

OUR FATHER'S PERSISTENT LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.

MINISTRY UPDATE

APRIL 2015



*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, and the new has come."
2 Cor. 5:17*

Missions Trip to Costa Rica April 21st – 30th

Please keep our team of five in your prayers as we go to Costa Rica for 10 days. Our schedule is jam-packed and will include mission work in: prisons (of course!), a rehab, an orphanage, schools, and the streets! There is a lot to do in a short period of time. We will be teaming up with other missionaries while we are down there! Looking forward to all that the Lord will do!!

Praise/Prayer Requests

- * We thank you for praying for Middlesex and Ocean County Jails. Attendance is back up and there has been less lockdowns!! PTL!
- * Please pray for a young lady named Natalia from Russia in the Hudson County Jail. God has transformed her life and she is being released soon! What a story!
- * Please keep the Costa Rica Mission's team in your prayers. (April 21-30) That God would prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing with.
- * Please keep Chaplain Ed Welsh and his family in your prayers. He has a tremendous ministry and will continue until the Lord calls him home!
- * I will be doing some traveling this summer visiting supporters and friends of the prison ministry. Please pray that my car runs well and that the Lord gives me some great visits sharing all the Lord is doing in the jails/prisons.

Shannon Graduates Teen Challenge

Debbie met Shannon a couple of years ago in Freehold County Jail. Shannon was ready to make some big changes in her life and was coming out to Bible Study each week. When she was finally released, she got plugged in and started attending church and home group, but was having a hard time staying afloat. She decided that "Teen Challenge", Long Island was a good fit for her, and to our excitement just completed 14 months of intense training there. She officially graduated in January and has been asked to stay on as the church secretary. We are very proud of her and all that God has done in her life.



"Spouse in Prison" Ministry

We had a great turn out for our "Spouse in Prison" ministry fellowship despite a big snowstorm. Our goal is to encourage and come alongside those who have a spouse in prison. Many of the people who are attending have now been united with their spouses, which is a huge blessing. We have another spouse who is being released in June and will be welcomed with open arms into our little fellowship. His wife has already been attending our fellowship meetings. A special thanks to Rev. McClendon and his wife Gerry for feeding us physically and spiritually that day! His message was a real encouragement! We would be grateful for you to keep this ministry in your prayers.



The Gang with Gerry



Biblical Counseling Training

Thank you for all your prayers for our annual trip to Faith Bible Church in Lafayette, Indiana! We had a great time and our largest group yet (10). What a joy to sit under such awesome teaching and get trained in using the Word of God to come alongside those that are depressed and hurting. The overwhelming feedback from the group was a rave review. For all of you who are still “on the fence”, every attendee would tell you that it is well worth every penny spent and that the lessons are deep and life-changing!

Chaplain Ed Welsh

Ed is the main chaplain in the LA county jails. He has an awesome testimony! I had the privilege to meet him on some prior missions trip. He invited our group to come out to California in March see all that the Lord was doing and where he has ministered for the last 18 years. The work is amazing!! Please keep him in your prayers as the doctors have given him only 6-8 weeks more to live. He has been battling cancer for the last 2 years or so. He looks great and I believe the Lord has more work for him to do before taking him home. Without a doubt Chaplain Ed is finishing well!



California Prisons

While in California we had the privilege of visiting some of the largest prisons in the U.S. Our group ministered to 174 women at one time in the workers' cell block. The ladies were triple bunked and sat so attentively on their beds singing and listening to the sharing of the Word. What an awesome thing to hear the voices of the redeemed singing praises to their Jesus! We also ministered in the men's prison that had over 12,000 inmates. We shared in two of the sections there. What a blessing to worship alongside those who realize they have sinned much, but are now living as new creations in Christ.

Skid Row

We had the opportunity to go down into the homeless section of LA. It was a real eye opener for me and something I will never forget. So many streets were lined with tents and cardboard boxes covered with tarps. We stopped at a park to share with some people sitting around playing checkers or just napping. Somebody had just been shot the week before around the corner from where we were. The stories of the people living there are heartbreaking, but not beyond God's redeeming power!

