



Light of Hope

EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

PRISONS ~ CHURCHES ~ COMMUNITIES

Aug - Sept 2017 Newsletter

First of all THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING TO Arthur, ILL.

You were such a blessing to us and the timing was perfect!!! Definitely a God thing!!! Before you came I had been really struggling with discouragement, doubting God's ability to pull through and provide for us as a small church!

It seemed the more I battled the more I lost and this led to anxiety and yeah, just a hamster in a wheel!!! The evening you came during supper I got a phone call from an ex-Amish young man (Luke is his name) that had been attending our church with his girlfriend, and I sensed they had been struggling also with finding and knowing what Gods will is for their lives!! He seemed a bit cooled off and sort of distant and removed!! I didn't want to leave you guys during supper but I felt a real burden to talk to him and invite him to come that night!! My anxiety had me bound so that I couldn't lead out in prayer before the service started I was BLOCKED (sorry again brother)

Anyway, PRAISE GOD soon after the service started Luke walked in!!! I went and sat beside him and we were listening and sharing a bit, and as the program progressed I could feel the anxiety leaving HALLELUJAH GLORY TO GOD!!!

Dave Kuhns (continued on page 2)

First, I want to thank Amos and the rest of the staff at Light of Hope

for their efforts in making it possible for us to spend the weekend at SCI Forest. This was my 3rd time there, and I have gotten to know some of the men from there on a personal level. We had a great time playing wiffle ball in the gym, but even better was being a part of their chapel service. I cannot explain the excitement that I felt as the pews filled up. The other times we were there, there were maybe 50-60 people that came to chapel. This time we had 2 services back to back and there were probably 175-200 inmates total.

When I used to think of prison I pictured fences, walls, cells, and prisoners wearing shackles and chains. But after getting to know some of these men personally, I have come to realize that some of them are just as free, if not freer than many people on the outside. And when you think of the walls and chains that we can so easily surround ourselves with that have us in a much worse prison.

Bitterness, hatred, anger, unforgiveness among many other things. It doesn't matter where you are, if you don't let Jesus Christ be your Lord and Savior you will be bound by sin.

Sam Ebersol (continue on page 5)

What a blessing it was to be a part of your worship service at Perry Correctional Institution.

As a Christian Musician, I was blessed in multiple ways: 1) That God was glorified in your music, your testimonies, and the sharing of the Word; 2) That you were evangelical in your message - there were many non-believers in attendance; and finally 3) I was encouraged to join you as we worshiped as Christians. God bless your family, and your ministry.

Because of Christ,

Inmate / Troy Taylor

Thank you Mr. Amos Stoltzfus and family because of you, I've never cried so hard since I was at Perry Correctional Institution. Seeing the family and your beautiful children, made me think of my own little Gabby who is five and for my only wish that she'd know Jesus, and praise Him as your children do. I certainly appreciate your time and coming to see us again. May God bless you and your family most bountifully. Thanks to our chaplains as for having this special time.

Inmate / Joseph Manners

More Inmate Articles on page 4!



MID-WESTERN & SOUTH-EASTERN MINISTRY TOUR

Prisons - Churches - Nursing Homes - Banquets - Singspirations

Pennsylvania ~ Indiana ~ Illinois ~ Iowa ~ Arkansas ~ Georgia ~ South Carolina ~ North Carolina ~ Virginia ~ Maryland ~ Delaware

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Your children; singing and playing instruments without any showing off, we could see the pure love for Jesus and wanting to honor and glorify only Him was so inspiring!!! Amos, your preaching and you sharing your testimony was just what I needed to hear that night that was the capstone PRAISE GOD!!! Linda: we appreciated seeing your resolve and support for your family and the ministry and wow all the effort and patience it takes for the family to be on the road for that many weeks!! God bless you abundantly!! Luke and I talked for 45 minutes after the service He shared how they have been struggling and how the service really blessed and inspired him to continue on the journey!!! 2 Sundays later he and his girlfriend asked for baptism!!! HALLELUJAH PRAISE JESUS!!! We are not without struggles obviously but your presence, testimony, and love for God has helped and still is an encouragement to us!!! God bless you as you serve Him where He has called you!!

Dave Kuhns

I enjoyed this last tour very much. The tours just get better each time! It is so awesome to see the Lord moving in the hearts of people, and every year it seems like our family gets to know each other better.

Some of the highlights were going into the prisons and sharing the love of Jesus to them through song, making new friends from the different churches that we were at, and spending time with family. Thank you for all your prayers and support. God Bless all of you.

Kaitlynn Stoltzfus

This tour has been a blessing to my life. We had a wonderful time together as a family. Yes, there were challenges, however, God was always there. The one highlight of this tour was the SC prisons. We had five prison services.

It was awesome to see God working in the hearts of men and women who were in prison. In the one prison, we were able to have two services in the dorms! The churches were awesome to. We felt welcome in all of them. A big thanks to everyone who provided food, vehicles, places to stay, things to do, and all the other things that helped us out. And thanks for ALL the prayers. We could feel people praying for us.

Benjamin Stoltzfus





BECAUSE OF CHRIST



Our Summer Ministry Tour lead us in a different direction than other years . We had the privilege to meet many new faces and make new connections with other fellow saints in Christ. The 5300 miles traveled throughout the mid-western & south-eastern states in six weeks enabled us to minister at 9 churches, 5 Prisons, 2 banquets, 3 singspirations, and 1 nursing home. It was an uplifting, inspiring, encouraging, spirit-filled experience, along with different challenges we faced at times, yet so rewarding.

God granted favor to us as a family to be able to minister together in the South Carolina Prisons again. It was one of the highlights of our tour. Being able to take the children into the prisons with us was an amazing experience. It was evident that the Holy Spirit was doing a work throughout each service, especially when the children sang and our two oldest shared testimony of the work Christ is doing in their lives.

Another highlight was that we had the privilege to hold services in two dorms at the one prison. At one of the dorms, I asked the men if they ever heard the song (Jesus Loves Me). If I recall there may have been a few that ever heard the song. While the children sang the song, the Holy Spirit began ministering to men in that particular dorm, and the tears started streaming down their faces. Since it was evident that the love of Jesus was reaching the inmates after the song, we gave an invitation for the men to open their hearts, repent of their sin, and receive the love of Jesus by surrendering their heart and life to Him. The men stood to their feet and prayed to receive Christ as their savior and found HOPE inside the prison fence.

Thanks to the South Carolina volunteer chaplains for joining us, it was an honor to partner together to SHARE HOPE in Christ in the South Carolina prisons. And not to forget the young ladies who gave of their time to take care of our one-year old daughter who stayed out in the coach while the family went to the prison. God Bless all of you.

A special thank you to all those who reached out to us and provided meals, vehicles, and the words of encouragement you shared with us were much appreciated. And to all those who prayed and financially supported us, thank you for all your support to us as a family. Above all, we give glory to God for His wonderful grace that He so richly supplied for us daily.

And Thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the bread of life who daily nourished us with heavenly manna that enabled us to finish our course.

Amos Stoltzfus Family / Evangelistic Team



Greetings in the name of Jesus. This is on behalf of the Light of Hope Ministries, When the flyer about the family was put into the dorms, I had many inmates ask about the family. When they see a family together, they see what they have missed when growing up, also what they are missing with their own families. Seeing the father and mother singing and preaching together with their children makes them long to be with families. They don't see many children and this gives them a desire to do a better job. The songs they sang brought tears to many eyes. I heard about it for weeks. This is the third time I had the privilege to work with Amos and his family. God uses them in so many ways. God's blessing on them as they continue to serve in this way.

Volunteer Chaplain Marvin Yoder

Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministries was a great experience for me. I saw the example of what a family should be. As the father introduced the children, I flashed back to my father and, though he has passed away, those loving memories flooded my mind. It was so long ago yet seemingly as if it were yesterday. As the father talked about the mercy, kindness, and love of God, I realized even more so what kind of father I would like to be for my children. Each song they sang penetrated the deepest parts of me and I longed for the closeness of my children. Every melody of worship and praise from those children's lips were like the tearing down of strongholds, brick by brick. Those barriers of sorrow and unforgiveness were released through the melodious sounds of those children. It's amazing how the love of a father for his family helps define the love God has for me. Thank God for Light of Hope Ministries for they gave me more than a song but they gave me a vision of hope which will be the driving force for me and my family.

Thank you for visiting our institution!

Ted Johnson, (Inmate)



The family that came and sang and ministered to me and other inmates blessed me with their songs, worship and encouragement. For a whole family to come and worship God with me and others, gave me the encouragement to keep reaching out to help others through their storms, and to keep walking with God. I pray that God to watch over the family and bless them as they continue to serve Him. Thank you.

Inmate / William Hutchens

There is always an air of excitement around Perry when we have a special event, and the ministry of all the Gospel is no exception! The men not only get the Word through awesome singing, but via sound preaching as well. Thank you for all you do in sharing your gifts, talents and time. Only God knows the difference that your investment at Perry and other institutions is making. Thank you and may God bless all your future endeavors.

Chuck Ballew / Chaplain

I'm glad we had the opportunity to see the Amos Stoltzfus Family ministering in song and testimony to us men back in our prison dorm. It brought light into my life. It doesn't have a price. I am thankful to God for Allowing this to happen in our institution.

Inmate

Softball Prison Outreach Program 5

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Some people might wonder how can you go to a place like that? After this weekend, I wonder how can you not! I went hoping to be able to encourage these men, and to share the love of Jesus with them. But I feel like the blessings and encouragement that I received is much greater than what I gave.

I would encourage anyone to take part in something like this at least one time. It is something I will never regret.

God bless this ministry and the work that gets done through it...

Sam Ebersol

What a blessing it was to spend the weekend with our friends behind bars again! At first, we were a bit disappointed to find we were playing wiffle ball instead of softball, but God knew what He was doing; it poured down rain while we played ball in the gym! Each return trip has allowed us to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the inmates and I find myself already looking forward to Spring 2018! Big praise report: many of the inmates spoke of a significant shift in the spirit of the church there in the last 1/2 year, and it seemed we could even feel it,

as chapel attendance was much better than ever before! Let's keep praying! On a sad but motivating note, some of the inmates haven't had a single visitor other than LOHE for the whole past year! Certainly, these men need to know that someone cares.



As always, I find myself receiving more than I could ever give, and am full of gratitude to God, and to LOHE Ministry for making this possible!

Dan Esh

I was blessed to participate in the Softball outreach again this year. There were fifteen of us who went to Laurel Highlands Correctional Institution.

Saturday morning, we spent time ministering in song in the Infirmiry Units, where sick and dying are laying inside the prison. It always touches my heart when I see the men in these units, some of them just lay there, seemly not knowing that you are in their presence, while others really get into it when the old hymns are sung. Some get very emotional. There was one man who just cried and cried as we walked out after we finished singing. It seems when they hear

those old songs it brings back memories from their childhood.

Then on Saturday afternoon we spent time playing softball and volleyball with the inmates. We had a great opportunity to witness for Jesus. Then on Sunday morning we joined the church at Laurel Highlands for a worship service. It was a great time of singing and praising God.

Brother Leroy Miller had the message. I believe the Spirit of God touched many hearts that morning. Praise the Lord! One thing that always inspires me is how the volunteers are together in unity. I met some brothers in Christ for the first time and I felt the unity of the Spirit. Thank-you Father, for Your gift of the Holy Spirit. One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism. One God and Father of all who is above, in all, and through all.

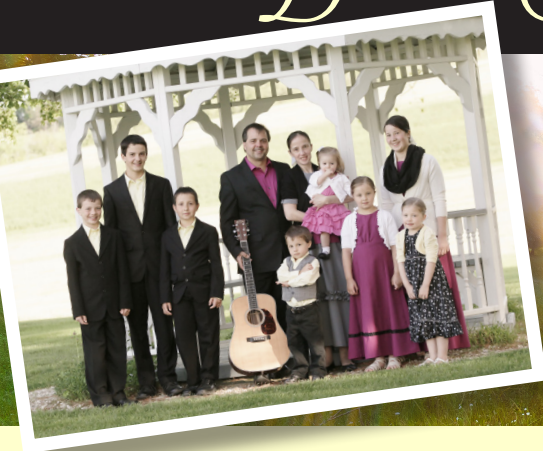
All because of Jesus

Alvin Smucker / Volunteer





Brand New Recording Project



1. Call on Me
2. Gentle Shephard
3. Jesus Loves Me
4. I Shall Not Be Moved
5. I'm Gonna Hold Onto Jesus
6. He's Coming Again
7. Chances Are
8. Give Me Oil In My Lamp
9. When The Clouds Roll Back
10. That's The Place I'm Longing To Go



This brand new recording is now available. To place your order call the LOHE Ministry office at 570-837-0649 or via email at recording@lightofhope.org

We would like to express our appreciation for being willing to spread the good news of Jesus through your smiles, singing & music. We have been greatly blessed and encouraged by listening to the program and to your New Cd, which we play over and over again. We know it pleases Jesus each time you share and spread the Good News. Blessings to you as you continue to share. *John & Merlyn Mullet.*

Ministry Banquet Report



On the behalf of Light of Hope Evangelist Ministry, we would like to thank everyone who made the banquets possible. There is a lot of planning and coordinating that gets done by the different banquet committees, and not to forget those who hosted tables and did their best to fill them. These events help us keep the churches and communities abreast of the ongoing work of the ministry. One of the highlights at these events is to see families bring their children.



Annual Home Coming Chicken BBQ & Singspiration



Supper: 4:30PM
Singing: 6:30PM
Carry Outs Available:
4:30-8:00PM

Singing Groups:
Amos Stoltzfus Family
Light of Hope Team
Daniel Glick Trio



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 13TH
@ The Youth Center
3184 New Berlin Mountain Rd
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Local Jail Discipleship Ministry

I just left another Bible study at Union County Jail that gave me hope for future ministry there. A man has been faithfully attending who is a successful businessman but because sin in his heart has led him to drugs and alcohol, he is a repeat offender. For the first time in his life, he isn't praying to escape the consequences of his sin but is truly seeking God and God's way, having tried his own way all the time. He glows as he speaks of how God's Spirit is working in his life and is excited about the future.

There are times the work at jail is discouraging with not much interest. But we have been faithful. Rather, God has been faithful to give incredible opportunities for service there. Because of the rapid turnover of inmates, we don't pursue a particular series of Bible studies but rather let the Spirit lead the conversations as we probe the inmates and prove from the Scriptures that sowing to the flesh doesn't need to be an endless, hopeless cycle for them.

Another inmate was extremely hostile to us recently, but the next visit he was less resistant, and we poured the Gospel to him giving him no choice for neutrality.

I rejoice as I recently read the visitors log at the jail and noted that a prisoner we ministered to for months there is now returning to the jail to help those who are where he used to be, holding Bible studies, taking in necessities to the men! This is why we don't quit! This is our goal! We tell the men all the time that God can redeem and restore them so completely that they will take our "job" from us: showing how they once were lost but now are found and leading by example. God is still setting the captive free and doing it in our County Jail.

Gabriel Morley / LIM Volunteer

Upcoming!!! Short Term Prison Mission Opportunity

Encounter 2018 Pennsylvania Prison Crusade

April 19-22, 2018

Altoona ~ Bradford ~ Clearfield ~ Erie ~ Philadelphia ~ Scranton and Somerset Regions



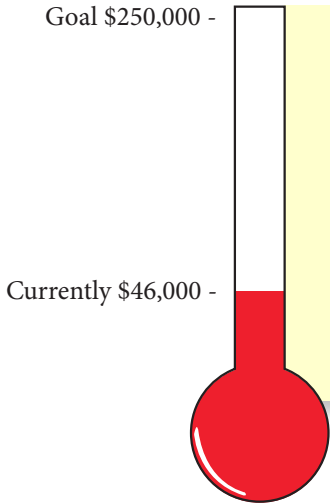
Matured Christians (Men & Women 18 years old or older) are needed to SHARE HOPE unto the least of these in prison.

Prison Services ~ Infirmary & Dorm Visitation ~ GYM & Yard Activities

For more information about the Encounter 2018 Pennsylvania Crusade call LOHE Ministry Office (570) 837-0649 or visit www.lighttohope.org



New Office PROJECT FUND



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 new 3000 Sq. feet office building will cost approximately \$250,000. 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

Ministry Schedule



Amos Stoltzfus Family
*Amos only

- Sept. 8.....Ministry Banquet Belleville, PA
- Sept. 10.....Crossroads Mission Church Beaver Springs, PA
- Sept. 24.....SCI Frackville Frackville, PA*
- Oct. 1.....Church of Cross Keys Gordonville, PA
- Oct. 13.....Chicken BQQ & Singspiration Youth Center Lewisburg, PA
- Oct. 16-18.....SCI Coal Township
- Oct. 22.....SCI Camp Hill Camp Hill PA*
- Oct. 27-29.....Discipleship Programs "Pennsylvania Prisons"*
- Nov. 1.....SCI Dallas Nanticoke, PA*
- Nov. 3-5.....Youth Revivals Lewisburg, PA
- Nov. 8-10.....Meeting with Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains*
- Nov. 17-19.....SCI Huntingdon Huntingdon, PA*
- Dec. 10.....SCI Waymart*
- Dec. 27.....Detention Center Philadelphia, PA (Tentative)
- Dec. 28.....Riverside Corr. Institution Philadelphia, PA
- Dec. 29.....Singspiration Ephrata Business Center Ephrata, PA

Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry

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Brethren Pray for Us!!!



Light of Hope Trio

- Oct. 13.....Chicken BQQ & Singspiration Youth Center Lewisburg
- Oct. 22.....SCI Camp Hill Camp Hill PA (Tentative)
- Nov. 17-19.....SCI Huntingdon Huntingdon, PA (Tentative)
- Dec. 29.....Singspiration Ephrata Business Center Ephrata, PA (Tentative)

Discipleship Program Schedule

- October 27-29, 2017
- SCI Forest
- SCI Smithfield
- FCI McKean
- SCI Somerset
- SCI Laurel Highlands
- SCI Rockview
- SCI Houtzdale

- November 3-5
- SCI Benner

- November 17-19, 2017
- SCI Huntingdon