

# WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

WISHING YOU A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON



## YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

### ▪ August:

- Religious Classes: 124 (With 980 attendees)
- Education Classes: 9 (With 37 attendees)
  - One-on-Ones: 65
- Bibles Distributed: 63

### September:

- Religious Classes: 113 (With 987 attendees)
- Education Classes: 8 (With 18 Attendees)
  - One-on-Ones: 71
- Bibles Distributed: 50

### October:

- Religious Classes: 125 (With 1,044 attendees)
- Education Classes: 6 (With 16 attendees)
  - One-on-Ones: 86
- Bibles Distributed: 58

Angel Tree applications were processed for more than 100 children of inmates at the Jail.

## THANK YOU NOTE TO THE CHAPLAINS OFFICE

"... I just wanted to say thank you! I wanted to personally tell you how much you are appreciated! . . . I have my first child on the way and not being able to be there to support my family is warfare on my heart and mind! . . . Thank you for being put into my path! The help you provide through your ministry and service of the books is truly a blessing."

Mesa County Jail Ministry is pleased to welcome interim Chaplain Tom Noble as the new Chaplain. He has been serving in the jail ministry for several years and now is with us in a full-time capacity. Personnel from the Mesa County Jail and the Mesa County Jail Ministry collaborated on the interview process. The Lord provided five quality candidates for consideration. We are grateful for each candidate and the time and effort they brought to the application and interview process. We ask you to keep Chaplain Tom in your prayers as he ministers in the jail.

### A Note from Tom

Whenever a person attempts to communicate anything, whether it be how to drive a car, or how to achieve proficiency in an academic subject, he or she must decide what information needs to be communicated and in what order. In teaching, I think they still call it "scope and sequence." Paul called it knowing what was "of first importance" (1 Corinthians 15:3). In the driving scenario, knowing how to reset your trip odometer might seem important, but you might want to know where the brake is first.

Where do I start with the jail? I am often asked, "How is the jail going? What are your needs?" The answer to the first question is simple on paper: "The jail is going great!" We have great volunteers, many of whom have been sharing the gospel in the jail for decades. Just in the month of October, we taught at least 125 Bible studies and religious classes. We had over 1000 participants in those classes. We participated in over 86 one-on-one counseling/discipleship sessions. We gave away over 58 Bibles. We provided reading glasses to indigent inmates. We supplied books in bulk to each pod. We tried to find particular books for individuals when they asked for them. We wept with inmates who had lost mothers, fathers, spouses,

and siblings.

The answer to the second question is harder. "What are our needs?" Along with our great volunteers, we have also been given a great legacy. Most of the things we provide and the procedures we follow were put in place by Doug Winter (from scratch). Many of our "new friends" were introduced to this ministry by Michael Hernandez. Chuck Bonnet was able to communicate things to myself that only a God-prepared master teacher could. Great friends show up with cases of Bibles. The jail staff continues to support us and be true "angels in uniform." Even people that were involved in the jail ministry before there WAS a "Mesa County Jail Ministry" offer us prayer and encouragement.

So, what ARE our needs? We need the Spirit of God to move. We need God's breath to speak through us and His word. WE NEED THE LORD JESUS. We need His wisdom and humility. All the machinations are in place, but we are not "adequate for these things" without Him. WILL YOU PRAY FOR US? Will you "often slip away to the wilderness and pray" for us? This is our greatest need (2 Cor. 2:16, 3:5; Luke 5:16).

- Tom



## 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



Scan QR Code To Donate

## INMATE EXPRESSIONS

This testimony was found in the Mesa County Jail written inside the cover of a Bible Study guide for the Gospel of John.

Lord, I'm sorry for the things I've done! I ask for your forgiveness. I choose this day to follow you. Help me to know you. Change me, make me like you. Change the way I think, perceive, and see the world. Give me your eyes to see with, your ears to hear, your knowledge, understanding, & wisdom so that I will know the hope you have called me to. Lord, I thank you and praise you for loving me, for setting me free, for giving your life for mine, for choosing me, and walking me into your glorious salvation. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

Anonymous

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KJOL

## ANNUAL BANQUET

FEB 18, 2023

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church  
3940 27<sup>1/2</sup> Road

Plan to come celebrate what God is doing in the Mesa County Jail with us! Come and hear testimony of God's work in the lives of inmates, special music by the Storehouse Gospel Quartet, fellowship, and good food! Tickets to the banquet are \$30 each and Tables of 8 are \$220. Consider sponsoring a table and invite friends.

For information on tickets contact the chaplains office at: 970.244.3351 (Ticket information coming soon at [mesacountyjailministry.org](http://mesacountyjailministry.org))

## IN MEMORIAM

Marsha Barker, 74 of Grand Junction, a cofounder of the Mesa County Jail Ministry, passed away on August 28, 2022 at Hope West Hospice Care Center. It is with great sadness and fond remembrance we commemorate Marsha's passing into the presence of her Lord. Serving as the ministry's Secretary in the early years, God used her joyful spirit, competence, and faithfulness to get the ministry up and running. She remained on the job as long as possible. Her health caused her to retire from the work, yet she was a supporter through the remainder of her time here on earth. Thank you Marsha for your strength, vision, and faithfulness.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT-BAG DISTRIBUTION

The Annual Christmas Gift-Bag distribution is upon us. The week before Christmas, volunteers will gather to assemble and distribute around 475 gift bags to the inmates. Inmates will receive Ramen noodles, packets of hot chocolate, peppermint candies, snacks like popcorn and crackers, and a Rice Krispies bar. Gift bag contents may vary depending on particular dietary requirements. Each year the inmate response is one of surprise and gratefulness. Thanks for caring, Merry Christmas, God Bless is heard as the gift bags are distributed. Many inmates are not used to strangers or anyone caring for them.

Along with support for the Chaplain position, the purchase of Bibles and reading glasses, the tradition of distributing Christmas Gift-Bags is made possible by the donations from you, the faithful supporters of the Mesa County Jail Ministry. As we close out 2022, please consider MCJM in regular and year-end giving.