



Light of Hope

EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

PRISONS ~ CHURCHES ~ COMMUNITIES

Spring 2018 Newsletter

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The Old Rugged Cross Stories of REDEMPTION

Light of Hope,

I hope you are doing well. This past weekend was a great one.

We were blessed to once again go back into the blocks and sing to the inmates where they live. We also had some good services, however, the services were not very well attended as they have been in years gone by in Waymart. I think this may be due to the fact that there is not a Protestant chaplain there right now. It seemed like the services hadn't been promoted all that well. But otherwise, we were very blessed. It was great getting to know the men from Reaching Out Quartet. They are a real blessing with a heart for ministry.

I also really appreciated the evangelist and his passion for the Lord. I was very blessed with the heart that all of the volunteers at SCI Waymart showed for ministry and reaching out to the inmates.

As I mentioned in my text this weekend, we had the very rare privilege of going into the Restricted Housing Unit to sing for the men in solitary confinement. The chaplain (a Greek Orthodox priest) said he had tried before to get volunteers down there, but never with success. This was the first time in his 31 years of being there that he was able to take volunteers into that part of the prison. We weren't actually able to stand right outside the cells, but we were able to sing from the gate at the end of the hallway. It was a really neat time. I pray that we were a blessing to the men there.

Lastly, I'll just mention the blessing that Father John (the Greek Orthodox chaplain) was to us. As I mentioned earlier, and as you may know, he has been working there for 31 years. He is specifically there to minister to the "mentally ill" inmates. His compassion for these men that society has cast away is a blessing and very challenging.

While I realize that we could've found many things to differ about, we found him to be a real blessing to our group. He really helped our weekend to go smoothly and was willing to offer interesting and helpful information frequently. Father John is a very friendly man and easy to get to know. I really appreciated being able to work with him.

Thank you Amos for all your hard work and dedication that enabled us to go in and volunteer again this year! May God richly bless you as you continue to serve Him by serving and ministering to those behind bars!

Seth Shirk/SCI Waymart Team Leader



I had the honor on Friday April 20th and Saturday April 21 to bring the Light of Hope Group to the Special needs unit at SCI Waymart. The two days, with the "Light of Hope Group" proved to be spiritually rewarding for all the inmates from the FTC, ICU (C2) (D2) & (E2)

I truly believe they sanctified the days with Hope and brought the Light of Christ to those who were searching, and to those who had a relationship with Christ it has strengthened them. The inmates who were mentally challenged were spiritually nourished, and many were singing along.

The harmony of the music and the sincerity of the singers and the traditional Gospel Music truly touched the lives of the inmates. The week that followed the Light of Hope Encounter, I received many thank you letters from inmates and how this encounter had given them courage and hope.

One inmate wrote to me and said, "When they sang the Old Rugged Cross and the words and beautiful harmony penetrated the RHU, it took my breath away and I gave my heart to Jesus again. In the midst of yelling and loud noise, the message of cross was truly heard." The inmates because of security, were not able to see the singers of the Light of Hope. They sang at a distance, and their voices were heard, and they fulfilled the words of Christ, of Matt. 25:36, "I was in Prison and you visited Me."

Personally speaking as the chaplain, they brought me to tears of joy and touched many of the correction officers with the softness of the message of the Gospel. God bless the Light of Hope Ministry.

John Kowalczyk /SCI Waymart Chaplain

Stories of REDEMPTION



A volunteer's testimony from a previous Pennsylvania Prison Crusade of our ministry is living proof of the transforming power of the Gospel of Christ.

For years I have enjoyed having my uncle Jake come along into various prisons as part of our singing team. He is 84 years old and has a happy, sparkling personality that makes him unforgettable, especially when he is playing his harmonica. This year we were ministering to the ladies in the Lackawanna County Prison in downtown Scranton, PA for the 4th year in a row. Most of the inmates are there short term so we have a mostly new group each year.

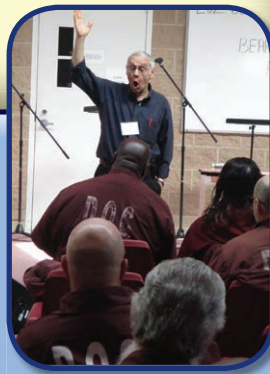
We had 2 services on Saturday with several hours between them so we went back to the motel and Jake went to his room to rest. When we met to return to the prison, Uncle Jake was bouncing and grinning with excitement. He said, "I have a story to tell you but I want to wait until I can tell our whole group." After we were back in prison, Jake told us his story.

"I took the elevator to the second floor to go to my room. When I got off the elevator I looked down the hall and saw a young lady who was working in housekeeping, running toward me, crying. When she got to where I was she asked, "Are you part of "Light of Hope Ministries?" I told her I was. She said, "I thought you were. Two years ago you came to Lackawanna Prison and I was there as an inmate. During your service I gave my heart to Jesus, and it changed my life. I am so grateful. I am so happy now and love my job here at this motel, and love living for Jesus. I hope you keep on doing what you are doing."

The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, "Is Apollos so important? Is Paul so important? We are only servants of God who helped you believe. Each one of us did the work God gave us to do. I planted the seed and Apollos watered it. But God is the one who made the seed grow. So the one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only God is important, because He is the one who makes things grow."

We do not often hear stories that show us the long-term effectiveness of our ministry but lives are changed because we plant seeds or water them. Thank God for His power to change lives.

Cleason Martin/Singing Team



Praise the Lord, we arrived safely home Sunday evening from our 4 day trip, and are so thankful for all the answered prayers. Prayers answered in the programs and in sweet travel time as a family. Thursday was orientation day at a rented church in central PA, with all 400+ volunteers meeting in collective worship and security training. We also had smaller breakout sessions on how to share Jesus in prison and how to work together as a team. We met old and new friends among the volunteers.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday the volunteers were scattered across PA in about 30 different prisons giving programs. The three brothers assigned with us at Allenwood prison were especially kind, and demonstrated such faith and team spirit. Our team leader, Raymond Brubaker, often would say "All for Jesus."

One highlight happened at Saturday lunch between the two prison services. Our table conversation was overheard by the waitress, who asked what we were doing. She then told how she found Jesus in prison, and is now raising her child as a single parent, getting involved in a church, and (in her words) "taking baby steps in my Christian life". She sat down at our table for a few minutes before we left and then prayed a blessing over her. She seemed encouraged and so were we. Truly, we were seated in heavenly places at that restaurant in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Glory to Jesus!

What a wonderful thought that Jesus is attracted to weakness. He came for people just like our waitress, and just like us! And He comes to us right where we are - weak, brokenhearted, sick, and confused. We, who have hopelessly lost our way, can listen for His voice, fix our eyes on Him, and take "baby steps" toward Him and with Him. And when we are too weak for even a baby step, we can just lay our heads on His big shoulder and let Him carry us.

He will bring us into closer fellowship with Him and with each other. What a Savior! Jesus is continuing His amazing Master plan to "build His church." And we see each of you as amazing co-laborers in His world-wide and local program.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Daniel Freed/Evangelist



2018 Pennsylvania PRISON CRUSADE

30 PRISONS • 29 EVANGELIST • 28 SINGING TEAMS • 420 + VOLUNTEERS

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I pray this letter finds all doing well. I'm writing to say thank you for the prison crusade here at SCI Albion. Talking to brother Calvin really gave me much strength, hope & courage to continue with the Lord here in prison.

The worship team was amazing along with one of the team members letting us know his story and to see him up there singing and praising the Lord.

Nelson, the evangelist preached a powerful message. It hit home and really let me know that my past doesn't have to predict my future. The whole event has lifted my faith and my trust in the Lord more than I thought ever possible. My heart and soul has truly been revived, and I have never felt so good. Praise the Lord.

Inmate



Thank You:

First let me tell you and your entire team thanks for finding time to come here and share your testimonies and your faith with all of us here at SCI Rockview. Personally, I was blessed by the entire 3 days of fellowship and Pastor Joe Hochstetler bringing the word of God in just saying that Jesus loves us.

I really enjoyed the prayer time and great conversation with brother Daniel. It was an inspirational moment and I am grateful to know that I now am a new creation in Christ, and my future looks much brighter with the Lord in my life.

Please continue to pray for me as I take this journey of faith with my Lord.

Inmate

What a blessing it is to go into prison and share Hope with the women there. I was really nervous about going into prison this time. But like always its a great blessing. We had a great team!! The singing team was amazing. A lot of tears were shed among the inmates watching the children sing. Most of them had children of their own.

The one night my heart broke watching these women. The hurt they carry from their past, the drugs they take/took to try and forget their deep hurts. That could be me!! The same God that saved me, is the same God that wants and will save them. The faithfulness and love of God was so real to me. It never ceases to amaze me when God gives the opportunity to share what Christ has done in my life, the doors it opens for others to come and talk.

There are a few women that have asked if I could remember them in prayer when I go home. I was able to talk with a few guards and also give them Bibles. The one guard was so interested in why we do this, she remarked, "I can't imagine my church ever doing anything like this." She was very open.

The whole week end was a huge blessing, I want that same blessing and spirit to go with me whoever I go.

Miriam Esh/Riverside Corr. Facility Team Leader

We are grateful to God for these ministry opportunities sharing hope in Christ unto the least in prison. The presence of God was undeniable throughout the weekend, beginning at orientation where many began their mission at the alter receiving God's omnipotent grace on the behalf of their needing hearts.

God gave much favor and many opened doors beyond our expectation like we have never seen before. From small groups to large crowds in chapels, gymnasiums, and out on the yard, the Holy Spirit moved throughout the services. Many came to Christ and received Him as Lord and Savior, while hundreds of other rededicated their lives back to Christ. To God be the Glory; great things He hath done.

Amos Stoltzfus - Executive Director



Thank you for organizing a very successful *Light of Hope* weekend. The messages were well delivered and received. Individuals came forward for prayer and recommitment to Christ in each service, with one coming forward for salvation in the closing Sunday morning service.

Blessings, Chaplain: Tim Miller

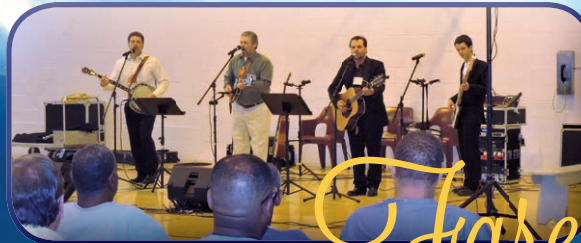
New Office PROJECT FUND

Goal
\$250,000 -

Currently
\$74,500 -



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. We are fully depending on the Lord for His provision in this project.



Farewell



Greetings in Jesus name,

As I reflect on the last 13 years of prison ministry with light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry (Light of Hope Bluegrass Gospel Team), I have been blessed to be a part of the singing team. The times we had together will have an impact on me the rest of my life.

Amos, Benjamin, and Leon, it's been a blessing to be a part of your lives, and most of all, I want to thank God for this opportunity to serve in this way with the Light of Hope singing team.

In His service,
James Miller

Time Brings Changes

Due to our families growing and other responsibilities, the Light of Hope (Bluegrass Gospel) team has said their farewells after 14 years of ministering together in prisons and churches. Saying goodbye as a singing team has brought a lot of mixed emotions and tears. Countless hours together practicing, on the road, sharing our hearts, crying, laughing, and encouraging each other has ministered and shaped my life.

Thank you for investing your time in this ministry, both of you (James Miller and Leon Miller) have been an inspiration to me and my family. Your heavenly reward awaits you in heaven. The Lord bless both of you and your families as you continue the direction He is leading you.

Sincerely,
Amos Stoltzfus

Ministry Schedule



**Amos Stoltzfus Family
EVANGELISTIC TEAM**

- Mon. May 14 Union County Correctional Facility Lewisburg, PA
- Sun. May 20 Dallas State Correctional Institution Dallas, PA
- Wed. May 30 LOH Spring Banquet Richfield Life Ministry Richfield, PA
- Sun. June 3 Frackville State Correctional Institutional Frackville, PA
- Mon. June 4 LOH Spring Banquet Shady Maple Banquet Center East Earl, PA
- Tue. June 5 LOH Spring Banquet Shady Maple Banquet Center East Earl, PA
- Sat. June 17 Mahanoy State Correctional Institution Frackville, PA
- July 3-6 Recording Studio (Stoltzfus Children) Hughesville, PA
- July 15-17 Coal Township State Correctional Institution Coal Township, PA
- July 28-29 Softball Outreach Pennsylvania Prisons
- July 31-Aug. 3 Recording Studio (Amos Stoltzfus Family) Hughesville, PA
- Aug. 17-19 Vicksburg Church Campout Belleville, PA
- Aug. 25 Fayette State Correctional Institution
- Sun. Sept. 16 Retreat State Correctional Institution Nanticoke, PA
- Sun. Sept. 30 Gap View Church Gap, PA

Short Term Prison Mission Opportunities



Prison Softball Outreach

July 28-29, 2018

Slow Pitch Softball Team Needed

For more information call the LOHE Ministry
office at: 570-837-0649

Prison Discipleship Ministry Seminars

October 19-21, 2018

Volunteers Are Needed

For more information call the LOHE Ministry
office at: 570-837-0649

Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry

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