

Bible Correspondence Fellowship Grows Churches!



Some Bethesda Church Volunteers: Becky, Carol, Rindy, Don, Dwight, Lisa, Lynna, Bob, & Peggy

It is Spring and we are excited to see the green plants growing again up north. **We are even more excited about the spiritual growth we see at PMA**, our home office outreach and the 55 Bible Correspondence Fellowships (BCF) all around the country and in 28 countries overseas! Each BCF duplicates what the home office does by printing, distributing, and correcting the PMA lessons from their local jails and prisons.

- "I never shared my faith with anyone **until I got involved in prison ministry.**"
- "**Prison work taught me** the true meaning of forgiveness, grace, and restoration."
- "My prayer life has a new lease on life **due to jail ministry.**"

These comments from recent prison (or jail) ministry volunteers capture some of the joy and spiritual excitement of this strategically important church ministry. The growth of the local church is built on the personal spiritual growth of its members. Prison ministry offers unique, vital opportunities for personal spiritual growth because volunteers get personally involved, even immersed, in the gospel basics: witnessing, Bible teaching, worship, and encouragement. When church members catch fire for the Lord, it won't be long before the church grows.

It seems incredible but when we reach out to the least, the lost and most needy, God honors that and it blesses our churches. A great example of how prison ministry will grow your church and grow leaders in your church is Bethesda Church, in Prior Lake, MN. We continue to have more people volunteer to help

serve the Lord with about 25 currently helping. Since Pastor Dwight became Senior Pastor at Bethesda we have more than doubled our attendance and growth our children and youth ministry. Praise the Lord. If you want help in growing your church, contact Pastor Dwight. We have many resources available to reach many new people in your community and local jail.

Here is testimony from one of our volunteers:

*"We all are eager to share the message of God's grace but more often than not no one is listening. Being a part of the Prison Mission gives me the opportunity to explain the grace message to those who have accepted Christ and are eager to hear. Sometimes they are still mixing religious ideas with grace or maybe they feel unworthy. **Seeing the great faith coming out of prisons touches me and blesses me.** Although I wasn't there when they accepted Christ I can imagine the defining moment when they faced God in agreement rather than as His enemy. **So many men and women express their deep gratitude to the Prison Mission.** I, in turn get the opportunity to build them up, gently guide them when they don't understand and tell them that I am praying for them, that I care".*

– C. H. , Minnesota

There are eleven impacts **prison ministry can have to benefit the local church and its members.** You can download that short one page of info here. www.tinyurl.com/11waysPMA or resources tab on our website www.prisonmission.org/

PMA Office Update

March 1, 2023 was my 2 year anniversary. I really enjoy my job and feel like I am making a difference. I feel that I have a good understanding of the daily activities.

It is so encouraging to read some of the letters from our students about how PMA's Bible Correspondence Courses have impacted their lives and given them hope and a deeper relationship with our Lord. For example:

Lewis says, "Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Thank you so much for the lesson. I look forward to the next one! I just want to say I was so lost before I came to faith in Christ. It cost me 35 years. Drugs are so evil. Thanks to Jesus

our Lord and the Word of God, everything has changed. No part of me is as it was, but my time. But I trust God and believe He will use even that for His glory. Because of Him I'm a New Creation!"

Damian says, "Thank you always for your time, service and ministry. I praise God & Jesus for your Ministry and, for the way that the Bible Study & lessons always seem to speak to exactly where I am in my life. One thing I wasn't expecting or prepared for was my emotional response to what I'm learning. **There are times when I am moved powerfully and, in other areas I've embraced surrendering all to God.** The peace I've been blessed to receive is changing me from the inside out and changing how I see the world. My desire to be right in God's sight

means something new because of these lessons. Thank you for helping me be saved. God Bless you."

I think my favorite one is from Jose, "I have never cared about church and I've never picked up a Bible! But I'm ready to give and surrender my life to the Lord! I don't gotta say anymore."

We have a good group of lesson correctors. We have 10 local correctors, and 1 in Georgia who is willing to take any overflow. We have 2 Spanish correctors, one each in Minnesota, and Michigan. It would be very helpful to have a local Spanish corrector, but I truly appreciate the correctors that we have. Our office volunteers are amazing!!! They definitely make this ministry function.

Respectfully submitted,
Simone Montfort,
Operations Manager

Praise and Prayer Points

Praise Points:

- ◆ Praise God for several new BCF hubs. We have **over 55 BCF regional hubs now around** the country and overseas. Most recent are in India, Australia, and Pakistan.
- ◆ Praise God we have a completed braille translation of our Introductory Bible lesson! Pray for this new outreach in Braille. Pray for us now to find blind people to share the lessons with. We need help with this new ministry. Contact Pastor Dwight if you know any blind people that might be interested.
- ◆ Praise God for **growth in outreach through the Edovo digital tablets around the country that will offer PMA lessons** and podcasts on over 20,000 tablets now. It will be on 100,000 by end of this year. So far as of May 1, 2023, 58,567 lessons have been completed on the tablets. 169,735 lessons were begun by inmates. Pray for more souls to be saved through this new outreach. www.edovo.com
- ◆ Praise God **Pastor Dwight and Darlene were able to visit her father in Australia before he went to be with the Lord, May 1.**

Prayer Points:

- ◆ Pray for **Simone Montfort, our PMA operations manager** at our Port Orchard, WA home office. She and the team there oversee an ever-increasing workload!
- ◆ We still need a **bilingual volunteer** near our Port Orchard, WA office to help with the **Spanish lessons. This continues to be a need that needs to be met.**
- ◆ For God to call key leaders within the prisons to help distribute/correct lessons and plant prison churches.
- ◆ Keep praying for **more local churches to start a local BCF** (Bible Correspondence Fellowship) so they can reach out to their local jails and prisons. Each BCF prints, distributes, and corrects lessons to mentor inmates so they can reach more inmates for Christ! We would love to help you start a BCF to reach out near your church.
- ◆ More help needed for Pastor Dwight as this ministry continues to grow.
- ◆ Download our **monthly prayer updates on our website** www.prisonmission.org/pray

Coming Soon!

Pray for Pastor Dwight as he travels to visit and share about PMA.

May 3, MCF-St. Cloud, MN Correctional

May 6 - 10 am Bethel's Rock, Apple Valley, MN

May 19-20, CMCA Summit @ Wheaton College, Illinois

June 3 - 10 am Remanente Escogido Por Gracia, St. Paul, MN

June 7, MCF-Faribault, MN Correctional

June 11, 9 am & 10:30 am Grace Bible Church, Anaheim, CA

June 30 - 7 pm Celebration Church, Lakeville, MN

July 29 PMA Appreciation Picnic & board meeting, Port Orchard, WA

August 8, MCF-Shakopee, MN Correctional

September 19, MCF-Moose Lake, MN Correctional

October 3, MCF-Willow River, MN Correctional

October 12, MCF-Rush City, MN Correctional

November 14, MCF-Lino Lakes, MN Correctional