



Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry Newsletter

NEWS

- Visit our website for online giving, to sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter and submit prayer requests.
- RTJ is now on Facebook. Pay us a visit for news and pictures.

Dear ministry partners,

Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry. We are working on a number of things in the ministry from preparing for our banquet next spring to beginning a new Bible study at Big Muddy Correctional Center. As I say almost every month, God keeps opening doors and bringing help, so we keep going. I will be at Lincoln Correctional Center this month and will have two new volunteers with me.

We are trying to find a facility for our banquet which will be in May of 2010. Our guest speaker will be Frank Bower. If you remember the name John Gotti, the organized crime boss that went to Marion Fed Prison, Frank was Gotti's bodyguard. He has a rehabilitation ministry in Texas. We have a great committee working on this banquet.

A couple weeks ago I called Tim DeSherlia. Tim teaches the Bible study on Thursday nights at Vandalia CC. He also ministers for us at other facilities. Right now

his attendance at the Bible study is 125. I asked him what he was doing that the attendance was so high. His answer was, "I don't know. I just show up." His answer is still on my mind. This is all God is looking for. He doesn't care about if you're rich or poor, graduated from the most influential school or 8th grade. He is just looking for someone to "show up". He will take care of the rest. This is what this ministry is built upon. Wonderful people that when they say they will be there, they show up. They don't worry about the numbers. Some of our studies have 12, some have 30 or 40. Even the churches that I go to almost every week sharing about the ministry, might have 15-500. It doesn't matter; we show up. We do what God has called us to do. Thank you for being a vital part of RTJ.

Jim Helton, Founder

*"It is required in stewards that one be found faithful."
1 Corinthians 4:2*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) was established in 1970. During its creation, the agency combined administration of all state prisons, juvenile centers and adult and juvenile parole services under one direction for the first time. The creation of the training academy followed in 1974, which helped set the foundation of training the best staff possible for the agency's correctional facilities. On July 1, 2006, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice was formed, which separated the adult and juvenile corrections systems.

When IDOC originated, Illinois only operated seven adult facilities. Since that time, stricter laws have resulted in increased sentencing and longer terms. To address this steady increase in the inmate population, the agency today operates 28 adult correctional centers as well as various work camps, boot camps and eight adult transition centers.

IDOC's recommended budget is \$1.32 billion for Fiscal Year 2009. The agency employs approximately 11,000 employees and is responsible for the management of 45,000 adult inmates and supervision of 35,000 parolees. IDOC's Fiscal Year 2008 recidivism rate is 52.3 percent, down from 54.4 percent in Fiscal Year 2003. Today, inmates and parolees are now given more opportunities for successful reentry into society than ever before.

Information from the IDOC website

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Praise Front is the outreach band from Praise Assembly in Charleston, IL. They partner with RTJ once a quarter at the Decatur Correctional Center. They have experienced powerful ministry during ties of prayer as an altar is created by the hearts of the women and at the foot of the cross. Eric Cobb, the drummer, has preached several encouraging messages on the love and power of God to change a heart and life and bring hope for the future. The band leaves feeling so blessed and encouraged by the women of the Decatur CC and consider it an honor and privilege to worship in that place. "We appreciate RTJ for allowing us to accompany you. The amazing work being accomplished through this ministry is beyond words. We have personally experienced real blessing of the ministry. One of the women released this year attends our church on a regular basis, is working and is doing really well. Praise God."

Members of Praise Front: Larry Brock, Ronda Parker, Mark Burrell, Matt Barnett

Heaven gets closer and closer. I am convinced that the time is short to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ. We need to work for the night comes quickly. We are seeing many come to Christ within the walls of the prisons in central and southern Illinois. What joy!!! Bible study at Taylorville on Thursday evening is going well. There are 50 registered for the class. The men are hungry for the Word and to know Christ. The world may have given up on them, but God has not. Praise His name! He is gracious loving, forgiving. He meets the needs in these guys' lives. He accepts them where they are, but does not leave them there. They are growing in the Lord.

My new partner for the Bible Studies at Taylorville is great! He truly has a heart for the broken of the world. One young man gave his heart to Jesus last Sunday morning and will be going home soon. He said that he came with nothing but will be taking Jesus home with him. They are a work in progress but aren't we all? I love all of them. Four of the men will be going home within the next 2 weeks. Pray for them that God will keep them and open the way for a new life for them.

Rev. Lila Chaplin

Thanks be to God....



Will you be a part of our prayer team?

RTJ Prayer partners needed-

I am in the process of organizing a contact list of Churches that have people on their prayer chains that would be interested in praying for RTJ on a regular basis. We will pass on prayer requests sent to us by our supporters and volunteers, as well as the ministry's ongoing needs, schedules of services, and Bible studies to those churches and/or people.

If you are interested in joining the prayer team please contact me, Tami Banchy at: tamibanchy@yahoo.com

Decatur Correctional Center

For the September service there were about 30 women attending. The message was on salvation vs. works, not being just hearers but doers of the word, and developing a personal relationship with God which makes Him our Father. One lady came for salvation. But the seed of the word was planted so during the following week another lady realized that the sermon was touching her. She had prayed to receive the Lord at age 12 and even though she had been baptized, the Holy Spirit was showing her she did not have that personal relationship. She prayed and received the Lord and wants to develop a relationship with him. We don't always see the harvest immediately but if we plant the seeds, someone else may receive the harvest. Our mission is to share and not worry about the results. The results are in our Father's hands.

Paul Etherton

Centralia and Big Muddy Correctional Center

We have just completed John Bever's "Honor's Reward" at Centralia CC. Sixteen men received certificates of completion. The first Sunday of the month services were well attended. And the whole congregation prayed a prayer of repentance and/or rededication.

The first Friday at Big Muddy CC was well attended. There was an awesome presence of the Lord as two men prayed for the first time to receive Christ Jesus as Lord. Also, several men received the healing they were seeking Jesus for. Some received while the word of God was being preached.

The second Saturday morning meeting at Big Muddy was also well attended. As a result of the preaching of the word of God, several were healed. All the praise and glory goes to Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jerry Van Houtin, Sr.

"Let us not glide through this world and then slip quietly into heaven without having blown the trumpet loud and long for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Let us see to it that the devil will hold a thanksgiving service in hell when he gets the news of our departure from the field of battle." _C.T. Studd

PLEASE CUT ALONG LINE AND MAIL TO RTJ

AREAS OF INTEREST:

- JAIL/PRISON OUTREACH
- ADD TO MAILING LIST
- OFFICE VOLUNTEER
- OTHER _____

LOVE OFFERING:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____

PRAYER REQUESTS

You can also email your prayer requests to tamibanchy@yahoo.com

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Speaking Engagements

11/1/09 Windsor Methodist Church
11/8/09 Xenia Christian
11/15/09 New Day Community Church
11/22/09 Sherman Nazarene
11/29/09 Muncie Baptist
11/14/09 Pawnee Assembly of God
12/6/09 Omaha Nazarene
01/10/10 Monticello Nazarene
01/17/10 Woodland Presbyterian
02/21/10 Pana Nazarene
02/28/10 Herrick Christian

RTJ - Taking Prisoners for Christ!

Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry enters all levels of confinement facilities to help men and women to know Jesus and lead them to salvation, to teach the men and women to hide the Word of God in their hearts so that they might sin no more, and to regularly visit churches of all Christian denominations to spread the good news of God's work with the incarcerated.



"... I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME UNTO ME." MATTHEW 25:36

PRISON SERVICES

1st Sunday
Vandalia
Taylorville
2nd Saturday
Big Muddy
2nd Sunday
Graham
4th Sunday
Decatur
Taylorville
Friday evenings
Big Muddy

PRISON BIBLE STUDIES

Monday
Decatur
Taylorville
Graham
Tuesday
Big Muddy
Thursday
Centralia
Taylorville
Saturday
Decatur Work Release
Quarterly
Lincoln
Centralia

www.releasethroughjesus.org