

## Summer/Fall 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2022 Mesa County Jail Ministry (MCJM) newsletter. In the midst of these changing and challenging times, one constant is the ministry of the Gospel to inmates at the County Jail. Since last fall, as COVID wound down, the jail has opened up to the return of about 20 volunteers. This has greatly expanded opportunities for ministering to inmates. Weekly Sunday services have returned to each pod. Bible studies are held Saturdays and weekday evenings. There is a sense of God's restoration of His work in the lives of inmates and staff at the jail. Thank you for helping to sustain this ministry throughout the difficult times of 2020-2021.

Moving forward, MCJM is in search of a new chaplain. On June 30, Chaplain Michael Hernandez submitted his resignation. Please see Chaplain Michael's parting words to us elsewhere in the newsletter. In his letter of resignation, he stated;

*"I want to express the depth of my appreciation over the past thirty-three months. My time within the ministry has entailed, not only a professionally adapting experience but more so a spiritual opportunity to share the Gospel with so many individuals."*

Along with Chuck, April, and Paul; Michael's efforts during the pandemic sustained the work inside the jail. Michael's unique talents for connecting the ministry to the community will be greatly missed. Pray that God continues to direct Michael's path in service to others.

We are extremely fortunate to have Tom Noble, a long-time volunteer at the Mesa County Detention Facility as our Interim Chaplain. Tom has also volunteered at Delta Prison and Mesa County Community Corrections. He has also mentored several separated inmates as they adapt to life outside institutional walls. Tom, his wife, Yvette, and their 3 kids have lived in the Grand Valley for 23 years. Pray for Tom as he carries out the Chaplain duties during the search for a new Chaplain.



Interim Chaplain Tom Noble

**In the Month of July, 45 Bibles were placed with inmates, 26 pairs of reading glasses were distributed to indigent inmates, and more than 1,000 inmate contacts were made by Chaplain Tom, Chaplain April, and the Volunteers. The MCJM participates in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program. Angel Tree is a ministry that allows inmates to provide Christmas gifts to their minor children. Children of inmates are innocent bystanders during their parent's incarceration. Nationwide, through local churches, businesses, and service organizations, gifts are purchased and distributed to the inmate's children. Beginning in July, applications were distributed to inmates at the jail. To date, applications for over 100 children of inmates have been received at the jail. Pray that the gifts, generously given, will minister to the hearts and lives of the innocent ones that are left behind.**

# THE POWER OF PRAYER!

Please pray for my mother who will likely pass away pretty soon. She has always prayed for me even when I pushed her away. I am in jail and I probably won't see her again. She is in the hospice after being diagnosed with a late-stage terminal disease. She sleeps most of the time but I call when I can to tell her I am sorry for the life choices I have made. My brother holds the phone up to her ear. She can't speak but I know she can understand! I tell her I love her and that I accepted Christ into my heart. I know God can heal anyone even if they are dying. But even if God doesn't fully heal her, please pray that my mom will not suffer. Pray that I will maintain my new walk with God so that God can show her who I have become, even though I am locked up.

~ **Inmate Sarah Anonymous**

Please pray that God will give me the strength to forgive my wife so my heart can heal. This is my fifth time being incarcerated and she says she has had enough. We have three kids together. I have failed as a husband and a father and I see this now. She's never known the "me" who loves Jesus. I wish she could meet me now. But I guess it's too late. I am likely going to prison and a part of me doesn't blame her for moving on and letting go of the hurt I have caused my family over the course of our marriage. I will probably be in my mid-thirties when I get out of prison and she will probably be with someone else. She is the most beautiful woman I have ever met...and I lost her and the children we had together.

~ **Inmate Steve Anonymous**

## PRAISE REPORT

For years, my daughter and I have not spoken. Subsequently, that has included my four-year-old grandson. I don't blame her. I left her mother for another woman and never played an active role in my daughter's life. When I did come around, mostly on holidays and her birthdays, I was usually inebriated or with a different woman. Finally, when she was about thirteen, she gave up on me. Then I learned about a man named Jesus and how he loved me despite me! He loved me despite the husband and father I wasn't! I couldn't change the past and just figured my daughter would never forgive me. Too many years had passed. The religious volunteer at the jail suggested that I write my daughter. I noticed that my letters were not returned so I assumed someone was reading them! For almost a year, I shared what God was doing in my life. I sent scripture that I felt conveyed my heart. One day I received a picture of the most beautiful four year old boy I had ever seen! In him, I could see myself and my father. Who was I to deserve this boy in my life? Since then my daughter has given me an opportunity to reconnect. I have a love for my family that I never had for anyone, ever! I know it's not me but it's Jesus in me! I am hoping to be released sooner than I thought. I pray every night for the day when I can see my loved ones and for the first time, they can meet the father and grandfather they deserve! Who knows? I may even see my ex-wife again. God is good. He always has been. I see that now! ~ **Inmate Steve Anonymous**

## MCJM Bible Fund

Please consider supporting our ministry's Bible fund.

Your monthly recurring donation of any amount will allow our ministry to purchase Bibles and distribute them to countless inmates. You can be a part of spiritually witnessing to a population within our community who are open to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Check out our website at [mesacountyjailministry.org](http://mesacountyjailministry.org) and click on the donate button or use the QR code in this newsletter.

“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them”  
Hebrews 13:3

Stock Photo

# Inmate Expressions

## - Guilty By Association

My love - My fellow Inmate

I am here because I loved you

**I Believed You!**

I believed you when you said you would be faithful  
And would never leave me

I believed you when you said I was different from  
All the other women

I believed you when you said we would be together forever

I believed you when you said I was the love of your life

And I believed you when you said I would be better off away from  
my friends and family

And so I followed you

And your lifestyle

When you said

You had everything under control

All I had to do was play the role

**I Believed You!**

You were supposed to be the man who would finally love me for me

You were supposed to be

Different from my father

Different from my mother's boyfriends

Different from the other men who lied and left

**I Believed You!**



*But then I met a man  
named Jesus*

And just like the woman  
caught in adultery  
He raised my face and said  
My sins were forgiven  
As were my accusers – and  
my abusers

I may never love again  
But I know I will always be  
loved by my Savior  
Still I hope Jesus and I will be  
two out of three  
Attached to a he who will  
love and lead  
As Jesus intended him to be

Love,  
Guilty by Association

# Save The Date!



## Mesa County Jail Ministry Annual Banquet!

Plan to come celebrate what God is doing in  
the jail with us!

February 18, 2023, 5:30-7:30  
- First Presbyterian Church-  
3940 27 1/2 Rd.



# All Good Things...

- Michael A. Hernandez

Serving as Chaplain for the Mesa County Jail Ministry has been unlike any other professional experience for me. And so, it is with both mixed and heartfelt emotions and yet with great spiritual optimism that this ministry and I have amicably come to part ways.

My work within, not only the Mesa County Detention Center walls, but also within the community has allowed me to cross paths with so many good and faithful people. As a relative newcomer to this valley, my experiences have been marred with the impact of Covid-19, social distancing as well as an array of legal and social upheaval, to say the least. But God is God and he remained ever steady and ever faithful as we kept our eyes upon him.

Early within my tenure, health and safety initiatives prevented ministry volunteers from volunteering as many have for years. Sadly also, some even fell victim to this unforeseen pandemic. But we persevered.

Returning and new volunteers have faithfully stepped up and are eager to continue the good work we have begun as we continue to love and encourage all within our community.

In February 2023, the ministry will yet again be hosting its annual fundraising banquet to share the good works and new initiatives that have been established with both faithful and new community partners. And so, it is with great hope and enthusiasm that we continue to deepen our roots within this community as we endeavor to love those who are imprisoned who are so ripe to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

And so, to our ministry supporters, to our partners within the community, to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, and to the jail ministry board, I say thank you for supporting me and allowing me to be a part of this vital Biblical mandate to love and teach the message of Christ, for such a time as this.

See you in the harvest! -Michael A. Hernandez



## BOOK DONATIONS

Mesa County Jail Ministry is currently accepting PAPERBACK only books in good condition with no markings. The following types of books are needed:

- Spanish books (especially Christian books)
- Bible Study related books, study & recovery Bibles
- Christian Books
- Addiction and Recovery books
- Westerns (especially Louis L'Amour)
- Sci-Fi

**If interested in giving books, call 970-244-3351**

## SUPPORT & DONATIONS

If you are interested in supporting The Mesa County Jail Ministry financially and/or through prayer; scan the QR code to the right or contact us at 970.244.3351 | [Mesacountyjailministry.org](http://Mesacountyjailministry.org)

## Thank You To Our Church Supporters

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- Clifton Christian
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And



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