

**POLK
COUNTY JAIL
MINISTRY NEWS**

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

ISSUE 252 **JUNE 2026**



I'm working with desperate men and

His mighty hand is definitely on this ministry, and His powerful Holy Spirit is at

(Continued on back ►)

A photograph of two men standing side-by-side in front of a brick wall. The man on the left is older, with a grey beard and balding head, wearing a blue polo shirt. The man on the right is younger, with glasses and a receding hairline, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. Large, light-colored letters are visible on the brick wall behind them, with 'QUINT' being clearly legible.

June 2nd was my 21st anniversary as Chaplain of the Polk County Jail Ministry. I'm also honored and excited to announce as of June 1st the PCJ Board hired an Assistant Chaplain to work alongside me, and eventually take the reins of the ministry! I'm pleased to introduce Chad De Cleene. What a huge answer to our prayers after all these many years of waiting for God's man! Chad has been shadowing me and learning the ropes. He loves people, desires to share God's word, and the gospel with them. Chad effectively teaches God's word and loves to see people grow in their faith. Ironically our stories of how God brought us to the ministry are similar. We would love to have you attend this year's banquet on Oct. 6th at Grace Church to meet him, and learn all about Chad!

TIP OF THE MONTH: *Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, then you've seen the Father."*

My life as I remember it began around age 5 when my parents took me to church. At Grandview Park Baptist Church I felt God's presence, and learned about Him through people who cared for us. At 12, I was given a lot of freedom, and during a spring break trip to my Aunt's farm I was introduced to meth. It felt like an escape from chaos at home. I stayed there through the summer living a carefree but destructive lifestyle. I eventually dropped out of school and continued using drugs. By my mid-teens I was addicted. Though I believed God was still watching

over me, my relationship with Him faded as my choices led me farther away. Legal trouble followed, and during my first time in jail I met Chaplain Jerry. He reminded me that God hadn't given up on me. After release I returned to drugs and was arrested again. I tried treatment and stayed sober for a time, but without staying connected to God I relapsed. Addiction consumed much of my life through my 30s and 40s.



(Continued on back ►)



Polk Co. Jail Ministry, Inc. 1985 N.E. 51st Place, Des Moines, IA. 50313 • www.PolkCountyJailMinistries.org • Jerry.VanCleave@polkcountyIowa.gov
Phone: (515) 875-5711 • Please forward all gifts to Polk County Jail or contribute via credit card using the “donate” button on our website.

(Continued from front ▼)

work in lives. Thank you for partnering with us at the Polk County Jail Ministry with your powerful prayers and financial gifts! What an opportunity to participate with what the Father is doing to draw lives to His new family.

Thank you again for your role in spreading the Gospel through this great and unique ministry! Amen!!

*In His Service,
~ Chaplain Jerry*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray the Word of God would go forward in power as it's taught in the Bible studies by volunteers and the inmate led studies.
- PCJ banquet/fundraiser would be well attended on Tuesday October 6th the theme is Christ's Transforming Power Changes Lives 2 Cor. 3:18 @ 6:00 pm Grace Church. You won't want to miss out on all that God is doing in changing lives. Put it on your calendars.
- Continued favor with the Sheriff's office.
- Prayer for volunteers Rich Thomson and Jeff Lang as both of them are recovering after knee replacements.
- Prayer for volunteer Rich Thomson's wife Elaine as she has health issues.
- God will use the ministry presence within the Jail population, and the Sheriff's office staff to touch lives with the Gospel and His amazing love.
- Safety for our public servants, the Detention Officers in the Jail, and those Deputies out on patrol. Both can be dangerous places for staff with the unrest in our communities.
- Volunteer and inmate led Bible studies would have profound impact, be used by God to affect the overall atmosphere of the pods, and bring conviction in skeptics about the gospel.
- Prayer for an increase of viewers for the Sunday services at 10:00 AM in the 16 pods. More will awaken to watch, the detention officers would see the benefits to the inmates, and turn the service on.
- The inmates who have gone off to prisons would stay faithful to Jesus Christ, daily read His Word, and be active in sharing their faith.
- Pray they'll make good choices and have protection from the Lord as the enemy tries to tempt them.
- Released inmates would attend a local church to be fed God's Word, spend time with believers to help them grow, and be disciplined.
- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come alongside in this great work of God.
- There will be a huge visible contrast between darkness and light as inmates stand back, and watch ministry go on. Inmates would be broken and open to the Holy Spirit's work of conviction.
- Chad and I would continue to stay in step with the Holy Spirit for divine appointments.

ANSWERS:

- Hallelujah, Hallelujah!!!! The Lord has provided the man, Chad De Cleene, to come alongside me and eventually take over the ministry. What a HUGE answer to our prayers!
- Many have donated to purchase Bibles.
- God's protection for the Deputies involved in an arrest that ended in a shooting that could have been fatal for those officers involved.
- Incredible favor and blessing on the ministry and my position as Chaplain of the Polk County Sheriff's Office and Chad's hiring.
- Thankful for God's intervention for those bent on self destruction. In essence God rescues them from certain death.
- The volunteers are doing a great job of ministering Christ whether it is a Bible study, book cart ministry, clothing closet, or the one-on-one's.
- Thankful for the Holy Spirit's power and work as we remain faithful to His call.
- Thankful also for the many donated books we requested.

MOST WANTED:

- Neil Anderson's books *The Bondage Breaker* and *Victory Over the Darkness*.
- Men's large size polo & T shirts, shorts and jeans 30-38.

Ministry Monthly Report: June 2026

	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	1,079	5,609
One-on-One inmate counseling:	1,057	5,377
Religious reading materials given:	897	5,161
Bible Study groups:	69	358
Inmates involved with studies:	558	2,857
View Worship Service:	205	1,252
Volunteer Hours:	367	1,361
Number of Volunteers:	27	161
Bibles given:	460	2,437
Number of New Believers:	41	145

(Continued from front ▼)

Later on I entered a faith-based program and grew closer to God, but drifted again for nearly a decade. At 53 I knew I needed help. After waiting 30 days I entered treatment again on January 31, where God met me. This time was different. I committed to recovery through AA, church, and daily time with God. These became essential to my healing. Today I am stronger than ever. I give all the glory to God, and know I must follow Him daily. I'm now becoming a member of Grace Church, building relationships, and growing in faith. Looking back I see God never left me. Even when I

walked away He remained faithful. Now I know I don't have to return to that life. Jesus has given me a new way to live, and each day I choose to stay close to Him. If my story helps even one person believe God can rescue them it's worth sharing. Thank you for letting me share what God has done in my life.



**Please help
support**



**The
Polk County Jail
Ministry**

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

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