

# The Florida Prison Evangelist

Winter 2023



Gary Wyder 352.377.0058

Christopher Carter 352.619.3109



 [facebook.com/cocfpm](https://facebook.com/cocfpm)

[floridaprisonministry.org](http://floridaprisonministry.org)

[floridaprisonministry@gmail.com](mailto:floridaprisonministry@gmail.com)

## Merry Christmas OR Happy Holidays

“Individuals in the church have the right to honor Christmas as a way to honor God (Romans 14:5-6), but we cannot bind that on anyone else (Roman12:5-6). The church cannot publicly have Christmas as a special religious holiday because God has not authorized it. But there is a practical side to Christmas. Let’s promote the spirit that comes from Christmas. It is a time of families getting together. It is a time of giving gifts. It is a time of joy. All of those benefits are needed year-round. Let’s also take the opportunity to correct false teachings about Christ and Christmas. People are more open to learning about Jesus now than probably any other time of the year. Let’s correct the error in a spirit of love (Ephesians 4:15), not in a spirit of condemnation with a holier-than-thou attitude. I hope you and your family will have a wonderful Christmas time, in whatever way you decide to use it.” - Wayne Burger, Evangelist in Littleton, NH.



## Gary's Comments



“2023 is a fruitful year for the prison ministry. Christopher has been successful in recruiting more volunteers. We could put to work another 50. The fields are white for harvest. I have been much less active this year inside prisons due to health issues Pat and I have. My brother said that would happen once we got to our 70s (we are 73). Pat and the sisters continue in the jail ministry. I have been doing more with released men and in our Recovery Ministry. Sondra Carter is quickly learning how to facilitate our Nations University students. Watching the Lord transform the lives of those we minister to is a great blessing. Your prayers and support make this possible. THANKS” - Gary Wyder.

## The Carter Family

Christopher, Sondra, Alejandra, and Maximo send you warm greetings and heart-filled prayers. We hope you fill the holidays with joy, laughter, and love. We pray for the Lord’s blessings to pour upon you daily, especially this holiday season. Your love and support are blessings to us!



## A Holly Jolly Report

We are well pleased with the work we accomplished in 2023. All glory to God for lives changed, families united, and communities strengthened. This year, we succeeded in our goal to expand our outreach in the Florida prison mission field. Christopher has doubled the prisons he frequents from last year and has helped 75 men obey the Gospel. We minister across the state and have even reached a handful of other opportunities in other states. We remain excited about the future and are calling for more volunteers because there is a great need and opportunity, especially in the middle panhandle. If you are interested, please let us know!

## Prison Ministry Christmas Spotlight

We are thankful for all who partner with us! This quarter, we highlight our brother Steve Trubey, a long-time fighter against Satan behind prison walls, ministering in prisons since 2009. Daryl Townsend, an elder at the Middleburg church of Christ and the Director of Off the Chain Ministries, initially mentored Steve.

Steve is involved with numerous prisons. He is one of our volunteers in South Central Florida, which is known as Region 3. The Florida Department of Corrections recognizes Steve as a spiritual advisor and Bible teacher. At Polk Correctional, he regularly holds Sunday worship services. A bit further south, he counsels men one-on-one at Avon Park Correctional. South of Avon Park, he teaches Bible study classes at Hardee Correctional. In addition, Steve will head north once a quarter to counsel men at Sumter Correctional and even further north to Liberty Correctional to preach and encourage men there. Bible Correspondence Courses play an important role in prison ministry, and Steve also sends these out to men as he receives requests. Did we mention that Steve is a part-time volunteer and has recruited others in this work? We thank God for Steve and his love to help free men from the bondage of Satan!



## 50<sup>th</sup> National Jail & Prison Ministry Workshop June 12-14, 2024

The next workshop will be sponsored by Kings Crossing Church of Christ located at 5901 Yorktown Boulevard Corpus Christi, Texas 78414. Some of the classes and seminars this next year will include: Prison Ministry Fundamentals, How To Get Started, Women Teaching Women, Working with Sex-Offenders, Aftercare & Re-Entry, Substance Abuse Recovery, and Inmate Family Support. You can also expect stirring testimonials and special guest speakers. Please contact Kings Crossing by phone or email with any workshop related questions: (361) 855-3372 [kcprisonministres@gmail.com](mailto:kcprisonministres@gmail.com)

