



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 61

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PO Box 103

Sullivan, IL 61951

Phone: (217) 728-8775

Mobile: (217) 855-7799

Fax: (888) 381-3644

Email: rtjprisonministry@yahoo.com

www.releasethroughjesus.org

Dear Ministry Partner,

We are getting ready for our Annual Ministry Banquet. It's not often we across someone like Pete Leonard who has such a heart for helping those in need in this type of ministry. So many just need a second chance. I don't know about you but our Lord gave me so many chances. We have so many great supporters this year for the Banquet. It is also our 25th Anniversary. Hopefully we will be showing clips of those that began with us 25 years ago as well as those that are still with us. Some have gone to be with the Lord, some have begun churches and ministries of their own. Many just came by for a short time. 25 years ago I was lost as to what God wanted me to do for His Kingdom. I knew there was a calling upon my life but didn't know what it was. One night at the altar of my home church, I was so exhausted as to what God wanted me to do that I spoke words I will never forget. I said God, I don't care what you want me to do, I will do it. No sooner had these words come from my mouth that I heard the Lord speak these words unto me. I want you to go into Prisons, Jails and Churches and tell those in churches what God is doing in prisons. Right away I knew this could not be God because surely He would not ask me to do something I did not know what to do (Right?) Wrong! After laying many things before our Lord and saying let these things come to pass and I will know this is you. Everything came to pass. I won't go into anymore detail. Please read my testimony. One thing I will say He not only touched me, but my wife and children also. My wife is our Ministry Secretary, my daughter does anything that there is a ministry need for with much printing and letter writing, my son does our newsletter and takes pictures with my daughter on special occasions.

I've said all this to say this- What has God called you to do? Many of you reading this have run from your calling. We are all called to love and help one another. But I'm talking about something special that only know what it is. You know what it is and you think of it often. Sometimes tears come to your eyes. Well guess what, It's not to late. Step out. God will be right beside you as he was and has been for 25 years. Again, Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

Jim Helton

RTJ Celebrating 25 YEARS!



These pictures are of only a few who have been a vital part of this ministry over the past 25 years. Some have gone ahead of us to be with the Lord and some are still active in this Ministry today. This Ministry was built by those that gave of their precious time to fulfill.

Our appreciation this month is on Rev. Steve Wright. Steve is RTJ's Prison Director. Steve has been with RTJ for many years. Being the Prison Director involves many opportunities. I say opportunities instead of jobs because that is how Steve looks at it. Opportunities to serve the Lord in different areas but with the same coverage. Steve oversees all the bible studies and services at 6 prisons with a total number of 40 volunteers. Just at the Taylorville Prison Steve oversees 3 weekly bible studies and 2 regular church services. He makes sure all positions are covered, which many times he will do the services himself.

Steve has a very unique background being a former Prison Guard. One thing for sure if you work at the prison that you also have a bible study at. You walk your talk. We have another gentleman at the Vandalia Prison who is still a guard. His bible study is overwhelming.

I remember many years ago a chaplain that I greatly respect ask me to pray about having a DOC guard in our ministry. Let me tell you I told him real fast no. But I did agree to pray about it.

I went out on the compound of the prison and started asking inmates if Steve Wright had a bible study would you come? My response from these men was "There's not a day that goes by that Steve doesn't tell me how much our Lord loves us". My ill feeling concerning guards was seen in a new light. Not the old light of how I was treated years ago when I was in prison (which was much in my mind). But I saw Steve in a new light. Steve is very capable of actually running this whole ministry himself if need be. He is defiantly my Armor Bearer.



RTJ PRISON MINISTRY NEEDS: Regular or medium sizes please. No travel size

Soap

Toothpaste

Shampoo



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