

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 34 No. 271

February - March 2017

NORTH FLORIDA PRISON CRUSADE

I was in prison and you came unto me

November 30 - December 4, 2016

- 185** Ministry Servants, representing
20 States and 1 Province
- 21** Prisons and Work Camps
- 13** Singing Teams & Evangelists
- 55** Evangelistic Services
- 19** Bondage to Freedom Seminars

We are so thankful for the opportunity to minister in the North Florida Prison Crusade in December of 2016. There have been a lot of changes this past year at the Florida Department of Corrections. As a result of those changes there were many questions whether the crusade would be approved or not. We thank God for answering our prayers and opening the doors to minister. Throughout the crusade and the follow up "Bondage to Freedom" seminar we witnessed many divine appointments. God clearly did a mighty work in the hearts of many people. PTL!

~Mervin Wengerd
Prison Ministry Director



I want to thank you for your services at our chapel at the Gadsden Re-Entry Center in Havana, FL. Our inmates really enjoy you all, especially your annual concerts and follow up seminar "Bondage to Freedom."

~Shapale Cooper
Chaplain Gadsden Re-Entry Center

I found myself in shock when I spoke to a girl in lockup. I shared some scriptures with her and I asked her if she had or would like to commit her life to Christ. With a wide smile she received the Lord that day and I didn't even do anything to convince her. Going on this prison crusade I came to realize that God was already working in the lives of the inmates long before I got there. I was a vessel used by God in a simple way of presenting a question for an answer that God had prepared in her heart to say yes to. I appreciated how open and ready they were to receive the Gospel.

~Agatha Friesen
Volunteer

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NORTH FLORIDA PRISON CRUSADE

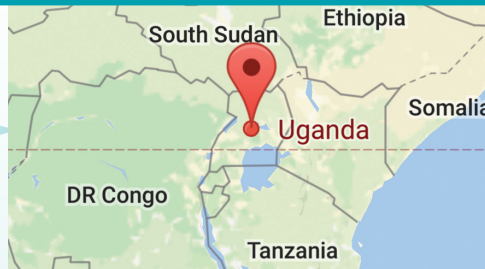
This was my first time doing prison ministry so I had no clue what to expect. I was amazed at the blessing and healing that I received personally even though I thought it would be for the inmates, maybe even other volunteers, but not for myself. The ladies there showed me how important it is to be real and how much the way we live out the Gospel affects those around us. I love how they care for each other and how they would just soak up our services, prayer time, etc.

~ Alice Martin

Volunteer/Gospel Express Secretary



Uganda January Mission



God brought Sarah and I, along with Lester Miller and six young people together for two weeks of ministry. We initially met with 120 native church leaders for three days of intense seminar teaching. There was such a sincere hunger for the word of God (and more Bibles), along with laughter and brokenness. The village crusade to the Congolese Pygmies that followed was heartbreaking. They are a people group that literally lives in the woods under the trees. We conducted prison services in several towns, with many coming to Christ... PTL! My heart became heavy one Sunday morning as a fragile frizzy haired young girl took hold of my fingers and begin to dance. Tears filled my eyes as God reminded me, "A little child shall lead them!" I wish I could properly describe the great joy of moving 11 physically challenged children into the new Compassion House. We had a special dedication



service. I sincerely say THANK YOU to all who have made this a reality. The young people from Canada and the USA were such a blessing to the people in Uganda and to Sarah and I personally. Lester's passion for Christ and people touched all of our hearts! So many doors of ministry training for leaders are now open. Thank you for giving, praying, and standing with us on this journey!

~Nelson Coblentz

I met this lady during our Bondage to Freedom seminar. She was formally from Rwanda and had eight children. During the 1994 genocide, seven of her children were killed. She is now mentally handicapped because of the trauma that she had experienced during the genocide. The pain that I saw in her eyes and her tears just broke my heart. I wept with her and hugged her. But the most important thing that she told me was, "I have forgiven those people that killed my children!"



~Sarah Coblentz

My prayer life was challenged on this trip. I realized how much of my prayers have been petitioning. Evelyn, a native, was my roommate for three nights. She initiated prayer AND worship before we went to sleep and when we woke up. Her prayers were saturated with declarations of who God is. Our Heavenly Father is jealous of our every passion and love.

~Mary Ann Esh



My experience was absolutely amazing!! The joy in the children's faces when they receive a simple little gift is the most touching thing. Being here has taught me many things and the main one is thankfulness.

~Carolyn Wolf

Everyone Welcome!

Annual Benefit Auction & Evangelistic Meetings

PINECRAFT PARK – SARASOTA, FL
 Wednesday Feb. 22 – Sunday Feb. 26

Wednesday-Thursday 6:00PM Evangelistic Meetings

Friday 4:00PM Haystack Meal
 4:30PM Singing Begins and Evangelistic Service

Saturday 7:30AM Breakfast
 8:15AM Special Singing
 9:00AM Auction Begins
 4:00PM Chicken BBQ Meal
 4:30PM Singing Begins and Evangelistic Service

Sunday 3:00PM Evangelistic Meeting

**This is a joint fundraiser for Gospel Express and Living Hope International*



Nelson & Sarah



Miller Family



Stoltzfus Family



Allen Fisher Band

UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



Multi-Purpose Building Update

This 2-story + partial finished basement will provide much needed 7344 sq. ft. of living quarters for VS/Houseparents, warehousing & work space for the Bible course ministry, and general storage.

We are excited that some mason's/laborers have started laying block. We hope to get the framing, siding/windows, rough-ins, and roofing done (weathered in) by the end of April. The project still looks big and we are dependent on additional donations and laborers to bring it to fruition, yet we are so incredibly grateful for where we stand on the project. With December year-end giving we were able to channel some extra money towards the building fund. Thank you to all who have already contributed to this project!

NEEDED

- Skilled Trades
- Laborers
- Finances

Volunteer Servants Needed



The ministry has been so blessed since its inception with young people that come to be a servant. Duane and Cindy Mullett both initially came to Gospel Express to serve in a "VS" position... it's been 30+ years now ☺. If God is calling you into full-time service call Lonnie at 828-859-7003 to discuss the possibilities. You can also email mail@gospelexpressonline.org.

Current Needs:

EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY SECRETARY - Some computer experience is required. Experience with graphic design would be helpful but not essential. Looking for a 2-year commitment. Must be at least 18. *Immediate opening.*

HOUSEPARENTS - Be a blessing as you socialize with the VS staff and serve in a mentorship role while secretaries are away from home/parents. This is ideal for a retired/semi-retired couple. Be the first houseparents to move into the new building. ☺ *Timeframe - July*



Nelson & Sarah



ByGrace



Miller Family



Penner Family



Stutzman Family

Southwest Singspiration Tour 2017

IOWA • KANSAS • TEXAS • OKLAHOMA • INDIANA • MEXICO

March 8Fairview Mennonite - Kalona, IA
 March 9Church of the Nazarene - Garnett, KS
 March 10The Gym at Yoder - Yoder, KS
 March 11Mennonite Evangelical Church - Copeland, KS

March 12..... New Civic Building - Seminole, TX
 March 14-19.... Chihuahua, Mexico Community
 March 21..... Pryor, OK
 March 22..... Graber Complex Building - Daviess County, IN

Call the office **828-859-7003** for any questions on dates or location.

Looking Ahead.... April 27-29

New Holland, PA Benefit Auction Weekend

CATTLE AUCTION

BENEFIT AUCTION

SINGSPIRATIONS

Team Schedules

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

Nelson & Sarah

Feb 5-9..... Prison Crusade – South Carolina
 Feb 22-26 Community Revivals and Auction – Sarasota, FL
 Mar 6-22 Spring Tour

Miller Family

Feb 5-9..... Prison Crusade – South Carolina
 Feb 16-17 Recording Vocals – Pelzer, SC
 Feb 22-26 Community Revivals and Auction – Sarasota, FL
 Mar 2-3..... Recording Mix & Master – Pelzer, SC
 Mar 6-22 Spring Tour
 Apr 1..... Men's Conference – Walnut Creek, OH
 Apr 2-5 River of Life Fellowship (Revivals) – Shreve, OH
 Apr 7-8 Gospel Express Canada Auction – Wellesley, ON
 Apr 9..... Maple View Menn Church – Wellesley, ON (AM)
 Apr 9..... Faith Menn Church – Wellesley, ON (PM)

Mullett Family (Pain to Purpose)

For complete schedule detail visit www.themullettfamily.com

Feb 5-9..... Prison Crusade – South Carolina
 Mar 25..... Transport for Christ Banquet – New Holland, PA
 March 26-30 Meckville Menn Church – Bethel, PA

Mervin Wengerd (BTF: Bondage to Freedom/ CR: Conflict Resolution)

Feb 5-9..... Prison Crusade – South Carolina
 Feb 13 BTF Instructor's Meeting
 Feb 14-17 BTF Seminars – South Carolina Prisons
 Feb 23-24 GEET Executive Board Meeting – Sarasota, FL
 Feb 27-28 Putnam CI – East Palatka, FL (BTF)
 Mar 2-3..... Autry SP – Pelham, GA (BTF)

Penner Family

Feb 5-9..... Prison Crusade – South Carolina
 Feb 12 New Holland Menn Church – Batesburg, SC (PM)
 Feb 13 BTF Instructor's Meeting
 Feb 14-17 BTF Seminars – South Carolina Prisons (Jake only)
 Feb 19 Cleveland Believer's Fellowship – Cleveland, NC (AM)
 Feb 19 Foothills Community Chapel – Columbus, NC (PM)
 Feb 26 Caney Creek Menn Church – Lost Creek, KY
 Mar 1 United Bethel Menn Church – Plain City, OH
 Mar 5 Sunnyside Menn Church – Arcola, IL (AM) *Tentative
 Mar 5 Cazenovia Menn Church – Cazenovia, IL (PM) *Tentative
 Mar 6-22 Spring Tour
 Mar 23-26 Light of Hope Prison Crusade – Philadelphia, PA
 Mar 29 Naumburg Menn Church – Castorland, NY
 Mar 30-Apr 3..... Churches & Prisons in Ontario
 Apr 7-8 GEET Canada Auction – Wellesley, ON
 Apr 9..... Faith Menn Church – Wellesley, ON (PM)
 Apr 11-23..... Churches & Prisons in Ontario

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC TEAM INC.

mail@gospelexpressonline.org • www.gospelexpressonline.org • PO Box 217, Lynn, NC 28750 • 828-859-7003