



The Florida Prison Evangelist

Summer 2023



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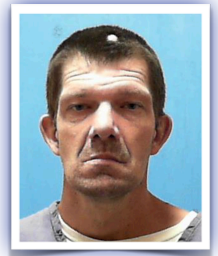
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Inmate Spotlight

We meet numerous imprisoned individuals and encounter various personalities, situations, circumstances, and stories. Donald Towns is an inmate whom we have only visited a couple of times at the Reception and Medical Center, but one who left an impression. He has permitted us to publish this article. Donald has colon cancer and receives special care at the institution. His mistakes before Christ include grand theft auto, robbery without a weapon, cocaine possession, and burglary of an unoccupied structure or conveyance. Donald approached us, stating that he is terminal (not verified) and of the Jewish faith. He explained to us that his mother was a Jew and that he wanted to do what was right in the sight of God.



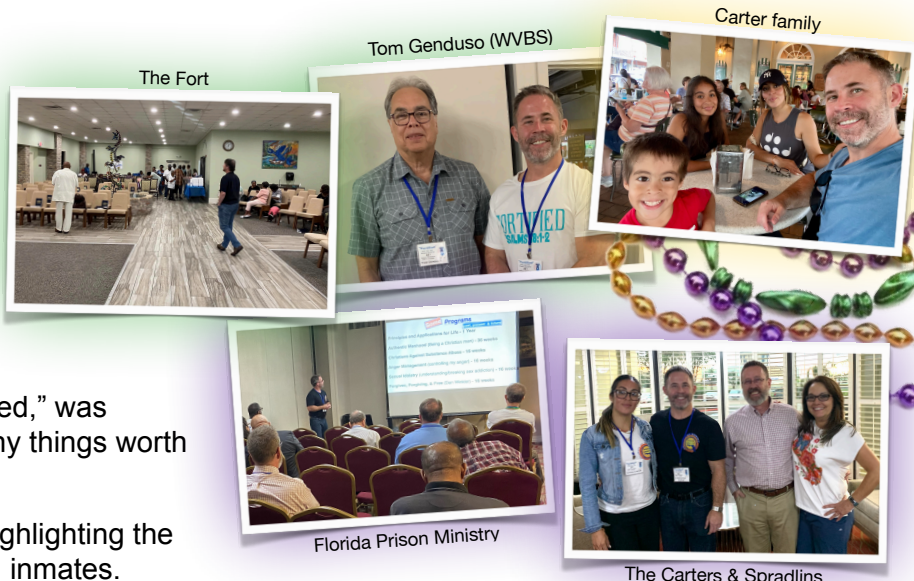
We spent a few hours studying the Bible with Donald, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). We distinguished between the old and new covenants and shared the gospel. Donald confidently expressed his desire to become a Christian. He asked to die with Christ so he could be united with Christ (Romans 6:3-5) and walk in newness of life. We immediately filled the baptistry, and he was placed into Christ through faith in the working of God (Colossians 2:11-12). Donald is set to be released in August and has unique needs. If you know of a way to help him with housing or other programs, please call Chaplain Dr. Michael Hilley at (386) 496 7010.

2023 Prison Ministry Workshop

David Green and Keep It Real Ministries (KIR) hosted this year's workshop in New Orleans, LA. KIR's mission is to provide life skills to address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for those exiting prison. Their housing facility, known as "The Fort," provides a home for up to thirty-five people.

Prison ministers nationwide come together to share successes, failures, ideas, and encouragement for this event. The theme, "Fortified," was derived from Psalm 18:1-2. While there were many things worth noting, here are a few highlights:

- We, the Florida Prison Ministry, led a session highlighting the work happening in Florida prisons to strengthen inmates.
- Tom Genduso (World Video Bible School) discussed opportunities to put WVBS material in Florida prisons.
- Troy Spradlin is a pulpit minister for the Margaret Street church of Christ in Milton, FL, who also ministers in prison. Inmates, at times, transfer from one institution to another. Troy and Christopher collaborate from opposite sides of Florida by phone when an inmate they counsel moves into each other's area.



Prison Ministry Spotlight

Brother Joe DeBose is a man who takes evangelizing seriously! Joe is what many would call a tent-making preacher. He is also an associate minister at the 39th Avenue church of Christ. Joe served as a gospel minister at the church of Christ in Hawthorne, FL, for 13 years. The Lord blessed Joe with a wonderful helpmate and wife, giving him Carma DeBose 49 years ago this August. We are thankful for his love for sharing the gospel with all men but incredibly grateful for his work with those behind bars. Joe preaches in Lancaster Correctional, Cross City Correctional, and Union Correctional.

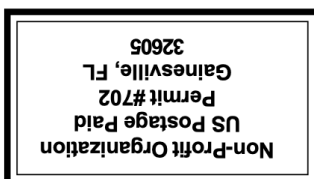


Joe says, "My most recent experience in these last two years with the Florida Prison Ministry has been uplifting and rewarding. For me, it's the standard of the Father's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Brother Christopher Carter; Gary Wyder. L. J. Ciolkosz, Daryl Townsend, and Mike Cooner are a few who deliver God's Will to many with severe spiritual needs. We are brothers from local congregations and other cities, yet members of the same body. I encourage brethren, men, and women that the ole Ship of Zion is calling; ALL HANDS-ON DECK! I've participated in national, regional, and state lectureships, national crusades, door-knocking, and other forms of evangelizing. I am now finding fulfillment in prison ministry. For many, prison ministry and mission work is meat and potatoes for the soul; I am dining scrumptiously and happy to be a part of the much-needed effort for the Lord."

Philippians 2:1-4 (NASB95) Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others

Defending the Faith Study Bible

Thank you, Vanessa Montoya and everyone involved with Living Water Foundation, for donating fifty AP Defending the Faith Study Bibles! This generous donation will serve inmates well. The love you have to change lives is a blessing to those behind bars.



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