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New Beginnings

Spring reminds us of new beginnings. The old fades away, and new life begins to bloom. This is true in nature—and it is also true in the lives of the men and women we serve. Our prayer is that they leave behind their old lives and blossom into a new creation in Christ.

Pictured are Christopher Carter and Jason Santolucito. The two met several years ago at Lancaster Correctional Institution (LCI), where Christopher leads a Sunday worship service, facilitates a monthly mentoring group, and provides private biblical counseling. After studying the Scriptures, Jason obeyed the gospel and was added to the Lord’s church on September 14, 2023. Our brother in Christ, Chaplain Donald Brooker, had the privilege of baptizing him.



Jason now serves in a leadership role in the faith-based dorm, where he teaches classes and encourages fellow inmates. One class he developed focuses on helping men understand and overcome sexual sin. He also serves as a chapel orderly, assisting chapel staff with daily operations. Jason has become a blessing to both inmates and staff. Upon his release in November 2026, Jason plans to enter the transition house “Off the Chain,” where he will continue receiving godly counsel and working toward successful reintegration into society.

LCI remains one of our favorite institutions. We are deeply grateful for Chaplain Brooker and the many faithful members of the church who faithfully preach, teach, counsel, and mentor there.

Beyond the Fence!

One phrase we often hear inside prison is “life behind the fence.” Inmates contrast life behind the fence with life in the “free world.” Our mission is to reach men and women where they are—behind the fence—and equip them with biblical life skills so they may live faithfully with Christ. Many of those we serve will one day return to the free world, so our work must extend beyond the fence.

Columbia C.I.

We do not labor for praise, but encouragement is always appreciated. Thank you to Chaplain James Trigg for selecting Christopher Carter as the January 2026 Volunteer of the Month at Columbia C.I.



The Christmas gathering pictured was a special time with the Carters, former prisoners, and others who faithfully labor in ministry. Holidays can be especially difficult for many, and we see them as opportunities to continue showing love, faith, support, and fellowship. Life continues beyond the fence—and so does the labor of love in this ministry.



Lake Forest church of Christ

This past January, Christopher and Anthony McLaughlin (pictured far right) attended a men's day hosted by the Lake Forest congregation. Anthony was released from prison in December and is now part of the "Off the Chain" transition house program.

Christopher and Anthony began studying together in 2023. Anthony was transferred multiple times, even to the western panhandle. Providentially, wherever he was sent, there was a faithful worker in the field. Anthony was born again on November 19, 2023.



Also pictured with Christopher (on the left) is Larry Lee Walker, known as Lee. They met in late 2024 at the Reception and Medical Center while Lee was in transit. At that time, Lee had recently been assaulted and bore visible injuries. Despite this, he eagerly sought Bible study. After studying, Lee was added to the body of Christ on December 5, 2024. Transfers separated them for several months. When they met again, Christopher initially did not recognize Lee because Lee's injuries had healed and his appearance had changed significantly. Their final meeting took place at the end of 2025, as Lee prepared to leave the prison system.

Christopher recognized the importance of connecting him to the body of Christ beyond the fence. We thank our sister congregation at Lake Forest for welcoming Lee. Lee faces challenges, but with Christ, all things are possible. We are especially grateful for our brother Dawson Blackshear, whose compassionate heart has been instrumental in offering encouragement, counsel, and meaningful support.

Austin's Update

Austin Trout, one of our volunteers, continues training at the Florida School of Preaching. This semester, he is studying Marriage and the Family, Acts, Psalms, Computers and Churches, English II, Personal Evangelism, the Pentateuch, Isaiah & Jeremiah, Denominational Dogmas, and Christian Evidence.

This summer, Austin will serve as a youth ministry intern with the Burlington Santa Fe congregation. Please continue praying for Austin and his wife, Sarah, as they labor in the Lord's work. We are thankful for all who strive to bring the lost to Christ.

Vroom vroom ...

Sometimes it is encouraging to reflect on where you have been. While we cannot calculate the miles driven by all of our volunteers, we can report that Christopher logged 29,189 miles in 2025 serving the Florida Prison Ministry. The miles are many—but the mission is worth it.

