

# POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY NEWS

## CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING POWER CHANGES LIVES

2 Cor. 3:18

ISSUE 247 JAN. 2026

# The Transforming Power of Christ!

Happy New Year to one and all for an impactful and hope filled 2026! The ministry theme for 2026 is **Christ's Transforming Power Changes Lives.**

Each month the vertical header of the Jail Ministry Newsletter will feature this theme with a divided image showing the darkness of all humanity due to our sin. Then the light shade shows the light of the gospel calling out lost sinners to come to Christ. The worm to cocoon transforms into a beautiful butterfly, and represents a changed life when someone places their trust in Christ, and becomes a new creation. The old is gone! There is also a bolt of lightning going the length of the design to show the power of Christ to change lives. In 2 Corinthians 3:18 the apostle Paul describes this transformation of a new believer's life when Jesus takes our sin and makes us a brand new creation for God's glory.

It's like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly. Mankind's sin is illustrated in the description of a worm. Until we trust in the saving work of Christ our spiritual condition doesn't change, and we like worms crawl around the world looking for meaning and purpose apart from God. When we place trust in our Savior we

watch as God the Holy Spirit transforms our lives into new creations in Christ Jesus. Lives that were ugly from sin now become beautiful to behold!

This month Patty, my wife, in doing the book cart ministry had an opportunity to lead two ladies to the Lord! They both



came up to her and said they needed to give their lives to Christ. They were so tender and broke down in tears as she led them to pray the sinner's prayer to receive Christ as their Savior. I believe the inmate led Bible study was used to sow seeds and Patty was able to reap a harvest. How precious is that!

What prayers were answered to see such a tangible outpouring of the Holy Spirit in lives! We are so blessed to be where He is actively working all around us. We watched God do some amazing things in '25 when 276 people received Jesus Christ as their Savior! I believe it is due to your faithful and heartfelt prayers and generous giving to the ministry. I **thank God** for each of **you!** What a **great God** we serve! **AMEN!!**

*In His Service,  
~ Chaplain Jerry*

TIP OF THE MONTH: **Obedience unlocks understanding**

## A Transformed Life! – Danny Comegys Sr.

Out of all the years of being in active addiction in and out of the Polk County Jail there were always 2 specific people I could count on, Chaplain Jerry and Rich Thomson. Everyone serving in the Polk County Ministry always had their way of making me feel better about the situations I was in. If it was a prayer or making a special stop to the unit I was on for a weekly conversation, they really know how to make your day better. Waking up on Sundays and watching Jerry's sermons also helped me escape the stress from being in jail. I've been in recovery for almost 5 years now. Unfortunately I've had some set backs in

those 5 years, but for my life as a whole I have 5 years in recovery. I am truly blessed. Today I have completely given my life to God. I'm very active in my home church that I also get the privilege of crossing paths with Jerry on Sundays and an occasional weekday. I am in the word every day. I am free from addiction. My mental health is better than it's ever



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# PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray 2026 will be one of the greatest years as the Holy Spirit is poured out to draw and change the hearts and minds of the incarcerated, and the Sheriff's office staff.
- Prayer that the Lord's anointing will fall afresh on each volunteer and me as we will be used by the Holy Spirit to bring God's eternal Word to the inmates.
- Prayer for volunteer John Fry as he battles with gout in his ankles.
- My continued trust in God's unfailing love and protection as we face opposition.
- Prayer for Sheriff Kevin Schneider and his administrative staff with the daily pressures and demands of decision making.
- God would bring hungry people to be disciplined at the DOC who want to grow spiritually. Pray for Pastor Charles Hundley as he oversees the ministry.
- Prayer for an assistant Chaplain to come alongside me and learn the ministry. God would **reveal this man** who has been called and prepared for this assignment.
- Pray for the Jail staff as the overtime is so demanding, exhausting, and hard on family life as many do double shifts.
- Prayer for the women's pods to keep seeking Jesus.
- The Lord opened doors for three Bible studies in the south end of the Jail's housing units. Pray more units would open.
- Inmate led Bible studies and prayer groups would be conducted in each of the 16 housing units. They would have a profound impact on the population of the Jail.
- I would be used to bring a godly presence to the Sheriff's office staff as Chaplain.
- God's hedge of protection for our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail, Deputies out on patrol, and Dispatchers under such daily stress.
- Officers would help promote Sunday services at 10:00 AM and a greater number of inmates would awaken to watch.
- Many opportunities to speak and promote the ministry around the Polk County area in local churches, businesses, and small groups in 2026.
- Churches will assist in the mentoring, discipling and accountability for these new believers attending their local congregations.
- Brokenness would occur with those arrested, and they'll see their need for a love relationship with Jesus Christ.
- An insatiable appetite for the Scriptures in the ones who have given their hearts to the LORD to bring spiritual growth and stamina.

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been. I have a beautiful wife and 3 kids. I'm a mentor, and I have a job that I love. God has worked so many miracles in my life. The best part for me about the Polk County Jail Ministry is that they're not just there for you while you're in jail. There are plenty of opportunities to reach out and connect with them when you get out as well. Rich Thomson still to this day sends me a daily Bible verse, and he will never understand how much that means to me. Every Sunday I can always look down

- God's people will be fervent, strategic, committed, and deliberate with their prayers for the Jail ministry this new year. We can do more on our knees than on our feet.
- The ones following Christ when they leave the Jail will be determined to resist the temptation to go back to the old lifestyles and friendships.
- Inmates will learn spiritual disciplines of the faith, to pray, read God's Word daily, get connected to a Bible centered local church, have a mentor, and find gainful employment.

# ANSWERS:

- All glory, honor, praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ for His huge blessings on this ministry in 2025! Thank God He is transforming lives, and making new creations for His glory!
- We thank and praise the Lord for the continued open door in partnering with the Sheriff's office.
- I thank God for each of you, our great partners for this ministry! Blessings to each of you for your commitment to pray fervently!

# MOST WANTED:

- Clothing closet needs: winter coats, men's shoes, sweat shirts, and men's jeans 36 waist and under, men's polo shirts and T shirts.
- Paperback books: *Rescued Not Arrested*, *Kids Left Behind Series*, *Tony Evans books/teaching series* and *The Cross and the Switchblade* by David Wilkerson

## Ministry Monthly Report: January 2026

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	858	858
One-on-One inmate counseling:	849	849
Religious reading materials given:	832	832
Bible Study groups:	53	53
Inmates involved with studies:	535	535
View Worship Service:	192	192
Volunteer Hours:	188	188
Number of Volunteers:	27	27
Bibles given:	342	342
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>

the row, and see Chaplain Jerry waving at us. Thank you to all who serve in the Polk County Jail Ministry.

*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.