

JESUS ALIVE IN LIVES

Polk County Jail Ministry News

Issue 161 - November, 2018

Thanksgiving Pondering What the Almighty Can Do

The Board, David and I all want to convey our **thanks** for each one of you and for your powerful and effective prayers. We say thanks for all of your financial gifts as well that allow this ministry to flourish, and help accomplish what God has called us to do. What a great investment you have made in lives which will reap eternal rewards. The urgency is now more than ever to get the life changing message of the gospel to a lost and dying world especially those who find themselves in the PC Jail. What a harvest of souls He has given us! What a privilege as we also watch inmates develop to become disciples through Bible studies, one on ones, and faith based books! **We have so much to be thankful for!** Amen!!

A frequent visitor to the Polk Co. Jail for various charges of theft, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, and many drug offenses was recently found dead of an overdose. I've seen thousands of inmates over the years, but this young man's name was familiar to me. I felt a strong prompting to go to his visitation. Many friends were present to support his sorrowing family, and to reflect on his life. His brother expressed how much potential he had, but couldn't free himself from drug addictions. How sad to hear he couldn't or wouldn't make the changes necessary, or get help. What saddened me the most was to think how many times he'd been in the jail, but had our ministry affected him at all? I always greet those who I recognize as frequent visitors with the comment,

"I'm so glad you're back, safe, and not dead in a coffin. God once again has rescued, and brought you to the PC Jail." They will agree God has intervened, but yet not decide to repent, and change directions. It really takes God's Spirit to desire Him, to be broken, and through with self-effort forever. That's where your prayers come in, because without prayer people aren't moved to seek after God. Sowing God's Word is also very important. Saving and changing faith comes from hearing God's Word. I'm so thankful for God's intervention, aren't you? The PC Jail ministry is having a life changing effect on those who will embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Another miracle to me is that we're even allowed to be here with a presence and voice for the Redeemer of all men. We can't reach them all, but we can at least reach some. I'm so thankful for this incredible opportunity! YOU make commitments to participate in



this ministry as well, through prayer and giving. What eternal investments! Think of how priceless a soul is to God! This is why my heart is full of thanksgiving and praise to a great Savior who came to rescue anyone who will call on His Name! Amen!!

— In His Service,
Chaplain Jerry

**Tip of the Month: The key to releasing God's power is PRAISE!
Do you use this key to unlock God's power?**

Polk Co. Jail Ministry, Inc. , 1985 N.E. 51st Place, Des Moines, IA. 50313 • www.polkcountyjailministries.com • 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 through Paypal - trusted and easy!

Kylee Johnson – Another Changed Life!



The most deceptive lie I told myself from the beginning was that addiction could never happen to me. I was different. I could drink and smoke weed with friends, and stop whenever I wanted.

I grew up in a good home. I had parents who loved me and provided everything I needed. The first Sunday I can remember growing up,

I was in church. As I grew older, I started doubting the whole "God thing". I'd only heard of this God that my parents talked about. Quite frankly, I didn't want their God. He was only a figment of their imagination. They were foolish to think God even existed.

When I turned 15, I started dating a 16 year old boy who was well known for getting in trouble with the police. My parents did not approve of us dating. So in order to keep seeing him, I started lying and sneaking around.

I started dabbling with pills by age 17, and began stealing my grandparent's pain medication. By age 19, my Mom was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. This led me to go even deeper into my addiction. I went to a drug house to get pills. For the first time in my life, I saw people smoking meth. They offered me some. Once I tried it, I said goodbye to the world I once knew. During the next few months, my Mom kept calling and texting me. She knew she was going to die. She begged me to come home. I decided to stay on the streets. Shortly after that, hospice came to the house and she passed away.

(Continued on back ►)

(Continued from front ▼)

I was out of control, stealing to maintain my addiction, and was in and out of jail 13 times since age 18. During one of those last jail stays, I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. He did a great work of transformation in me. I really did love Him, and I knew that He was real. In November of 2015, I left jail and was court ordered to Bridges of Iowa, while in that year long treatment program, things were going great! That is until the last three months of Bridges, I started drinking occasionally. By getting away with it, I shrugged it off. Not making a big deal of it. By doing this, I gave the devil a foothold in my life again. I never told anyone I was struggling. I was truly deceived, telling myself I was okay and that

I could stop when I wanted. My heart became hardened. I became desensitized to my sin. After my Bridges graduation, I continued drinking and started using pills again. One night while intoxicated I called up my old dealer and bought meth. I started using meth again almost daily and was introduced to heroin. I got a blood infection from IV use, and landed myself in the hospital for 90 days. I also had a blood clot in my right lung, endocarditis of my heart, and kidney failure. The doctors said I was just hours away from death. My body was shutting down. It was in the hospital I again got court ordered to long term treatment at House of Mercy. I rededicated my life to Christ.

(Continued below Report ▼)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- The annual Christmas event of giving pop, popcorn, two stamped Christmas cards, and singing carols for the inmates was last weekend Nov 30th and Dec 1st. Please pray that the Spirit of God will keep moving in the hearts of the inmates in a powerful way as they think about the Christ of Christmas this year.
- Prayer for volunteer David Hamlin, his wife Edna, and Jason their son as they each battle cancer.
- Volunteer and Board member Bud Krisinger diagnosed with leukemia. He's taking chemo med's orally. He also is struggling with back issues.
- Continued spiritual growth and discipleship for the inmates who recently came to Christ.
- Prayer for inmate believers who are released that they will daily seek the Lord and are faithful to attend a biblically based church.
- Safety for our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, as they supervise the incarcerated and those Deputies out on patrol as they protect our communities.
- A greater number of inmates would watch Sunday services at 10:00 A.M.
- More and more local churches will participate in this incredible ministry as a viable mission's effort both prayerfully, and financially.
- Family members of the incarcerated have their lives touched by the undeniable changes that God has brought about, and to see their own need for redemption as they too experience brokenness.
- Inmates who have gone off to prison will stay faithful to read God's Word daily, and be active in sharing their faith where they've been planted.
- There would be a host of faithful prayer warriors lifting this ministry before God daily.
- Pray that God will soften the hardest of hearts.
- The Lord raises up new volunteers to replace those retiring.

ANSWERS:

- Thanking God for each volunteer and their faithful commitment.
- Volunteer Ann Agans is doing well in her recovery from neck surgery.
- Devine appointments with inmates are happening every day.
- God is faithful to His Word to change and mature new believers.
- Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus for all He's doing and has done in this incredible ministry all year
- Praise for each volunteer who took time to help with the Christmas event.
- For the response of so many who've given stamps!

MOST WANTED:

- Men's winter hats and shoes.

Ministry Monthly Report: November 2018

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	462	4,958
One-on-One inmate counseling:	884	8,746
Religious reading materials given:	629	7,941
Bible Study groups:	82	940
Inmates involved with studies:	903	11,524
View Worship Service:	438	4,051
Volunteer Hours:	291	2,811
Number of Volunteers:	24	295
Bibles given:	335	4,081
Number of New Believers:	35	456



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

(Continued from above ▼)

I refuse to be deceived anymore by the allurements of drugs and alcohol. I now know that using any substance ONE TIME is detrimental to my recovery and freedom in Christ. I had to cut out every toxic person from my life, and replace them with God fearing people. Godly people who stand in the gap praying for me. I'm in God's Word daily, memorizing scripture. I fill my mind with His Truth so I can come against lies of the enemy. I die to myself every single day, and pick up my cross. I make the conscious decision to work out my salvation, not leaning on my own understanding. God will bring the good work He started in me to completion for His Glory. I will overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the words of my testimony.

*Here is a changed life that represents the prayers and financial investments of faithful partners like you!
Thank you! - Chaplain Jerry*

Please help support



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!)