

# A Desperate Woman's Cry

Happy belated Mother's Day! I hope all you Moms were blessed on your day! What a privilege to bring a life into the world, but there have been women unable to conceive and heart broken. A Biblical woman in 1 Samuel 1 was Hannah. She was a second wife, who was greatly loved by her husband, but remained barren. Yearly Hannah, her husband and his other wife, who had children, traveled to the tabernacle for worship. Hannah pleaded with God to give her a baby. She was in deep anguish and cried bitterly as she prayed to the Lord, and made this vow. *O Lord of heaven, if You will look down upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to You, he'll be Yours for his entire life and his hair shall never be cut.* 1 Sam. 1:9-11. At our church on Mother's Day we had a children's dedication service appealing to the parents to dedicate their children to the Lord and His service. Hannah made a promise to the Lord. God answered and Hannah kept her promise. She gave

Samuel to the Lord's service, and he became a great prophet of God. Have you ever made a promise to the Lord? Did you keep it? In jail the prayer inmates all know by heart is "God get me out of here!" Often there are promises or oaths attached with this person's prayer. When we are desperate, oftentimes words slip off our tongues without any thought to what we're saying to God. He takes every word seriously. God answers prayers because He wants more than giving us an answer. He wants our trust. He's wanting us to trust Him with our lives. When He has our trust then He can begin the relationship that He always intended to have with us. Transformation then begins to take place. That's why we need your prayers more than ever to help inmates not just pray for answers, but to place their full trust in Him. **Thank you** for your faithful prayers, and generous giving to support this ministry effort. You are making an eternal difference!

*In His Service,  
~ Chaplain Jerry*

## Volunteer of the Month: John Christopher



Congratulations John for being our volunteer of the month. John in his own words says what the ministry has meant to him. "It is a wonderful privilege for me to be in my third year volunteering with the PCJM. Jesus taught, *the first shall be last and the last shall be first.* For people that are in jail from society's perspective they are kind of last, but in God's eyes they are the first (Continued on back ►)

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** *Use your past as a reference, not a residence.* –An inmate's grandmother

**POLK  
COUNTY JAIL  
MINISTRY NEWS**

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

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## A Transformed Life! – James Smith

My parents divorced when I was 2 years old. My Mom's new boyfriend, my stepfather raised me. He was very abusive and hateful towards me, and he didn't want children. Eight years later my step brother was born, and in four years came my step sister. My step father was a different man because now he had his own. I was in and out of trouble growing up. Over the years I attended Grace Church with my grandparents who were members. At that time it was called Des Moines Baptist Church. I've known Pastor Nelms and Jerry for years. I was recently involved in a severe motorcycle accident. I'm very lucky to be here and alive. I got involved in a domestic dispute with my

ex-wife which landed me in the Polk County Jail. That's when Jerry shared with me about asking Jesus into my life. I thought I had done it before but I didn't have any change in my life. Since getting out I try to go to church every Sunday and Wednesday. I also attend Jerry's community group to learn about the Bible. Jerry and his wife are amazing people. We are so blessed to have people like them in our church and the Jail. Now I'm moving forward and going to get baptized. I'm just looking for (Continued on back ►)



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priority. So, I'm blessed and honored to, in a small way, be allowed to minister to those who are of first priority to God. It is an honor to use what God has given me to plant and water His seeds of the gospel. Then I pray and watch Him at work in the lives of the inmates with whom I've come in contact. One thing which has become more clear

in these two and a half years is the devastating impact of drug use in people's lives. My hope, as you reflect on Chaplain Jerry's ministry, is that you would pray specifically for each inmate's salvation, spiritual growth and particularly pray for people to overcome and resist the ill effects of drugs. God bless." John, your impact will continue on in their lives. You have been faithful!

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayer for the volunteers as there can be much opposition from the enemy making ministry and life difficult.
- Prayer that the attendance would grow for each weekly Bible study.
- Prayer for volunteer Rich Thomson dealing with having knee replacement.
- The Jail environment can be an easy place to get discouraged. Pray for renewed fervor for each volunteer, so they will know and sense their efforts are not in vain.
- The inmates would not be easily distracted from the lessons that God is trying to teach them while He has their attention. Pray against the enemy snatching the Word from their hearts.
- Prayer for favor and continued mutual working relationships with the Sheriff's office as we are privileged guests especially with many administration changes.
- God uses our ministry presence with the Jail population and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel. May we be faithful to sow seed through our words and actions.
- Bible studies are limited to 12 and are no longer in the housing units. Pray administration would let us have studies back in all 16 units, and that participants would be hungry spiritually.
- Safety for our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail, Dispatchers, and those Deputies out on patrol with the stress and pressure they experience.
- God will use me by the power of the Holy Spirit in speaking opportunities this summer as I share about the ministry, and effectively teach God's Word to some congregations.
- Spiritual protection for the volunteers in their personal lives and families. For all to have a deeper walk and humility in the Lord.
- Sunday services at 10:00 AM would be greatly attended as a larger number of inmates wake up to watch. Detention officers would realize its benefit to their pods.
- God will prompt local churches to participate by opening their doors to the formerly incarcerated, and to support this local mission's effort prayerfully and financially as we experience growth.
- Those inmates who have gone off to prisons, back to the streets or deported will stay faithful to Jesus Christ, His Word, His church, and actively share their faith.

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some Scripture from the Bible that would be best fitting for myself. I'm so blessed and thankful I came to Christ, and am saved with Jerry's help. Moving forward I want to be in Sunday services, Bible study and attending Wednesday night classes as well. I can't get enough of the Lord in my life. By the way it's never too late to give your life to Jesus, I'll be 53 in October and have four small children who are 4, 5, 6, and 9 years old; two boys and two girls. I can't wait to get them in church with me. I'm getting better after my accident, and trying to put my life back together. I'm working on myself with

- Pray for brokenness and open hearts to hear, and receive the Word as it is shared through book distribution, one on ones, Bible studies, and Sunday services.
- We need daily prayer for spiritual oppositions that come against the ministry trying to disrupt and destroy it.
- The seed of God's Word daily sown will bear much fruit.

## ANSWERS:

- Souls are being touched with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and many are giving their lives to Him.
- We are watching the Lord answer our prayers regarding ministry direction. PTL!!
- Many have given faith based books and clothing for the closet.
- Praise God for all the former inmates saved and living for Him!
- An assortment of outside encounters with former inmates that are truly divine appointments.
- The obvious hand of God on this ministry in every way.

## MOST WANTED:

- Always a need for men's tennis shoes large sizes.
- All Left Behind books in particular books #1 and 6-12.
- You can help by purchasing one case of 20 Bibles for \$79.80.

## Ministry Monthly Report: May 2026

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	906	4,530
One-on-One inmate counseling:	800	4,320
Religious reading materials given:	770	4,264
Bible Study groups:	57	289
Inmates involved with studies:	424	2,299
View Worship Service:	232	1,047
Volunteer Hours:	225	994
Number of Volunteers:	28	134
Bibles given:	376	1,977
<b>Number of New Believers:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>104</b>

my short term memory loss, and need for employment. My rehab has taken a long time. Because of multiple accidents, not just the motor cycle one, by all accounts I should be dead. I realize now that God has a plan for my life. He's in my heart, and change in me is coming daily. God bless you all in Jesus name. Amen!



**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.