

# POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY NEWS

## Loss Can Bring Transformation

Hello dearly beloved! A caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly. Rain turns into snow, or a tadpole turns into a frog. Who would have ever thought it's possible? God often uses creation to teach us lessons about His power in nature. This power is also displayed in men and women's lives at the Polk County Jail. We watch them go from ruin, devastation, grievous wounds and being at rock bottom to newly transformed lives. In those moments I stand amazed at the grace and power of Christ, don't you? Every one of you is playing a huge part in His grand design of changing lives through your prayers and financial gifts. **Thank you!** People are so empty without Jesus in

their hearts and lives. We all try to use cheap substitutes to fulfill our most basic need to know and worship God. We'll worship something or someone else if we don't worship Him. When we were created in the image of God, He hard wired humanity to love and worship Him. That is our first purpose. God wants our worship to be motivated by love, thanksgiving, and delight, not duty or works. We were made for a relationship, not to practice religion. Only Christ can fill the void in one's heart. Often those who've come to know the Lord have experienced a family or a friend **loss** due to death. If this occurs outside of the Jail they don't often run to find the family of God. They isolate. This nearly always

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### Volunteer of the Month: JAMES BACON



Congratulations James for being the volunteer of the month! James has served as a Bible study teacher since June of 2024 and he's impacted many lives. I asked James to share his thoughts about the PCJ Ministry. "The Lord gave me a heart for the least of these, especially inmates. Thank

you Chaplain Jerry, for giving me the opportunity to meet weekly with inmates in South 4. A guiding scripture for me is that God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance. My hope is to express this kindness through the gospel to inmates. The men I meet with weekly often suffer from addiction. Some have received Christ, some not. The gospel is the power of God for salvation (Rom 1:16) and trains us to live godly lives (Titus 2:11-12). The gospel meets each inmate where he is at, and goes to work on him. I remind the inmates that the gospel continues to work on me too. I love to encourage each man I meet every week with this good news found only in Christ." Thank you James for your faithful service to Christ.

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** *God could instantly transform us, but He has chosen to develop us slowly.*

CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING POWER CHANGES LIVES  
2 Cor. 3:18

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## A Transformed Life! – Christopher Spargo

My name is Christopher Spargo and I'm 44 years old. For most of my life I've suffered from very severe depression. To deal with the depression and things life throws at us I chose to drink alcohol. I drank regularly every day and one day after drinking I found myself in jail. I'd lost everything including my freedom at that point. There I was all alone and depressed so badly that I wished I was dead. That's when I met Chaplain Jerry. He came to my pod, we would talk, and he would counsel me. After every conversation he would pray for me and with me. I always felt so much better after talking and praying with him! It felt like a

huge weight was being lifted off my shoulders. Jerry taught me I could give my heart to Jesus and be saved, so I did. My life changed almost immediately. My depression lessened, and I felt better every day. Jerry taught the Bible study that I attended and decided I wanted to continue going when I was out of jail and free. It's been the best decision I've ever made. Chaplain Jerry helped me come to Christ and become a



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spells trouble because isolation brings destructive temptations. Lies from the enemy tempt them to handle their loss with other coping mechanisms such as alcohol or drugs so they won't feel anything. I tell the inmates, "Love is painful, but if you hate someone you don't care." In Jail it is a much safer place to find out bad news,

because there is community nearby with many who will pray and console them in their pain. Often **loss** is a platform for me to share the brevity of life. It helps them see how precious and short life really is. In that moment I have seen people's hearts soften to the gospel message and watch their lives be transformed by the power of Christ. Amen!

~ *Chaplain Jerry*

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Sensitivity to divine appointments as we minister to the Sheriff's office, their personal staff, and the incarcerated.
- Prayer for volunteer Rod Ferguson with severe hip bruising after a bad fall.
- Prayer for volunteer's health and their families. The enemy likes to come after us.
- Prayer that God will ignite the women's hearts in the things of God rather than the drama that typically characterizes the women's housing units.
- Prayer for Sheriff Kevin Schneider with his rigorous schedule and many commitments.
- Urgency for inmates to surrender everything to the Lord Jesus Christ, experience victory over their addictions, and sinful lifestyles. They are being set free!
- Safety for our public servants, the Deputies out on patrol, Detention Officers in the Jail and Dispatch personnel. They need help for the stress they encounter daily.
- The inmates will see the importance of community within the Jail so they will have a greater desire to participate in Bible studies and the Sunday services.
- God will continue to bring people to the PCJ from all over the world to hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and respond to His message of salvation. We want to send them out with the Gospel.
- Prayer that God will continue to use inmate led prayer groups and Bible studies to sow seeds in hearts. He will use the leaders to share their faith with others.
- Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. will increase in attendance as a greater number of inmates awaken to watch and the Detention Officers would play the service weekly.
- Opportunities to preach at various churches and get to promote the ministry.
- The Holy Spirit makes it more apparent to local churches of the need to partner both prayerfully and financially with the ministry, assist released inmates in the community with open arms to shepherd them in churches, and at the DOC.
- What started spiritually at the Jail continues in the lives of the inmates who have gone off to prisons so that they would stay faithful to God's Word, be active in sharing their faith, and experience consistent growth.
- Addictions and other strongholds will be permanently broken

by the power of the Holy Spirit. Individuals would face their greatest pain or tragedies to break the cycle.

- Two classes are being taught at the DOC. Pray for hungry disciples who want to grow and a crowd to help with growing the interest for discipleship.

## ANSWERS:

- The power of prayer is greatly felt and is impacting the Jail population.
- Men and women are coming forward to be disciplined with the DOC curriculum.
- Inmates are learning daily disciplines of Bible reading and prayer.
- A praise for so many responding to the gospel and giving their hearts to Christ.
- Praise for the 4 Bible studies with Hispanic speaking inmates. Brokenness is apparent with them as we witness conviction and repentance.
- Various people groups are now assembled at the PCJ to hear the gospel as ICE is arresting more illegals.

## MOST WANTED:

- Heavy coats men only - please all sizes
- Men's shoes only - no women's
- Men's short sleeve T shirts and Polo shirts

## Ministry Monthly Report: February 2026

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	824	1,682
One-on-One inmate counseling:	808	1,657
Religious reading materials given:	813	1,645
Bible Study groups:	50	103
Inmates involved with studies:	353	888
View Worship Service:	175	367
Volunteer Hours:	145	333
Number of Volunteers:	25	52
Bibles given:	328	670
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>42</b>

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better man. I'm sober now and attend regularly at Grace Church. I get to see Jerry there as well as my church family. I appreciate Grace Church for welcoming me in. I haven't even felt like going back to drinking, and feel like the possibilities are endless for the future. I cannot say thank you enough for what Chaplain Jerry has done for me.

*Thank you!*  
~ *Chaplain Jerry*



**Please help support**



**The Polk County Jail Ministry**

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