



**LIGHT OF HOPE**  
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY  
PRISONS • CHURCHES • COMMUNITIES

**SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER**



**2023 PA-PRISON  
CRUSADE**



*Heeding the call of God, Go Ye!*

**PRISON Mission**

On March 16-19 another opportunity was given by Pennsylvania prisons to hold another prison crusade at 17 different prisons in Pennsylvania.

Over 200 men and women from the United States and Canada heeded the call of God, to partner together at the PA-Prison Crusade to tell and sing the good news unto the least of these in prison. Seventy-plus services were conducted at State and Federal prisons. At a few prisons, volunteers had the privilege to interact with the inmates through activities such as volleyball, basketball, and cornhole, which gave them a broader opportunity of ministry.

The prison crusade started with an orientation where volunteers, evangelists, and singing teams gathered in one accord to get tuned up, disciplined, and prepared for our weekend mission. In the afternoon we rallied together for a time of worship and lifting our voices in praise to the One who is worthy to receive all our praise. The anointed presence of Jesus was evident, present, and irresistible throughout our time together, and by the end of the day, we found ourselves basking in the presence of Jesus. The spiritually wounded found healing,

the oppressed were set free, and others were spiritually nourished for their mission ahead of them. Our time together was a foretaste of heaven.

**MINISTRY Highlights**

Our two oldest children and I had the privilege to team up with eight ladies to minister together at a women's prison for the entire weekend. Four of the volunteers were ages 18 and 19 and the other four were 47 and older. To be able to witness the young and old ministering together left a lifelong impact on my life.

At the beginning of one of the services, we asked the four older volunteers to pray for the mothers in prison and the four younger volunteers to pray for their children. I wish everyone could have witnessed what happened in that auditorium when the four young ladies (volunteers) began to pray for their children. It was a very touching moment as prayers were sent heavenward on behalf of all the mothers and their children.

It opened the door for a whole new level of ministry that afternoon. Volunteers had the privilege to break into small group sessions, which gave them an opportunity to make a one-on-one connections.

Overall, the Holy Spirit moved throughout the weekend, many gave their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time, while others rededicated their lives back to Christ. Above all, we give God glory and praise for the great things He has done and the highest honor and privilege of being able to labor together with Him in Kingdom-building ministry.

*~ Amos Stoltzfus*



# VOLUNTEERS

**The 2023 Spring Prison Crusade was amazing!** I was part of a singing team in a men's prison, so I didn't interact with the inmates as much, but it was such a blessing to be there. It doesn't get much better than being together with 20-40 people whom all have one common goal! That goal is Jesus!

Being with my team and the other team back at the hotel was one of my biggest highlights. Two nights up past midnight to share our life stories. That was incredible! It was like one of my dreams come true, being able to sing in a prison! Probably more like one of God's dreams for me. I was truly blessed!

~ Rosa Stoltzfus

*One might not think that there would be a vibrant growing church behind the walls of a prison, but if you have ever had the opportunity to go inside the walls, you may already know that there is!*

*I had the privilege to go into SCI Cambridge Spring, one of the ladies' prisons. We had a wonderful group of seven volunteers as well as our singing team/evangelist (Amos Stoltzfus family). It was my first time going to prison and I loved it. We were very blessed with smooth entrances and friendly staff. The chaplains were amazing ladies that really cared for the spiritual health of the ladies.*

*One highlight of the weekend was the time we had to connect with the ladies even if it was short. Thanks to our team leader, Ruthie, all the volunteers had time to share. One thing that impressed me was the overall attitude and energy of the ladies. You could tell there was love for Jesus on their faces.*

*There was an average of forty to fifty ladies there for all of our services. The Holy Spirit was very present and there was a good response to Amos' invitations.*

*One moment that I think was special to everyone was when the volunteers had the opportunity to pray over the mothers in the audience. It also meant a lot to me when the inmates prayed over us as well.*

*Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my weekend. The ladies we went to serve, the prison staff we met on our way, and the volunteers working together impacted my life.*

~ Adria Hoover



**My highlight** was the bondage to freedom seminars that Glenn Gave. Everyone paid attention and really had an interest. Thanks for letting us come and be together at the same prison. Thanks, Amos, for all you and your family do.

Lord's Blessings

~ Wilmer and Lena Hoover

The orientation and each one of the prison services God's presences **were so real**. It was overwhelming and awesome. I was so blessed and encouraged. The prison truly has a church that is alive. Also being together as a group was also empowering.

~ Chester King



# TESTIMONIES

## CHAPLAINS

On my behalf, I have to say that I **enjoyed the entire weekend**. The ability to not just have the group minister in word and song to the men but also to share time with them in a very relaxed atmosphere, playing games, and letting their guard down opened doors that normally would not have been opened.

I know the men loved hearing the group sing. The talent that the family brought astounded everyone, myself included. The message was down to earth and met the needs of the men. I look forward to seeing this ministry again.

I know for a fact that some of the men went and downloaded their songs onto their tablets to enjoy after they left. Thank you for your ministry.

~ *Chaplain-Garcia*

Some of my inmates **are still talking about the event**. I did tell the family and I would like to make it a huge request, can we bring the same people (or as close as possible to it) back in for next year? I know I am reaching out early, but I do like the proverb the early bird gets the worm. Extend my deepest appreciation to the Stutzman and Penner's families, along with the others that attended the event. As a pastor and chaplain, I enjoyed my time with them immensely.

~ *Chaplain Caudle*

**What a joy to fellowship and praise our Lord and Savior together** with the Light of Hope volunteers. Heaven is going to be such a glorious place!

I know the women here at SCI Cambridge Springs were so blessed when you here, and have been changed for eternity.

One of the ladies came to me that following Monday. And shared with me about her encounter with the Lord. She was a pagan practicing wicca. But, during the prison crusade she gave her life to Jesus Christ! She wanted prayers to close off any future darkness and learn more about her new faith!

I also heard of other women who gave their life to Jesus Christ! Let your team know we will never be the same! We had such a wonderful weekend!

God is so good-and on the move.

~ *Chaplain- Smith*

Your visit with us here will always be a time I cherish in my heart. **It was a transforming experience**. The unity and togetherness in your family are clearly an indication of a Divine helper. I know it is true that it was a journey to get there, but it has been something to be admired. I've always had a strong desire for my son to have this. Anyway, I was truly, truly blessed by the beautiful harmony of the singing and the communication, as well as the preaching and testimonies. I especially felt the Holy Spirit when I was being prayed for. I could feel the love in your heart and it was amazing. I am praying for you all and your ministry. I pray we can see each other again even under better circumstances someday. I am thankful to God for you all. ~ *Inmate*



# INMATES

I want to say **thank you** for coming in and spending time with us here at our institution. I know you being here was an encouragement to myself and others, knowing that there are still people out there who are willing to come to see us and spend time with us though we have done wrong.

I enjoyed our time of fellowship with the volunteers and family while playing volleyball, cornhole, or waiting for another game to start.

Worshiping the Lord with you in the chapel was a privilege. The messages were very informative. Thank you again for what you all did for us and continue to do!

~ Inmate

## Thank you coming to our institution, the program was great!

It's important for our spiritual health – I really enjoyed the program. I didn't know they were coming, so for me it was a much-unexpected pleasure.

~ Inmate

I am in prison at SCI Frackville, and I just wanted to say, this March a group of your ministry came, and Brother Levi **really touched my heart** with his scripture services and just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart because sometimes I have trouble with my faith for what I have done. God bless you.

~ Inmate

When Pastor Garcia announced that Light of Hope Ministries was coming into the facility for a weekend to minister to us and that we would be playing volleyball, I really had no idea what to expect. I heard the call out over the intercom "Light of Hope" and quickly got dressed and headed to the gym. I hadn't been in the gym yet nor had I had that much exercise so I was in for a nice, unexpected tone if you will. **The real deal surprise came from the love shared in fellowship** as I met and fellowshiped with as many brothers as I could.

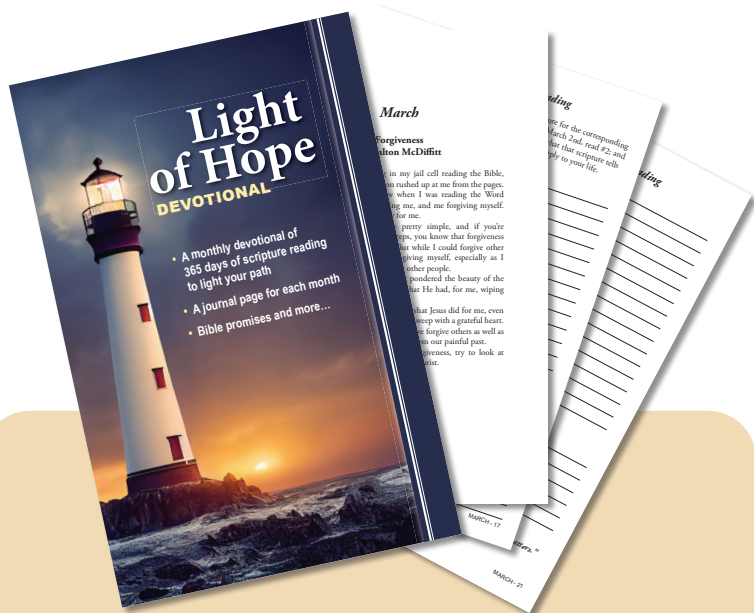
~ Inmate

**I was caught off guard** by a few things when we met in the chapel. By the seriousness and power of prayer in Lamar and then Jonathon, Sam and I prayed together too. But those two, Lamar especially, are passionate servants of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I say that because I experienced the real power of the Holy Spirit when they each prayed for/with me. They sent up some of the sincerest prayers I ever heard in my life. The presence of the Lord was with the Light of Hope team. I couldn't help but tear up and cry because the Spirit of the Lord was manifested so strongly. I'm grateful for the experience. I really didn't want to leave the chapel that afternoon. When Jesus is there you just want to stay in that place, the Holy place.

Amen.

~ Inmate

# OUR DEVOTIONALS HAVE ARRIVED



## A LIGHT OF HOPE FOR INMATES

Hello everyone, my name is Floyd, and I'm excited to share a few thoughts with you on the new Light of Hope devotional booklet for inmates.

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" ~John 1:4-5

These verses are one of many ways that God spoke to my heart in one of the most difficult seasons of my life. The love and Light of Christ illuminated my prison cell while reading scripture and Christian literature made available through Ministries like this. So when asked to join the team here at Light of Hope in writing and designing a devotional booklet for inmates, I gratefully accepted the invitation. What a blessing to take part in reflecting light and hope back into the system that once confined me. It is my hope and prayer that these devotionals are received in hands of many inmates as a light shining in the darkness. To God be the glory.

Thank you all for your prayers, love, and support!

~ Floyd Shirk



## ALREADY CHANGING LIVES

Greetings from a relative neighbor here in Berks County,

I am writing to extend to the entire Light of Hope team my sincerest thanks and admiration. What you guys have done has had a tremendous impact on my mindset while I am unfortunately incarcerated. The devotional I received from the chapel here has become an integral part of my routine and is something I look forward to devoting time to every day.

I was raised in a religious (Lutheran) household, with a decent family. After my sister and I graduated from Sunday School my parents ceased to enforce the weekly trip to worship. As many children unfortunately do, I also stopped going and turned my time and attention to drugs and money. As my age progressed, my desires turned to alcohol and women, and so began my trouble with the law.

I have many times turned to the Lord for salvation in the form of "foxhole prayers". This time it's different.

I have made a sincere decision to accept Jesus' death on the cross as my salvation from sin. No amount of self-will or self-destruction will change that.

My resolve, upon getting my own relationship with God right, is to follow in your footsteps and do as much as I can to help the seemingly forgotten part of God's family. I have been blessed with a call for service, as well as a strong drive to succeed in business. I hope to combine the two and center my future endeavors around transforming the lives of prisoners, parolees, and their families. God willing, anyone I help will be because of the help I have received from you all. For this, I will be eternally grateful. If I can assist your mission in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out.

~ Inmate

# LIGHT OF HOPE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

## 2023 LANCASTER COUNTY FUNDRAISER WEEKEND

320 N. RONKS RD. ~ BIRD-IN-HAND, PA

### TOURNAMENTS ~ SINGING ~ FOOD ~ FELLOWSHIP

#### FRIDAY, JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>

#### HAYSTACK SUPPER & SOFT PRETZELS

Ice Cream, Iced Coffee,  
& Smoothies...



Daniel & Emma Glick



Mel Stoltzfus Family

**SUPPER: 4:30 PM**  
**SINGING: 6:00 PM**

**CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE**



Amos Stoltzfus Family



Daughters of Hope

#### SATURDAY, JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>

#### TOURNAMENTS ~ FOOD ~ SINGING **TEAMS NEEDED!**



**Co-ed Volleyball Tournament**  
A & B Division  
To register your team, call:  
(717) 239-9425

**Co-ed Spikeball Tournament**  
A & B Division  
To register your team, call:  
(717) 419-6491



**Children's Activities**  
Candy Drop: 9:30 AM  
Barrel Rides, Bouncy House, & More.

**Raffle Prizes!**

#### SINGING BEGINS @ 7:00 PM



Amos Stoltzfus Family



Matt & Nimmy

*For more information, call:*

*Reuben Lapp (717) 380-8253 ~ Amos Stoltzfus (570) 412-5532*

LOVE OFFERINGS WILL BE RECEIVED ~ ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT LOH PRISON MINISTRY



**AMOS STOLTZFUS FAMILY**

## SCHEDULE

- April 30 ..... Youth Center Lewisburg, PA (With Amos Raber Family)
- June 11 ..... SCI Camphill
- June 25 ..... SCI Coal Township
- July 8-9..... PA-Prison Softball Outreach/Worship Service
- July 19..... Philadelphia Prisons
- July 21-23..... LOH Fundraiser Bird-in-hand, PA
- July 28..... Yoke Fellowship Prison Ministry Picnic Belleville, PA
- Aug 19-20 ..... LOH Fundraiser Ickesburg, PA



**PA-PRISON  
SOFTBALL  
OUTREACH  
JULY 8 & 9  
2023**

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