

POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY NEWS

CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING POWER CHANGES LIVES

2 Cor. 3:18

ISSUE 249 MAR. 2026

Two Most Impactful Trees

Greetings! Spring is right around the corner, and we'll soon see transformation when everything comes back to life from winter's hibernation. When individuals come to Christ they go from being spiritually dead and separated from God to a spiritual new birth. This brings eternal life and makes them spiritually alive in Christ. What a work of redemption that took place on the cross! In my devotional I read about the mystery of the two central trees in history. It's entitled **The Other Tree**. In Genesis the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the Garden of Eden. It was the one tree with fruit of which man was not to eat. But man **did** eat and by that disobedience came sin and death. Through that one tree came the fall of man. The cross is the second tree. The Son of God came to die on a cross which is a tree to reverse the curse of sin and death for you and me. Through the **first tree** sin began. Through the **second tree** sin ends. Through the first tree **mankind fell**, and through the second **man rises**. Through a living tree came death, and through a dead tree came life. In eating of

the first tree we die, and in participating in the second tree we come alive. As God placed the first tree in the center of the garden, He has positioned the second tree in history. It's the center of this world, so that all can partake of it and find life! The more you receive of this tree the more alive you become! **Which tree do you choose?**

I had a special day this month when three men responded to the Gospel and gave their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ! **Wow!! What a privilege** to watch the Holy Spirit at work in drawing them to Himself. They all were so broken over their devastated lives, and were searching for meaning. Each thought they had it together while their lives were a total wreck. It amazes me how stubborn and filled with pride we all are, and *God is our last resort*. No wonder God brings the outlaws to the Outpost where they can come to the end of themselves and find the true meaning of life found in our Savior Jesus Christ! **Amen!!**

*In His Service,
~ Chaplain Jerry*



110 year old shoe company blesses PCJM

A local shoe store has donated 100's of pairs over the last five years to help with the PCJ Ministry clothing closets need for shoes. Brooke, **thank you** for impacting so many inmates' lives and feet with your generosity!

*Deanna Kuter - Associate
Brooke O'Hollearn - Manager*

TIP OF THE MONTH: **TWO TREES: ONE LED TO DEATH, THE SECOND LED TO LIFE.**

A Transformed Life! – Robert Crooks

I grew up the youngest of 10 on the East side of Des Moines. My family was chaotic most of the time. My parents were alcoholics that usually left us kids fending for ourselves depending on the mood of my stepfather. I never really had a childhood due to the fact we all moved out of the house at a very young age. By 13 I was experimenting with drugs, weed mainly. I dropped out of school due to thinking I didn't need it. I got a job and for several years thought I was doing good. However this consisted of being a womanizer and a taker through just trying to fill a

void in life. I ended up getting my first wife pregnant before marriage. I only married her as a last ditch effort to do the right thing. Through all of that relationship the chaos and disruptive paths continued, but I just wrote it off as it wasn't meant to be. At this time I met my second wife. The same thing happened but it took longer to figure out the prob-



(Continued on back ►)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- May God bring revival to America!
- Pray God's people align themselves with the need for body life, become faithful to the Body of Christ in fellowship with one another, and attend a local church.
- God will use me as I partner with the Holy Spirit to have an impact on the entire Jail population, and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel.
- Prayer for volunteer John Fry battling with gout.
- Volunteers to be effective with the inmate students who come to Bible study.
- Favor with officers in the Jail and the administrative staff.
- Prayer that we regain access to the inside of the housing units to do Bible studies.
- An Assistant Chaplain who's called and uniquely prepared by God.
- God will make the hearts of inmates sensitive as we emphasize the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter season.
- God will keep our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail, and Deputies out on patrol safe from harm's way. Also those in dispatch would have emotional strength and quick judgment in dealing with their jobs and related daily stress.
- Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. will be well attended, a greater number of inmates wake up to watch, detention officers would realize their importance, and play them.
- The Christian inmates will daily exercise more self discipline in their efforts to grow.
- An awakening of local churches to participate in this incredible ministry prayerfully, and financially as a viable mission's effort.
- Inmates who have gone off to prison will stay faithful to God's Word, and be active in sharing their faith.
- Believers who've left the PCJ or any prison would begin to contact us at the DOC for follow up discipleship.
- Brokenness will be evident in new inmates to the Jail, they'll see their need for a relationship with Jesus Christ, and message me to talk about it.
- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come alongside in this great work of God. Consider how they might impact this ministry.

(Continued from front ▼)

lem was me. I wasn't ready. My addiction was in full swing and nothing was going to deter me from getting high. I continued being homeless and in trouble with the law. I abandoned my children and faced a lot of years in prison due to my lack of ability to care about others. By this time I was the lowest I've ever been sitting in Jail, and reading the Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. The Jail Chaplain came around, and as I talked with him I completely surrendered to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since that day on 11/16/22 at 4:50 pm to say my life has been one of a miracle is an understatement. I'm no longer in a fight with myself or a taker of what can you do for me? My personal

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

- Need daily prayer for spiritual oppositions that come against the ministry.
- Opportunities to speak at local churches about what God is doing in the Jail.

ANSWERS:

- God gives strength and health to do ministry daily.
- There is an amazing hunger and thirst for the Scriptures in each pod.
- Giving out many Bibles.
- Favor with administration and staff.
- Clothing donations have been strong.
- Books requested have been donated. Thanks! PTL!!

MOST WANTED:

- Clothing closet needs - polo shirts, jeans and tennis shoes all sizes men only
- *Left Behind* #1 soft cover - we have very few

Ministry Monthly Report: March 2026

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	940	2,622
One-on-One inmate counseling:	958	2,615
Religious reading materials given:	888	2,533
Bible Study groups:	72	175
Inmates involved with studies:	601	1,489
View Worship Service:	249	616
Volunteer Hours:	233	566
Number of Volunteers:	27	79
Bibles given:	485	1,155
Number of New Believers:	27	69

relationship with God is the most important thing to me. My kids are back in my life and there is no turmoil or chaos. My soul is at peace. I'm thankful for every minute of every day. I'm hungry for the word of God and His plan for my life. 1000% My life has changed for the better, and I could not be more grateful.



Thank you!
~ Chaplain Jerry

Please help support  **The Polk County Jail Ministry**

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