

# The Florida Prison Evangelist

Summer 2024



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## Nations University Student Spotlight

Nations University (NU) is an accredited university where select incarcerated men are given an opportunity for advanced Bible study, leading them to the possibility of earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree. The student must be willing to engage the biblical text openly, allowing honest investigation and critical analysis. This openness is essential because NU challenges inherited or supposed conclusions that the biblical text cannot justify. Further, NU equips students to exegete and then apply the biblical message. We currently have about 40 men who participate in Nations University. Pictured is Christopher Carter with NU student James Painter. James is one of our top students who always strives to do top-notch coursework and is an invaluable asset in the Lord's kingdom.



James and Christopher met in 2023 at the Reception & Medical Center West Unit (RMC) when James joined the Principles and Applications for Life program (PAL), where Christopher facilitated a class. RMC is one of the units Christopher frequents, where the church has a strong presence, having Bible studies and other services four of seven days a week. James attends service 99% of the time and has become instrumental in helping men understand God's plan for man. After working together many nights, Christopher gave James his space in the chapel to hold studies on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Through James' efforts, four men answered God's call and joined the body of Christ. Have you heard about the 1% in our society? James is part of the 1% in prison. He has a genuine love for the truth that is unmatched by the 99%!

To speak a little more about his character, men in prison often try to find loopholes in their cases to reduce their time. Men will spend hours researching case law and preparing motions for their cases in the law library. James has mentioned that he, too, saw potential loopholes, but they were not honest, and because of that, he wanted no part in them, even if they could set him free early. He tells us he has one legitimate possibility for a reduction but lacks outside support to put things in motion properly. If he can secure a lawyer in the future, he will pursue this one honest route.

James is still an active NU student, but his time at RMC is ending. Now that he has graduated from the PAL program, he is awaiting transfer to another institution. Upon completing the PAL program at RMC, men can choose where to serve time. We are sad to see him go, but we know he will do well and serve others wherever he lands. We would love to tell you that his sentence is about over; however, he has approximately eighteen years left to complete unless something changes. Thank you, James Painter, for your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.

**Thank you, brethren, for supporting our brothers behind bars!**

## Prison Ministry Spotlight

Say hello to Frank and Elizabeth Hill, members of the Lakeside church of Christ in Orange Park, FL. Their journey with us commenced in September 2023. Since then, their service has graced our efforts at the Union Correctional Institution (UCI). Frank's unwavering commitment is a beacon of faith as he leads Sunday services, delivering the message with a steadfast belief. On the other hand, Elizabeth extends a heartfelt welcome to the men, offering them much-needed encouragement as they enter. Frank told us this:

*"I obeyed the gospel in May of 1975. During my military tour from 1973-1997 with the NAVY, I served in the AMEN Program (AMERICAN MILITARY EVANGELIZING NATIONS). My first (short 2-3 weeks) exposure to prison ministry came in 1978 while based in Cherry Point, North Carolina. It was new and exciting. I married in 1984 to Elizabeth C. Hill, my sister and fellow laborer in the kingdom (glory to GOD for her loving HIM and labor of love over the years).*

*"I'm both thankful and grateful to all the saints the world over for their prayers, their godly examples, their rebukes and all that have and did do for me thus far and yet to come in my christian walk and most of all to my Heavenly Father, Eternal through Christ Jesus, who has redeemed me allowed and me to serve!"*

As we age, we often find comfort in routine, and this is no different at UCI, a home for men aged fifty and above. However, the presence of Frank and Elizabeth Hill has brought a transformative energy. We are grateful to God for their service, which has already led to the conversion of four men. We thank God for sending Frank and Elizabeth. We pray that all see the example they set in their walk.



## Memorial Day at the Carters

Joined by men from Off The Chain transition house, Gary and Pat Wyder, Joe and Carma DeBose, the Carters celebrate Memorial Day by giving thanks to Jesus for giving His life.



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