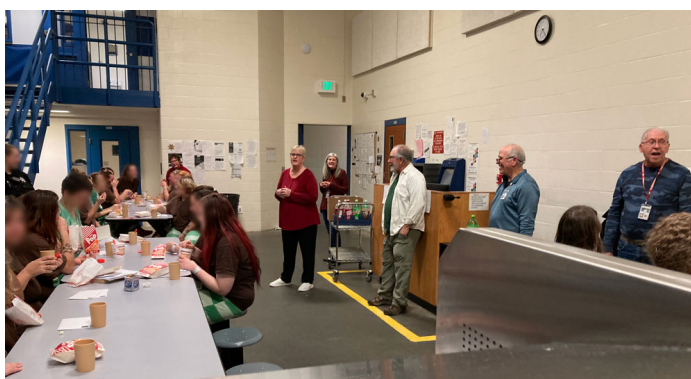


## Merry Christmas!!!

Greetings at this special time of the year when we celebrate Christmas! Our holy God humbled Himself, came to earth, took on flesh like you and me, and was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. No room for Jesus! That has always saddened me greatly.



**Volunteers help serve the women inmates.**

Is there room in your heart for Him? Jesus 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!! We 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!

On December 2nd and 3rd we had our annual Christmas event. This was an open door for all our volunteers to go into the housing units for the first time in 2 1/2 years! Pop, popcorn and two stamped Christmas cards were distributed to each inmate who wanted them, and then two familiar Christmas carols were sung. Inmates enthusiastically sang along with us, and others were brought to tears. Some inmates sent me

one of their Christmas cards to thank us for coming in. Most of the 21 volunteers were there which blessed the inmates greatly. They were two memorable nights of demonstrating the love of Christ, and sowing seed into hearts. Thanks to everyone for your financial gifts, all the donations of stamps, and those who prayed for the Christmas event. It's exciting to watch God work in individuals. Thank you to HyVee for the pop,

and Brandmeyer Gourmet Popcorn for their donations. Both businesses give these incredible gifts every year. Only God knows the total impact this event will have for eternity!! It is a privilege to proclaim Jesus Christ to those held captive in their sins. He is setting the captives free indeed!! Here's a story that occurred in medical when I responded to a request. This young man had some history with me at the Newton Prison Fellowship Ministry

where I previously served. He was in medical due to eluding police. He'd been shot through the thigh that missed his femoral artery by 1/2 inch. He'd tried suicide unsuccessfully four times. I said, "Your life is precious to God. He only made one of you. He rescued you from suicide, and has been waiting on you to begin a new life. Many seeds have been sown into your heart, but you've been hard towards the Lord." Now he was ready to surrender his life to the Lord Jesus Christ! That my friend is **amazing grace!!! Amen!!!! CHRIST** is God's precious gift to man, and our only hope for eternal life. **Merry CHRISTmas** from our home to yours and have a blessed New Year!

*In His Service,  
Chaplain Jerry*

**Tip of the Month: The King left His throne to be born in a trough, so we could be born again and experience Him.**

# POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY NEWS

## Open Doors



Pray for:



**– Julie Ennis –**

## Look what HE'S done! – Julie Ennis

I grew up in rural Altoona with my parents, and two older brothers. I went to church some and knew about Jesus, but I didn't understand the Bible. There was a lot of verbal abuse in our home, and my Dad and I argued a lot. I stole some of my Mom's cigarettes and tried smoking in 3rd grade. My grandpa and I were close, but he passed away when I was 14. I felt empty. I struggled to learn in school and never really fit in with others. I got into an unhealthy relationship and used drugs and alcohol in high school. I went to parties to fit in, and while in college I got into another unhealthy relationship. I used cocaine and began dealing it. I was stealing and lying to support my addiction, and I am ashamed of the

things I did. I had a gun held to my head during a drug deal, but that didn't stop me. At 22 I was tired, lonely, broken, miserable, and wanted out! On my knees I asked God to remove my boyfriend, to stop smoking, using drugs, and alcohol. I was fired from my job and went to outpatient treatment at Powell Chemical Dependency Clinic. My boyfriend was arrested for dealing cocaine, went to jail, and prison. I went to 12 step meetings, found a sponsor, and worked the steps. I have not used any alcohol or drugs since 4/25/90. Thank You God! I led AA meetings at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Mitchellville Prison, and worked in corrections for four years. I met Kenny

*(Continued on back ►)*



## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayer for board member David Hamlin, and his wife Edna as they deal with the battle of cancer.
- Prayer for volunteer Jim Bagbey as his wife Ruth is in hospice.
- Additional churches, individuals and businesses would catch the vision of what our great God is doing here at the Polk County Jail Ministry, and support it both prayerfully, and financially.
- Prayer for an Assistant Chaplain who is called and burdened for this ministry.
- Prayer for a Chaplain secretary as Sherri has resigned to focus on her family, the DOC, and her work at the Mitchellville women's facility. Praise God for how she advanced the ministry with her teaching gifts and computer skills.
- Prayer for Sheriff Schneider that we would continue to experience a great working relationship and favor for the ministry.
- The ministry to increase in its influence and effectiveness in 2023.
- God protects and provides for the needs of the volunteers.
- Pray for the Discipleship Outreach Center as plans are under way for classes to begin on location at E 42nd and Douglas in January. Pray for individuals who are wanting to grow spiritually, face personal issues, and find freedom from their past. The topics of Boundaries, Receiving The Blessing, and Fresh Start will be taught.
- God the Holy Spirit stirs the hearts of staff and the incarcerated with the Gospel message through the ministry's presence in the Jail.
- Inmates awaken to watch Sunday services at 10:00 AM, and also that 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.
- Prayer for released inmates to have the self-discipline to be active in, and attend a Bible believing local church, daily Bible reading, find a mentor, and get a job.
- More 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!!**

## ANSWERS:

- We received all the stamps and more 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! To God be the Glory!

(Continued from front ▼)

in AA one year after I went to treatment, and soon we lived together. After six years of sobriety I was searching for more answers, and peace in my life. Kenny and I had a disagreement and he stayed some place else. A neighbor named Diana invited me to see the Power Team at Grace Church in 6/96. I went, and wept while they shared the gospel. I could feel the Holy Spirit drawing me to Himself. I gave my life to Jesus that evening! *Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest* Matt. 11:28. I got involved at Grace. Kenny attended on Easter, and he found Jesus also! We were baptized, got married in 6/98, and soon after I was pregnant. About 6 months into my pregnancy the Holy Spirit spoke to me. He said to name our daughter Faith. He told me I would go through many trials, my life would not be easy, but He would always be with, and remain faithful to me. He said trust Me always. Faith was born. She grew up going to Grace Church, and is also a believer in Christ. Praise God! I was disciplined, attended Bible Studies, and helped with Awana. We attended Pastor Jerry's class for many years, and he helped us grow in our faith. We helped start up Celebrate Recovery, I disciplined women, and we shared our testimonies. Then we pulled away from church. We were busy with Faith's

- 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. Hearts were drawn to a point of hunger for God. What an open door to get into the housing units to interact with inmates face to face once again!
- 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 2022 to make it one of the greatest years ever! Each of you is truly an answer to our prayers!

## MOST WANTED:

- Clothes closet needs - **men's shoes and coats**. Please donate only listed items.
- Tony Evans books, *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Smalley, English *Left Behind* books 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11. Spanish *Left Behind* all 12 of the series. Spanish books like *Experiencing God* or any of the above in paper back only.

## Ministry Monthly Report: December 2022

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	1,022	11,177
One-on-One inmate counseling:	759	8,287
Religious reading materials given:	799	8,395
Bible Study groups:	33	577
Inmates involved with studies:	237	3,362
View Worship Service:	208	3,301
Volunteer Hours:	204	1,516
Number of Volunteers:	23	206
Bibles given:	370	3,704
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>224</b>

activities and didn't put God first to make time for church. Kenny relapsed when Faith was in 4th grade. After many years I decided to go back to 12 step meetings, and worked with women in recovery. I felt the Holy Spirit's tug on my heart to get back to church with believers, and be in His Word. I had to really trust God, and believe the great commission. The Holy Spirit led us back to Grace on Easter '22. We are in Jerry's connection group again. He loves Jesus and works so hard to reach others. He has an amazing wife Patty, who serves God also. I want to use my spiritual gifts at Grace Church, and through the Jail Ministry. My heart hurts for those who need love, support, and guidance no matter where they have been. I am being disciplined by Patty through the DOC and I want to disciple other women. Thank You Jesus for pursuing, loving, forgiving, dying, rescuing, teaching, and giving me a new life! Jesus tells us in John 15:5 *apart from Me you can do nothing*.

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

Please help  
support



The  
Polk County Jail  
Ministry

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