

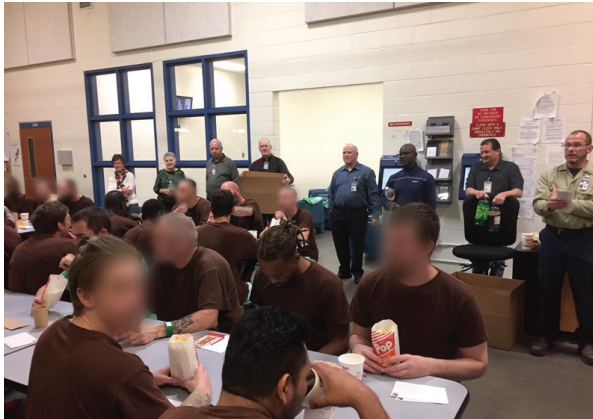
# JESUS ALIVE IN LIVES

Polk County Jail Ministry News

Issue 162 - December, 2018

## Greetings at this special time of year when we celebrate Christmas!

Our holy God humbled Himself, came to earth, and took on flesh. God became a man so we could be reconciled back with Him. Christ, God's Son, is the tangible gift available to all who will repent of their sins, believe on His name, and receive Him as Savior and Lord. Praise His Holy Name!! Thank you for your faithful prayers, but I urge you to even increase your fervency as we see the day approaching. We in the PCJ Ministry see the effects of your faithful prayers and witness God's mighty hand moving in the hearts of the incarcerated, and the Sheriff's office staff. Thank you for your partnership prayerfully and financially this past year! Wow!! What a difference you've made!



Friday November 30th and Saturday December 1st were the dates of our annual Christmas event. Pop, popcorn and two stamped Christmas cards were distributed to each inmate, and then two familiar Christmas carols were sung. Some enthusiastically sang along with us. Most of the 24 volunteers were present which blessed the inmates greatly. The hearts of the inmates seemed especially happy and grateful this year. I believe your prayers caused an calm that God spiritually prepared. It was a memorable two nights of demonstrating the love of Christ, and sowing seeds into their hearts. It's such a privilege to shower them with love.

Often this event draws the one who is watching to see the reality of Christ, and what we proclaim about Him. An inmate on the phone

lashed out in anger as he could not hear because of my greeting, commotion, and the singing. As we finished he slammed down the receiver, went to his nearby bunk, and was very angry. Some men tried to console him. As we walked out of the pod he ran up to me, and said, "I'm sorry for the way I acted." I understood his reaction, we'd interrupted his call. The following Monday he put in a kite to be seen. Once again he apologized and wanted to talk. He admitted to ongoing anger issues. A current girlfriend had enough of his anger, and didn't want to talk with him anymore. His

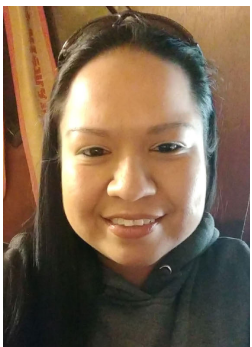
ex-wife cut him off for the same reasons. I listened to his heart, and how anger had overtaken his life. I shared about the Lord who desires to build a relationship with him, and bring changes in his life. The next day he kited again, apologized, and asked me to come see him. This time the Holy Spirit had prepared him to respond, and He gave his heart to Christ! Your investment in lives like his makes such a huge difference!

Thanks to everyone for your financial gifts, donations of stamps, and those who prayed! It's exciting to watch how God works in lives, and provides for the needs of this ministry. Thank you to both HyVee for the pop and Brandmeyer Popcorn Company for your donations. They give these incredible gifts every year! Only God knows the total impact this event will have for eternity!! It is such a privilege to proclaim Jesus Christ to those held captive in their sins. He is setting the captives free indeed!! That my friend is Amazing Grace!!! Amen!!!! CHRIST is God's precious gift to man, and our only hope for eternal life. Merry CHRIST-mas from our home to yours! — In His Service, Chaplain Jerry

**Tip of the Month: Immanuel means God with us. (Matt. 1:23) God came to be born in us. Have you given Jesus His rightful place in your heart? He wants a relationship to be born in you!**

Polk Co. Jail Ministry, Inc., 1985 N.E. 51st Place, Des Moines, IA. 50313 • [www.polkcountyjailministries.com](http://www.polkcountyjailministries.com) • [Jerry.VanCleave@polkcountyjailministries.com](mailto:Jerry.VanCleave@polkcountyjailministries.com) • Phone: (515)-875-5711  
\*\* Please forward all gifts to Polk County Jail (1985 N.E. 51st Place, DSM, 50313), [www.polkcountyjailministries.com](http://www.polkcountyjailministries.com) through Paypal - trusted and easy!

## Marisol (Mari) Douglas – Another Changed Life!



My family attended a Catholic Church when I was 10 or 11. For almost my whole life I believed in a higher power, something greater than me, but I never knew about God. I never knew the whole story about Jesus. I just knew about baby Jesus. We went sometimes 2 or 3 times a week. I did communion and catechism. Beginning at the age of 8 I was molested by a family member many years. It was dismissed so I had many feelings of shame, fear, and the loss of feeling safe

amongst my family. At the age of 11 I started drinking with friends and running the streets after sneaking out. At 15 I had my first sexual encounter.

I started using marijuana when I was 16, or 17, and I continued to use marijuana until meth crept into my life at the age of 22. It grabbed and

held on to me. I got pregnant and even then still used. My mother died when I was 3 months pregnant. She was 41 and truly my best friend. DHS got involved in my life after I had my daughter. I was struggling to stay sober by myself and care for my daughter too. I couldn't do it. I almost lost custody of my daughter, and chose to go to a treatment facility out of town where I could have her with me. I did 4 months of treatment away from my old life. These were new positive good people. I came home and relocated to Ankeny, and was able to stay clean for about 9 years. Then my daughter's dad and I split up, and I started dating someone I thought I knew, but things went crazy. Eventually the person was sent to prison but I had already lost 2 homes.

I was living with this person's dad by the end of the situation. One day I came home from work and his dad was smoking crystal meth with people I happened to know from my past. It wasn't long until I was using again and lost my job too. I started running the streets. I was now in my 30s.  
(Continued on back ►)

(Continued from front ▼)

One day I got pulled over for a suspended license. I had drugs, money, and paraphernalia on me, so I went to prison. While waiting for my sentencing at Polk County Jail I met Chapi Denise. I went to her Bible study class and it was a life changing moment for me. Chapi Denise spoke about God like the Father I had never known. It was the strength in her love and words that made me want to know who this Father was. She gave me a Bible and told me to read it. I'd never read the Bible. That day at the Polk County Jail Ministry my heart found Who it was missing. Jesus! I started reading my Bible, but it was hard

for me to understand. I went to prison for a year and a half and when I got out I relapsed, failed to report to my parole officer, and went back to prison.

I was released in 3 weeks and the first day out went back to using. I met my wonderful husband during this time. I believe we were both in different ways tired of living this life. God blessed us. We were caught together, and both sent to prison again. While in prison I was in a custody battle for my daughter. Unfortunately I couldn't do anything from prison. I was struggling with (Continued below Report ▼)

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Additional churches, individuals and businesses would catch the vision of what our great God is doing here at the Polk Co. Jail Ministry, and would support it both prayerfully, and financially.
- Prayer for Sheriff McCarthy as he transitions into retirement. Also for Sheriff Schneider the newly appointed Sheriff for a great working relationship and favor for the ministry.
- God protects and provides for the needs of the volunteers.
- God the Holy Spirit stirs the hearts of staff and the incarcerated with the Gospel message through the ministry's presence.
- Prayer for our Assistant Chaplain David as he finishes his last year of college.
- The ministry to increase in its influence and effectiveness in 2019.
- Ongoing prayer for volunteer David Hamlin, his wife Edna, and son Jason as they each continue their battle with cancer.
- Wisdom for the Sheriff's office in budgetary issues for 2019 as they arise.
- Inmates awaken to watch Sunday services at 10:00 A.M., and also that the detention officers would be convinced of their benefit to the inmate population.
- God will move the hearts of the inmate's family members at home and convict them of their spiritual needs.
- So many Detention Officers are working double shifts due to shortages, and many long term staff retirements. Please pray for their morale, fatigue, safety, and more staff is hired.
- Prayer for released inmates to have the self-discipline to be active in, and attend a Bible believing local church, daily Bible reading, and to get a job.
- Opportunities to share about the ministry this coming year in churches and other organizations.
- Pray we all stay thankful, humble and broken before the KING OF KINGS!!

- We are thankful for favor and good working relationships with the Sheriff's office.
- Hearts are ready, and open to the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is moving with His convicting power.
- More people are awakening to participate in the services on Sunday mornings.
- Lives of the incarcerated and the employees of the Sheriff's office were deeply touched by the Christmas event. God brought a sense of calm to the Jail from these two evenings. Hearts were drawn to a point of hunger for God.
- God has blessed the ministry Board with unity, and strong, wise leadership.
- I want to thank and praise God for each of you who partnered with us in 2018 to make it one of the greatest. Each of you is truly an answer to our prayers!

## MOST WANTED:

- Clothes closet needs: men's shoes and 2X or 3X coats only. Please donate only items that are listed.

## Ministry Monthly Report: December 2018

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	516	5,474
One-on-One inmate counseling:	706	9,452
Religious reading materials given:	670	8,611
Bible Study groups:	81	1,021
Inmates involved with studies:	918	12,442
View Worship Service:	535	4,586
Volunteer Hours:	254	3,065
Number of Volunteers:	25	320
Bibles given:	377	4,458
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>483</b>

## ANSWERS:

- We received all the stamps needed for our Christmas event PTL!!! Thanks to each of you for the stamps, donations to purchase them, and your powerful prayers.
- All the divine appointments throughout the month, amazing!



Please trim along the dashed line and insert in the enclosed envelope with your gift.

(Continued from above ▼)

not having any control over it. I was going to church almost every day. One day I was walking the yard talking to God, begging and bargaining with Him. Finally I remembered how God sacrificed His Son for us and I broke down. I let go and gave it to God. I said I would follow Him from this point on.

Today I have a great support group where I attend at Grace Church. It's where Chapi Denise also goes. I attend Bible study classes, small group, and Wednesday worship at church. I'm also in my last year of college, and will be receiving my degree in Business Administration. I believe the Polk Co. Jail Ministry was the foundation that led me to Christ. I have a wonderful family, my daughter is in my life, and I love that I'm able to be there for her. God has given me all the strength to overcome the lies

and temptations of evil. I say it's a beautiful blessing when God brings us to our knees, because when He brings me to my knees I feel like He has fought to open my spirit to Him. He says I got this for you, and I will always take care of you. John 10:10. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I never imagined my soul to be so at peace and reassured. Thank you everyone with Polk Co. Jail Ministries for planting that seed in me.

*Here is another changed life made possible by faithful partners like you!*

Please help support  **The Polk County Jail Ministry**

**YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS AFFORD THIS MINISTRY CONTINUED GROWTH AND IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF THE INCARCERATED AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF.**

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  I am making a monthly commitment of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks out to the Polk Co. Jail Ministries Inc. and use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope. THANK YOU!)