

# GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 33 No. 270

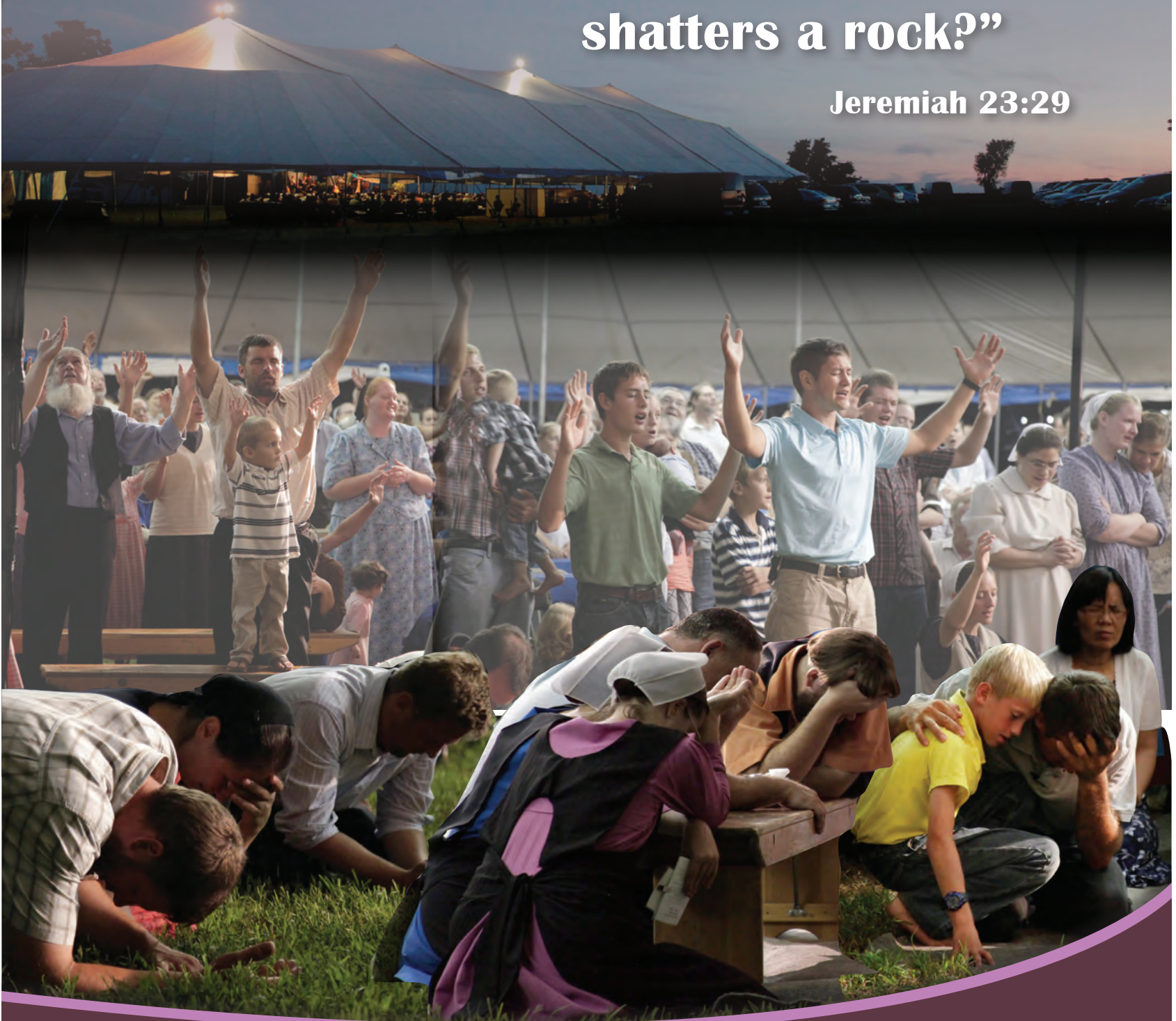
October-December 2016

“Is not my **WORD** like fire”

saith the LORD,

“and like a hammer which  
shatters a rock?”

Jeremiah 23:29



# from PAIN to Purpose



## Embracing a God-centered Faith during Adversity

An overall theme of the (seminar) was a quote by RT Kendall where he said 100% of people come into a difficulty, but only 10% find their way through. What I felt the whole weekend was



a beautiful invitation to go into that place where the 10% are. I wanted to rush through that door and say, "Lord, here I am!"

I want to come all the way in and experience the fullness of God.

-Pastor Joseph Graber, Living Water Fellowship, Denver, Colorado

When I heard that Cindy and the girls were holding a ladies conference I was so excited. It was an amazing event for me to get

spiritually uplifted, open up and share. They definitely made it clear that God can make something beautiful from something so broken. I'm so thankful I went.



-Anna Giesbrecht  
Picture Butte, Alberta, Canada

As Cindy and Brianna shared at our women's conference, we were reminded that our emotions can't



always be trusted during times of immense hardships, but the truth of who God is can be trusted. God can turn that trial into some-

thing beautiful.  
-Zelma Baker  
Brownsville, Oregon

### From Missouri to Northwest Canada to Oregon to Colorado and Texas

We are wrapping up our Relentless Hope Tour. This tour has been 3 1/2 months, 10,000 miles, and provided countless opportunities to encourage Christians who are hurting. No matter what culture, prison, or denomination we interact with, it is a tremendous joy to see hope come across individual's faces, a new focus being embraced, and purpose being renewed.

I tend to become overwhelmed when I think of the seemingly impossible situations that countless Christians are facing. I become angry at Satan when I see the flood of pain and loss, but I am thankful for the "Jeremiah moments" God gives me. Following verse upon verse of lamenting, Jeremiah declares, "Great is thy faithfulness, Oh God my Father!" Amidst the pain, despair, and destruction, God is there. He is faithful. And one day, He will swallow up all suffering.

One thing that stands out in my mind about this tour is how Brianna and Alisha have been willing to share their journeys. Alisha has shared about the fear that gripped her life, and Brianna shared about feeling betrayed by God. They then shared about the journey of healing God has brought them through.

It has given us tremendous joy to develop materials that can meet believers at their point of need as they face loss and tragedy. ~Because of Jesus,  
Duane Mullett



Singing Daddy Marry Me

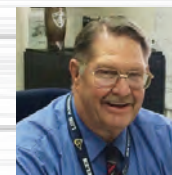
The "From Pain to Purpose" weekend was a reminder to all of us that even

though the pain in our lives does not come from God, God can use it for a purpose. The combination of teaching and music drew our minds and hearts to know and trust in the Father.



-Pastor Paul and Dorcas Smucker  
Brownsville, Oregon

I am very happy and honored to advise you that the Gospel Express Ministries (Mullett family) program at Delta Correctional Center was extremely well



received by the offender population. I am still receiving feedback from offenders that have expressed their gratitude

and appreciation. They are sharing their experience with other offenders on the yard and very much hope for your return. -Lt. Jim Sexton

Delta C.C. Delta, Colorado



If you are interested in the Mullett Family sharing a "From Pain to Purpose" weekend at your church or for Cindy, Brianna, and Alisha to conduct a women's retreat in your area, feel free to contact Duane at (828) 817-1109.

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

## Prison Eye Clinic - Nigeria, Africa *Prisoners Leading Fellow Prisoners*

For the past three years we have been privileged to supply hundreds of Bibles to Nigerian prisoners through their Regional Chaplain. Chaplain Nsibiet Nelson works with Good News Jail and Prison Ministry out of Richmond, VA. Most recently, compassion minded donors enabled us to sponsor a first of its kind eye clinic at Ikot Epkene State Prison in Nigeria. Some prisoners are also need-



ing eye surgery. Chaplain Nsibiet said "This was the very first time a ministry

or organization brought a medical team into the prison to cater to the health needs of prisoners. It was so sad to see prisoners leading their fellow prisoners from their little dark cells to the prison Chapel for this clinic. We were able to provide 85 prisoners with glasses, eye salve, and Bibles." One prison official wrote "It is remarkable that doctors and nurses spent seven hours doing these exams, and to think this was all sponsored by ministry people in America." A prisoner said "I have never seen this kind of gesture in all my years of incarceration. There is hope for us as inmates, Christ has not forgotten us."



spread the Good News but allow God to use my life to impact those I come in contact with. 1 Chronicles 28:20 says "Be strong and of good courage... and do not fear nor be dismayed..." We may become weary while serving the Lord, but we mustn't grow weary of serving the Lord. -Chet Stoltzfus

## Compassion House News Uganda, Africa

We thank God for His provision through many generous supporters that are enabling the Compassion House to be finished, complete with a clean water supply and a small kitchen! Lord willing, I will have the privilege of assisting the move of these precious children into the new House the first week in October. This home serves as a care center for physically challenged children and some that are recovering from reconstructive surgeries. We are praying that God would provide a couple and a few single workers to assist our Ugandan staff at Compassion House and overall ministry in Uganda. -Nelson Coblentz



## Mullett Family Bus Needed

For the last several years, the Mullett family has averaged over seven months each year on the road. Currently, they are using a 2002 Dutch Star motorhome. As their family has grown, and the motorhome has continued to put on miles, it has caused both the motorhome to become less dependable and the accommodations to become less suitable for their needs. It has been



determined that a more suitable vehicle is needed. The goal is to purchase a

bus "shell" and renovate the interior to accommodate the family's travel needs. The estimated cost for the purchase of the bus chassis and renovations is approximately \$160,000. The current motorhome value is \$40,000, leaving us with a fundraising goal of \$120,000.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution visit [TheMullettFamily.com/Make-A-Donation](http://TheMullettFamily.com/Make-A-Donation) or send a donation to: **From Pain to Purpose, PO Box 217 Lynn, NC 28750.** All donations should be specified "Mullett Vehicle." For more info call Lonnie Raber 828-859-7003 or Jim Zimmerman 717-475-7858.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Reflections from our outgoing chairman...

The past nine years have been a tremendous blessing and honor to serve on the Gospel Express Board. It was



Chet & Lena

truly a time of spiritual growth in my own life, and I will always be grateful for this opportunity. Thank you to all of you for supporting this Ministry with your prayers and finances and I encourage you to continue to pray for the ministry. I am reminded again and again of the urgency of the hour we live in. Our world seems to be becoming darker and darker and yet we as believers have the joy and peace of the Lord in our hearts because Jesus has paid our debt! A challenge to myself is to not just let it up to a ministry to



Board Members L-R: **Jake Mast** (Treasurer) Walnut Creek, OH; **Lynn Helmuth**, Kalona, IA; **Omar Stoltzfus** (Vice Chairman) Narvon, PA; **Ben Yoder**, Grand Ridge, FL; **Lowell Swartzentruber** (Secretary) Abbeville, SC; **Richard Swartzentruber** (Chairman) Ochlocknee, GA; **Sheldon Graber** (Vice Secretary) Shipshewana, IN



**August 14-28**

**TENT M**

**Blessed are they which DO hunger and thirst after**

The 2016 Community Revival Meetings were truly that: community and revival meetings. I was blessed to see persons attending the tent meetings representing nearly every denomination from the descendants of the Anabaptists, and many others beside. They came in anything from buggies to buses, and from bikes to motorcycles.

From the various singing groups, to the ushers, counselors, and volunteers there was a wonderful working together. Night after night God used Brother Dave and Brother Nelson to preach the Word. Under the conviction of the Holy Spirit hundreds of saints and sinners alike repented of sin and surrendered to Jesus. There were a number of times when individuals responded in faith to the altar call and also received physical healing, to God be the Glory! I believe these meetings were a significant step in the revival God is raising up. **The tent has come down but we are pressing on in prayer for our land and our people!**

*-Merle Weaver*

The tent revivals for me were the fruition of a desire I have had... In the last days I believe it is important for the body of Christ to look beyond denominations, to work together, and see Christ in each other so that we may experience the manifest presence of God and be strengthened! I saw that very thing happen at the tent revivals where a diverse group of people from many different churches and denominations pressed into the heart of God for their every need. Praise the Lord!!

*-Leroy Miller, Senior Pastor  
Bethesda Christian Fellowship*

It was great seeing people come to the carpet. I call it the river... where people worshiped... children worshiped God in holiness. There were tears and open arms to receive from the Holy Spirit. These were two short weeks; let's do it again.

*-D. King*

My most significant breakthrough came at the noon prayer meeting. I shared what God was revealing to me about self-hatred and self-rejection, how it was manifesting itself in severe physical pain. The combination of grace and truth that was present in that little gathering was irresistible, and I saw with crystal clarity how I had been agreeing with the enemy and his lies about who I am for most of my life. I could hardly wait to repent and get into agreement with God! I wept my way through a prayer and arose a changed person... Glory to God! I was not immediately delivered from the physical pain, but I truly believe as I continue to surrender and acknowledge that I am HIS workmanship, I will experience more complete

physical healing. No more desperate striving to change myself. **God is doing "a new thing" in me, and I am loving it!** *-Ruth*



# MEETINGS

## New Holland, PA

righteousness for they SHALL be filled. - Matthew 5:6

It was such a true blessing from God to sit under Holy Spirit led, anointed preaching night after night! We so appreciate how you preached to yourselves, as well as to us. You guys aren't afraid to be truly honest about your struggles! The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

-The Martin's



I was desperate for a closer walk with God. I responded one night and I prayed during the altar call but I didn't "feel" or experience what I was desperate for. I cried out to God and said I will not

stop praying until You reveal Yourself to me in a very real way! Later that night *He answered my cry and I sensed the presence of God in a way I had never experienced before!!* Through that, the

Holy Spirit has brought victory in some more areas in my life and has given me a burden for my wife and children like I've never had before. God convicted and delivered my wife from the fear of failure, fear of man, and fear of rejection. God has tremendously blessed our marriage through this experience. If we want a closer relationship with God we MUST press in!

-Merv and Anna Mae

*Psalms 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."*

Lately with caring for my elderly parents plus all the daily do's of normal family life it seemed my prayer time was "on the run." Many times I fell exhausted into bed with a prayer on my lips. After hearing the message, "Behind the Veil" I came to realize I was on the porch. After tears, confession, and cleansing from above I am now taking more time for prayer, connecting with the Holy Spirit. My duties have taken on a whole new light. Thank you Jesus! Thank you to all of you for allowing the Holy Spirit to use you in Lancaster, PA. -Mrs. Stoltzfus

It was an incredible blessing to be a part of these meetings... to see the hand of God move night after night with fresh anointing from His Word. Our awesome Father remains patient and continues to transform and sanctify us even years after we are born again. It is so encouraging witnessing a remnant of people who will continue to stand on God's Word even as many in the world fall away. Thank you Jesus! -D. Glick



See the enclosed response card to order the 19-CD preaching album



# Through the Mail

## PRISON TESTIMONIES

When you gave the opportunity (at the Bondage to Freedom seminar) to pray



and be born again, I prayed and God has really changed me! The seminar addressed a lot of the issues in my life and God has helped me to work through these. I feel so free on the inside. ~Michael – Belmont CI

I want to personally thank you for your kindness in making Manning Correctional Institution a priority. Our offenders were inspired and encouraged by your outreach and the ministering of the Word of God. Thank you for giving them hope for a brighter future. As Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this one thing, that He



*who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*  
~Nena W. Staley, Warden

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT/ STAFF ENCOURAGEMENT

I want you each to know that I appreciate your daily commitment to the work. I will be praying for you regularly throughout the coming year. Your brother in Christ, ~George (OH)

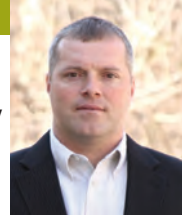
There are days of open doors, but we don't know how long. The enemy is making deep inroads in America and around the world. May the Lord grant you wisdom and strength as you lift up our Savior Jesus Christ. ~Kathryn (PA)

I have been feeling led to give ever since I got back from my trip to Uganda and since I heard that you hope to build a larger compassion house (see page 3). I feel blessed to give in this way, especially since I experienced it first-hand! ~Landon (NY)

# PERSONNEL NEWS

## FAREWELL

**Merlin Troyer** recently accepted a position as Sales Manager for a local window and siding company. He served for just over three years as our Discipleship Materials Coordinator and did a wonderful job working with the Bible course graders, fundraisers, and so much more. *Merlin, thanks for your Kingdom investment here at Gospel Express... you are missed.*

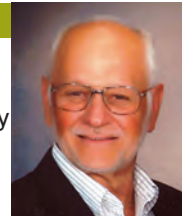


**Jennifer McFarlane** finished her one year commitment as Bible Course Secretary and moved back to Pennsylvania. She blessed us with her creativity, heart to serve, and at times she just couldn't resist adding some witty humor to the mix. *Thank you Jenn for all you did.... God bless you!*



## WELCOME

We consider it an honor to bring aboard **Melvin Yoder** from Newberry, SC (formerly Jesup, GA), to take on the responsibilities of Discipleship Materials Coordinator. He is an ordained minister and has served as an evangelist at many of our prison crusades over the years. In addition to his normal tasks he will also accept some preaching engagements. Melvin recently lost his dear wife Laura due to illness but is continuing to press on and is excited about this opportunity. *Welcome Melvin!*



**Alice Martin** comes to us from Penn Yan, NY. She is serving as our new Bible Course Secretary. Alice's parents are Amos and Rebecca Martin. She previously served as a school teacher. *Alice, it is a joy to have you here.*



We also welcome **Karen Rohrer** as our General and International Ministry Secretary. Karen is from Shippensburg, PA. Her parents are David and Karen Rohrer. She is starting her tenure as this newsletter is going to press. She also previously served as a school teacher.



## A Love for God, People, and Gospel Music

Chet Stoltzfus 1946-2016

Chet served as the first board member and first Office Administrator of Gospel Express. The first Gospel Express office was in the basement of his house. Sarah and I met Chet and Anna Mary in our "rumspringa" days in Sarasota, FL. After God put a "new song" in our hearts, we met again in Lancaster, PA in 1977. Chet & Anna Mary were the only couple we really knew in Lancaster and Chet helped form the first Gospel Express Board of Directors in 1984. He and Elmer Glick also organized the first Gospel Express Auction in 1984. Next came Chet's Music Shop, beginning with selling our cassettes... and then his promoting of Gospel concerts via Gospel Barn Promotions.



Chet had a big heart for young people and hosted volleyball tournaments for Amish youth at his house in the late 80's and early 90's.

**Chet impacted my life as a visionary; one who denied himself to help others find their purpose.** That passion continued in Florida where he became friend and helper to the homeless. Health concerns prompted their move to a warmer climate in Sarasota two years ago. His wife Anna Mary was at home with him when he had his home-going on July 23. It was very unexpected, and yet a divine appointment. Please keep Anna Mary, their five children and seventeen grandchildren in your prayers. *"To be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* 2 Corinthians 5:8

~Nelson Coblenz

# Fall Banquet Schedule

Come join us for singing, an informative visual presentation, and plenty of good food!

**Reservations Are Required** – For complimentary tickets, call the listed phone number.

\* noon & evening

Tues. Oct 18 – Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center - Middlebury, IN. 260-463-1706

Wed. Oct 19 – Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center - Middlebury, IN. 260-463-1706

Thur. Oct 20 – Yoder's Restaurant - Arthur, IL. 217-259-3303

Mon. Oct 31 – Carlisle Village Inn - Walnut Creek, OH. 330-893-7742

\*Tue. Nov 1 – Carlisle Village Inn - Walnut Creek, OH. 330-893-7742

Wed. Nov 2 – Das Dutch Village Inn - Columbiana, OH. 330-482-9840

Thurs. Nov 3 – Cardinal Middle School - Middlefield, OH. 330-632-1375

Fri. Nov 4 – Der Dutchman Restaurant - Plain City, OH. 614-348-2104

Mon. Nov 14 – Family Heritage Restaurant - Franconia, PA. 215-256-6024

Tue. Nov 15 – Shady Maple Banquet Center - New Holland, PA. 717-866-4697

\*Wed. Nov 16 – Shady Maple Banquet Center - New Holland, PA. 717-866-4697



**Florida Prison Crusade**  
Marianna, FL  
November 30 – December 4, 2016

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY AT:**

[www.gospelexpressiononline.org](http://www.gospelexpressiononline.org)

To receive an application contact

Greta at (828) 859-7003 or email us at

[prison@gospelexpressiononline.org](mailto:prison@gospelexpressiononline.org).

## MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED

Partner with us for “hands on” prison ministry!

*Orientation and training is provided on the first day.*

**South Carolina Prison Crusade**

Abbeville, Columbia, Sumter, Walterboro, SC

February 5-9, 2017

**Come and Experience:**

- Daily Evangelistic Services
- Inmate Visitation in Dorms, Cafeterias, and Lock-Up
- Recreation and Yard Activities



*We laugh, we cry, we pray for the inmates to get right with God. We (as volunteers) are not there to try to get inmates out of prison. We are there to try to keep them from going back. May it not be said of me “I was in prison and you never came to see me.” -Harold Shively (volunteer)*

# FLORIDA



LOOKING AHEAD...

## Benefit Auction & Evangelistic Meetings

February 22-26, 2017

Pinecraft Park (Sarasota)  
Singing & Preaching Nightly  
Benefit Auction Saturday the 25th  
For More Information call **828-859-7003**



## ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Palm Grove Church Ball Field - Sarasota

Thursday, December 29, 2016

A and B Divisions

For more information or to register your team, call Jason Graber at **(941)-228-2567**.

Tournament proceeds will benefit Palm Grove School and Gospel Express evangelistic, humanitarian, and medical missions in third world countries.



# Team Schedules

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



**Nelson & Sarah**



**Miller Family**



**Mullett Family**



**Mervin & Freida**



**Harbour Lights**

### NELSON & SARAH COBLENTZ

Sep 23-Oct 7 Uganda, Africa Mission (Nelson Only)  
Oct 18-20 Fall Banquet Tour - Midwest States  
Oct 23-26 Hammercreek Menn Church - Lititz, PA (BTF)  
Oct 30-Nov 4 Fall Banquet Tour - Ohio  
Nov 14-17 Fall Banquet Tour - Pennsylvania  
Nov 30-Dec 4 Prison Crusade - North Florida  
Dec 29 Volleyball Tournament - Sarasota, FL

### MILLER FAMILY

Oct 5-9 Lighthouse Ministries - Abbeville, SC (Revival Meetings)  
Oct 18-20 Fall Banquet Tour - Midwest States  
Oct 30-Nov 4 Fall Banquet Tour - Ohio  
Nov 14-17 Fall Banquet Tour - Pennsylvania  
Nov 30-Dec 4 Prison Crusade - North Florida  
Dec 29 Volleyball Tournament - Sarasota, FL

### MULLETT FAMILY (Pain to Purpose)

For complete schedule detail visit [www.themullettfamily.com](http://www.themullettfamily.com)  
Oct 17-18, 20 Freedom Hills Banquet - Walnut Creek, OH  
Oct 23 Gospel Haven Menn Church - Millersburg, OH (AM)  
Oct 23 United Dayspring Church - Berlin, OH (PM)  
Nov 14-17 Fall Banquet Tour - Pennsylvania  
Nov 30-Dec 4 Prison Crusade - North Florida

### MERVIN WENGERD (DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY)

BTF: Bondage to Freedom, CR: Conflict Resolution  
Oct 3-4 Ferguson CI - Midway, TX (BTF)  
Oct 5 Cedar Creek Menn Church - Seven Points, TX  
Oct 6 Grace Menn Fellowship - Seminole, TX  
Oct 25-Nov 15 Tyger River CI - Enoree, SC (every Tuesday) (CR)  
Nov 30-Dec 4 Prison Crusade - North Florida  
Dec 5-9 North Florida Correctional Institutions (BTF)

### HARBOUR LIGHTS (PENNER FAMILY)

Nov 3 Widows Banquet - Gimli, MB  
Nov 5 Widows Banquet - Steinbach, MB  
Nov 10 Widows Banquet - Arborg, MB  
Nov 12 Widows Banquet - Ashern, MB  
Nov 15 Widows Banquet - Teulon, MB  
Nov 24 Widows Banquet - Fisher Branch, MB  
Nov 26 Widows Banquet - Portage La Prairie, MB  
Nov 29 Widows Banquet - Stonewall, MB  
Dec 1 & 2 Widows Banquet - Selkirk, MB  
Dec 3 Report Night (Riverton, MB)

\*See entire banquet schedule on page 7.

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

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