

HISTORY OF CALVARY JAIL MINISTRIES

From 1970 to Present
by

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It all began with the evangelism training course started by Dr. Mark Corts in 1970-1971. This was an intense 13 week training course on how to share your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. It included visiting in peoples homes, memorizing multiple scriptures and sharing your personal testimony in a concise manner. It taught you to engage in conversation to determine if a person was a mature “born again” believer, an infant Christian, a “backslidden” Christian or an unbeliever and further how to present the “Gospel” in an effective way.

The results were that many experienced the joy of leading someone to CHRIST or having a back slidden believer pray to rededicate their life to the LORD. Several of these brothers and sisters who were now trained to share their faith came together to witness in the local jail downtown on a regular basis.

We witnessed through the bars in each cell block or single cell. We gave our testimonies, we gave out song sheets and sang with the inmates, we shared the gospel of JESUS’ free gift, and we invited them to take our hands and pray to receive CHRIST or rededicate their lives to the LORD. Many inmates came weeping to pray with us and received the joy of the cleansing power of GOD’S WORD. We always shared the Gospel and we left four spiritual law tracts for every inmate.

The jail was not air-conditioned, it was dirty, and over crowded with many inmates sleeping on mats on the floor. It housed over 350 inmates (men and women). There was cursing and anger displayed when we arrived. But when we left an hour or two later the guards told us a peace and calm settled over the whole facility.

We drew maps of each cell block and single cell by floor for both men’s and women’s areas and handed the maps to the many

teams so that no inmate was left un-ministered. We would have as many as 18-25 soul winners present each Sunday. We generally had 3 - 4 in each team.

What a great harvest of souls and changed lives! Praise GOD for the power of the Gospel. It was and still is exciting to pray with someone to receive our SAVIOR.

This ministry is about evangelism (soul winning) and discipling the Saints to become soul winners throughout their lives.

Over time the ministry grew as a new jail was built downtown to house up to 1,000 inmates (men and women). We would maintain a worship service each month. We would sing with and to the inmates, share personal testimonies and preach the Gospel. As many as 80 - 105 inmates would come from several housing units to worship, sing and hear GOD'S WORD. We would always give an altar call and line up our volunteers across the front of the room to counsel and pray with the inmates. Twelve to fifteen volunteers would each pray with as many as one to five inmates each Sunday. It was and is a harvest of souls for the LORD. Of course the volunteers were especially blessed and excited to lead someone to CHRIST or rededicate their broken lives to the LORD.

The Forsyth Jail opened the doors for our teams to do weekly Bible studies in four separate housing units every week. We had to organize four teams of 3 - 4 volunteers to visit each week, to share the gospel, pray with inmates and prepare Bible studies. What dedicated teams we have who have been so faithful every week. We are in the housing unit with the inmates. So now we are allowed to have up to 30 volunteers trained and approved by the Forsyth Detention Center. The Bible studies also produce a harvest of souls like the worship service. Praise the LORD!

We were invited to expand the ministry to the (Lexington) Davidson County Jail which houses over 350 men, women and youthful

offenders. We were also invited to minister in the Mocksville Jail (Davie County) which houses over 165 men and women.

We needed help. In 2011 Chaplain Daniel Rodriguez came full time to minister on all three campuses. What a blessing! What a work horse! He performs Bible studies in all three locations and he ministers to the chiefs, the guards, the inmates and our volunteers. These Bible studies are performed almost daily in Davie, Davidson and Forsyth jails.

Each new facility requires organizing additional teams to visit in each location. This entails teams of 3 - 4 men and women. These teams are assigned a specific cell block and night of the week. They all have to be trained to share and teach and they have to be approved by each individual jail (background check). Now we have volunteers for Davie County (nine) and Davidson County jails (eight).

Other churches are now sending volunteers to work with our teams and financially supporting Calvary Jail Ministry. We are training and equipping the Saints to share their faith in CHRIST. We praise the LORD for other churches that have joined in ministry volunteers and financial support. Churches like: Calvary Baptist Church (Dr. Peters), Christian Missionary Alliance (Pastor Moses), Grace Baptist Church (Pastor Ed Sears), Wellspring Community Church, Thomasville (Pastor Dan Shoaf).

We praise GOD for each and every new volunteer and each new church that sends volunteers, financial and prayer support to this ministry. We have other counties requesting our ministry. The "Fields are white to harvest." "The LORD says who will go for ME?" We say here am I LORD — send me!

