

POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY NEWS

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

ISSUE 253 JULY 2026

The Cost of Freedom!

250 YEARS! Happy Independence Day! Have you ever thought about the cost of our freedom as Americans? In the War for our independence 1,000's paid the ultimate sacrifice with their blood.

Those patriots were men with convictions and courage willing to die for a cause greater than themselves. Every one of them sacrificed and risked it all for the freedoms that we take for granted.

People love freedom, but there is no freedom without sacrifice. Do you take your freedom for granted? When our military stands at attention or when the national anthem is played, have you ever

gotten a lump in your throat or had tears run down your cheeks? Militarily there is a cost for freedom and in a similar way spiritual freedom costs. Think about what it cost God the Father to pay for the sins of the whole world with the price of His precious Son's blood on Calvary's cross. Praise God for the war Jesus fought for you and me! As children of God we fight not for victory but from victory due to what Jesus accomplished for us in His death, burial, and resurrection! Are you in this battle or have you passively gone down in defeat? I'm excited to report that God is

using the PCJ Ministry to do battle for His Kingdom, and for His glory! We've seen multitudes impacted and changed by the sword of the Spirit, God's holy Word. Incarcerated men and women can hear, repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for their freedom from sin's grasp. God prepares hearts like this one. A man told me about his young son's phone call, "Daddy I love God!"

That prompted the thought that he didn't love God like his son, but knew that's what he needed. He said to me, "I'm afraid to do that." After listening to him describe his fear issues I told him, "faith equals trust.

Trusting God is what pleases Him. He is dependable and never lies."

He faced his fears and gave his heart to Christ. Now he can lead his son in loving God together. Jesus won another battle!

Thank you for engaging in this war for souls! Your prayers and sacrificial giving are making a huge difference. This conflict is worth every ounce of courage. Just one soul is worth it all! Amen!!

*Gratefully yours!,
~ Chaplain Jerry*



TIP OF THE MONTH: ***Freedom always comes with a great cost.***

A Transformed Life! – Maxine Salas

My name is Maxine Salas and here's my testimony. Growing up I was loved by my parents, but I just chose to run with the wrong crowd. At 13 I started smoking cigarettes. My peer group encouraged me to get into more trouble, and I did. Like all of us, doing wrong got easier and easier. Parties led me to drink alcohol, and become promiscuous. As I grew older I developed an addiction to alcohol. To support what I needed I became a panhandler and begged at retail store's parking lots. It wasn't illegal to panhandle but it was to trespass. I was arrested many times from

'05-'20 for that charge, and served time at the Polk County Jail. Chaplain Jerry and his volunteers passed out Christian books to our women's housing unit. I would get good Christian books like Max Lucado to read. Also there were Bible studies conducted that caught my attention. All of these encounters gave me things to think about, but usually I forgot and went right back to my wild living and alcohol.



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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Our Banquet/Fundraiser is Tuesday October 6th 6:00 pm at Grace Church. The PCJ Ministry presents a night to remember with this year's theme **Christ's Transforming Power Changes Lives**. Come to hear the message and meet the new Assistant Chaplain Chad DeCleene. This night will change you! Please invite others and pray. There will be plenty of seating and good food.
- Pray for hearts that are tender and receptive to God's changing power.
- Pray more would come into His kingdom.
- I can get discouraged with the battle, but pray I keep my eyes on the Commander of the Lord's army who renews me daily to take up the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.
- Chad would quickly learn the ins and outs of the ministry as he shadows me daily.
- Pray for volunteers recovering from surgeries. Rich Thomson had knee surgery and Rod Ferguson's back surgery.
- Continued prayer for getting back into the housing units to do Bible studies.
- Prayer for continued favor, and a mutual working relationship with the Sheriff's office as we are privileged guests.
- Safety for our public servants: the Detention Officers in the Jail, Deputies out on patrol, and dispatchers handling multiple calls.
- God would grant more preaching opportunities to tell about the changed lives.
- More inmate-led Bible studies and prayer groups would begin in each pod. Those spiritual leaders would see their personal responsibility, step up and more inmates would then respond to the gospel because of them.
- Sunday services at 10:00 would be greatly attended by the inmates.
- The inmates who have gone off to prisons would stay faithful to Jesus Christ, be actively sharing their faith, and read His Word daily.
- God will raise up more prayer warriors, and financial partners to come alongside in this great work of God.
- We need daily prayer for spiritual oppositions that come against the ministry.
- Local churches would partner with us in receiving men and women released from the PC Jail, offer mentors, and support for their spiritual growth. This is a key component to sustain what God has begun in each life.

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At a party once another woman and I got into a fight. I was charged with willful injury, and sentenced to five years in prison. My heart was hard but God was at work. When I was released I began to pursue God. I watched a Christian evangelist, and finally gave my heart to the Lord. One day in prayer God took my desire away for any substances including alcohol. I was set free in a moment! Praise the Lord! But, I soon relapsed and God in His faithfulness disciplined me. I was riding with someone, and didn't have my seat belt on. We crashed and I lost my arm from the elbow down. God uses my

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

- As of June 1st the ministry went in a different direction with the DOC program created four years ago. We are now encouraging inmates when released to find the local **GCR - Gospel Centered Recovery** programs at five churches in the area. They meet at various times and evenings. Each one has a special speaker covering a NT book of the Bible. Then they have break out sessions to address needs that individuals might be facing. Each one has a sizable crowd of people participating. The DOC could not gain momentum and had few attendees. Thank you for your prayers and support of this effort to mentor and disciple.
- Pray for Chad and me to stay in step with the Holy Spirit's divine appointments.

ANSWERS:

- Many opportunities to speak the gospel to open hearts and see lives changed by trusting Christ as their Savior.
- A growing number are attending Bible classes.
- Continued favor with the Sheriff's office.
- Many inmates in pods are sharing their faith and doing Bible studies on their own.
- Many soft cover books have been donated. Thank you!

MOST WANTED:

- Desperate need for men's jeans and slacks smaller sizes 32 to 34. We have plenty of women's items.
- Need for the books *Five Love Languages*, any Terri Blackstock books.

Ministry Monthly Report: July 2026		
	Monthly:	Ytd:
Inmate Request:	1,295	6,904
One-on-One inmate counseling:	1,244	6,621
Religious reading materials given:	848	6,009
Bible Study groups:	60	418
Inmates involved with studies:	417	3,274
View Worship Service:	170	1,422
Volunteer Hours:	340	1,701
Number of Volunteers:	25	186
Bibles given:	512	2,949
Number of New Believers:	30	175

story in so many lives. I know He loves me. Since then I have been working at a Salvation Army store as a check out clerk for the last five years. I love my job, and I love meeting and talking with people. I hope my story can encourage others about what God can do if you give your life over to Him.

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The
Polk County Jail
Ministry

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