

## Make it a habit to praise and give thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Have you ever thought about how birds are always singing? I imagine they are praising and giving **thanks** to God for their provision. In Luke 17 *Jesus entered a village, and ten men with leprosy met him afar off. They lifted up their voices and said, Jesus, Master have mercy on us! And when He saw them, He said to them, Go show yourselves to the priests. And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.* He was a Samaritan, an outcast according to the Jews. Ironic isn't it? Only one out of ten **thanked** Jesus. Being truly **thankful** to God for all He does for us is rare. The Bible states, *he who is forgiven much loves much.* Luke 7:47

I'm **thankful** for each of you who prays for this ministry and gives so generously. I'm **thankful** for changed hearts and lives that are radically different. Here's an example of one inmate who was sick and tired of his addiction to alcohol and drugs. I said he was empty inside his heart like I used to be with no meaning, purpose or direction. Jesus Christ is the only One who can fill that void. God formed a vacuum in our hearts that can only be filled by a relationship with His Son Jesus. He is the bridge between man and God because of our sin. He shed His blood, and paid our debt on the cross. This friend agreed that it was time to place his trust in God, so he prayed to receive Jesus into his heart. The tears freely flowed down his face as he trusted and believed. What a holy moment to watch God work to open someone's heart! That's what your prayers do.

They prepare the way for brokenness.

I'm also **thankful** for all law enforcement Deputies, Detention Officers, dispatchers, and clerical staff of the Sheriff's Office. There are hundreds who keep us safe and protected. We have so much to be **thankful** for, don't we? The Bible speaks of giving a sacrifice of praise from lips that proclaim His dear Name. This sacrifice I believe is our choice to **thank** Him, no matter if it's going good, bad or whatever our circumstances may be. 1 Thes. 5:18 The giving of **thanks** should be spontaneous, but some struggle to think of even **one** item to be **grateful**. The Scriptures tell us *in the last days men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers (abusive language), disobedient to parents, ungrateful* the list goes on 2 Tim 3:1-5. These attitudes and behaviors are so prevalent in our society today! Since they are indicative of the last days it's even more urgent than ever to get the life changing message of the gospel to a lost and dying world; like those in the PC Jail. I am truly **grateful** for your powerful and effective prayers. Their impact is immeasurable! The Board and I want to 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 eternal investment you have made in lives which will gain eternal rewards. **Amen!**

In His Service,  
Chaplain Jerry

**Tip of the Month: Praise and thanksgiving are keys to releasing God's power because they convey our trust in Him!**

# POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY NEWS

## Open Doors



Pray for:



– Jeff McElroy –

## Look what HE'S done! – Jeff McElroy

My road to redemption was long, but thank You Jesus for being with me, and for Your protection. I was born in Indianapolis to wonderful parents, and raised in the church. At 13 I smoked weed and cigarettes. I popped pills and drank at 14. At 16 I shot up iv drugs, was arrested for the first time, and went to jail. Over the next several years I was on the mouse wheel going around in circles. I did morphine, heroin, cocaine, acid, uppers and downers. If I could get it I tried it, and was arrested time after time. Eventually I was sent to prison. In the 80's I was driving drunk and high when a terrible car accident happened. I should have been killed, but that didn't stop me from

using. Crack cocaine was my next drug of choice. In the early 90's I went to the Salvation Army Adult Rehab Center and was introduced to Jesus. A seed was planted. I would stay at the rehab center then get out only to relapse time and time again. This cycle lasted for 16 years. I was jobless, homeless, and would eat out of dumpsters, but this whole time I kept praying Lord, help me. In '07 some officers at the Salvation Army took me under their wings, and we all moved to Iowa. I started to get things together, got a car, my own place, but again found crack cocaine. I drank heavily then as well. For the next 8 months I lost

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## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- The Chief is allowing us to do the annual Christmas event of pop, popcorn and two stamped Christmas cards for the inmates by going into the housing units on Dec 2 & 3! The volunteers will come into the roll call room to stuff sacks of popcorn, and have a brief volunteer meeting. Please pray that the Spirit of God will move in the hearts of the inmates in a powerful way, draw them to the claims of Christ, and His sacrificial gift of salvation for all mankind.
- Prayer for volunteer David Hamlin, and his wife Edna as they both battle cancer.
- Pray for the DOC Discipleship Outreach Center for a growing interest in personal discipleship of those getting out of Jail. Please pray for our director Pastor Charles Hundley as he interacts with those interested in the DOC. Currently we have 17 who are in the process of discipleship, and will feature one every other month in the newsletter.
- Prayer for volunteer Jim Bagbey as his wife Ruth is in hospice.
- Continued spiritual growth and discipleship for the inmates who recently came to Christ.
- Prayer for released inmate believers that they will daily seek the Lord and are faithful to attend a Bible believing church, get a mentor, and a job.
- Safety for our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail as they supervise the incarcerated, and for 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 prayerfully, financially and for the DOC.
- 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 will be a host of faithful prayer warriors lifting this ministry before God daily.
- Pray that God will soften the hardest of hearts.
- Pray that the Jail will open up for volunteers in the North end for Bible studies.

## ANSWERS:

- Thank God for each volunteer and their faithful commitment to serve.
- Praise the LORD for all those who gave their hearts to Jesus Christ this month.
- God is faithful to change and mature new believers through His Word.
- Updates are completed at the DOC location. PTL!
- Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus for all He's doing and has done in this incredible ministry all year long!
- Praise God for so many who've given stamps! Thanks to every one of you!

## MOST WANTED:

- Men's winter coats and all types of shoes.

## Ministry Monthly Report: November 2022

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	922	10,155
One-on-One inmate counseling:	690	7,528
Religious reading materials given:	708	7,596
Bible Study groups:	39	544
Inmates involved with studies:	253	3,125
View Worship Service:	259	3,093
Volunteer Hours:	137	1,312
Number of Volunteers:	21	183
Bibles given:	315	3,334
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>207</b>

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jobs, and nearly was homeless again. Then my prayer was answered when God put a lady in my life. In Sept. of '08 she let me move in with her, and I was delivered from cocaine. In '09 we got married. I kept drinking and put her through a living hell, but she stayed with me. In Sept. of '12 my wife was at a Joyce Meyers women's conference praying for me when a divine intervention from the Lord happened. I was tired and done fighting my addiction. I was in a black out stupor driving home, but He got me there safely. What happened next that night was a miracle! The Lord told me my drinking was done. My cigarettes were gone, and my wife's cigarettes were gone too. I haven't drank or smoked since and that was 10 years ago. I praise Jesus for all He's done! My family is restored, the Lord healed me of hepatitis C, and He continues to move in my life in amazing ways! I thought I'd die a drunken drug addict, but God is using me to help others who struggle with addictions to give them hope. Through a relationship with Jesus Christ all things are possible.

If He can clean up a mess like me He can do it for anyone. Jesus never promised it would be easy but He did promise to be with us. I went to the jail banquet this fall and asked how I could be a volunteer. Chaplain Jerry told me about the DOC and the new discipleship materials. I am presently being discipled by him, and preparing to pass on what I am learning to others in the jail. Thank You Jesus for all You've done, and all You are getting ready to do. You are so much bigger than any of our battles!

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

Thank you! – Chaplain Jerry

Please help  
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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.)