

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

November 2022:

- Religious Classes: 130 (With 861 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 71
- Bibles Distributed: 68

December 2022:

- Religious Classes: 160 (With 1034 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 71
- Bibles Distributed: 56

January 2023:

- Religious Classes: 164 (With 1,080 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 67
- Bibles Distributed: 59

February 2023:

- Religious Classes: 177 (With 1,080 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 51
- Bibles Distributed: 62

Fulfilling the Big Four

When someone mentions "The Big Four" many things may come to mind. "Car People" may think back several decades and think of Ford, GM, Chrysler, and AMC. Political thinkers may think of the four pillars used to rate the stability of a nation: economics, morality, education, and national security (military).

Acts 2:42 lays out OUR "Big Four" when ordering our Kingdom lives. "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (NASB). Just as the "Big Four" of a nation cannot be neglected for any period of time without dire consequences, so OUR "Big Four" must not fall into gross neglect. We must ask ourselves, "Are we CONTINUALLY DEVOTING ourselves to these things?" Are we actively involved in corporate teaching, fellowship, remembrance, and prayer?

Because so many inmates struggle with building a new sense of community in their lives, the "fellowship factor" seems to come front and center. When we see our friends struggle or relapse, we often ask, "Are you fellowshiping anywhere?" The stock answer is often, "I go to church." Unfortunately, "going to church" does not always mean we are truly "devoting ourselves" to the "Big Four." Often churches are segmented. We may get teaching on Sunday, but may rarely pray or

fellowship. Another day of the week may be set aside for corporate prayer, but where is the heart to heart fellowship? It is hard for most churches to accomplish all four pillars in one week, let alone in one day.

It falls on each of us to provide OURSELVES and OTHERS with a "safe place" for fellowship. Do you have a place where you can "confess your sins one to another" (James 5:16)? Are we actually bearing one another's burdens (failures) (Galatians 6:2)? We are fortunate at the jail to have several "recovery ministries." "Reformers Unanimous" and "Celebrate Recovery" are two of them. They are great tools for fellowship AND evangelism. Most of these are local church based and operate inside and outside of the jail.

Will you help yourself and the rest of the Body of Christ to function as it should? It may be as simple as calling an acquaintance at church to have a cup of coffee. It may be letting yourself be vulnerable with a friend. It may be starting a mid-week Bible study, men's group, or woman's group at your church. It may mean joining a recovery group (or starting one). The point is this: Fellowship and vulnerability are not options in the Body of Christ. "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

- Chaplain Tom



SUPPORT & DONATIONS

If you are interested in supporting The Mesa County Jail Ministry financially and/or through prayer; scan the QR code below or contact us at: 970.244.3351 Mesacountyjailministry.org

2536 Rimrock Ave Suite 400-171 GJ CO 81505



Scan QR Code To Donate

INMATE EXPRESSIONS

To all officers employed with GJPD or Mesa County Sheriff's Office who have arrested and detained me since 1995

Hello All:

My name is "J.Doe" I am writing all of you to admit my faults of being dishonest, selfish, self-seeking, and fearful. In the years since 1995, I acted extremely self-destructive and violent when caught in any instance of breaking the law, usually intoxicated by alcohol, marijuana, or both.

Today I have 28 months totally clean and sober due to my complete surrender to a 12-step program that is actually working for me. I am writing to make amends for the chaos, violence, and drama I caused whenever I was arrested or detained. I am growing daily and striving to right the wrongs I created while drinking and using uncontrollably.

I am asking that if there is anything else I can do to make amends, please let me know. I am really grateful for all the effort you people put in to trying to wake me up. Just know that your efforts have not been in vain and I thank you for doing your job. I appreciate you.

Thank you, "J.Doe"

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONY

Wow, Romans 8:1 in Real Time!

I walked onto the Pod to deliver a book to an inmate. After dropping off the book, an inmate, call him Ian, asked me if I had a moment. The interview room was tied up so we went into the room used for video visits. Ian is a drug addict and was looking for help. As we visited, it became clear that Ian was searching for a relationship with Jesus. He was not clear about it, but he was searching. After a few minutes, an inmate came in for a video visit. So, we left the video-visit room and continued our visit at a table in the middle of the Pod.

Dozens of inmates were circulating around the Pod walking and talking. Others were playing cards, others sitting near by engaged in conversation. There we sat, in the middle of the din surrounding us, the Holy Spirit continued to work.

After explaining the Gospel, especially John 3:17-18, I mentioned that his relationship with Jesus was his to pursue, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13. We talked about conviction of our sin, confession, and repentance. I mentioned that the Holy Spirit would convict him of this need. We discussed the sinner's prayer. I asked him; "do you feel led to pray?"

There, in the middle of a crowded noisy Pod, we bowed our heads and Ian confessed his sin and asked Jesus to be Lord of his life. Looking up after his prayer and looking around he looked at me and said; "Wow, I don't feel condemned anymore."

It was a mighty privilege to watch this work of grace; "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1. We continue to see Ian at Bible studies and as part of the community of believers on the Pod.

-P. von Guerard

ANNUAL BANQUET

Thank you to all that came, contributed, and shared the evening with us at our annual fundraising banquet. It was a wonderful time. We had great music by the Storehouse Gospel Quartet, great food by John the Ribber Catering and powerful testimonies by Sydney and Cody Truesdell, and Jimi Inman.

Cody and Sydney head the local Reformers Unanimous ministry. They had an amazing testimony of how God's redeeming power and love reaches us no matter how far we have fallen or how out of control our lives have become. God's mercies and love for us are beyond our comprehension and God never gives up on us. Praise God!



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JAIL OPERATIONS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - BILL MOORE



Sheriff Todd Rowell & Volunteer Bill Moore.

The Commendation Read: Bill Moore has been a volunteer at the Mesa County Detention Facility for approximately fourteen years. To say that he is dedicated would be an understatement. If we had to pick one word to describe Bill Moore, it would be "INTENTIONAL." He has ordered his life in such a way that service to others is his obvious life's goal. We know that he has geared his time, employment, and energy toward helping those who cannot help themselves, and to those who have been trapped by their own addictions and bad choices. In addition to raising his four adopted children, Bill comes to the jail several times a week, and also coordinates a faith-based rehab, Reformers Unanimous, at his church. Bill's efforts have not consisted solely of good intentions and wishful thinking. Many of his coworkers in his recovery ministry are former inmates. He has been instrumental in helping to facilitate the full cycle of addiction, to recovery, to helping others to recover. He is a wonderful help to our facility and to the community at large.