



SOMEONE CARES PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



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Quietly Changing Lives

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IT IS REALLY TRUE
GOD LOVES YOU.

BECAUSE OF YOU,
SOMEONE CARES.

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Someone Cares is a faith
ministry, supported by God's love
and your gifts. It is a non-profit
corporation; all donations are
tax-deductible.

THIS IS OUR 480th NEWSLETTER!



We are amazed with what started off as a simple Bible study. I was looking to find something to do for the Lord. This Ministry does amaze us as God has done so much when we follow HIM. Months after being baptized, I became a full-time state prison chaplain for a salary of \$1.00 a year. Yvonne was to soon follow in my footsteps. We attended three different police academies to learn all there is to know about working in prisons. Six months after my baptism I gave my first sermon in prison. One day while Yvonne was holding choir practice and I was studying my Bible the phone rang. It was the head chaplain. He told me he was sick and I had to preach at two services the next day. He had made arrangements for us to stay at the prison staff quarters. I had a cassette of Walter Pearson preaching. I listened to it all night long. God is so good. I really don't think too many ministries in prison have been able to do what God has led us to do. I was an atheist at forty and am now a servant of the Lord. AMEN!

PAPER SUNSHINE

This risk free letter writing ministry has really changed a lot of hard-core criminals. God has blessed many through this ministry, both those in and out of prison. Now we have a problem. I was blessed with an idea. Letter writing is a lost art except for older folks, so we came up with a great idea - Pen Friend Paper Sunshine via the computer. You who read this would be matched with an inmate. You then e-mail the inmate and send it to us. We then snail mail the letter to the inmate trimming off the e-mail information.

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IT ALL WORKS WHEN...

We have a problem that is serious. People hear about us, read about us and want to get involved. Then they get the packet with the inmate's information. Some put it down and forget about it. Some read it and it is not what they expected. They don't write and don't return the information or they write and get no answer. Inmates often cannot get paper, a pencil, a pen, envelopes or even a stamp. We ask everyone to write twice and if you do not get an answer, then return the inmate information to us. After that we can rematch you. We will take care of the inmate you returned. Please write somewhere on the envelope to us your real name and your real address. The letter to the inmate has their name, number and full address. This is sealed in the first envelope and mailed to us. We do not read your letter to inmate. With our new program using the computer, when we scan the inmate's letter we will read it to make sure there are no problems, give advice and e-mail to those using this service.

If you are not comfortable with your Pen Friend return their name and we will rematch you both. You may write inmates after their release. We need 500 people to write or 500 of you to take one more name.

OUR CREDENTIALS

Today, with massive over crowding, it is more difficult to get into prison for ministry. A lot of chapels are being used for housing. Yvonne is a pastor's daughter, the daughter of Elder Clyde Groomer. We were full-time chaplains at Soledad for 13 years. We then worked at Paso Robles Boy School and Avenal Prison. Then we were off to Kentucky for another police academy and we worked at Eddyville Prison. We also filled in for pastors in many churches. Then we went to Michigan. Yvonne was a pastor at Coldwater Womens Prison and I pastored at Coldwater Mens Prison. For thirty years we did the job or assisted the state paid chaplain. In prison our main duty was training volunteers. Eighty percent of our time we do one-to-one counseling with both inmates and staff. Most of this counseling was done in cell blocks while standing in front of an inmates cell, putting up with the stench and the smell of fear. We have trained many volunteers and also worked with the prison staff. At no time were we paid by the prison, the state or a church.

If our ministry does not change we will be fine. With the apparent growth the Lord is providing, we will need help. Yvonne and I are allowed to go anywhere in most prisons. We are not escorted and draw keys to get into all kinds of places. We also work with and for the staff. We have helped form a Christian outreach program for the staff. There are many who go into prison to teach and preach. These volunteers are escorted in and out and can only do what they came to do. Not being able to spend one-to-one time with the inmates is a shame. This is the backbone of ministering in prison and is vitally needed by all the inmates.

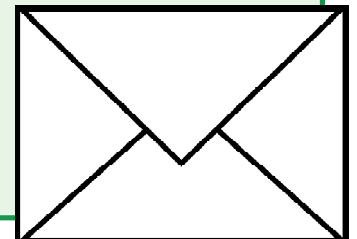
PAPER SUNSHINE Continued

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The inmate writes back and we scan it, read it and give advice and correct any problems. We then e-mail it to you. The response is massive. It is quite time consuming and will take additional folks and donations. We pray for a grant or a large donation. God will work it out!

WOW! WHAT A DAY

We had a day when we handled almost 600 pieces of mail. What a blessing. This Paper Sunshine Ministry could - once we are back on radio and in a major magazine - double in size!



Letters

MY NAME IS JOHN

I was an inmate in Kentucky when I met Don & Yvonne. It was strange as I met them out on the yard and they informed me they were full-time volunteers. We chatted awhile and they found out I had not seen my mom in 6 years. She and my stepdad lived about 80 miles away. Yard recall came and I had to go inside. Two weeks later, I was paged to the chapel and there was my mom. On the spot I made up my mind to do something with my life for my mom.

MY NAME IS ARCHIE

I met Don in my cell on death row and later met Yvonne on the yard. I was there for a terrible crime I had done and deserved to be there. What I had done was not important. What I would be doing made a difference. Don told me to be free in Jesus - even in here - was worthwhile. By series of miracles and my death sentence was overturned and I was going to be released. This was a big press item. Don at 5 am picked me up took me for a meal and to a motel. I told them I could never repay them. Yvonne told me "Each one reach one." The God Squad as they were known do great work.

MY NAME IS BILL

Don & Yvonne came into my life at Jackson Prison. I died there months later. I'm here charged with a sex crime and was innocent. The McClure's saw me not as what I was accused of but as a person who was promised forgiveness. My brother, an attorney, could have helped me but I had a public attorney. My ashes are going to be in a local funeral home. Maybe someone will get them, they did not.

MY NAME IS !!!

I was a correctional officer in a prison Don & Yvonne worked at. I had gotten into trouble and knew what would happen if I got caught. It had nothing to do with the job or prison. Don took the time to counsel me and to try to change the course I had taken. It worked. I was able to deal with my problem. I lost my job and found another and my wife and I are not exs anymore. Amen!

CLOWNS FOR CHRIST

We are a bunch of convicts who got organized to do well. We were allowed to go out to schools and share our experiences and to try to help kids. Don & Yvonne helped us in our spare time at their own expense.

MAY GOD ABOVE INCREASE HIS LOVE



*Reprinted from our
March, 2007 newsletter.*

I am sitting at my computer looking out at a winter wonderland as I write this, knowing how cold it is outside and that only a window keeps it from me. Just a couple of months ago, everything was really beautiful, and full of life. Now, except for a few green trees, everything is now brown or white and bare.

Soon, and very soon, it will return in all of God's beauty. No more bitter cold and barren trees. But even now, we who know God can feel the warmth of His love.

At the beginning of last fall, there was a large area in front of our home that was full of ivy, which I removed, and planted what I hope will be a colorful flower garden. Lots of work and much planning later, all the bulbs and plants are under the snow. We can hardly wait for spring and its surprises, and pray everything grows. Satan will send weeds, but with a lot of effort, we will show you a picture of the finished garden.

WE HAVE A LOT OF MAIL

We have a lot of mail that we cannot send on. It is vital that on the envelope to your friend you put your full pen name. Please use twin names like your first and middle. These are the letters we have waiting which are addressed to Alice, Grandma, Barbara A., Jane Brent, Anika Art, Boyd, Terri D., Debbie, Dave F., D. Heartland, Andrea, Jean, Jim J., Johnson. Jones Family, Betty K. Kost, M Lane,, Debbie, Lee, Dixie Lee, E. Lewis, A. Theny, A. Metheny, Dawn, Palaz Melisa, Simmons, Sandy Small, Joe Scarfiel, Missy Simmons, J. Walech, Alice Wall, and Sarah Whaley. This is because many of you did not return the blue form.

Letters

MY NAME IS PRISON

I'm all over the place and I'm always full. I need to try to figure a way to get rid of Don & Yvonne. If people like them increase, I'll be out of business. They preach, they teach, and they provide free clothes when inmates are released. She teaches remedial reading. They make it so inmates work real hard to get out and stay out..

MY NAME IS CONFUSION

I am sure all these goodie two shoes don't get it together. They all belong to different churches and teach different things to keep these idiots confused. Boy, some of the folks that come in here really help me.

THESE TWO ARE NEAT. SHE IS CALLED DOUBLE TROUBLE.

Look they are adding a new sign to the Chapel. No no no, It says ALL FAITHS. No room for confusion anymore.

MY NAME IS JESUS

My word says every name shall bow and every tongue confess. To make it easier for those in prison and those free, I died to make sure they had a future to be born again. To be free with me is to be free indeed. I sent an invitation to a very neat place. I asked you to walk with me and talk with me. I asked a friend to walk to me. He started the walk but then saw the storm but not the promise. I hear I am coming soon but there is a battle to be fought and a victory to win. To be free in me is to be free indeed.

HEY FOLKS, GIVE ME A BREAK

Reprinted from our April, 2004 newsletter.

I'm an inmate, in prison for committing a crime. I was not a very good person then. I'm starting to try to put my life in order. I don't get a newspaper, don't have a radio, and am given a limited choice of what I watch on TV if I get to watch at all. When I first came to prison I joined a bunch of Pen Pal things to try to get ladies to write and visit and send stuff. One day I listened to a radio show, don't remember what "Voice Of Prophecy" was, but was told about a Pen Friend Program.

The word "friend" really impressed me as I have not had one for a long time. Well I got a letter from a real nice Christian couple. They spent four pages telling me about how great it was to be a Christian and all this Bible stuff - whoa! I did not have the foggiest idea what they were talking about. So I wrote them and guess what? They did not have to foggiest idea of what I was talking about. Well, Don & Yvonne helped, and we both learned a little about each other and bit-by-bit I learned about Jesus.