alienation with my two sisters which continues today. Thankfully, my father has now experienced 25 years of sobriety and when my parents sold their home in Texas and moved to Middle Tennessee in January of 2013, it allowed time for our relationship to heal. One day, I asked my father if he would like to volunteer in prison ministry and he was so excited to gain access to the Davidson County Sheriff’s Department. Together, my father and I taught the course, “Christians Against Substance Abuse.” This class has been therapy for my dad and me as he has shared with the ladies his struggles with alcoholism, the consequences of his addiction and his road to sobriety. In numerous classes, my dad cried and the ladies in the class did as well as he shared his life and the hope for a better tomorrow. I know the women who attended these classes will be blessed by my father’s openness and honesty. Paul wrote: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and who have been called according to his purposes” (Rom.8:28). (T.S.)



January 2014

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The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. Luke 4:18-19



Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry

Report from Sumner County - Grant Carey



We had another great year at the Sumner County Jail in 2013. A total of 90 inmates were baptized. We have several hundred inmates who are participating in correspondence courses with local congregations. The Homeward Bound program, a pre-release program, graduated 19 participants in December which is one of the largest classes. Sumner County Jail, with the support of the prison ministry, recently facilitated orientation for over 150 volunteers who serve at this facility. The jail offers a library, weekly services, Bible studies, Homeward Bound, GED classes, counseling and re-entry programs. I serve as the Assistant Director of the TN Prison Outreach Ministry and also as the chaplain and Homeward Bound Coordinator for the jail. Churches supporting the ministry or are involved at the jail include: Hendersonville, Portland, Rivergate, Cottontown, New Deal, Rock Bridge, Corinth, Joel-ton, Gallatin, Hartsville Pike and Nashville Road. In 2014, the TN Prison Ministry will sponsor a summer camp for at risk youth and children of the incarcerated (from Davidson and Sumner County) at Whispering Pines in Castalian Springs on Old Hickory Lake. We are excited about the upcoming year and look forward to making a difference in the Sumner County community. On behalf of the inmates we wish to express our appreciation to all of the volunteers and supporters of the prison ministry.



Nine women from Tennessee Prison for Women graduated from Lipscomb University in December with their Associate Degree. This program had faculty and students in the traditional university take classes at the prison and interact with the inmates who were also taking classes for credit. The TPFW graduates had a collective G.P.A. of 3.7. This story made national news. Congratulations to these women and their successful journey in forming a new life.

Congratulations

Grant Carey, Assistant Director, graduated from Lipscomb University on December 12, 2013. Grant's story (going from an inmate to a college graduate) is so inspirational that it was covered on Lipscomb's website. Congratulations Grant on a job well-done! The ministry is also thankful to the prison ministry supporters who provided Grant a full scholarship to attend Lipscomb. After completing his studies, Grant is now working full-time with this ministry and Grant will be working directly with volunteers across the state of Tennessee and expanding prison ministry in jails and prisons.



Baptisms in White County
Terry Rust of the Stewarts Creek church of Christ recently baptized four inmates in the White County jail. We are thankful that this door is beginning to open.



Pictured are volunteers Kenny, Brenda, Georgia, Jim and Shirley with the ladies who graduated on November 15 from the "Managing My Anger" class at the Davidson County Sheriff's Department. Thanks to the volunteers who are "salt and light."



Pictured is volunteer John Jetton (left) and Chaplain Wayne Fleming of the Davidson County Sheriff's Department as the ministry donates hundreds of Bibles, Bible dictionaries and Bible encyclopedias to the inmates at this facility. We are thankful for our dedicated volunteers.

Facts About Incarceration: Over 50% of the incarcerated have at least one child under the age of 18 and 55% of incarcerated parents were the primary caregiver before going to prison. Today, 1 out of 28 children in the U.S. have a parent behind bars. As we work with the incarcerated, let us not forget the children as they try to cope with separation and make sense out of their troubled world.



Federal, State and Local Seminars

2013 Seminars

In 2013, we conducted a seminar at Mark Luttrell, a prison for women in January. In March, we conducted a seminar for Tennessee Prison For Women in Nashville. In July, Thomas traveled to Mountain City, Tennessee for a workshop at NECX. In August, the team was in Lexington, Kentucky, conducting a seminar with the women in the federal prison. The team traveled to Greenville in September and Alderson, West Virginia in October. The workshop in Marianna, Florida was cancelled due to staffing conflicts and we hope to reschedule for 2014. Thanks goes to the team for their willingness to travel to these prisons and share Christ and the hope for a new life.



Gayle Nash from the Harpeth Hills Church of Christ has given over 25 years in volunteer service to prison ministry. Gayle has traveled with the federal team, taught classes locally and helped in numerous ways. Gayle wrote several Christian hymns for our prison ministry hymn-book. Even after a stroke a few years ago, Gayle has continued

to travel with the team and share her faith in Christ, giving the women hope. Due to the declining health of a family member, Gayle has decided to end her travels with the federal team. Thank you Gayle for being such an inspiration to many.

Prayer Requests



Tiffany: Praying for a speedy return to my family and a better understanding of the word.

Quashadalyn: Pray for my family and better me as a person. Help me change my life for the better. Forgive me of my sins.

Tasha: Pray for me and my family and for everyone else and their family also. Pray that I understand the word and what God wants me to do.

Michelle: Pray for God to help me in this jail not to give up. Pray for my kids. Pray for my mom. Pray for my Granny.

In December, we received a contribution in honor of Joann Thompson. We are thankful for this gift and the hundreds of individuals and churches who provide gifts to this ministry.



Should I Care About the Incarcerated?

Over the years, I have heard people criticize volunteers who give their time to the incarcerated. Some just assume that because the incarcerated are behind bars for their crimes, that Christians have no responsibility to them.

The call of ministering to the incarcerated grows out of a reflection on missions which begins with God's creative act, forming the world and making humanity in his image. All, whether incarcerated or free, are made in God's image and have the divine imprint upon their life. Yet, humanity rebelled against God by the commission of the first sin, the first murder, and almost universal wickedness. Rebellion to God led to moral depravity, contributing to human conflict, domination, and alienation both from God and one's community as seen in Genesis 6 & 11. These sinful acts are the result of an unwillingness to acknowledge God's sovereignty which constitutes a rebellion against divine rule. Human history as reflected throughout Scripture is filled with violence, control, manipulation, and abuse. Instead of humanity living in harmony with God, each other, and creation, a tidal wave of oppression occurred. Although all of humanity has been impacted by sin, the incarcerated, in a dramatic way, represent those not only in conflict with God but also in conflict with a civilized society.

Because of the divine imprint in our life, God's mission has been to deliver his people from the entrapments in their life as a result of sin. This deliverance was powerfully demonstrated as God kept his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, working through the nation that descended from these patriarchs. God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the crossing of the Red Sea and led them to Canaan. Israel was not delivered because they deserved salvation or because of their great moral character but because of God's grace.

Despite God's provisions, God's people continually rebelled against him and as a result were taken into exile. Yet, God's mission of deliverance of a rebellious people was demonstrated in the return from Babylonian captivity. Although Israel was like a valley of dry bones (Ezek. 37), feeling completely hopeless in a foreign land, God would breathe life into those bones, restoring Israel to its former glory and into a vast army, demonstrating the glory of God. It was both the exodus and the return from exile that served as the defining moments in Israel's history and God's self-revelation, declaring that God's mission has involved deliverance for the oppressed and the captives. They were captive, not because of religious persecution for a faithful life, but because of rebellion against God as reflected in their worship of worthless idols and a failure to submit to God's ethical standards. Just because they deserved captivity, God did not abandon them but continually made intercession for their redemption and return home.

God's mercy, shown throughout Old Testament history and culminated in the death of Jesus for the lost, powerfully shows that God is always at work on behalf of those who do not deserve God's great provisions. When we participate in prison ministry, we are sharing in the mission of God, seeking humanity's reconciliation and redemption. (By: Thomas Snow)

God is Looking for
Volunteers