



# LIGHT OF HOPE

EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

PRISONS • CHURCHES • COMMUNITIES

## SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



## 2025 PA-PRISON CRUSADE

### *The Blind Man in a Wheelchair*

A blind man in a wheelchair is an inmate at FCI McKean. One Saturday morning, the inmates were called to attend the morning service at the chapel. Although the blind man heard the call, he had no one to assist him, as the person who usually helped him had other plans. He called out to another inmate nearby, asking for help to get to the chapel. The man initially replied that it was not his responsibility to care for him and began to walk away. However, after feeling a conviction from the Holy Spirit, he returned and helped the blind man reach the chapel for the service.

During the service, the evangelist preached a message titled “Almost Thou Persuadest Me to Be a Christian,” based on Acts 26. At the end of the message, an invitation was extended for the inmates to repent of their sins and receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. The blind man responded to this invitation, and as the team leader, I had the privilege of sitting beside him. I laid my hands on him, allowing him to pray, and he sincerely prayed to receive Christ, giving his heart and life to Jesus. Praise the Lord!

After the prayer, I asked him how he was feeling, and he smiled, saying he was doing well. I then inquired if he felt that Jesus was near him, and he confidently responded that Jesus

### 22 PRISONS - 270 VOLUNTEERS

was right there, patting his hand on his chest. It was a joyous and emotional moment for both of us as I continued to sit beside him with my hands still on him.

At the close of the service, the worship team felt led to finish with the song “What a Day That Will Be.” This song was especially fitting for the blind man in the wheelchair, who now spiritually saw who God is and looked forward to the day when he would be able to see Jesus with new eyes. At the same time, the man who had helped the blind man reach the chapel told me he was sitting in his chair behind us, crying and asking God to forgive him for almost not obeying the Holy Spirit, as he realized what could have happened if he hadn’t pushed the blind man in the wheelchair to the chapel.

While we were on our way out, an altercation occurred somewhere in the prison, which led to a lockdown for the rest of the weekend. As a team leader, I felt total peace about not being able to leave for the rest of the weekend. God said, “You have done the work I asked you to do; now you can go home.”

It was the best experience I’ve ever had in fourteen years of doing prison ministry with Light of Hope. It has always been a blessing to serve God in this way. Praise to Jesus Christ, my Lord!

~ Jeffery Martin

**...I WAS IN PRISON, AND YE VISITED ME.**

~ Matthew 25:36



# TESTIMONIES TO REPORT

**I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity** we had to spend time with our group at the Philadelphia Prison P.I.C.C. One of the highlights was going into the dorms to minister to the ladies and participating in activities in the gym.

Before the ladies returned to their dorms, I asked the officer if we could sing a few songs for them. We formed a circle, held hands, and sang “Bind Us Together.” What touched my heart the most was when the officer took us volunteers back to solitary confinement, where we provided the inmates with Light of Hope devotional books to read. I hope and trust that they will give their lives to the Lord.

There were many unforgettable moments throughout the prison crusade weekend, both in the prison and at the motel. One evening, my husband and I decided to take the stairs to our room on the sixth floor instead of using the elevator. As we ascended the stairs, we suddenly stopped, enchanted by the most beautiful singing, as if we were entering heaven.

When we reached the fourth-floor landing, we discovered the youth from our group singing praises to the Lord. It was indescribable and brought us immense joy. Even when we got to our room on the sixth floor, we could still hear them singing!

All honor and glory to the Lord for opening doors for the 2025 prison crusade once again! All for Jesus.

~ Ruthie Fisher / Volunteer



**I just returned home from the prison crusade**, and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for all the time and effort you put into making it happen. I went with the intention of blessing someone's life, but I must say I ended up being blessed and received far more than I gave!

One of the highlights was the chapel service, which had around 175 attendees. I had no idea that a church behind bars could be so vibrant. They worshiped and praised God with a passion that surpassed any church I have ever attended, and it was clear that their devotion came from the heart.

Another memorable experience was playing volleyball in the gym with the inmates. It was perhaps the most fun I've ever had playing volleyball. I heard comments like, “This is the best two days I've had in my ten years in prison!” and “I've never had so much fun since I came to prison!” The inmates expressed their gratitude for our visit, stating that it helped lift the monotony they experience every day.

The fellowship with the volunteers in our group, the devotions at the motel, and the times spent in prayer were incredibly uplifting for my spirit.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity, and I hope to participate again in the future.

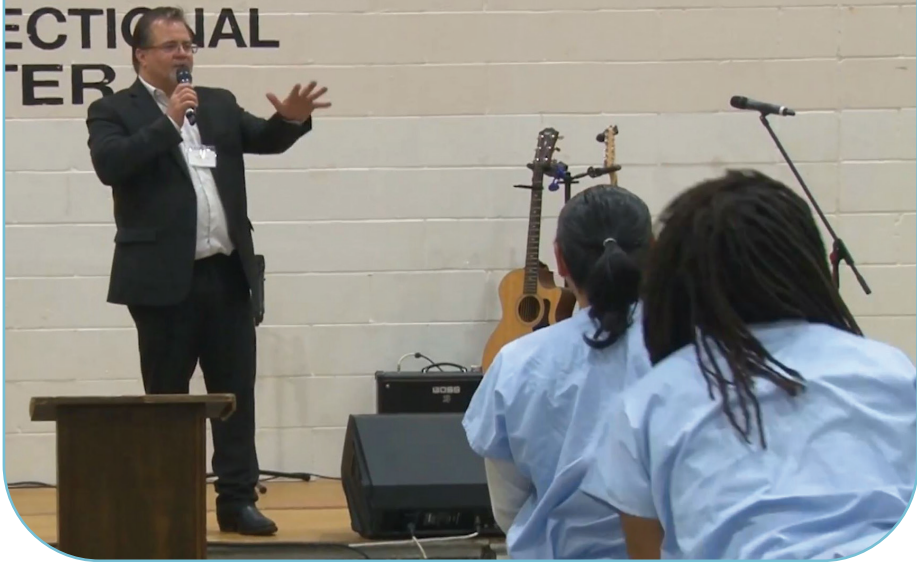
Best regards,

~ John David Fisher / Volunteer



The 2025 prison crusade was an uplifting experience. A highlight was the worship service on Thursday, where Phil delivered a resonant message. Volunteers engaged in various activities, including a volleyball match where the well-practiced inmates secured a victory. A moving visit to the prison hospital allowed the team to sing songs and connect with inmates facing significant challenges. Evangelist Sam noted that many of these men, confined for life, posed no threat to society. One noteworthy encounter involved a man who kept his face covered throughout the visit, yet his feet gently moved in response to the music. The team also met several inmates who had found faith and were eagerly anticipating their eternal home, with their radiant expressions standing out amidst the surroundings. Throughout the weekend, the vibrant church community was evident, with particularly well-attended Sunday service. Volunteers had opportunities to pray and connect with inmates, which enhanced their outreach efforts. It was a particular joy to serve alongside my wife, including our daughter and her husband, as they led in singing and worship. Overall, the visit to SCI Laurel Highlands was a deeply rewarding experience for all involved.

~ Elam Stoltzfus / Volunteer



## PA-PRISON CRUSADE 2025 MISSION REPORT

From April 10-13, Pennsylvania prisons once again provided an opportunity for Light of Hope to conduct a prison crusade at 22 different facilities. The event began with an orientation session, where 270 volunteers, evangelists, and singing teams gathered in unity, ready to receive discipleship and prepare for the weekend's mission.

The afternoon rally brought everyone together for a time of worship, where we lifted our voices in praise to the One who is worthy of all honor. The anointed presence of Jesus was evident and irresistible throughout our time together. By the end of the service, we experienced healing for the spiritually wounded, freedom for the oppressed, and nourishment for those preparing for their missions.

During the weekend, we conducted 77 worship services and visited 14 different dormitory and infirmity units. Volunteers engaged with inmates through activities such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and cornhole, providing a broader platform for ministry.

Overall, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully throughout the weekend. Many individuals gave their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time, while others rededicated their lives to Him. Above all, we give God glory and praise for the incredible things He has accomplished and for the honor and privilege of laboring together with Him in Kingdom-building ministry.

— Amos Stoltzfus

**I had the wonderful opportunity** to listen to the Kent Fraser Family sing heartfelt songs of praise to Jesus Christ. Their deep love for God and the evident work He is doing in their lives truly moved me. Your teachings of the Bible inspire me greatly, urging me to live a life dedicated to serving Jesus Christ.

Thank you for taking the time to share your message!

~Inmate

**Light of Hope has been a true blessing.** It was special to be part of their services, where they taught the word of God and shared the love of Christ with us at SCI Albion. I had the privilege of speaking with a few volunteers. One shared his pain of losing both his sister and mother, expressing how he felt God's grace during his grief. Another worship team member almost didn't attend because he had just lost his father. From Light of Hope, I learned that God created each of us with a purpose and has a plan for our lives. Regardless of circumstances or feelings, God's word is the ultimate truth. We must take steps of faith, believing and trusting in His grace. Thank you, Light of Hope, for the fellowship we shared and the love of Christ you bring to SCI Albion.

~Inmate





## THANK YOU SO MUCH...

Thank you so much for what you did for us here at our prison, me especially because before you came this weekend, I was hopeless.

The negativity in my life was nonstop.

I'm not going to lie, I'm jealous of your family because I don't have a real family. I was in foster care all my childhood, moved from home to home, and I've been in the system all my life. But for the first time in my life I felt peace this weekend.

~Inmate

Thank you for visiting SCI Laurel Highlands. Your presence created a sense of family, bringing encouragement and uplifting energy. Elam, alongside his wife Mary, shared his powerful testimony on Sunday. It was inspiring to see Mary standing by him as he opened up about his deepest regrets and failures in front of a crowd of strangers. Mary also shared her thoughts, and their daughter followed with her own testimony.

The transparency and humility exhibited by this family were truly impactful and clearly divinely inspired. Thank you for being willing to hear God's call and respond with "Yes, Lord."

Sam the evangelist made a striking observation: "All of us will meet Jesus someday, either as our Savior or as our Judge." This statement sparked much discussion among the guys on the block—it's simple but profoundly true.

I personally witnessed the ripple effect of your visit. Praise God, you brought a powerful Light of Hope to our prison.

~ Inmate

## AMOS STOLTZFUS FAMILY SUMMER TOUR SCHEDULE



**PRAY  
FOR US!**

- May 15-16.....Recording Studio Woodruff, SC
- Sun. May 18.....Living Waters Christianna, PA
- Wed. May 28.....Ministry Banquet Shady Maple Banq. Center East Earl, PA
- Sun. June 1.....Pleasant View Menn. Church Montgomery, IN (AM & PM)
- Wed. June 4.....Sunnyside Mennonite Church Arthur, IL
- Fri. June 6.....Boyer Event Center Memphis, MS
- Sun. June 8.....Gospel Light Fellowship Kalona, IA (AM)
- Sun. June 8.....Sunnyside Mennonite Church Kalona, IA (PM)
- Tue. June 10.....Elmendorf Christian Community Mountain Lake, MN
- June 16-22.....Community Tent Revival Meetings Orchard, IA
- Sat. June 28.....The Barn Green Castle, PA
- Sun. July 13.....SCI Coal Township Coal Township, PA\*
- July 25-26.....Bird-in-Hand Event Field Bird-in-Hand, PA
- August 16-17.....O & M Auction Center New Bloomfield, PA
- August 23-24.....PA-Prison Softball Outreach\*



# DEVOTIONAL BOOK REPORT



I just want to take a moment to thank you for the Light of Hope Devotional! It has truly made a big difference for me. I've been writing in it and filling in the blanks every day, and I find it so powerful. I really appreciate the men who took the time to share their stories in this devotional to help others. Thank you, Lord, for their generosity! -Inmate

I am reaching out to share my significant experience after discovering a "Light of Hope" devotional book on top of a trash can. As I explored its pages, I realized it had never been used or written in. The writing within the devotional deeply resonated with me, particularly the story and testimony of Dave Stoltzfus, which I found highly relatable. Since entering prison, I have made the firm decision to completely surrender my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized at the chapel.

The Lord has brought incredible healing, love, growth, and a profound understanding of who He is during my time here. I acknowledge that it was my own choices that led me to this place, yet I can confidently say that the Lord has transformed this experience into a powerful journey of salvation and has helped me cultivate a meaningful relationship with Him.

~ Inmate



I am writing to you because I found a Light of Hope devotional book on top of a trash can. As I was flipping through it I discovered it was never used or written in. I am inspired by the writing in devotional and in my spirit, I was able to connect with the Dave Stoltzfus story and testimony.

Since I came to prison, I surrendered my life completely to the Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized at the chapel.

The Lord brought so much healing, love, growth, and knowledge of who he is during my incarnation. I alone brought myself to prison, but the Lord used this experience to save me in more way than salvation and build a relationship with him.

~ Inmate

I am currently in a Pennsylvania prison and discovered a devotional book titled Light of Hope. This book has been incredibly uplifting and has significantly strengthened my spiritual foundation. Thank you for providing such valuable resources. Thank you.

~ Inmate

**We are almost out of our devotional books for inmates. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to print 25,000 copies of devotionals.**

## PRISON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**PA PRISON  
SOFTBALL OUTREACH  
AUGUST  
23 & 24, 2025**



**SOFTBALL TEAMS ARE NEEDED!**  
MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE.  
TO SIGN UP A TEAM OR NEED  
MORE INFORMATION, CALL: (570) 837-0649  
OR VIA EMAIL [INFO@LIGHTOFHOPE.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIGHTOFHOPE.ORG)

**PRISON  
DISCIPLESHIP SEMINAR  
OCTOBER 23-26, 2025  
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE.

TO SIGN UP OR NEED MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL: (570) 837-0649 OR VIA  
EMAIL [INFO@LIGHTOFHOPE.ORG](mailto:INFO@LIGHTOFHOPE.ORG)

UPCOMING EVENT!

# PRISON MINISTRY AWARENESS BANQUET

SHADY MAPLE BANQUET CENTER –  
129 TODDY DR. EAST EARL, PA 17519  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH  
DOORS OPEN: 5:45 PM  
SINGING: 6:00 PM – SUPPER: 6:30 PM

Reservations Required call:  
(570) 540-2692 or (570) 837-0649

Reservation deadline: May 21st

Join us for a delicious meal, uplifting gospel music, and to learn about what God is doing in prison through our prison ministry. A visual presentation will be shared regarding the ongoing efforts of the prison ministry.

A love offering will be received to benefit the Light of Hope Ministry.



A. Stoltzfus Family



Esch Sisters



Harmony of Hope



Guest Speaker:  
Former Inmate  
Warner Batty

LIGHT OF HOPE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

## 2025 LANCASTER COUNTY FUNDRAISER WEEKEND

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

TOURNAMENTS ~ SINGING ~ FOOD ~ FELLOWSHIP

### FRIDAY, JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>

DELICIOUS

### HAYSTACK SUPPER & CONCERT

Soft Pretzels, and Smokies, Ice Cream, and Smoothies



A. Stoltzfus Family



Tru-Vintage



M. Stoltzfus Family

SUPPER: 4:00 PM  
SINGING: 6:00 PM  
DRIVE THROUGH for  
CARRY-OUTS

### SATURDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>

TOURNAMENTS ~ FOOD ~ SINGING

TEAMS NEEDED



#### Co-ed Volleyball Tournament

A & B Division

Cash prizes will be given to both first and second place in both divisions.

To register your team, call: (570) 540-2692



#### Co-ed Spikeball Tournament

A & B Division

Cash prizes will be given to both first and second place in both divisions.

To register your team, call: (717) 419-6491

### FOOD ALL DAY

BREAKFAST ~ LUNCH ~ SUPPER

Sausage Sandwiches, Shrimp & Fries, Hot Dogs,  
Soft Pretzels, Ice Cream, Iced Coffee, & Smoothies...

Children's Activities in the Afternoon.

Barrel Rides, Bouncy House, & More - Candy Drop @ 2:00 PM

### PIG ROAST SUPPER & CONCERT

DRIVE-THRU FOR CARRY-OUTS

SUPPER: 3:00 PM ~ SINGING: 4:00 PM



Daughters of Hope



Marlin & Laura Wagner



Johnson Bentley Band

LOVE OFFERINGS WILL BE RECEIVED BOTH EVENINGS ~ ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE LIGHT OF HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 717.380.8253 OR 570.412.5532

Light of Hope Evangelistic Ministry

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