

The Florida Prison Evangelist

Spring 2024



Gary Wyder 352.377.0058

Christopher Carter 352.619.3109



 facebook.com/cocfpm

floridaprisonministry.org

floridaprisonministry@gmail.com

Hallaca Dinner

Christopher and Sondra Carter hosted the 1st Annual Christmas Eve Hallaca Dinner with men from Off the Chain, a transition house for those in the Lord's church. John Burke, Arnel Clarke, Somphone Phosy, Robert Howe, Sondra Carter, and Christopher Carter are pictured from left to right.



Hallaca (A Venezuelan Dish)

Sondra and Alejandra Carter spent the day prior, preparing this meal.



New Life

When the spring season comes around, we begin to see new life take shape. Flowers bloom, bees buzz, and life reminds us of the newness that can be found in it. Likewise, we too can be a new creation in Christ, with new life. Our brother Shawn Gossett (pictured left) became a new creation in Christ on February 6, 2022. Shawn entered the prison system in May 2021. The Florida Department of Corrections released him from Columbia CI in January 2023. Shawn has faced his share of trials in the past few years, but his mindset and determination to live for Christ clearly show in his walk. In this photo, Shawn and Christopher enjoy a breakfast of steak and eggs as Shawn's first meal post-release.



Spreading the word!

One of Christopher and Sondra's favorite things to do is travel to different places, meet new brethren, and share the work going on in the Florida prison system. In one corner of the country, they are in Fairbanks, AK. In the other corner, Christopher is in Key Largo, FL. We are always looking to get folks involved with prison ministry!



50th 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. Please contact Kings Crossing by phone or email with any workshop related questions: (361) 855-3372 kcprisonministries@gmail.com



A Valentine's Day Love Story

This past February, Sirron Johnson decided he, too, was ready for a new life. Our brothers and sisters at Arlington Road church of Christ sent us to Sirron around this time last year. Upon meeting him, we could tell he was a cool, calm, and collected individual who wanted to know the truth. Sirron was listed with the Florida Department of Corrections as a Jehovah's Witness and had been studying with that group for some time. We established a relationship and began to study the Bible. In addition to multiple one-on-one studies, we provided Sirron with several study tools, such as a Greek-English Interlinear, a Defending the Faith Study Bible, and information on how we got the Bible.



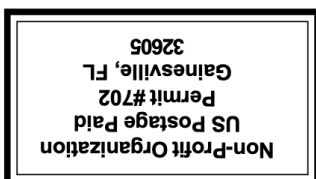
It was 3 PM on Valentine's Day and time to depart from Sirron at Madison CI when he said he concluded that he needed to die with Christ in baptism. Sirron had already mentioned it to the chaplain before the visit, which was approved. It was a delight to talk to the chaplain to schedule it, and he said, "why not do it now!" We had only one problem: filling the baptistry would take two hours, and there were no water waders or extra clothes. However, those are trivial matters regarding helping someone obey the Gospel. Nevertheless, Sirron returned to his dorm as the baptistry was filling and brought back a change of clothes for Christopher, who transformed into an inmate, visually speaking, and the baptism succeeded.

Prison Ministry Spotlight

Meet Denny Freeman, a 73-year-old preacher of the Gospel in churches of Christ for 41 years while working in prison ministry for the past 20 years. He and his wife Ellen have lived and worked in the Lord's kingdom in several states over the years, and the privilege of spreading the good news in 3 other countries. Denny says,

"My full-time work currently involves teaching, preaching, and mentoring men in the Florida prison system. The culprit that helped persuade me of the fruitfulness of prison ministry is none other than Gary Wyder! No one reading this will be surprised to hear that. He has mentored so many in this great work. Although I have been able to visit men in about 15 different prisons in NE Florida through the years, my main focus has been in Lawtey C.I.

"Daryl Townsend and I were at Lawtey when it became the first faith-based prison in the state 20 years ago. We still see men there on a weekly basis. What a great blessing! I also work with Dave Jenkins at New Beginnings of Jacksonville, transitional housing for men out of prison. We have 2 houses on the north side of Jax. In addition to helping them with life's necessities, we have weekly Bible studies, a 12-step program (CASA) and individual spiritual counseling with the men regularly."



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

