



SOMEONE CARES PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



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Quietly Changing Lives

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See Don and Yvonne

Catch up on back issues

Send us Email (see below)

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
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tax-deductible.

ASK IN MY NAME



We start this month's newsletter by informing you that we need something. It is as though we are asking Jesus through you. We have been so blessed lately and God has listened to our prayers. We need your help. The state of Florida has told us they will not accept our program, and is rejecting mail with Someone Cares on the envelope. I called

the Governor and got the run around. The reason this ministry is being rejected is because the state rejected all pen pals programs. We tried to explain we are a Christian Pen Friend ministry. We explained that our mail is sent to a P.O. Box and the inmates never get the writer's address. We know many of you write direct. We explained that we also provide free Bible studies. We also said this ministry has been going into Florida for over 15 years. We asked to speak to the Governor! We asked to speak to the head chaplain and as yet have not connected with him. I guess we ruffled a few feathers and now they are rejecting mail that has been going into Florida for years. We ask you all to write to Governor Scott, 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee FL 32399.

THE PEN FRIEND PROGRAM

This is a letter writing ministry. We send or get applications from inmates asking to join this ministry. They read an application stating this is a ministry, not a dating service. They are told all mail goes through our post office box. When we get the application we match the inmate with you. We ask you (NEW) to write a letter and if you do not get a response to write another in 30 days. If there is still no response, send all the contact information back to us. We will deal with it and rematch you again.

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JESUS ON THE MAIN LINE

Last week we matched 120 inmates with Pen Friends. Amen! If we did that every week what a blessing that would be. We pray that all of you reading our newsletter will write one inmate or one more inmate. We ask that if you have a prison ministry person in your church, please have them contact us. Soon and very soon Jesus will bless you and yours. HE will do that anyway if we ask in HIS name.



BACK ON THE RADIO- AMEN!

We are back on the radio again. This time we are with Life Talk instead of Voice of Prophecy. We pray that we may be featured with Voice of Prophecy again. So many of you have become a part of this ministry through radio. There are so many folks who made a mistake and are in prison. Getting help for them is our job. Your job is to be their friend.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

In a couple of months I will be 84. Next month Yvonne will be 77. Amen! I still play tennis - ping pong or table tennis that is. My eyes are not as good as they were. We, over the years as a team, have been able to build on what Jesus did and said. To see what the Bible says, read or google Hebrews 13:3 and Mathew 25.

We are planning on expansion big time. Yvonne always says, "Do the Crime, do the time." But prisons are so full it is hard for inmates to improve. No jobs, no school, and because of over crowding inmates have little time out of their cell. We would ask you who write to obtain your Inmate Pen Friend's family address so we can send our newsletter to them and try to help heal many wounds.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, WE HAVE FOUND

In the past when we were going into prison six days a week, we had time to deal with many of the inmates problems. Education was one. It would save lot of folks going back to prison if they had a G.E.D. This would be a perfect ministry for retired teachers. Call the Department Of Corrections in your state. California had a "Match Two" program. An free male would be matched with an male inmate. A female would be matched with a woman inmate.. Again call the chaplain and see if they will work with you.

THE EASIEST PROGRAM

This is the best and easiest program for one person, a family or even a whole church. In prison are men and women who have committed or gotten blamed

for a crime. Being locked up within the prisons of today is scary. Inmates reach out for someone to reach in. The key word is friend. Our program is Christian and Friend. I learned with Yvonne to "Let go, let God." "Don't give up, give in." We train volunteers to teach about Jesus and to learn about Jesus. Don't let your doctrine be a barrier but rather a bridge to Jesus. We ask you to invite questions about the Bible. If you can't answer the questions, ask your pastor or contact us. Make a file on what you have talked about. Keep their letters to refer back to. If they ask for something you cannot give, tell them. Do not send money unless you are comfortable doing so and can afford it. If you don't hear from them, contact us we will take them back and give you a new inmate.



FUNDING

When we started off a long time ago we received a salary of a dollar a year. All the rest has been free will donations. The Widows and Widowers Mite kept us going. We never dreamt our ministry could get this big. In case you did not know, we run this ministry out of our home. We wish it were in a warmer area. We do need Faith Partners as we are all working on that trip to Glory. You are the future of this ministry. Soon, we are going to soon try to start charter groups in each state. We would love to have the names and addresses of anyone involved in Prison Ministry where you are.

I AM SO GLAD I AM A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD



The first thing we try to teach is the power of prayer. Following is part of a conversation I had with Don Hawkins before he was executed.

When I first got in touch with your ministry I was looking for all the wrong things and was one bad guy. I was so bad you threw my letter away. Thank you Yvonne for salvaging it. Our friendship has lasted many years and changed me and many others on death row. I did what I did and deserve to die, but because of Someone Cares I'll see you both in Heaven. I sent you some names and pray you can lead them to Christ like you did me.

This man's conversion changed "many a soul" in and out of prison. He held his breath when the execution started but we know he was praying. Thank you Jesus!

THE PEN FRIEND PROGRAM, continued

We are sad to say some have gotten the inmate and Pen Friend information and not written or returned it. We also ask you to write your letter to the inmate and seal it in an envelope. The return address should be your name or Pen name and our address. Someone Cares should not appear anywhere on this envelope. Finally address an outside envelope to us with your real name and address for the return.

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE



Many of you have shared with me the fear of what has happened in Washington. Those involved should remember, "The truth will set you free. Remember **GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE**". We here pray daily for all connected with this ministry. We often go to the book of Daniel and find many rewards in place of misery. Years ago we were doing a Bible study on the book of Daniel. That is when the song *Here Kitty Kitty* by Buddy Houghtaling came out. In the fiery furnace, company came to share the flames. Every morning when I turn on my computer with all your names I lay hands on it and pray for you. The power that He has given to us on the old rugged cross is still around. Remember in the name of God.

LOST LETTERS

If you haven't heard from your pen friend please give us a call. It might be one of the letters we have here and don't know where to send it. This happens often because some people forget to send back the blue form. So please give us a call.

WRITE A FEMALE INMATE

We have sent applications to ten women's prisons. We should have done this a long time ago.

Please if you have written and had a bad experience, try again with a woman. We are in dire need of wriitters.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE, YOU MUST BELIEVE

The part of God's word you want to believe is the part of His word you will receive. God's word is living, powerful and true. We need to walk in the truth of God's word. We need to trust in God's word with all our heart. Don't listen to the world's bad news as it will confuse you. Jesus has already taken your sickness, weakness or pain. HE is not coming to do it again but reward you, not shame. There is much reward in glory, when we share what HE gives have.

Written by Jim who died of Aids at Eddyville Prison

A STEP BACK IN TIME

Reprinted from our February, 2007 newsletter.

I was born in Canada and came to the United States after the deaths of my father and sister, 38 days apart.

My mother moved to California thinking her father would take us in. Not so. My mom had to work and I was headed for reform school. I learned to hate at a very early age. My mom met and married a man who had lost a son he loved very much, and he was not about to let me take his place. At thirteen, I beat him up and ran. The running took me to the inner cities of the U.S. ... Gangs and trouble. ... Busted so many times I still don't know how God put the pieces together. But He did! Prison or jail was not a problem. I made big bucks and lived a high life on Satan's fast track.

When I was seventeen, a judge said to me, "I should send you to prison but I'm going to give you one more chance, if you join the service (military).

I did and my problems now took me to a military jail and prison. Somehow I got an honorable discharge and went right back to the fast track of life.

I met Yvonne, a preacher's daughter, and things really changed.

She had gone through a bad marriage and divorce. Her church blamed her. Out of her secure world and into the world of mine, was a fantasy trip. I lost everything, through drinking and drugs. We ended up in a dump of an apartment with no furniture, no job, and no friends. I remember contacting a friend for help during this time. He said, "Sorry, Don, I can't help you. You're not far enough down."

It was from there that Yvonne went back to her roots and tried to bring me to Jesus. Then an army of her family and friends tried to help me. They told me what not to do. They told me what Jesus wanted me to be. But no one thought that there were people like me who knew nothing about Jesus.

Thanks to Euell Atchley and Darryl Retzer, my final plunge was into a baptismal tank. I came up out of the water higher than I had ever been, but a new kind of high. To be free in Jesus is so sweet!

I mentioned a few months ago, when I was locked up in reform school, a man came by where I was sitting on the yard. He tried to tell me about Jesus, but I would not listen. As he left, he said, "God Bless You."

If only he had come back again. My prayer is that some day I'll meet him in Heaven and let him know that God did bless me.