

Christ for

ALL PEOPLES from ALL NATIONS



Polk County Jail Ministry News *Jesus Alive in Lives* Issue 242 - August, 2025

Lives Are Transformed by the Gospel

Have you ever considered the Monarch butterfly? God has created this magnificent creature with all of its glorious colors. On my morning walk I noticed one fluttering from flower to flower seeking some pollen and looking beautiful. The Monarch butterfly goes through a **metamorphosis** or **transformation** where a worm/caterpillar creates a cocoon. It then morphs into this beautiful delicate wonder of nature. A worm is often used to depict mankind's condition after the fall. Psalm 22:6 tells of the Messiah who would state *but I am a worm and not a man*. While hanging on the cross Jesus identified with us by taking on our sin, all of humanity's sin. God is in the business of turning worms or sinners into glorious new creations, and then transforming lives into works of righteousness that are beautiful to behold. Think of that! God's Son became full payment for our debt that separated us. He paid it to give us eternal life, peace with God, and access to the throne room of God. It's just as though we had never sinned. Jesus is the gift that one can freely receive. It's not based on our performance or rituals but solely on His justification. Transformation is what we are able to see before our very eyes when men and women turn from their sins and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. They come **alive** from their spiritual condition of spiritual death. In the truest sense they are transformed into new creations like a butterfly. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has*

passed away, and see the new has come 2 Cor. 5:17. It's my privilege to see so many people's lives transformed in the Jail. You literally enter the trenches with me and the ministry when you pray. Together we get to experience God who is at work transforming lives to reveal Himself to the world. **Thank you** for your partnership, and belief that God will use the Polk County Jail Ministry to impact lives for His glory!! What a blessing you are!

In His Service, ~ Chaplain Jerry



CHAPLAIN JERRY & PATTY CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Sharing life with someone you love for 50 years is a blessing from God that's hard to put into words. I married way over my head one who is so beautiful inside and out. The most important factor in our 50 years together is Jesus Christ being the center of our individual lives and our relationship with each other. I accepted

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Quote of the Month: ***We make a mess of our life, but Jesus is able to clean it up!***



A Sent One – Tawny Cochrane

I grew up in an Eastside Des Moines home marked by trauma and abuse. At an early age I had to learn how to survive on my own. Survival meant shutting down my feelings, hiding my pain, and turning to whatever numbed me the quickest. That led me into drugs, crime, toxic relationships, and a lifestyle full of chaos. As the years went by I became harder and angrier. I carried resentment toward the world and especially toward God. I couldn't understand why

He would allow so much brokenness in my life. Instead of seeking Him I ran further away. Even in the middle of my mess God was planting seeds. I didn't know it then, but He was working when I was in the Polk County Jail. It became like a surrogate family to me at times—disciplining me when I needed it, protecting me from myself, and putting me in "timeouts" that I now see as God's way of slowing me down. Behind bars felt like punishment, but it was when God whispered and said that He hadn't given up on me. It took many years for that seed to take root. I stumbled plenty of

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Christ in 10/72, and Patty in 02/73. We were persistent enough to let the Lord work out our differences, because we both could be

stubborn and selfish at times. Divorce was never an option. We made it a goal to out serve one another, and have done that for 50 years! I love you Honey!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

You'll not want to miss this year's banquet! Come hear how the **LORD Jesus Christ** is impacting **All Peoples from All Nations**. Men and women's hearts have become open and broken to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that He anoints the guest speaker and testimonies. It's Tuesday Oct. 7th at Grace Church 6:00 PM. Please pray for a great turnout of 300 plus.

- Would you each make it a goal to come to the banquet this year?
- Pray many businesses would sponsor a table at the banquet for \$250.
- Pray for an Assistant Chaplain who is burdened and called to the PCJ Ministry to eventually replace me in the next one to two years.
- Pray that our nation and communities would be more supportive of all law enforcement.
- Prayer for the women's housing units that a spiritual fervency and hunger would break out for the Lord.
- Prayer for discernment in spiritual warfare with the enemy.
- God will use our ministry presence with the Jail population and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel.
- Safety for our public servants the Detention Officers in the Jail, Deputies out on patrol, and the Dispatchers who handle thousands of calls.
- God would cause brokenness in new Jail entrants and a hunger for His Word.
- More inmates would attend the volunteer led Bible studies conducted weekly.
- Sunday services at 10:00 AM would be greatly attended.
- More direct contacts with Pastors to tell the ministry story for prayer and financial support.
- Inmates who have gone off to prisons or back to the streets would stay faithful to Jesus Christ and His Word.
- Prayer for fruit at the DOC. Experiencing God & parenting will be taught.
- All of us would remain watchful, thankful, and deliberate in our service for Christ.
- May a revival in America start from the Jails and Prisons across our country!

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times, but God's hand was steady even when I wasn't. In August of '24, everything changed. I walked into a **Sober Soldierz** meeting in Des Moines and sat quietly as I listened to testimony after testimony. I heard stories of people who had been where I was—broken, addicted, hopeless—and yet they spoke with a freedom, a peace, and a joy that I had never known. As I sat there something shifted inside me. The very thing I had been searching for all my life finally came into focus. The void I had tried to fill with drugs, relationships, and chaos suddenly didn't feel so empty anymore. I realized that what I had been missing wasn't a "thing" at all—it was Jesus. That night I surrendered. I laid down my anger, shame, and addiction at His feet. I turned my life over to Jesus, and for the first time in years I felt free. By God's grace I have been clean for over 14 months. I am working a good job, have my own home, and my family is back in my life. I'm actively working a 12-step program which keeps me grounded, humble, and

connected to the people and principles that keep me moving forward. Most importantly I now have a real relationship with God. I once hated the world and the God who created it, but now I thank Him daily for saving me. I no longer see jail as wasted time, but as one of the tools God used to change my direction. He took the broken pieces of my past—my trauma, my addiction, my failures—and is now building something new. All the glory belongs to Him! What I couldn't do on my own He has done in me, and I know He is not done writing my story.



Thank you!
~ Chaplain Jerry

Please help support



The Polk County Jail Ministry

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Polk County Jail Ministries!

THANK YOU for your financial support! Please make checks out to the Polk Co. Jail Ministries Inc. and use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.

- All of us in this ministry would go deeper with the Lord in our private time with Him.

ANSWERS:

- The Holy Spirit is doing a mighty work with His power.
- Favor with the Sheriff's office.
- Lives are changing through genuine repentance. A new study started with Hispanic deportees and 20 placed their faith in Christ out of 30 plus attendants!
- The DOC has experienced so many direct answers to our prayers with His provision and ministry opportunity at the new Hope Ministry Women's Facility.
- Praise and thanksgiving to God for all that He does in orchestrating the details and events of this ministry daily! They are called divine appointments.

MOST WANTED:

- 2500 stamps as we approach our Christmas event.
- Men's shoes specifically large size tennis shoes

Ministry Monthly Report: August 2025

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	892	6,939
One-on-One inmate counseling:	854	6,640
Religious reading materials given:	947	7,041
Bible Study groups:	61	442
Inmates involved with studies:	518	3,473
View Worship Service:	152	1,439
Volunteer Hours:	185	1,353
Number of Volunteers:	23	200
Bibles given:	482	3,339
Number of New Believers:	34	176