

# GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 36 No. 277

April-June 2019

## Who are you following?

*"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." Ephesians 5:1*

There are two types of people in the world today: those that are followers of God, with Him as their guide, and those that are not followers of God, and are living for themselves. The question is, who are you following? Social psychology researchers have found in their studies that people are very much influenced by the people and the culture around them. Recently an inmate in prison admitted to me that he got in with the wrong crowd and that's why he ended up in prison. He knew better, but he buckled under peer-pressure and is now reaping the consequences. It has been said that 98% of Americans are followers of culture and only 2% actually shape the culture. If we allow the culture in the world around us to give us the direction for our lives the results will be very disappointing and sad.

Jesus made it clear in the Sermon on the Mount that there are only two ways and we do have a choice, *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it"* (Matt 7:13-14). Jesus indicates that many people are on the broad way. It's the easy way, where choices are made for temporary pleasure. The broad way fulfills the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life, which leads to devastating destruction.

The narrow way which leads to life all begins at the foot of the cross with a surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. As followers of God we have been delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan. We continue to put off the old man and we *"put on the new man which was created accord-*

*ing to God, in righteousness and true holiness"* (Eph 4:24). As followers of God he calls us to *"walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma"* (Eph 5:2). Jesus makes it clear that love is the test of discipleship, *"A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another"* (John 13:34-35).



*Mervin & Freida Wengerd*

Our world today is filled with hatred and violence. In the United States, an average of 20 people every minute experience domestic violence. This translates to over 10 million people every year. Where is love and consideration? The human heart is very self-centered. There is a test to identify whether you are a Christian. It's not by how loud you testify (talk is cheap), but it's by walking in love. The love of Christ flowing through us is the evidence of a changed life. It should be demonstrated by our attitudes and actions in our daily walk.

There are people that rub us the wrong way and are a thorn in our side. How can we love the difficult ones? Only by the enabling grace and power of God can we respond in love to the unlovely. Jesus said, *"Love your enemies... do good to those who hate you"* (Matt 5:44). Could it be that God has allowed that person in your life to refine you and to give you an opportunity to demonstrate His love to them?

To walk in love means that I allow love to become the deciding factor in my choices and the motivating power in my actions. Our lives then reflect a true follower of God.

*~Mervin Wengerd*  
Prison Ministry Director

# MILLER FAMILY 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Eugene & Kyle got to spend a greater part of January in India as you will see in the photos and articles. Derek spent a week at a Bible School in Montana. Ruth Ann and the girls are currently working on a drama for an upcoming women's conference.

Another highlight was the South Carolina Prison Crusade. One of the children commented, "This was one of the best prison crusades ever!" What makes that? Is it how lively the inmates are? Is it how loud someone says 'Amen'? Or, is it how many people show up at the services? While all these things may have an effect on this, what ultimately made this one of the best crusades, was the tears and brokenness that were so evident in the lives of these men. *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"* (Psalms 51:17). Oh, the beauty of tears! These tears can represent so many different things. On a weekend like this, not only is God working on the hearts of inmates, but He's also working on all who are involved. He continues to bring us to that place of brokenness, to mold and shape us into His image.

I received a four-page letter from a volunteer after the Crusade rally message. It said in part, *"I clung to Malachi 4:2, read and reread the words, and then I finally understood that I needed to yield myself totally to the Lord and allow Him to use me exactly how He chooses. Once I grasped this and fully surrendered, I was speechless at how God started moving in my life. I'm generally not emotional, but I could not stop crying from the overwhelming peace and assurance that God had truly met my needs and once again affirmed that this was the right place for me to be."*

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers and support for our family! We are in the midst of a 3-week tour to Pennsylvania & Ohio, which includes revival meetings at two churches, a women's conference, and the Light of Hope Prison Crusade. We are also looking forward to a 5-week western tour in May/June (see schedule on page 8). *~Dave Miller*



Two years ago I made some special connections in North East India, so it was an incredible blessing to return. Relationships were deepened as we worked together with

the locals and interacted and worshiped with the kids. I'm so blessed and challenged by the heart they have for Christ.

I served on the drama and worship teams. I felt very unprepared and stretched since it was one of the first times I played drums in front of that many people. We had an amazing time praising the Lord through music and I'm so grateful for the opportunity! There is definitely a huge part of my heart in India. Thank you Gospel Express and everyone else who helped make this trip possible. Your prayers are so appreciated... It was a life-changing time

that I will never forget!

*~Kyle Miller*



For the third consecutive year, I have been blessed to serve in North East India during the month of January. I lead worship and interacted with just over 5,000 kids in 3 different regions. These children's retreats are the vision and

work of For One Life and are only one of the many facets of ministry they do throughout the year.

I want to take time to thank the Lord, Gospel Express, and all the individuals who supported me with your prayers, encouragement, or finances. This vision couldn't happen without the family of believers that have sown into this ministry. I don't know how to express what that means to me, other than a heartfelt, **Thank-you!** *~Eugene Miller*



# From PAIN to Purpose... at Perry CI, Pelzer SC

1 PRISON • 5 DAYS • 25 VOLUNTEERS AND INSTRUCTORS • 60 INMATES

**What happens when you spend 40 hours with the same group of inmates?**

This was the first time we dramatically expanded From Pain to Purpose in prison. Involving Jeremy Chupp from Freedom Hills Ministries and Jason Schlabach from Door of Hope Ministries, as well as other speakers, maximized the effectiveness. It was something only God could do as men opened their hearts to this level and allowed truth to be planted deep into their hearts. I



will never forget watching the bitterness, anger, and fear melt away as God's love was experienced and demonstrated. Our goal is to take this into more prisons in the future. Your continued prayers are appreciated!

If you would like to learn more or support this work, visit [www.themullettfamily.com](http://www.themullettfamily.com) or From Pain to Purpose, PO Box 275, Penrose, NC 28766.

*~Duane Mullett*



From Pain to Purpose has gone beyond our wildest expectations. Men learned things about each other that they never knew. They found peace and deliverance. *~Jim Zimmerman*  
(Speaker, small group leader)

This week, we were able to take these men deeper than most have ever been. We were able to spend quality time in small groups with them, and they were vulnerable enough to let down the "tough guy" facade and open their hearts. I have a vision of something amazing happening within the prison setting there - the caliber of the Red Sea parting! As the innermost parts of this



prison get ahold of and start practicing these concepts, the whole structure of what we see in these institutions could change. *~Jeremy Chupp*  
(Speaker, small group leader)

This week men were digging deep and sharing the very depths of who they were. Being together in a small group brings those painful things to the surface so that God can meet them, deliver them from that pain, and lead them towards a future and a purpose. It was amazing. **I've been in ministry over 30 years, and I've personally never seen anything more impactful than these five days.** I'm excited about what God is going to do. This is just the beginning!  
*~Chaplain Ballew*  
(Chaplain at Perry Correctional)



## Harbour Lights Canada... a season of growth... and transition

It has been a blessing to work with the Jake Penner Family since they joined Gospel Express in 2010. After nine years of fruitful ministry, working under Gospel Express Canada in Ontario, the Penner's are taking steps to register a new charitable organization. Please pray for them in this regard as it can be a tedious process.

GE Canada, after much prayer and discussion, felt lead to streamline their focus into discipleship ministry, which includes the correspondence Bible study courses and seminars. They wish to grow that avenue of ministry, but in doing so



*Penner Family*

they would step away from the itinerate (traveling) ministry.

Harbour Lights is establishing a Board of Directors and an office close to their home in Manitoba, which will be much more efficient logistically and enhance their vision and calling. The Penner's have for many years flourished in their banquet ministry to widows and widowers, and this will become their focal point. They will continue mixing in some church and prison services, as

well as teaching discipleship seminars, a strength for Jake and Margie.

The Family recently completed a ministry tour to Belize, and they are putting the finishing touches on a new CD. They truly have a God-ordained heart and gift to minister in these fields that are ripe unto harvest. Gospel Express Canada and USA stand with the Penner Family as they take this step of faith under the umbrella of Harbour Lights Ministry. We believe that God will expand His Kingdom through ministry multiplication for His honor and glory! **To contact the Penners, call 204-494-0495 or email: [julia@harbour-lights.ca](mailto:julia@harbour-lights.ca)**



*~Gospel Express USA Executive Board*  
*~Gospel Express Canada Executive Board*



# 2019 Statewide South C



This evening when the invitation was given, six to eight ladies came forward and one lady came straight towards me. She was emotional and broken and just started confessing her sins. I told her I had good news for her! I took her through the Steps to Peace with God booklet and in the end, she prayed to receive Jesus! PTL! I am so honored to have had this glorious opportunity! Thank you, Jesus! *~Katie Shetler*



Playing games with inmates is a great way to start a conversation (friendship). Janet and Heather shared their horrible life story of being sold on the streets for drugs for their mothers. They just wanted a listening ear, and both have come to know Jesus since in prison. *~Martha Reber*



The guard (in the dorm) asked one of us to go and visit an inmate in room 238. We all heard 238 except one volunteer. He mistakenly went directly to room 234. The man in that room had prayed the night before for the first time in years and asked God to send someone to him. Within minutes he was in tears that God answered his prayer so fast and he gave his heart to Jesus! God clearly had a plan and led Jon to the "right room" and the man behind bars had an encounter with Jesus that changed his eternal destiny! To God be the glory! *~Anthony Miller*

## Laying up treas

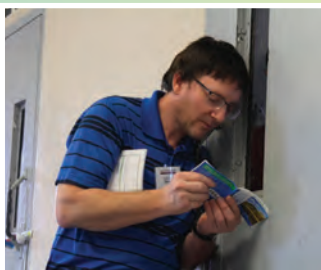
### Special Reflections

My husband and I started coming to the crusade because Aaron's brother Steven Stoltzfus had been with the Carolina Chaplaincy in Trenton for 10 years. He wanted us to join him, but we never 'found the time' to come. We regret that greatly! So, after his passing we decided to go. It only took one time, and now we are able to 'find the time'!!



I find myself deeply blessed and renewed in the awesome Sunday worship and preparation/ cleansing time every year. We look forward to the Abbeville church family's delicious and creative meals Sunday noon and afternoon. They are so faithful!

**Thank you Ministry Partners (volunteers), Singing Teams, Evangelists, Financial Donors, Prayer Warriors, and SCDC for your participation!**



# Carolina Prison Crusade

## *Sures in Heaven*



I feel this prison ministry is like a piece of cake. It is a privilege to be allowed into the prisons and share Christ with the inmates.

Many of them don't have many visitors! This cake is topped with the sweet icing of wonderful fellowship with fellow volunteers and the amazing faithfulness of the Gospel Express leaders and assistants, the family singing teams, and evangelists. Aaron and I have made friends here each year. Many prisoners' lives are changed, renewed, and encouraged, and our Lord God is glorified 'so that the world may know that He is God!'

We always return home challenged and encouraged to go and do likewise in our own community!

*~Judy Stoltzfus*

One inmate mentioned that last year he was considering suicide when we showed up. Hope came back into his life. This year he was a worship leader. Praise God!!

*~Aaron Lapp*



We had a lot of questions concerning how we will find Lee after the riot last April. When we walked into the chapel, we were so delighted to see Scott (nicknamed Bubble-Up). He is a spiritual leader and said, "God is doing a mighty work in this prison." So, the next 4 days we had the opportunity to witness God's work. Men that experienced the riot shared how real God has become in their lives. The lockup situation has given them the opportunity to read the Bible in a way they never had before. The impact of our time at Lee CI this year has changed our lives. The body of Christ in this place is alive and well but needs our love and prayers. *~Mark Yoder*

I had the opportunity to share Christ with a man that said his papa hated him and his mama went to church every Sunday. The conversation quickly went from the natural to the spiritual. "Papa is in hell and mama is in heaven." I went through the Steps to Peace with God tract with him and he told me he was on the sinful side and gave me a detailed description of what hell looked like to him. He listened very carefully, but when I asked him if he would like the abundant life and to be saved from that awful place called hell, he said he needed a couple more days to think about it. I walked away with a very heavy heart. Hopefully, someone else will water the seed and reap the harvest before it is too late.

*~Aaron Stoltzfus*

I thank you and your staff for being shining examples to our inmate population. My staff and I look forward to your next visit.

*~Warden Joseph McFadden*



## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

# Volunteers

*"Go therefore and make disciples...  
baptizing them... teaching them..."*



Jesus' heart was to make disciples; to take unlearned and ignorant men (*Acts 4:13*) and women on a journey that would propel them to become influencers and world-changers. Records would indicate that our most impactful and consistent discipleship tool is the Bible study course correspondence ministry to inmates. But who are the spokes in the wheel?

### DISCIPLESHIP FUNDRAISING:

This winter I had the privilege to come along-side many volunteers associated with the Bible course ministry. These courses are largely funded through annual cattle/benefit auctions in Missouri and Pennsylvania, along with a pizza fundraiser in Arthur, IL. We made several heifer-hunting trips in frigid, blizzard-like conditions, and yet there were many divine encounters along the way. Milk prices have been unfavorable for farmers in recent years. Some are struggling financially, some are dealing with personal loss or family difficulties, nevertheless, many continue to bless the ministry with their generosity.

**VOLUNTEERS:** I cannot imagine where this ministry would be, if not for the thousands of volunteer partners in ministry throughout the years - office staff, fundraiser committees, prison crusade volunteers, Bible study course

graders, board members, and the list goes on!

And if we take this a step further and think

about the millions of volunteers who are facilitating the visions and dreams of God through ministries, missions, churches, and para-church organizations. Volunteers are those who make provision for the vision and take personally the "Here am I, send me" principle where God gave a general call and Isaiah stepped forward.



**BIBLE COURSE GRADERS:** And then, there was the blessing of meeting with many Bible course graders in IA, MO, and KS. These behind the scenes (unsung heroes) workers are among the 300 Bible Study Course graders throughout the USA and Canada. Ten Iowa graders alone, corrected 1256 tests in 2018. Please pray that these servants of God would not become weary in well



doing. Many of these graders become a spiritual lifeline to the inmates as they take the time to write them notes of encouragement.

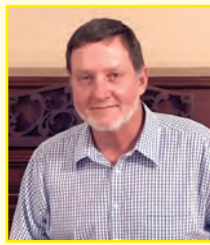
**\*We are in need of additional graders who are fluent in Spanish to grade our new Spanish courses.**

**PIZZA FUNDRAISER:** About 75 people worked together in Arthur, IL, assembling and delivering 1400 pizzas. The proceeds of \$14,000 will go towards the printing of materials, such as Bible study courses and discipleship seminar books.



**THANK YOU** to the Bible course graders, farmers, auction donors, laborers, and prayer warriors that connect with the heart of Jesus to *"make disciples."*  
*~Nelson Coblentz*





Omar Stoltzfus (PA) Sheldon Graber (IN) Lynn Helmuth (LA) Lowell Swartzentruber (SC) Jake Mast (OH) John Weaver (NC) David Kauffman (FL)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

It is an honor and privilege to serve on the Gospel Express Executive Board. About four times a year, the seven-member board, along with Nelson, and the Co-Directors sit together and have an executive board meeting. This is a time of praying and sharing together; asking God for vision and direction for the ministry. It's also a time of crying and sharing our burdens and struggles, as well as laughing and just having fun together.

Of course, decisions are made and financial reports are given. We also get to hear reports from each of the Directors, which truly is a highlight. Hearing how the Gospel continues to change hearts and lives is so encouraging and a great blessing. Glory to God!!

I would like to say thank you to all who so faithfully support the work through prayer and financial gifts. Phil. 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." It is truly amazing how God again and again provides ways to advance His kingdom. Thank you, Jesus! Please keep the ministry in your prayers as God continues to unfold His plan for the future.  
~Omar Stoltzfus (Chairman)

## THE GPS BIBLE

These King James Version Bibles are designed for inmates and most of them are distributed free of charge to correctional facilities. We also make them available at a nominal cost to churches, ministries, and individuals. Our next order will likely be placed in the next year and we need to raise about \$22,000 yet. You can place an order or donate toward this project on the response card. Thank you!



### The New Testament with Psalms, Proverbs, study outlines

**GPS TESTIMONIES**  
Every morning before I ride the Light Rail to college, I read this GPS Bible and it has enabled me to be ready both in season and out of season. Where I live, we are not allowed to have phones and cannot download digital Bibles. I know that this way of reading or studying the Word has become very popular, yet I still prefer to read the actual book.  
~Datyous Mahmoudian



The master outline in the GPS New Testament is an excellent tool. It's easy-to-read and understand, plus it comes in a handy sized format.  
~Simon Schrock (Choice Books)

I have not seen such a practical New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs pocket book like this. It is a well-organized resource for churches and ministries to give to every new believer. I highly recommend it.  
~Don Wilkerson (Teen Challenge)



Gospel Express extends a warm welcome to the **Chris Blank Family**. Chris, Kathryn, and their five children hail from Parkesburg, PA, where Chris ran a furniture and kitchen business for ten years. He has also served on our Pennsylvania Auction Committee for four years. Chris is taking on the new role of "Development Manager." His responsibilities include overseeing the fundraising aspect of the ministry and serving in the "IT" role. In the future, he will also assist Mervin with the prison crusades. Chris's proficiency is a real asset to the ministry, and we are so grateful for his willingness to move his family to North Carolina and serve at the office. **Welcome Chris, Kathryn, Lillian, Melissa, Aleah, Kayla, and Jeremiah!**

# 2019 PA Benefit Auction

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

## THURSDAY, APRIL 25

7:00 PM Cattle Auction (Call 717-222-6316)

## FRIDAY, APRIL 26

4:30 PM Big John's Chicken  
(Full Meal - Carry out Available \$10 each)  
6:00 PM Singspiration (Werner Family Band,  
Gospel Express Teams)

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

7:00-10:00 AM Breakfast Buffet  
8:15-8:45 AM Singin' & Pickin'  
8:30 AM Candy Drop  
9:00 AM Auction Begins  
6:00 PM Singspiration (Daniel Glick Trio, Gospel Express Teams,  
Living Hope International Presentation)

Lots of  
**DELICIOUS FOOD**  
Friday evening  
and Saturday!



## Community Tent Revival Meetings • Ontario, Canada • August 11-25, 2019

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14*

Location: 3955 Manser Road, Linwood, ON • For more info please email: [aropp@cyg.net](mailto:aropp@cyg.net) or call 519-595-2507

PRAY

PRAY

PRAY

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PRAY

# Team Schedules

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

### NELSON & SARAH

Apr 25-27 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
May 6-10 ..... Annual Staff Planning Meetings - Columbus, NC

### MILLER FAMILY

Apr 7-12 ..... Followers of Christ Assembly - Salem, OH (Revivals)  
Apr 25-27 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
Apr 28 ..... Bethel Church (AM) - Narvon, PA  
May 2 ..... Music Tracks for CD - Pelzer, SC  
May 6-10 ..... Annual Staff Planning Meetings - Columbus, NC

### WESTERN TOUR

May 19 ..... New Covenant (AM) - Mount Eaton, OH  
May 19 ..... Sharon Mennonite Church (PM) - Sugar Creek, OH  
May 21 ..... Sunnyside Mennonite Church - Kalona, IA  
May 22 ..... Salem Country Church - Seward, NE  
May 23 ..... Lincoln Correctional Center - Lincoln, NE  
May 24 ..... Redeemed Community Church - Fort Collins, CO  
May 26 ..... Fairfield Community Hall (PM) - Fairfield, MT  
May 28 ..... Lakeside Christian Fellowship - Rexford, MT  
May 29 ..... Clark Fork Christian Fellowship - Thompson Falls, MT  
Jun 2-9 ..... Brownsville Mennonite Church - Brownsville, OR (Revivals)  
Jun 12 ..... Location TBD - Delta, CO  
Jun 13 ..... LaVista Prison - Cañon City, CO  
Jun 14 ..... CTF Prison - Cañon City, CO  
Jun 16 ..... Skyline Mennonite Church (AM & PM) - Cañon City, CO  
Jun 18 ..... Skyline Mennonite Church (PM) - Cañon City, CO  
Jun 19 ..... MEC Copeland Church - Copeland, KS  
Jun 20 ..... Prison - Hutchinson, KS  
Jun 23 ..... Word of Life (AM) - Hutchinson, KS  
Jun 23 ..... Plainview Church (PM) - Hutchinson, KS  
Jun 30-July 5 ..... Youth Fellowship Camp - Goshen IN (Boys & Grace)

### MULLETT FAMILY

Apr 15 ..... Calvary Chapel - Sturgis, MI  
Apr 16 ..... Hicksville Mennonite Church - Hicksville, OH  
Apr 17 ..... Gospel Haven Church - Millersburg, OH  
Apr 25-27 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
May 6-10 ..... Annual Staff Planning Meetings - Columbus, NC

### MERVIN WENGERD

Apr 25-27 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
May 6-10 ..... Annual Staff Planning Meetings - Columbus, NC

### PENNER FAMILY

Apr 14 ..... Derry Mennonite - Danville, PA  
Apr 14 ..... Goshen Mennonite - Laytonville, MD  
Apr 17 ..... Central Mennonite - Dover, DE  
Apr 25-27 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
Apr 28 ..... Roselawn Mennonite - Middlebury, IN

### MEL STOLTZFUS FAMILY

Apr 25-27 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
May 6-10 ..... Annual Staff Planning Meetings - Columbus, NC



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

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