



# SOMEONE CARES PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2015 No. 6

June, 2015

Quietly Changing Lives

## Visit our web site:

[www.someonecares.org](http://www.someonecares.org)

Become a Pen Friend

(Register on line!)

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  
corporation; all donations are  
tax-deductible.

## BEGINNING OF PAPER SUNSHINE



About 30 years ago we were invited to the Media Center by Dan Matthews to put on a Prison Ministry Program. After the program we visited the Bible School. There, an idea was born which is still blooming today. When an inmate would ask for a Bible they would also ask for a pen friend. So we developed the Paper Sunshine Program! The Bible School was separate from the Paper Sunshine Program, so we all worked together. Over one million inmates have completed courses that churches have offered. We are blessed to be the center for all to call upon to learn about Prison Ministry. We have been featured on Voice of Prophecy radio shows and we have put on several Prison Ministry workshops throughout the years. We hope to finish the instructional CDs we've been working on, so instead of travelling to churches or other groups to teach about Prison Ministry, CDs can be purchased for Prison Ministry instruction. Our age has really caught up to us and we are unable to do all the things we've done in the past. There is a time and season for everything, and now is the time for us to slow down a bit. Please keep us in prayer.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to  
every purpose under the heaven.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV

## GETTING LARGER AND LARGER

Paper Sunshine is running rampant throughout all the prisons; not just men's prisons but women's also! We need people to write so very badly! One couple joined our Ministry and each wrote to one inmate. They were so blessed that they added more. They also shared with their church and got their own P.O. Box and are writing to at least 100 inmates.

### **PRAISE GOD!**

## LOST LETTERS

We have a lot of letters here once again, and we do not know who they belong to. They are letters from inmates to their Christian pen friends. Here are the pen friend names that they are addressed to:

BINK; MIKE SALA; TRIVA DARTY; SAMUEL REACH; SANDRA THOMAS; WILLOW JOAN; SHIRLEY MEHARRY; THERESA SUE; JOANNE LEO; LISA HAMS; MS MARY; MARTHA JONES; MS MARY HART; KAYE TAYLOR.

If you see your name or pen (alias) name listed please give us a call. Thank you so much, and blessed be to all.

Ronna

# Letters from the Inside

## **HUSBAND, FATHER, TEACHER, INMATE**

A few years ago I was invited to the school Christmas party. I had a few drinks, and that is not something that I usually do. I had to leave and go pick up my wife, and on the way I ran into another car killing two people. I was given eight years in prison. I lost everything, my family, everything! Prison is a terrible place, the only way I have made it this far is due to my teaching credentials. I put them to good use teaching others. There are plenty of us here in prison that did something to get here, but we are not hardened criminals. I want to thank you so very much for my pen friend and I ask for prayers that I might get my life in order again.

Sincerely, Henry

## **INMATE**

I'm very lonely, I just wanted to write and thank you for what you do. It is hard to tell someone out there what a letter means to us in prison. I usually stand by my door to hear my name called and it was never called till after you matched me up with a Christian pen friend.

Thank you, Edmund.

## **APPRECIATIVE INMATE**

My name is Benny Hill. I pray that this letter finds you doing well. This is just a short thank you letter. I realize it takes a lot of time and effort to run a program like this, and from the bottom of my heart I am grateful. Being in prison is hard enough and not having any outside communication with loved ones makes it so much harder. I thank God for people like you, taking time out of your lives and writing to inmates like myself.

God bless you all, Benny Hill

## **SECOND CHANCE**

My name is Melissa and I am an inmate at the state prison in Pennsylvania. I'm here for three counts of retail theft. I am in prison for shoplifting and it isn't my first time, I truly believe that it is the last. You see, while I have been incarcerated I have been led to Jesus Christ! He is the reason I now have a second chance at a new life. He has forgiven my sins and shown me what love is. This is a very angry and hostile environment, and the majority of the women in here are not Christians. That does not deter me from spreading God's Word and letting them know God loves them and will give them a better life.

*Continued on page 4*

# Letters from the Outside

## LONG TIME WRITERS

We joined the pen friend program about ten years ago, with the need so great we have written to a lot of inmates. They have so many questions about the Word of God, it has made us read and study our Bible a lot more.

Thank you, Jackie & Jim

## CHRISTIAN PEN FRIEND

Dear Brothers and Sisters, My joy is increased each time I receive a letter from a prisoner and each time I am able to return a letter. Some correspondence is short lived, and then there are those that are so encouraging by their testimonies of how God has changed their lives since they have been in prison, these are the testimonies that fill my heart with joy. I would like to write more prisoners, maybe seven or eight more. It does not matter the gender, age, or race. Thank you for the excellent and very needed job you all do.

Sincerely, Margot

*(We at Someone Cares pray that more pen friends will be encouraged to write more inmates! Thank you, Margot, and thanks to all of you who take the time out of your busy lives to reach out through Paper Sunshine.)*

## FROM THE EDITOR

### HOW I BECAME A PEN FRIEND

Many years ago I came across a Someone Cares newsletter, much like the one you are reading now. I thought, "This sounds interesting - need to look into this." I wrote to Don and Yvonne asking for more information about the Ministry, and in return they sent me an inmate's introductory letter and an application to become a pen friend. With a laugh, I thought, "Okay, God, I guess this is what I'm supposed to do!"

That was about 20 years ago, and I have been writing to that same inmate ever since. What a blessing it has been! But in the beginning, I wasn't quite so sure this was going to work out. For example ...

*He was a young adult; I was much older than him.*

*He's male. I'm female.*

*He is Hispanic. I'm white.*

*I'm happily married with children. He's never been married and has no children.*

## TITHE



We are often asked about tithe, if it's appropriate to send tithes and/or offerings to our Ministry. Yes, we do accept tithe. Many of you do not belong to a church, and so it is perfectly acceptable to send your tithe to an organization such as ours that spreads the Word and love of God to others. If you do have membership at a Church, we ask that you help your Church by giving to them.

*Continued on page 4*

**FROM THE EDITOR**

*He was born and raised in the South. I'm born and raised in the West.*

*He has now lived almost half of his life in prison. I have no experience with "the system."*

However, we started with the common ground of reaching out. Him - reaching out for someone who cares. Me - reaching out to someone in need. Added to that was the blessing that we are both Christians. From there, friendship has blossomed.

If you have chosen to become a Pen Friend, God's provision will abound whether there is any common ground or not. I'm convinced that if you are reading this letter, God has led you to this Ministry. Whether you are reading a newsletter for the first time, or you are a seasoned Pen Friend, God is directing your path. I pray that you listen to His call, that you discern His direction for you, and that you endeavor to serve Him with your whole heart!

*"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."  
Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)*

*"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."  
I Samuel 12:24 (NIV)*

# Letters from the Inside

*Continued from page 2*

**REQUEST**

Hello, I am looking for a Christian friend to correspond with that can help me in my spiritual growth. We know all things come together for the good of those who love God, those called according to his purpose. I love God so I know all things will be good for his purpose and not my own. I didn't get this address by accident, I'm writing to this ministry for a reason. I pray I meet someone that can help me in my spiritual growth. Please send me an application as soon as possible.

Yours, Christopher

**WE DON'T DESERVE YOU**

I just want to thank you all for your time and ministry, most of us in here do not deserve it. But those that do not, the Lord will reveal.  
Sincerely, Allen

For Someone Cares Prison Ministry

By: Allen

It's nice to have Christian brothers and sisters

Who are never on our case;

Offering only words of wisdom

With each burden that we face.

Because living in this world does not guarantee

That our lives are filled with sunshine, or are trouble free.

So when lonely times bring sadness

And we need someone to care,

I look up and thank the Lord,

Who is always there.

