

# OUR FATHER'S PERSISTENT LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.

MINISTRY UPDATE

JULY 2017



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

## *Praise/Prayer Requests*

- \* I don't like statistics, but fear I have become one. Ugh! 45.5 percent of Pastors (ministry workers) say that they've experienced depression or burnout to the extent that they need to take a leave of absence from ministry. ("Leading on Empty" – Wayne Cordiero)
- \* Please continue to pray for my healing from burnout. I am still pretty fragile and will be taking it slow for now.
- \* Pray for wisdom for new boundaries and a new pace that is sustainable. My system needs to recharge at a sustained low-amperage.
- \* Praise the Lord that the prison ministry is running well in spite of my absence.
- \* Continue to pray for Leslie as she restarts her new life as a believer on the outside.
- \* Please pray for wisdom if God would have the prison ministry organize the Inmate Children Gift Giving Project this Christmas. It's our biggest outreach of the year and I really want to do it! Ha! I will need your help!

## *What Happened To Debbie?*

For those of you who don't know, in June of last year I started becoming very fatigued and hardly had the strength to stand up and teach in the jails. My family had become very concerned and asked me to get checked out. I was diagnosed with gastritis and was down nearly 20 lbs due to diet restrictions. It quickly became apparent that after 22 years of prison ministry I had hit a wall. The fact was, I was in severe stress mode after having run on adrenaline for years. My body couldn't function one more minute and things were starting to fall apart really fast!



## *America's Keswick – Barbara's Place*

On top of all the physical issues, I was having problems thinking clearly and making decisions. I was scared and didn't know what was happening to me. Somebody suggested I call Barbara's Place for help and counsel. The director had me pegged and confidently said you are "burned out" and need to stop, and rest. Wow! This gave me hope after thinking I was going crazy. They were gracious enough to accept me and I landed at Barbara's

Place on October 31st to rest for 6 months. I can't say it was easy. Sitting still is not my forte, but I didn't have a choice. The Lord had to incapacitate me to get me to stop and listen

## *Resting Place . . .*

So there I sat not being able to do anything for the next 6 months. The Lord was humbling me in a new and deeper way. These lessons were not easy and were very painful, but as time went on, I found myself feeling calmer and more like my old self. Honestly it took a good 4 plus months to get me detoxed off of the adrenaline.

It was a painful process physically and mentally. Some say it's like coming off of heroin. I now have a new understanding for those struggling with addictions; and what life is like being on the inside of a rehab.



*God's peaceful place of rest*



*Ready for the OFPLM  
Board Meeting*

### ***A Tribute To “Mother Jane” . . .***

Many of you might not know this, but one of OFPLM’s founding directors, Jane Frank, went to be with the Lord September 26, 2016. I can’t tell you how heartbroken I was not to be able to attend her memorial service. I don’t know where this ministry would have been if it hadn’t been for Jane’s love and care. I will never forget how much she taught me about loving those whose lives were broken and messed up. I heard the service was an awesome testimony of sharing all that the Lord had done in and through our dear Mother Jane.

### ***Visiting Supporting Churches***

The Lord has shown me many things through this season of trial. One is that I don’t have to do everything! Actually, the prison ministry is running very well in my absence; just another confirmation that I am only an instrument in the redeemer’s hands! As the Lord allows, I plan on visiting all my Pastors / Supporting churches and updating them on my health and what God has taught me over the last year. I am going to try and visit one per month. You all have been so gracious and patient with me and I’m so thankful for that. So many have encouraged me to keep on resting and that is what I plan on doing.



*Lesley in her new place*

### ***More Good News!!***

I’m also pleased to announce that Leslie got released from prison during my time in rehab and is doing well. The Lord has worked so many miracles in her new life as a believer. She is settled into a really nice place and is busy getting connected with a church and a new community. We have gotten together a few times and I’m excited at all the Lord has in store for her. She is a trophy of grace!

### ***So What Next??***

I’m happy to say that I graduated from Barbara’s Place on April 23, 2017! It was a deeply emotional day and many came to celebrate along with me. I am now doing a year of aftercare that is required by all that graduate. The staff had decided that it’s in my best interest to continue in counseling for the time being and in time I will be serving one day a week at Barbara’s Place in some capacity. Little by little they will help me to transition back into prison ministry. Thank you for all your prayers and continued support through this time of intense trial. I can’t tell you how much mail I received during my time in rehab, which was such an encouragement to me.



*Niece Julia visits Debbie  
at Keswick*