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The Florida Prison Evangelist

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Season's Greetings

As the Christmas season arrives once again, we reflect on how truly faithful God has been. This time of year is filled with lights, gatherings, and joyful moments — yet beyond all the celebration, it gently reminds us of something far deeper: the unshakeable hope we have because Christ entered the world. Even though we do not attempt to pinpoint or designate this season as the exact time of Christ's birth, this is nevertheless the time of year when much of the world turns its attention — perhaps more than at any other moment — to the thought of Jesus coming into the world. And for that reason, it opens a unique opportunity to lift up the name of Christ, share His love, and reflect on the greatest gift ever given.



Some walk into this season with full hearts and full homes; others carry quiet burdens, memories, or longings known only to God. No matter where you find yourself, we want you to see this truth: you are loved, you are remembered, and the Lord never forgets you. From our family — Christopher, Sondra, Alejandra, Maximo, and Crisson — we pray that the peace of Christ will settle over your life like a warm blanket on a winter night. We pray that His joy will lift your spirit, His comfort will steady your heart, and His presence will guide you into a new year filled with purpose.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)



The "Nice" List

Our effort in prison ministry is rewarding in so many ways. It rewards us, prisoners, their families, and communities. Here are some of the things this year that made the nice list:

- ✓ Forty-two inmates were baptized into Christ.
- ✓ Inmates complete year-round Anger Management.
- ✓ \$10,000 contributed at the appreciation dinner.
- ✓ Two former Calvinists recanted.
- ✓ One additional congregation joined the effort.
- ✓ Multiple men released to the transition house.

Season's Givings

This time of year reminds us all to share kindness and hope with those in need. If you're considering an end-of-year gift, a donation to our ministry can make a real difference in the lives of inmates we serve across Florida's state prisons.

Prison Ministry Christmas Spotlight

One of our mission efforts is to spread the word about what we are doing in Florida prisons in the hope of finding faithful brethren to volunteer time and help us minister. We want to introduce you to our newest volunteer, Brother Jeff McNeal.

Years ago, Jeff had his own run-in with the law. He was baptized into Christ on February 13, 2003, in the Okaloosa County Jail by Ken Stanley, an elder of the Niceville Church of Christ. A year later, he had an accident at work and fell 30 feet, fracturing seven vertebrae, and was airlifted to Pensacola Medical Center. After leaving the hospital, he was unable to work or do most things. This is when he started getting serious about his relationship with God, and a few months later, he found himself in Lakeland, Florida, at the Florida School of Preaching (FSOP). Jeff graduated in May 2006.



Jeff tells us, "I began full-time ministry the next week, part of which was a weekly radio program that aired on Sundays and was heard by many prisoners within an hour or two of Jacksonville, Florida. This led to many letters and questions I could answer over the radio. I now preach for the South 14th Street Church of Christ in Leesburg, Florida. I had the privilege of meeting Christopher Carter a little over a year ago when he came to give a presentation on the prison ministry work. Shortly after, I began visiting Sumter Correctional Institution, where I teach a mentoring class every Tuesday. I know that nobody is past redemption, and God's love has no limits. I definitely want to share and express that to those who are incarcerated, so they know they don't have to live without hope."

Labor of Love (Austin Trout)

One of our favorite volunteers just returned from Jamaica with the FSOP, where they provided hurricane relief. This trip included coordinating with builders to repair damaged church buildings, helping clean up hurricane debris, distributing food, water, tarps, and information about the church to people affected by the storm. Austin also had the opportunity to teach a Bible lesson on Jonah.

