

Christ for

ALL PEOPLES from ALL NATIONS



Polk County Jail Ministry News *Jesus Alive in Lives* Issue 243 - September, 2025

Join God In His Work

Greetings faithful partners! This month we celebrated Labor Day. It's when we honor the workforce of America. Have you ever thought how Jesus always had fruit for His efforts? He recognized where the Father was working in lives and He joined Him. When someone asks for prayer, or has a conviction of sin, a hunger for God's Word, or is going through trials and hardships these are all indicators of the Father's work in their lives. The Christian who's sensitive to the Holy Spirit joins Him in His work. The Body of Christ must be equipped to do ministry whenever God calls. We must be prepared to tell our salvation story or our testimony. It's the story of when Christ came into your life and changed you. Show compassion and concern for the lives of others. Be a friend to the lonely and helpless. Be a listening ear to those who need to share their lives and struggles. Point people to Christ and trust Him as the only answer to all of our burdens. This is God's work for all who bear the name of Christ. Ask yourself, "Do I want Him to use my life to work the field of souls all around me?" The results are so fulfilling as we cultivate, sow and water in God's field. He prepares the fields at the Jail by working in lives to convict them of their sin, open their hearts to hear and receive the gift of salvation. God is at work everywhere in people's lives, and He wants us to join Him in His redemptive work. Your partnership is making an eternal difference through

countless prayers and sacrificial giving for this ministry. Thank you for partnering with us. Amen!!

In His Service, ~ Chaplain Jerry

Volunteer of the Month: José Maldonado

I want to highlight volunteer José Maldonado who comes in weekly and conducts two Bible studies. An inmate told me there are many Hispanic men in his pod who could use a study of their own. The Lord was at work in these ICE detainee's lives. The next week 30 plus men were on Jose's list. His first week 30 men attended and 20 gave their hearts to Jesus for the



forgiveness of their sins!! The Gospel changes lives and as these men are deported they'll take the gospel with them to make more disciples. José is bilingual and God brought him from California to spread the good news. Lives are held captive by their sin, but Jesus wants to set them free and take them captive to His amazing love and freedom! Thank you José for your faithful service to work the field of souls at the Polk County Jail.

Quote of the Month: **Watch to see where God is working and join Him.**



A Sent One – Becky Wink

I was born and raised in Council Bluffs. My parents divorced when I was young. My mom remarried shortly after and he adopted me. We were very active in a Baptist Church. I was sexually abused by my adopted father. He was arrested and sent to prison. I suffered a lot of trauma, and spent a lot of time with my grandparents. During my teen years I was very rebellious. I dropped out of school, ran away, and lived with my boyfriend in a hotel. I was pregnant at 16, and

miscarried. Then I started doing drugs. At first it was weed and then a meth addiction. I was living life in the fast lane until I became pregnant again. It all came to a dead halt! Shawn was born healthy in '98. He was my pride and joy! My intentions to be a good mother didn't happen. I sold drugs and became addicted not just to meth but to the lifestyle and power that dealing held. My house was raided and I was taken to jail. My son was placed with child protective services, and my grandpa was granted temporary custody. I spent the weekend in jail and vowed to change my life.

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- This year's Banquet is Tuesday Oct 7th @ Grace Church 6:00; pray for 300 to attend and that God's Spirit would work in each heart present.
- Prayer for an Assistant Chaplain that he would be called, prepared and revealed.
- The Sheriff's office staff would contemplate their eternity and ask questions.
- A hedge of protection around each volunteer and their families.
- Pray for true repentance, and godly sorrow with those to whom we minister.
- Pray for the women's pods S1 & S3 as they need a spiritual surge and a movement of God in their hearts.
- God will stir the hearts of staff, and the incarcerated with the Gospel message as communicated through His Word, faith based books, and other materials.
- Safety for our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail, and the Deputies out on patrol as they drive our roads and highways and bring protection.
- Prayer for the Dispatchers with all the stressors of their daily responsibilities.
- Those who are disciples would see their personal responsibility to testify, and lead others to Christ. More inmates would then respond to the Gospel because of them.
- Inmate led prayer groups in each housing unit would grow and sow seeds.
- Inmates would awaken to watch Sunday services at 10:00 AM, also that the detention officers would make the services accessible to the inmates.
- More and more local churches would participate in this incredible ministry prayerfully, and financially as a viable mission's effort.
- God will move in the hearts of family members of the incarcerated as they share their new found faith. Then they too will understand the glorious Gospel, and receive the LORD as their Savior!
- Fall classes at the DOC would be well attended as we seek more disciples.

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One night I read my Bible and cried out to God! I begged for forgiveness. I wanted to be a good mom, and get clean, but I was weak and failed. On 06/06 I was arrested again and taken to the Polk County Jail. I was a mess! I was facing 15 to life. I had failed my son, family, myself, and God! I called grandpa to apologize. I said I'd be gone awhile and asked if he would take care of Shawn? He said, "as long as the good Lord wills." Those were the last words I'd hear him say. He had a heart attack 2 weeks later, and was on life support. Chaplain Jerry gave me the bad news. I was in shock and afraid for my son. Where would he go? Grandpa had become his safe place. I was terrified, devastated and desperate. I hit my knees and surrendered to Jesus. I repented and begged Him to take care of Shawn. Jesus met me in that jail cell! He filled me with peace that surpassed all of my understanding. Somehow I knew it would be ok. It was no longer my life, it was His. My new life had begun! God gave me hope! I watched Sunday sermons on the day room TV, and attended Bible studies with Miss Terrie Bishop. She became a very dear friend and mentor to me for 20 years. She visited me in prison. God's love shines through her! The Polk County Jail is where my journey began with God for 18 months. I was sentenced to 10 years in an Illinois prison. I got baptized, God restored a broken relationship with my mother, and my sister retained guardianship of Shawn. I was granted a transfer to Waseca, MN.

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

ANSWERS:

- Inmates are leading fellow inmates to Christ! PTL!!!
- Inmate requests have really increased significantly each week.
- Many inmates are coming to weekly Bible studies led by volunteers.
- Divine appointments are occurring with one on ones.
- God is faithful to bring those who have turned back to their old ways back to Jail before it's too late.
- Noticeable hunger and thirst for God's Word. I get many Bible requests. PTL!

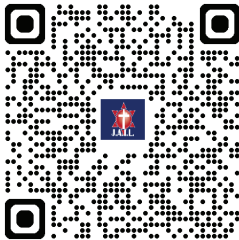
MOST WANTED:

- 2500 stamps for the two Christmas cards given to each inmate.
- Clothing closet needs: Men & women's coats & shoes
- Any of Tony Evans paperback books.

Ministry Monthly Report: September 2025

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	872	7,811
One-on-One inmate counseling:	851	7,491
Religious reading materials given:	1,125	8,166
Bible Study groups:	65	507
Inmates involved with studies:	551	4,024
View Worship Service:	207	1,646
Volunteer Hours:	196	1,549
Number of Volunteers:	23	223
Bibles given:	495	3,834
Number of New Believers:	20	196

I learned all sorts of skills and served on the praise and worship team. I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and God called me into ministry to lead worship in our chapel. I witnessed many miracles. Many women gave their lives to Christ and found hope! I witnessed God's power! It was bittersweet when my time came to an end in Waseca, and I prepared to return to society. I will tell you this has been a journey and it still is! I was reunited with Shawn and granted full custody of him. He came home with me at the age of 16. Only God could do that! God has given me a husband and two more beautiful children who are the loves of my life. I pray that my testimony will bring hope to those who are lost and have no hope. With God all things are possible. He will meet you in your mess! All you have to do is ask for forgiveness and surrender your heart to Him. He will make your path straight. God bless you!



Thank you!
~ Chaplain Jerry

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