



# Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry

## RENEW HOPE

February ~ March 2017 Newsletter



# Discipleship Seminar



SCI ALBION-SCI BENNER-SCI HOUTZDALE-SCI HUNTINGDON-SCI LAUREL HIGHLAND -FCI MCKEAN-SCI SOMERSET - SCI SMITHFIELD

**We believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that Jesus Christ gave His life and shed His blood on the cross for the sins of the whole world. We believe our only hope for salvation is confessing our sin to God and believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, buried with Him in water baptism, and raised in newness of life, living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**We believe** that our primary responsibility in this life, is to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord, to evangelize and make disciples as Jesus commanded (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20) through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4-8)

# Discipleship Seminar Reports



I am still praising the Lord as I reflect back over the Discipleship Ministry Weekend, how God blessed us

with a great Follow-up (Discipleship) Weekend. Just the opportunity of getting together with 50 other likeminded brothers on Friday morning for orientation and preparing our hearts and being reminded of what our purpose is in life.

Matthew 28:16-20 Just before Jesus leaves His disciples, verse 19 Jesus tells them to go therefore and make disciples of all nations, help people to learn of Me and obey my words. Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit! In Verse 20 Jesus says that He would be with us always!! What a promise. Thank-You Jesus! So, as we entered the Houtzdale

Institution we did not have to fear, knowing we are not alone, but knowing we could go boldly in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Friday night and Saturday there were around 60-70 men that came out to the service. It was exciting to see these men, that we knew God was preparing them for this divine appointment, so many of them came out with open hearts and were sincere about learning from God's Living Word! Again, I was reminded that these men that came to the service, we had the opportunity to teach them on becoming disciples and that they would be called to go and teach and make disciples in other parts

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of the prison that we cannot even go. They become ministers of the Word to those that we cannot reach, taking God's Word back

into the Dorms, Cells, Chow Hall, etc. **If you are reading this, please pray for these Ministering Inmates of the Word in Prison!!!** Sunday Morning the chapel was filled (200 + men), exciting to see

the church come alive and worship inside the prison walls. Men's hearts were open and ready to receive what God had prepared for them. There were many men repenting with 2 Men accepting God's plan of Salvation. (O Glory Hallelujah) I just praise God for taking over the service and moving men to repentance, knowing now I have 2 more Brothers in Christ!!

The last Highlight, we were blessed when the Chaplain (Tim Miller) came to us after the service and inviting us to go along to visit Charlie in the prison hospital. Charlie a very dear Brother 90+ yrs. old, blind, skinny, his body now dying of cancer, but when we walked into that room and introduced ourselves to him with brotherly hugs and sang Amazing Grace, it was one of the most amazing moments to me, because it was very clear that the body was dying--BUT the HOLY SPIRIT inside of Charlie was ALIVE and WELL!! (O Hallelujah). Remember he is blind and could not see us, however he said he will soon see us again and (He is going to have a brand-new body)!! What Living Hope!!

**Mel Nolt / Executive Board of Director**

*Matthew 25:36 ... I was in prison and ye came to visit me.*

I am currently incarcerated at the State Correctional Facility in Houtzdale, Pa. We truly had the experience of enjoying the Light of Hope Evangelistic Team of Saints bring us a Discipleship program to our institution called the Rebound Seminar.

The Facilitators, led by Brother Mel Nolt and Dwight Sensenig and four other brothers from the Light of Hope Evangelistic Team.

I am writing this letter to let you know how much I and the men here at SCI Houtzdale appreciated the weekend. These seminars made a tremendous impact on our lives, knowing that we can rebound in the present of today, if we choose to deal with the past of yesterday. My prayer is that the Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry family, kin and extended is blessed beyond measure. I have been touched by God's love through your ministry. **Henry**

My soul was revived after the weekend of Light of Hope, for I was struggling with some slackness and sin in my life. I thank God for using your ministry of men to shine a ray of light in my heart. Nate sharing about his dad was truly a blessing. Keep shining for Christ. **Samuel**

We at the Rockview Family Church so greatly appreciate the dedication of all the Light of Hope volunteers. They always come through with practical and inspirational material to instill hope and renewal in our lives. **John**

As an inmate who had been here from the start of Light of Hope coming in, I am always blessed by the men who come in and share of their struggles and victories.

We need examples of men who live victorious lives in Christ and can share of their struggles in getting to their own personal victories, allowing the men in prison to see what is possible when we submit our lives to Jesus Christ.

Thank you to Nate and all the men who made the weekend a special retreat. God, bless you. **Scott**



# Discipleship Seminar Reports

"Jesus, All for Jesus" and "But for the Blood" were two songs that kept going through my mind, as we went in to share the Rebound seminar at Houtzdale SCI! Mel, Marcus, Darren & I meet Luke at the front gate.

Mel and I took turns sharing on "The love of the Father" "Forgiveness" & "Walking with Jesus". After each session, we broke into 5 small groups. Small group time you get to hear the inmate's thoughts, pray with them and speak life into them! We are so blessed to have a thriving church inside the fences! It seems like they bless us more than we bless them! It was so exciting to see them hungry for

God's word that they are sitting on the edge of their seats.

Sunday morning Luke's son Daniel came in with us! We had a great time worshipping with the inmates! I shared a message on "Who is Jesus to You"? I had Mel share his testimony and finished up with "What are you going to do with Jesus?" Chaplain Miller had an invitation. We had some men respond and two give their lives to Jesus!

Chaplain Miller made special arrangements to go to the infirmary to visit blind Charlie who has stage 4 cancer and was sent back to prison to die! Luke knew him and he lit up like a Christmas light when he heard

Luke's voice!! We sang "Amazing Grace" for him and laid hands on him and prayed for him.

Back out in the parking lot we said our goodbyes to Luke and Daniel and blessed them and headed for Lebanon & Lancaster counties to be with our families!! Again, it is all about Jesus and the blood of the LAMB (Jesus)!!!! **Dwight Sensesenig**  
**Seminar Instructor**

PS. God bless you Chaplain Miller!! Thank you for what you are doing there inside the fences!!

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I was blessed to be part of the Discipleship Ministry weekend. We had an amazing weekend in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you, Jesus, for making such a great sacrifice for us! And how we can live in freedom.

We started out on Friday morning and met at the motel for a small orientation it was. A great time of fellowship, and prayer. It usually amazes me how orientation has a way of preparing our hearts for our weekend mission. Jesus promises us that where two or three are gathered he will be in our midst. We had our first service on Friday evening at SCI Rockview, and Brother Nathaniel Hoover was our Discipleship Instructor throughout the weekend. God used him in a mighty way to bring His word to the inmates and to everyone else that was present.

The theme for the weekend was the Rebound Seminar, a very solid biblical teaching that encourages us how to overcome failure and how to use pass failure to grow in Christ. Throughout the weekend, we also had the opportunity to have group session with the inmates. It was good to hear the inmates share their hearts, so many of them have a lot of hurts and emotional wounds from the past. While others have a struggle to forgive themselves of the things that they committed in the past. So many are finding HOPE in Christ and rebounding by the power of the Holy Spirit by choosing to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another highlight is the time in the GYM, playing volleyball with inmates. Then closing-up the weekend with a Sunday morning Worship Service was truly a blessing. The Buffalo Valley Men's Octet Singers along with Evangelist Linford Bender joined us for the Worship Service. Which was much appreciated and a blessing.

There's a few things about prison ministry that always inspire me. To see God's children followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, coming together for one purpose and the fellowship with another has always been an encouragement to me. I consider a blessing to be a part of the Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry. Thank You, Jesus! All to the Glory of God. **Alvin Smucker**

## Prayer Partners are Needed



Prayer partners are needed for the Encounter 2017 Pennsylvania Prison Crusade scheduled for March 23-26, 2017, to intercede in prayer on the behalf of those who are forsaking their homes, lands, family, friends and their occupation to minister HOPE in Christ unto the least of these in prison.



*James 5:16 .... The Effectual Fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man Availeth Much.*

## NEW OFFICE PROJECT

**Funds Needed!!**



Due to the growth of the ministry and a need of staff and more office space, conference room and a great need of storage space. The Executive Board of Directors have set in motion to move forward with a new office building. The new office building will provide three office spaces, a conference room, shipping department, along with much needed storage, and finally a permanent structure for the growing need for Bibles and discipleship materials ministry.

The past almost 9 years we were blessed and grateful to work out of a 12x24 building that was structured for one person in the office. Due to growth of the ministry there is a need for staff to help oversee and help with the different responsibilities.

So, for phase 1, Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry has put in motion to start a New Building Fund. However, the timeliness and completion of the building will be dependent upon additional funds and materials being made available.

The new 3000 Sq. feet office building will cost approximately \$250,000.00. Funds are needed to begin and complete this project. We are fully depending on the Lord for His provision in this project. For more information, on how you can help, call the office at 570-837-0649 or via email [info@lightofhope.org](mailto:info@lightofhope.org)

### Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry Team's Schedule

*Amos Stoltzfus Family* Amos only\* ~ Amos & Benjamin\*\*



Feb. 6	CCI Union Prison*
Feb. 18	Prison Crusade Area Coordinator Meeting**
Feb. 20	CCI Union Prison*
Feb. 25	Prison Crusade Team Leader Meeting**
Mar. 4	Ministry Family & Team Member Supper
Mar. 6	CCI Union Prison*
Mar. 20	CCI Union*
Mar. 23-26	Encounter 2017 Pennsylvania Prison Crusade **
Apr. 30	Boyer Menn. Church Am.

*Light of Hope Bluegrass Gospel Team*



Mar. 23-26	Encounter 2017 Pennsylvania Prison Crusade
Apr. 30	Boyer Menn. Church Am.

**SAVE THE DATES !!**

## Looking Ahead

# Spring Banquets

Mon. June 5, Shady Maple East Earl, PA.

Wed. June 7, Richfield Mennonite Church Richfield, PA.

**More Details Later!!**