

April 2016

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Calvary Jail Ministries Newsletter



Calvary Jail Ministry Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4

Greetings from the Calvary Jail Ministry team! We are continuing in our quest to publish a newsletter that will increase the awareness of the ministry that God has laid on our hearts and ultimately give Him praise for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ.

This is our newsletter for April. All previous newsletters are archived on our website at www.calvaryjail.com.

In this edition Jay McGuirk explains the role of discipleship. Jay describes how spiritual growth should look for all us. He also describes what the right environment should look like to accomplish a long obedience in the same direction.

Ken Farrington is a board member and treasurer with Calvary Jail Ministries. Ken discusses the financial requirements for the ministry.

Dan Rodriguez, chaplain from Calvary Jail Ministries, will remind us that this ministry does have an impact on the lives of those incarcerated. All because of Christ!



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¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28: 19-20

Jay McGuirk

Around 700,000 prisoners are released back into society each year, and 67% of them will be re-arrested. The hope is that these prisoners are rehabilitated and can integrate back into society, but as I once heard, “hope is not a strategy.” The only way that lives are truly transformed is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that comes from repentance of sin, and faith and trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is step one of a lifetime of discipleship, or as Eugene Peterson calls it, “a long obedience in the same direction.”

Too often, we expect spiritual growth in the lives of new believers (and prisoners are no exception) to happen like a 45° angle on a graph—growth consistently over time, constantly moving up. But, that’s not real life, is it? We know that spiritual growth for all of us can be taking 2 steps forward and 1 step back. Some days, it can be 10 steps forward with no steps back, while others its 1 step forward and 10 steps back. Over time, however, if we faithfully trust in the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform us, we will notice our old character gradually replaced by a new nature. Making disciples means that we become experts in helping others grow in their faith—and experts know that growth takes time. No experienced farmer gets frustrated at his crops because they are not ready for harvest the week after he plants them. He knows that it takes time and care for them to grow—and it’s the same with those we disciple.

The best place for released prisoners to take their next steps of spiritual growth is in community with other believers as a part of a church family. Hopefully, we will be able to connect many of them back to our church family here at Calvary. In order to give new believers a chance to move into spiritual maturity after they are released, we have to give them the right environment to connect with other believers who can walk with them as they settle back into society.

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Jay McGuirk

So, what does the right environment look like to accomplish a “long obedience in the same direction?”

- 1. Cultivating Meaningful Relationships**—There is a need for settings where men and women can move beyond acquaintance-level relationships and to a place where friendships that are rooted in the Gospel can form.
- 2. Engaging in Biblical Learning**—The Scriptures are the basis for our faith, and we cannot obey the things we don’t know. Providing a pathway for those who are new to the faith to understand the foundations that define life in Christ in an easily accessible format is key to seeing people grow spiritually.
- 3. Praying for and caring for one another**—More than just Bible study and friendships, there is a great need for true community and practicing all the “one anothers” spread throughout the New Testament. Providing spiritual, emotional and relational support for those with unique needs and circumstances means caring for the whole person.
- 4. Living together on God’s Mission**—Truly believing that the Gospel gives us a second chance in life means allowing the Lord to give us a new path in life. We want to do more than just pour into who we are shepherding. Making disciples means showing them how to follow Christ and giving them a chance to use their gifts and passions to further the Kingdom of God.

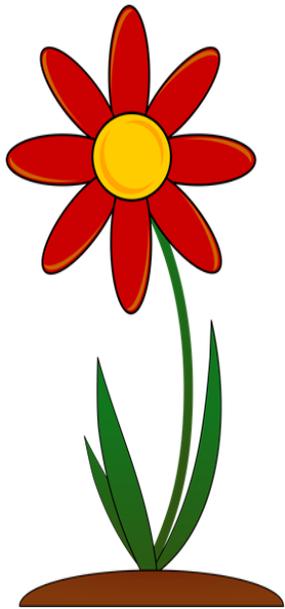
Developing New Leaders—The disciple-making process comes full circle when we develop others who can make disciples themselves. Joel 2:25 says that God can “restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten.” We believe that the Lord can redeem the past of those who are humble and broken before him, and use them for His glory and purpose.

Thank you for the ministry you do to serve an often-forgotten group in our culture. May we pray for their salvation, and lead the way for their spiritual growth!

Jay McGuirk

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Ken Farrington



I can't believe I have been a part of Calvary Jail Ministries (CJM) for 16 years! It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to serve God through CJM over the years through leading Bible studies and serving as a counselor during worship services at the Forsyth Detention Center.

But I have also seen CJM from a different perspective. I serve on the CJM board of directors and also act as Treasurer. CJM is a North Carolina non-profit corporation which has a federal 501C3 tax exempt status. This benefits all individuals who give to be able to deduct their contribution from their own income taxes. We also purchase liability, workers' compensation insurance and other insurance policies required by corporations. In addition, CJM pays organizational overhead costs, social security taxes and other payroll taxes similar to other corporations. I feel honored to be able to use some of my business skills to help make CJM be successful and viable as a North Carolina Non-profit corporation.

We serve a forgotten segment of our community in our jails. The jails and prisons are designed to punish the inmates, but CJM exists to bring hope that only Jesus Christ can fill in their lives. The inmates have many issues to deal with, from court concerns for their future to their families on the outside. If we can help make a difference in their lives, we have a chance to help break the cycle of recidivism and give these individuals a chance to redeem their lives when they get out and return to our community as productive God-fearing and God honoring individuals serving Jesus in their daily walk.

CJM has made and is continuing to make a difference in our community as we impact hundreds and thousands of inmates every year in three county jails in our state. I pray God will continue to use us to reach the lost for Christ and change lives now and for all eternity!

Ken Farrington

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Chaplain's Corrnar—Dan Rodriguez, Calvary Jail Ministry Chaplain

³ Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
It is again my opportunity to reach out to you through this newsletter. And what a privilege and blessing this is.

Paul stated in Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Sometimes we wonder if our sacrifice of work and time really makes any difference. Let me assure you my brethren that it makes a huge difference! One that is much bigger and larger than what you or I can ever imagine! Even if it does not look that way to you, according to God's word....it is!

Once again Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Hebrews 13:3

What we do for Christ through this ministry is never in vain! We need to be so thankful and continue to be committed and devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ through this ministry.

In Christ service,
Pastor Dan

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Conclusion

God has a mission for all of us. We are to GO! We are to go and make disciples. Please pray for this ministry as we go into the jails. Please pray that the inmates' minds and hearts will be open to the gospel.

In His Service,
Keven Carroll
Calvary Jail Board Member

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