

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 34 No. 273

December 2017 - January 2018

TEXAS PRISON CRUSADE



The 2017 Texas Prison Crusade gave us many opportunities to minister not only to inmates but staff as well. We had the privilege of ministering in three major institutions and two trustee camps. Four singing teams and evangelists shared in the 14 worship services. Three instructors shared the Bondage to Freedom seminar as a follow-up to the crusade at three of the facilities. We thank God for open doors and for the 65 brothers and sisters that were willing to join us for the weekend. Only eternity will reveal the impact of the event.

Looking ahead to 2018, the Texas Crusade is scheduled for September 27-30. Three men's facilities are confirmed. **We are looking for men volunteers** to join us for daytime activities which include dorm and yard visitation. Watch for more information on this event as we get closer to the date.

~Mervin Wengerd
Prison Ministry Director

The prison crusade weekend was an amazing time to take the gospel to the inmates. The authorities gave us access to go anywhere we wanted to in the prison. One inmate named Carlos at the Ferguson Unit heard me share my testimony on Thursday night. On Saturday night he came and sat beside me and told me his story and said he could relate with my



testimony. That evening when the altar call was given Carlos gripped my hand and said he wanted to commit his life to Christ! Then there was Anthony that walked up to me and immediately I could feel his pain and sadness. He said he had been saved but had wandered far away from God, was living in sin, and wanted to come back to God. These two really touched my heart. They really had a desire to change. I went to the crusade to be a blessing, but I'm the one who was blessed. I now understand Psalm 23 where it says my cup runneth over. My God is an awesome God!

I went to the crusade to be a blessing, but I'm the one who was blessed.

~Dwight Peavy
Evangelist

MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED



South Carolina Prison Crusade

- Abbeville • Columbia • Sumter • Walterboro
- February 4-8, 2018
- Opportunities for men & women to serve

COME AND EXPERIENCE:

- One-on-One Evangelism in Dorms, Cafeterias, Lock-Up
- Daily Evangelistic Services
- Recreation and Yard Activities

To register online visit: www.gospelexpressonline.org
Application Deadline is: **December 15, 2017**

*"He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds"
- Psalms 147:3*

What great joy to witness the power of God unto salvation! More than 500 men and women prayed to receive Jesus Christ during the combined medical clinic, Pygmies village crusade, and the Bondage to Freedom Seminar. The most heart-touching moment (20 minutes) was seeing over 200 people walk humbly and broken down the center aisle of the tents and push their note (a written witness of what they had just prayed/confessed/surrendered) onto one of the 6 nails on our little wooden cross.

Lester Miller & I expected perhaps 175 leaders and lay people to attend the Bondage to Freedom & Leadership Seminar, but to our amazement there were 360 people the first day and 410 the second day. The



spiritual hunger was genuine and so was the spirit of brokenness and repentance. Uganda is a place of unshed tears and unspoken pain. Various forms of ridicule and abuse have caused deep wounds of rejection and many broken relationships. One pastor handed me a note which said, *"Pray for me. My heart was broken for different things that offended me by different people, some of them my superiors in the ministry; I am really depressed."* There are many pastors asking for this life-giving seminar to be taught in their villages. Please pray for teachers and resources to meet this need.



"Please...we are so hungry"
(the cry of the Pygmy villagers)

God's holy anointing fell as my friend Emmanuel, from Ghana, Africa, preached Jesus and several hundred Pygmies stepped forward to be born again!! Brokenness prevailed - a sight rarely seen in this culture. They are known as "the bush people", surviving very primitively off land they don't own. Following the evangelistic mission, we were able to satisfy their plea for food by giving beans, cooking oil, and flour, along with some blankets. This village needs leadership, a church structure, and a school for these lovely, needy children. ~ Nelson Coblenz

2018 Read-A-Thon

The hunger for the printed Word is increasing among villagers, prisoners, and refugees in Africa. Bibles in Africa are very costly, and most Africans do not have the money to purchase even one complete Bible. Many Africans live on less than \$2.00 a day. Numerous pastors are pleading for Bibles for their church members and now, even predominately Muslim schools are requesting Bibles for their students.

In 2016, 129 readers from Pennsylvania to Montana to Canada and points in between, participated in our Read-A-Thon and raised over \$28,000!

READERS & SPONSORS NEEDED!
Select a 30-day Reading Period Between
Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2018



Children and youth up to age 18 can participate individually or in groups of 10 or more. **Call Cassie at (828) 859-7003** for an introductory packet which includes a DVD presentation.



"I desire to live for Christ even while I'm locked up in this prison. Thank you for providing me with this Bible—a manual for my life."

~ Tope
(Nigerian Prisoner)

"Thank you so much for sending Bibles through Pastor Billy. I

was a Muslim, but Billy shared about the King and the way to heaven. In this school we are 1000 students, but if we give more Bibles the Gospel of Jesus will reach many students."

~ Aisha (former Muslim student)



UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

We are very grateful for progress that has taken place. On the exterior, the brick and stucco are finished, and the vinyl nearly finished. The



The interior drywall is complete, painting is underway, trim is largely installed, and cabinets are coming soon. We are starting on the extensive treatment-type septic system and need to haul in a tremendous amount of fill. **Space doesn't permit us to extend individual thanks at this point but THANK YOU to all who have contributed... financially, labor-wise, and providing materials.**

ADDITIONAL NEEDS: Trim Carpenters, painters, deck installers, concrete/hardscape finishers, \$\$finances\$\$ (even if you can only help a couple days contact, Mervin Wengerd 828-817-1657)

Women's Conference Reflections

We had a wonderful conference! There were ladies from 20 states connecting, worshipping, and enjoying fellowship with one another. The hunger for God was very evident, along with a sweet spirit all weekend. We want to thank all who attended. Also, our sincerest appreciation to the local ladies for all the ways they made everything run smoothly. We enjoyed Jackie Kenaston and each lady that shared. The worship and drama teams did an amazing job. **Blessings to you all!** ~Sarah Coblentz

See response card to order CD album



TESTIMONIES

May you all be richly blessed for the thought and effort poured into this anointed event. It so warmed my heart to see the love and care given to the women at the altar.

Loved the drama team, the worship, and the breakout sessions. Thank you for honoring the widows. And the food was delicious 😊.

Annual Softball Tournament - Gap, PA

\$17,764.53 was raised to help spread the Gospel. We wish to thank the following people who make this tournament possible: Merv & Carol Lapp and all your helpers for doing an excellent job with the food; Chet Stoltzfus & Matt Esh, for running the tournament; the sponsors, teams/players, and umpires; and the Saturday night cleanup crew.

2018 TOURNAMENT - SEPT. 21-22



(A) Division Champs: The Gators, Lancaster, PA



(B) Division Champs: Miller Concrete, Mifflinburg, PA

Personnel News

FAREWELL

Jim and Elsie Bontrager served as our very first houseparents... for two years. We are so grateful for their contributions!



Alice Martin worked in the Bible Course ministry for over a year. Her smile and servanthood will always be remembered at Gospel Express.



We welcome **Cassie Santiago** as Evangelistic Ministry Secretary. She is utilizing her training and skills as a graphic designer while still taking college courses. Her parents, Jaime and Pam Santiago, are good friends of the ministry, and established Restart Training Center in Strasburg, PA.



Greta Painter has used her skills as Evangelistic Ministry Secretary to touch many lives. Greta served 2 different terms at Gospel Express and we appreciate so much all she has done.



WELCOME



helping with the new building. Their home church is Honeybrook Community Church and they are from Gap, PA.

Alvin and Esther Petersheim have stepped into the role as Houseparents and are doing a great job. Alvin is also putting his construction experience to good use

Rhonda Zook is serving and being a blessing as our Bible Course Secretary. She is from Womelsdorf, PA and her parents are Jonas and Ruthie Zook. The family previously served under Living Hope in Ghana, Africa.



We thank God for all those who have served and are serving in this ministry!

FLORIDA

TEAMS NEEDED



Evangelistic Meetings & Benefit Auction

February 21-25, 2018

Pinecraft Park (Sarasota)
Singing & Preaching Nightly
Benefit Auction Saturday the 24th
For More Information call **828-859-7003**



ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



Behind Sarasota Fairgrounds
(Haiti Auction Location)
600 South Pompano Ave, Sarasota

Friday, December 29, 2017

A and B Divisions

For more information or to register your team,
go to www.pinecraftvolleyball.org

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

CATTLE AUCTION
BENEFIT AUCTION
SINGSPIRATIONS

New Holland, PA Benefit Auction Weekend April 26-28, 2018

Team Schedules

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

Nelson & Sarah Coblentz

Nov 29-Dec 3 Florida Prison Crusade
Dec 29 Volleyball Tournament – Sarasota, FL
Jan 10-23 International Mission – Uganda, Africa
Feb 4-8 South Carolina Prison Crusade
Feb 11-17 Sail & Sing Cruise – Caribbean
Feb 21-25 Evangelistic Meetings & Auction – Sarasota, FL

Miller Family

Nov 29-Dec 3 Florida Prison Crusade
Dec 11 Yoder's Restaurant (Door of Hope Bqt) – New Holland, PA
Dec 12 Carlisle Village Inn (Door of Hope Bqt) – Walnut Creek, OH
Dec 29 Volleyball Tournament – Sarasota, FL
Dec 31 Palm Grove Mennonite Church – Sarasota, FL (AM)
Jan 17-29 Kenya, Africa (Dave & Ruth Ann)
Feb 4-8 South Carolina Prison Crusade
Feb 16-17 Marriage Conference – Arthur, IL (Dave & Ruth Ann)
Feb 21-25 Evangelistic Meetings & Auction – Sarasota, FL

Mullett Family

Jan 25-28 Lake Grace Mennonite Church – Jessup, GA
Feb 4-8 South Carolina Prison Crusade
Feb 11-17 Sail & Sing Cruise – Caribbean
Mar 11-14 Gospel Haven Mennonite Church – Millersburg, OH

Mar 22-25 Calvary Chapel – Sturgis, MI

Mervin Wengerd BTF = Bondage to Freedom

Nov 29-Dec 3 Florida Prison Crusade
Dec 4-7 BTF Seminars – Florida
Feb 4-8 South Carolina Prison Crusade
Feb 12 BTF Instructor's Meeting – SC
Feb 13-16 BTF Seminars – SC
Feb 24 Benefit Auction – Sarasota, FL
Feb 26-27 BTF Seminar – Putnam CI, FL

Harbour Lights (Penner Family)

Dec 2 Stony Mtn. Institution Seminar – Stony Mountain, MB (AM/PM)
Dec 9 Stony Mtn. Institution Seminar – Stony Mountain, MB (AM/PM)
Jan 12-19 Church Services – Midwest US
Jan 21-25 Renew Hope Crusade – Prattville, AL
Feb 4-8 South Carolina Prison Crusade

Mel Stoltzfus Family

Nov 29-Dec 3 Florida Prison Crusade
Dec 3 Word of Life Church – Montezuma, GA (PM)
Feb 4-8 South Carolina Prison Crusade
Feb 21-25 Evangelistic Meetings & Auction – Sarasota, FL

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC TEAM INC.

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