



# The Florida Prison Evangelist

Fall 2023



Gary Wyder 352.377.0058

Christopher Carter 352.619.3109



facebook.com/cocfpm

floridaprisonministry.org

floridaprisonministry@gmail.com

## Opportunities

Do you have the desire to further the kingdom? Would you like to see Florida families and communities strengthened? We can help! We are seeking folks who can offer a little time by volunteering. We can use you one hour a week, every other week, or even once a month. Opportunities are available. Do you lack the confidence to lead a Sunday service or weekly Bible class? No problem! You can help by simply going into a facility and meeting with a single person one-on-one. In this setting, you get to know an individual and share your insight through your experiences and God's Word. We will help you. We will train you.

## Off the Chain

We work with a few transition houses, but the program available at Off the Chain Ministries is one we highly esteem since it is of the Lord's church. Off the Chain Ministries provide care, study, and leadership to those seeking freedom and grace from past life experiences. They offer free room and board until men can find employment.



The men invited to live in the transition houses are New Testament Christians who live with other men in similar circumstances. This format provides ongoing accountability, continued counseling, financial guidance, Bible studies, and an opportunity to assimilate into the local church community.

## Defending the Faith Study Bible

Please make a donation so that we can keep this Bible on hand. These Bibles have become a helpful tool for prisoners who desire to dig deep into the Word. Our time with prisoners is short compared to their time without us. It is a great benefit they have solid study resources to help them process the denominational noise.

## Transitions

Released in July 2023, Somphone Phosy (pictured with Brian Reagan and Christopher Carter) is a recipient of the Defending the Faith Study Bible.



Somphone is also a participant in the Off the Chain Ministries transition program and a member of the Middleburg church of Christ. We met Somphone in 2021 and quickly learned of his love for the Lord and sincerity to live for Him. Somphone appealed to God through baptism on 2/13/2022. While in prison, he was always on the lookout for other men who exhibited a desire for truth. He brought many men to us. We are thankful for his heart to serve others!

## Prison Ministry Benefit Dinner

We are excited to see you Thursday, September 28, and share some recent successes! Please RSVP to let us know you are coming and enjoy a free dinner and fellowship. Check out the back page of this newsletter for a look at our guest speakers.

**PLEASE  
RSVP BY  
SEPT. 14!!!**

**Sondra Carter  
352.317.3308  
(call or text)**



### **Nathan Etzel (Prison Ministry Dinner Guest Speaker)**

We met Nathan, aka "Chase," in early 2022. Immediately, we embarked on some intense Bible studies. Nathan discovered the truth and clothed himself in Christ on 5/31/2022. He is now a member of the Concord Street church of Christ in Orlando. God has blessed Nathan with a scholarship to Full Sail University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor's in Recording Arts. Music production is one of his many passions.



Nathan says, "Everything about my life since I have come to the knowledge of the truth of how to worship in spirit and truth has been so amazingly blessed. I'm grateful for the encouragement of Christopher, the Florida Prison Ministry, and all the members of the church of Christ who are rooting me on and discipling me to become a man of God. I know I'm not going back to prison. I have dedicated my life to serving Christ and am grateful for the support that I have."

### **Arnel Clarke (Prison Ministry Dinner Guest Speaker)**

Meet Arnel Clarke, originally from Broward County. Some call him "Nel." Arnel is 34 years old and the father of a 14-year-old son. He is easygoing and loves laughing, joking, and dancing. He also enjoys a good workout and fellowship with his brothers and sisters in Christ. Arnel is a member of the Middleburg church of Christ. God has blessed Arnel with a shop clerk position in a steel fabrication company.



While incarcerated, Arnel met Brother Dale Davenport, who studied with him and taught him how to obey the gospel. He died with Christ in 2019. Once released in 2022, Arnel joined the transition house program headed by Daryl Townsend and Off the Chain Ministries.

Arnel says, "I am truly blessed and grateful for the love, support and encouragement that I receive from brothers and sisters who accept me with genuine love even though I am a convicted felon. It is my hope to give back by serving. I am fortunate to have opportunity to share others what Christ has done in my life. I continue to commit myself to Him everyday."

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #702  
Gainesville, FL  
32605

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
Lake Butler Church of Christ  
PO Box 776  
Lake Butler, FL 32054-0776

