

# GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 33 No. 268

April - May 2016

*Bring my soul out of prison  
That I may praise your name.*

*- Psalms 142:7a*

Don Price came from a family of bootleggers and thieves where doing “time” was normal. He was sent to the Indiana state prison after being shot and wounded in a bank safe cracking operation. His life-changing moment came during a prison chapel service where a blind girl sang “No one ever cared for me like Jesus.” Once released from prison, Don led his father and a host of relatives to Jesus Christ. Sarah and I were introduced to Reverend Don Price in 1977. His vision for prison revivals became reality in 1979 at the prison in Smyrna, Delaware. Our young family provided the singing, Don preached, and a group of men from Delaware and Pennsylvania served as volunteers for the three-day revival. Don died suddenly in 1986 at the age of 59. **His vision has now become his legacy through the multi-prison crusades.** God has used Don’s vision to impact and plant purpose into literally thousands of volunteers through the years. Only heaven knows the actual impact of even one soul who not only receives salvation but gives his or her life to Jesus Christ.

*~Nelson Coblentz*



*Don Price, Nelson, Sarah, Annie, Carolyn, 1980*

“Nelson, I’m telling you...you need to spend more time at each prison...like 4-5 days at a time. Many of these men and women have been sold a bad bill of goods and they don’t understand that God actually has a plan and a purpose for their lives!”

*~Rev. Don Price*



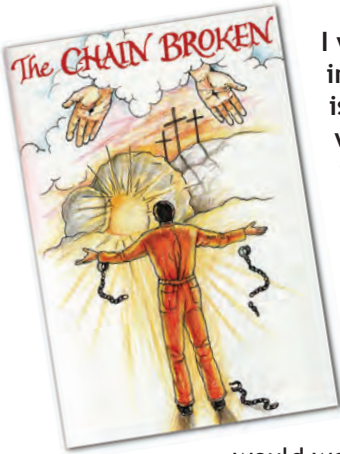
*Volunteers at Delaware C.C., 1992*



# Bible Study Courses

“Teach me O Lord, the way of your statutes” Psalms 119:33a

God has really blessed the Bible study course ministry with being able to send Bible studies all over the US & Canada. We are working on a Spanish translation of the Roman’s course, a big project we hope to have done by the end of 2016. This will open up more opportunities for people to become involved; people that can read and understand Spanish to be able to grade tests and to communicate with Spanish-speaking inmates.



I would like to say “Thank You” to all those who are involved with our grader network. Your labor of love is appreciated in grading these tests for the men and women that are incarcerated. Only eternity will reveal the difference you have made to the least of these that the Bible talks about in Matthew 25:40. God will reward you openly for the things you do when no one knows or sees it.

There are two upcoming cattle auctions - March 29th in Memphis, Missouri and April 28th in New Holland, Pennsylvania. We sell heifers donated by farmers and the proceeds are used to buy Bible Study courses. We would welcome additional heifers from Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, or Maryland areas. Contact me at the office for more info.  
~Merlin Troyer (Discipleship Materials Coordinator)

# Inmate Testimonies

This study was very well thought out and in harmony with God’s Word... powerful and informative. Thank-you!

~Randall

I want to thank you so much for the Student Bible Dictionary. It is awesome! I have given your name and address to others so they can earn one for themselves.

~Richard

Thank you so much for the Romans study and helping me reach a new level of faith. I wondered if I was too far gone to be saved, I wasn’t sure, now I know!

~Leon

The personal messages in my returned tests were so special to me. Just to know that somebody took the time to post a message for me that actually had my name on it.

~Luis

The Bible Studies have helped me to grow spiritually. It’s a whole new world for me, a new outlook. I’m blessed to be a part of the Body of Christ.

~Jamila



## The crafting of 1400 pizzas... for a greater purpose

We extend heartfelt appreciation to the Arthur, Illinois community. The financials are not finalized, however normally this annual fundraiser nets about \$18,000 to purchase Bible correspondence courses for prisoners all across America. Take note Papa John’s and Pizza Hut because these pizzas are the best around. ☺ Thank you and may God bless each one who helped!



## Gospel Express



God has been calling the churches in Osceola and Lott, Texas to be more involved in ministering in the local prisons. I received a call from a brother in Texas, “the prison doors are wide open for ministry, will Gospel Express help us get started?” That was nearly three years ago. Today, Gospel Express - Texas, is

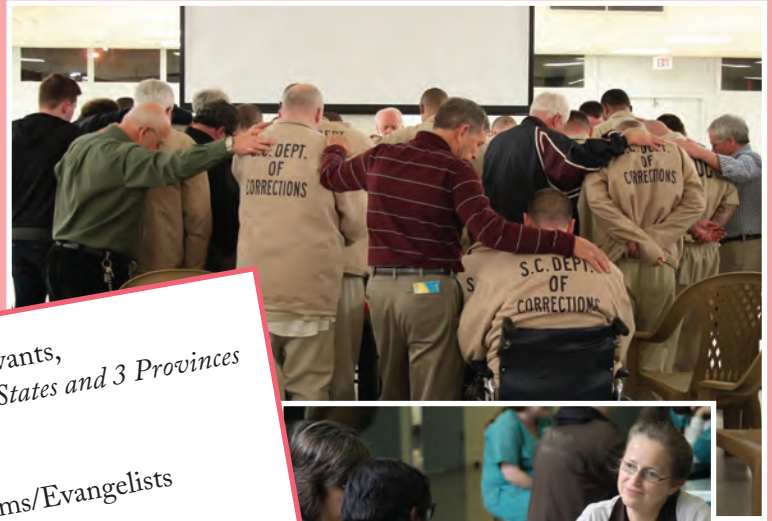
an extension ministry of Gospel Express, with a local board of directors giving oversight to the ministry. Not only are the doors open for continuing ministry of Bible studies, seminars, and crusades but the opportunity is there for volunteer chaplains as well. Please pray for the workers and the Board of Directors as they pursue this exciting new ministry endeavor. ~Mervin Wengerd  
Prison Ministry Director

The dream of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ behind the prison doors has become a reality in Texas. Prison ministry here started with some Sunday worship services but now has grown to include Bible studies, Bondage to Freedom seminars, Spanish services, marriage seminars, and weekend crusades. Please pray for the doors to continue to open... God is able to do more than we could ask or think.

~ Aaron & Denise Helmuth  
Board Member



# South Carolina... February 7-11, 2016



412 Ministry Servants,  
Representing 22 States and 3 Provinces

24 Prisons

23 Ministry Teams/Evangelists

92 Evangelistic Services



We are back home from one of the most successful prison ministry trips that I have participated in. There was so much to do in 4 days and so little time. We laugh, we cry, we pray for the victims and their families... but we also pray for the prisoners to get right with God so they will become good Christians and good citizens at the same time. We are not there to try to get them out of prison. We are there to try to keep them from going back. I was happy to see Sharon (wife) when I came home, waiting for me with a home cooked meal. I was happy for a warm home, a soft bed, clean clothes, a shower, and the freedom to decide when I want to call it a day. Today I can live with myself knowing that I tried to carry the Cross of Jesus to those in prison. **May it not be said of me "I was in prison and you never came to see me."**

~Harold Shively (volunteer)

I'm writing on behalf of my father who is an inmate at Turbeville Correctional. He was so excited about the Gospel Express team visiting there last week, having been greatly blessed by prior visits. The sermons, the families ministering in music, and the visits in the dorm mean far more to him than I could ever express. As the inmates come to know Christ, or are encouraged in their walk with Him, those blessings overflow to their families.

~Sherry (inmate's daughter)

It is only by the grace of God that I can go in as a volunteer and not be behind bars myself. I got to lead a 56 year old man to Christ in lockup.

~Jason Yoder (volunteer)

It was amazing to see some of these women experience more freedom in their lives than ever before, though they are living behind bars. It was a beautiful reminder that the gift of salvation and the love of God is extended and available to all who simply ask and receive.



~Katrina (office staff)







## North Florida... December 2-6, 2015

It always gives me great joy to be able to share and pray with the ladies at Gadsden. For them to know they are loved and valued means a lot. It is encouraging to see the Bibles of the inmates marked up and verses underlined. Several have made the comment, "the crusade is the highlight of my year!"



~Ruby Hochstedler (volunteer)

Volunteering has been life changing for me. Getting to know other believers who are passionate about sharing the love of Christ has stirred my own heart. Thank you Gospel Express for this opportunity!

~Chris Blank (team leader)

1 Corinthians 12:14 "For in fact the body is not one member but many." My eyes were opened to an entire part of the body of Christ... societies' rejects. These women are so hungry for truth, peace, and answers. The good news of Jesus will heal their life and soul, but who will tell them? There is a mission field for the inmates and also the volunteers in these prisons.

~Joy Mooney (volunteer)

There is nothing more spiritually refreshing than seeing the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ transforming lives behind the prison walls... and to see the Holy Spirit move in such a powerful way when so many believers come together with a common goal... Praise God!

~Allen Fisher

(Redeemed Singing Team)

The Gospel Express ministers and ministry families have become an integral part of the chapel ministry here at Walton. The teams come ready to be poured-out for the Lord as they minister hope to our 1300 men. I am so blessed to see your people reaching out and touching the hearts and lives of the inmates as well as staff here. We recently had the Duane Mullett family here for an afternoon of ministry. I stood amazed and humbly blessed to see the response of the men to the ministry of that precious family. Grown men laughed, then cried as Brother Duane shared the great story of God's love and the family sang; it was magnificent! Our doors are always open to GE.

~Sr. Chaplain Ron Hill

Walton CI, North Florida

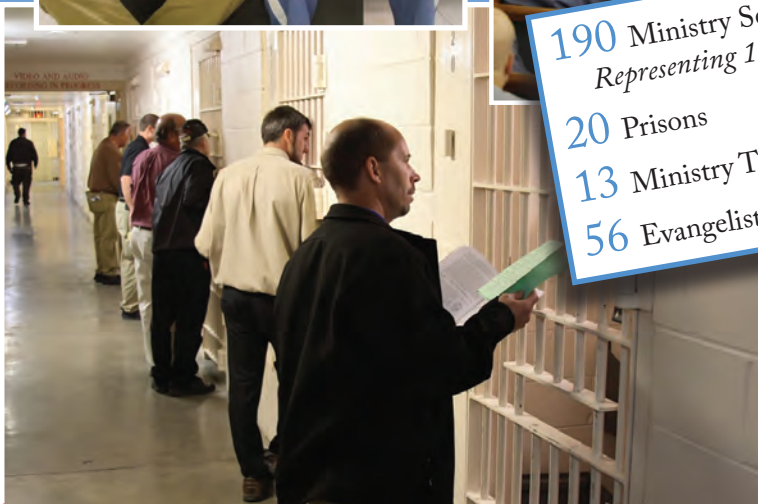


190 Ministry Servants,  
Representing 17 States and 1 Province

20 Prisons

13 Ministry Teams/Evangelists

56 Evangelistic Services





# Crusade Follow-Up & Discipleship

God is still setting the captive free and it is through Christ and choosing to follow His way, the way of forgiveness, that we experience true freedom! We thank God for the opportunities to share the BTF seminar as a follow-up to the prison crusades. Many hearts are touched and find healing from the wounds of rejection as they continue to walk in forgiveness. This is a transformation and healing that only God can do.

~Mervin Wengerd  
(Prison Ministry Director)



Seminar instructors at North Florida crusade – *“Faithful men and women... entrusted to teach others.”*

*(A Heart-Wrenching Prayer Request)*

My mother gave me up for adoption when I was a baby. When I turned 18 years old I contacted my mother and went to visit her. She informed me that I was a big mistake and she did not want to be any part of my life. She said, “Get Out!” So I left feeling so hurt and rejected. I really do want to forgive my mother, but it is so hard. Pray for me.

~anonymous (SC)

Whenever I have a hard time with someone I remember how wretched I was and thank God for forgiving me. Then I ask Him to help me do the same.

~Cheryl (FL)

The BTF seminar has given me answers to so many questions. I can stand and know for sure if I died today I will go to heaven. I am so blessed!

~Darion (FL)



We are very humbled and thankful for the privilege to be involved in this ministry of dealing with the root issues of sin in the human heart! We hear comments like “I don’t want to be this bitter person anymore,” “I need a bath in the Blood of Jesus,” “I feel like a ton of weight has been lifted off of me,” “I have held on tightly to all this baggage (unforgiveness, resentment, etc.) for so long, I don’t know how to function without it.” Helping them to deal with their father and mother wounds has its very special moments.



My friends, the cross still stands, the blood still cleanses sin, and the invitation from the heart of Jesus “that whosoever will may come and drink from the fountain of the water of life freely” is still open!

~Lloyd Gingerich  
(Seminar Instructor)

## BONDAGE TO FREEDOM SESSIONS

- Created for Relationship
- Broken Relationships
- Rejection
- Forgiveness



# Volunteer Secretaries Needed!

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY / GENERAL SECRETARY

Some computer experience would be very beneficial. Use your talent to answer phones, fill recording orders, type documents, along with general secretarial and cleaning tasks. Use your creativity to maintain our website and social media. Must be willing to make a one-year commitment. *Position available June 1st.*

## BIBLE COURSE MINISTRY SECRETARY

Use your skills to help keep the discipleship ministry organized, oversee the day-to-day shipments and mail, and work with the Bible course graders. Minimal computer experience is ok. Must be willing to make a one-year commitment. *Position available June 15th.*



"I will always be grateful for my time in the Carolina foothills, and for being part of a kingdom-focused ministry. This has been a great atmosphere to work in, and I am thankful for that as well as the renewed vision I have gained for the future."



~Jennifer McFarlane  
(current secretary)

If you are interested or know someone who is, or just have questions about a VS position, contact Lonnie today!  
Phone: (828) 859-7003  
Email: [mail@gospelexpressonline.org](mailto:mail@gospelexpressonline.org)

## Farewell Sean Bontrager Family



In September, 2013 Sean, Lori, and their 7 children made the move from Westcliffe,

Colorado to Columbus, North Carolina. They were brought on board as a singing team... and sing they could! God blessed the family with incredible harmony and gifted Sean to write a lot of their songs. Many of you have been familiar with the family's journey, and specifically the ongoing battle that Lori has had with Lyme's disease. Life on the road has made it difficult for Lori to build her strength/immune system up and therefore brought uncertainty in scheduling tours and itinerate travel. This has re-

sulted in a recent mutual decision between Gospel Express and the Family to conclude our tenure together. Many friendships have been established that will continue and the family is planning to stay in the local community. Oldest daughter Tayler is getting married in May... *congratulations Tayler!* On certain occasions, members of the family may help out at prison events or special tours. Please pray for the family as they adjust to this next phase in life. God was able to accomplish much through the Bontrager's in these few short years. *Thank you Sean, Lori, and family!*

## Phase 2 News Bulletin



EXCAVATING MASONRY FRAMING ELECTRICAL PLUMBING WINDOWS & SIDING DRYWALL  
INSULATION CABINETRY TRIM CARPENTRY APPLIANCES ROOFING HVAC PAINTING

Call 828-859-7003 to help!

A year ago plans were set in motion for an addition to the office (Phase 1) for much needed additional offices and a conference room. That addition is completed and we are enjoying the fruits of many generous donors and laborers who helped.

The plans for Phase 2 have been finalized with our Executive Board. We plan to break ground sometime this spring. This larger multi-purpose building (as pictured) will provide housing for

our house parents and VS staff, along with much needed storage, and finally: a permanent structure for the growing Bible course and discipleship materials ministry. Our Bibles, tracts, various literature, and Bible courses have been in a temporary outbuilding ever since the ministry moved from Pennsylvania in 2000.

Starting the construction process is certainly a huge leap of

faith. We are very grateful that funds are on hand to clear the land and install the foundation; however the timeliness and completion of the building will be dependent upon additional funds and materials being made available. If you are interested in making a donation see the enclosed response card or you can contribute securely on our website. If you have any service to offer please call the office and talk to Mervin or Lonnie.







Lots of  
**GOOD FOOD**  
Friday evening and  
all day Saturday

## Annual PA Benefit Auction Weekend

Mel's Stables, 834 Wallace Road, New Holland, PA 17557

**April 28-30, 2016**

**Thursday, April 28**

7:00 PM Cattle Auction (More info call 717-222-6316)

**Friday, April 29**

4:30 PM Big John Chicken & Pig Roast  
(Full Meal - Carry out Available)

5:30 PM Singing Begins

6:00-6:45 PM Fresh Meat & Flower Auction

6:45 PM More Singing

**Saturday April 30**

7:00-10:00 AM "All-You-Can-Eat" Breakfast

8:15-8:45 AM Singin' & Pickin'

9:00 AM Auction Begins

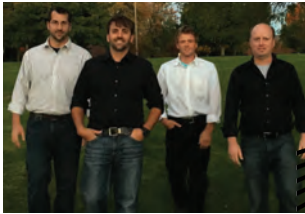
6:00 PM Singspiration



*By Grace*

(Amos & Margaret Raber)

*Guest Group Friday Night*



**Allen Fisher Band**

*Guest Group Saturday Night*



**Singing Provided by  
Gospel Express Teams**

Items to be sold include  
**OUTDOOR FURNITURE • SWING SETS  
AFRICA ITEMS • POWER TOOLS • PLANTS**  
and much more! For more information about the  
weekend or to donate items, please call **717-468-8341**.

**OUR LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** This event supports the general ministry of Gospel Express.

A portion is shared with our sister Ministries: Living Hope International, Door of Hope, & Florida Chaplaincy Program.

## Uganda Mission • March 2-13, 2016

*Refugee Camps Compassion House, medical clinic, prisons...*

My African eye witnessed the construction at the Compassion House. The Pennsylvania team through giving clothes and food to refugees, Bibles, soap to prisoners, helping at the medical clinic, and various construction projects, revealed such a hardworking heart. The locals thought that they had prepared enough materials for construction only to be surprised that in 2 hours all materials were finished! Therefore, let us not only give to people, but also teach them to work... to work hard. Thank you team for that lesson you gave to us. *~Pastor Billy*

I read about the poverty in Africa and other areas. We even see pictures of it but to actually touch it... The children are so happy and they really have nothing. *~Rose Fahnestock*



Even though we can't understand each other, the cry for help in their eyes was easy to read. God's love does not always need words, just a touch and hug goes a long way. *~Linda Martin*

It was such a blessing to work with the local pastors who have a real desire to serve the Lord and help their people. *~Dean Zimmerman*

A smile is universal. We understand the cry of a baby in any language, and also a mother's love. Deep inside we are all the same and God's love is equal for every single one of us. *~Sandy Eberly*



# Spring Singspiration Tour Schedule

Come join us for a special evening of worship through song and testimony with Nelson & Sarah, Miller Family, Bontrager Sisters, Stutzman Family, Penner Family, and ByGrace



Nelson & Sarah

Sunday, April 17 ..... Ephrata Business Center, Ephrata, PA 6:30PM  
 Monday, April 18 ..... Naumburg Mennonite Church, Castorland, NY 7:00PM  
 Tuesday, April 19 ..... Perth East Recreation Complex, Milverton, ON 7:00PM  
 Wednesday, April 20 .... Portugese Club, Leamington, ON 7:00PM  
 Friday, April 22 ..... Christian Community Center of Harlan, IN 7:00PM  
 Saturday, April 23 ..... Clinton Frame Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN 6:30PM  
 Sunday, April 24 ..... Heritage Community Center, Holmes County, OH 6:30PM



ByGrace

Check our website for updates. For more information call 828-859-7003



Miller Family



Bontrager Sisters



Stutzman Family



Penner Family

## Team Schedules

\*Visit our website or call the office 828-859-7003 to confirm dates before traveling long distances

### NELSON & SARAH COBLENTZ

Mar 27-29 Spring Garden Church - Whitehorse, PA (Revivals)  
 Apr 17-24 Spring Singspiration Tour  
 Apr 28-30 Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA

### MILLER FAMILY

Mar 30-Apr 3 Gospel Haven Church - Millersburg, OH (Revivals)  
 Apr 4-10 United Bethel - Plain City, OH (Revivals)  
 Apr 17-24 Spring Singspiration Tour  
 Apr 28-30 Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA

### MULLETT FAMILY

Mar 27 Silver Lake Menn. Church - Perry, NY (AM)  
 Mar 27 Benton Fire Hall - Penn Yan, NY (PM)  
 Mar 29 Cornerstone School - Leamington, ON  
 Apr 1 The Rock - Kitchener, ON  
 Apr 3 Rosebank Brethren in Christ - Rosebank, ON (AM)  
 Apr 3 Faith Menn. Church - Millbank, ON (PM)  
 Apr 28-30 Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA



May 9-13 Annual Planning/  
Scheduling Meetings

### Nelson & Sarah

### Miller Family

### Mullett Family

### Penner Family

### Wengerds



### HARBOUR LIGHTS (PENNER FAMILY)

Mar 27 The Ekklesia - Harlan, IN (AM)  
 Mar 29 Cornerstone School - Leamington, ON  
 Mar 31-Apr 2 BTF Seminar Lighthouse - North Mornington, ON  
 Apr 3 New Covenant Church - Glen Allan, ON (AM)  
 Apr 3 Beaver Creek - Gravenhurst, ON (PM)  
 Apr 7 Grand Valley Institution - Kitchener, ON  
 Apr 8-9 Gospel Express Singspiration & Auction - Wellesley, ON  
 Apr 10 Riverdale Menn. Church - Millbank, ON(AM)  
 Apr 11 Warkworth Institution - Warkworth, ON  
 Apr 13 Widows Banquet - Honey Brook, PA  
 Apr 14-17 Light of Hope Prison Crusade - Philadelphia, PA  
 Apr 17-24 Spring Singspiration Tour  
 Apr 28-30 Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
 May 1 Rockville Menn. Church - Honey Brook, PA (AM)  
 May 1 Hammer Creek Menn. Church - Lititz, PA (PM)

### MERVIN WENGERD BTF = Bondage to Freedom, CR = Conflict Resolution

Apr 5, 12, 19 Tyger River, Enoree, SC  
 Apr 28-30 Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
 May 1 Church of Cross Keys - New Holland, PA  
 May 2-4 Baylor C.I. - News Castle, DE (CR)

Visit our website for updates on scheduling, ministry team news, recordings, and more: [www.gospelexpressonline.org](http://www.gospelexpressonline.org)

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