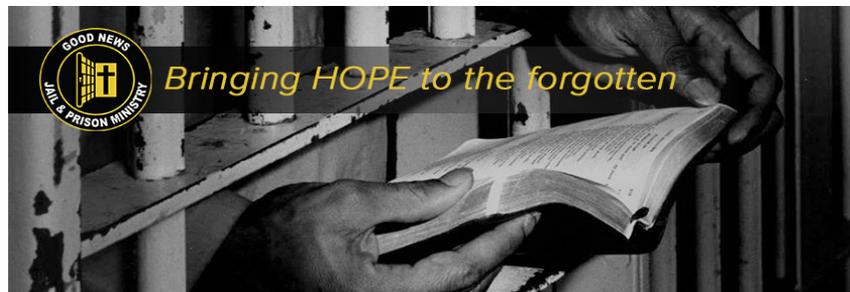


Here is our February 2019 E-Newsletter – We hope it blesses you!



Opportunity Is Always Knocking

February is celebrated as the “month of love”. Walk in many stores and the next holiday they are preparing for is Valentine’s Day. Many gifts will be given as a token to show love for a loved one. It’s a day of opportunity to make that “special person” in our life feel honored with a token of our love.

Speaking of opportunity, we live in a land of opportunity, but we often miss the most important ones.

Think about your daily routine. You start your day at the gym, surrounded by people. Do you put on headphones and distance yourself from everyone? It’s time to cook dinner, but your cupboards are bare. You head to the supermarket and, again, find yourself surrounded by people. Do you rush through the store, brushing past everyone to get in and out in five minutes?

When we’re out in public, we expect to see people ... and we do what it takes to avoid eye contact. But avoiding eye contact is evading an opportunity. We are called and mandated by God to spread the message of the gospel. And to ensure our success, He has filled us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Of course, God doesn’t expect us to lead every person we meet to put their faith in Christ. We are a team, we’re all on God’s team. We each contribute an element, according to God’s direction, to bring that person to faith in Christ.

One plants the seed, another waters it, and God increases it. This requires no special skill or training. God will use each of us where we are, utilizing the gifts He has already placed in us. And He will make something out of our efforts. **1 Corinthians 3:7-9 (NIV) “So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”**

Now imagine the possibilities. Knowing God is in control, we can share the gospel without fear of failure.

Suddenly, we’re drawn to the same people we use to ignore because we know we have something they need. We are free to be purpose-driven and focus on our task to reach every soul in America with the gospel. **Don’t let another day of missed opportunities pass you by.**

As we begin the new year, I pray for all of us to make a new commitment to share the good news about Jesus with everyone we have the opportunity to. I pray for us all to take Jesus’ words literally as recorded in **Matthew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” REMEMBER, WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!**

Ephesians 5:16 exhorts us in ...”making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”. We must keep our “spiritual eyes” open for such opportunities. I remember one such experience that I want to share, and hopefully bless you with.

I had been asked to conduct the funeral of a former inmate. I had an opportunity to visit him in the hospital days before he passed into eternity. I've performed several funerals in my life. What was unique about this funeral is the man who the funeral was for, had been the leader of an "outlaw motorcycle gang".

I saw this as an incredible, God ordained opportunity to not only minister to his family, but to many in the "outlaw biker" group. So for 20 minutes on the day of the funeral, I shared how their former leader had placed his trust in Jesus and was now walking the "Streets of Gold" with his Savior.

It was very quiet in the funeral home when I began to speak. It was quite a contrast to the volume just prior to the start of the funeral due to the crowd of about 200 people. I truly believe God provided an opportunity for His Son to be proclaimed to those whom maybe never would darken to doors of a church.

At the conclusion of the service, a woman came up to me and said, "Thank you for what you shared today about Jesus. I didn't know him, (the deceased) but I felt that I needed to be here. I was praying for you the whole time as you shared Jesus with these people. Now I know why I felt I needed to be here. To lift you in prayer while you spoke."

Wow, God is so good!

Praise the Lord that He loves the whole world. That includes outlaw bikers!

I encourage you to be open for and make the most of every opportunity the Lord places before you in all of 2019! My prayer for you is that you experience the presence and power of the Lord in 2019 greater then you have ever experienced Him before.

Gayle's Corner

I am writing this as the snow is falling. It reminds me of a passage we had to memorize when I was in Junior High.

Isaiah 55:10-11 KJV (with the verbs modernized) ¹⁰"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: ¹¹So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

We thank you for enabling us to share God's word to the inmates. We just finished another Trauma Healing class. The class deals with God as a loving God, how God can heal our heart wounds, how to be a good listener, using laments to deal with loss, giving your pain to Jesus, forgiveness for us and others, and more. The ladies felt that it was very helpful. It uses lots of God's word.

Some of the incarcerated ladies have made major changes in their lives, so they have not been returning to the jail. Others are there for their first time. One who received treatment at Teen Challenge is especially thankful for God's word. She even took her Bible to court recently. She now sees how God speaks to her through His word. Pray that more of the inmates would spend time reading His word more and hear His speak to them. It is an honor to share Jesus and God's word with them and open their eyes to more truth.

An update on me: My last chemo is January 28. I will have surgery February 26.

God bless you and stay warm.

In Christ's love,

Gayle Janzen

Do you shop on Amazon? If you do, you can support Good News Jail & Prison Ministry through your purchases on Amazon. **Instead of logging into Amazon.com, log into your Amazon account at “smile.amazon.com” instead.** This is still your account but gives you the opportunity to support a non-profit. Select Good News Jail & Prison as the non-profit you want to support, and a *portion of your purchase will go to Good News Jail & Prison Ministry.*

For more info please contact Chaplain Rick.

Mark Your Calendar
Tuesday May 7, 2019
Good News Partner Banquet
Blue Harbor Conference Center
Our new Guest Speaker this year is



Gary Franz, VP, International Ministry

Gary joined the Good News family in 2017. Gary enjoys serving the International teams of chaplains – building up, encouraging and guiding the ministry in strategic places around the world. He and his wife, Carol, have purposed to reach “difficult to reach” peoples for 30+ years. Prior to Good News, they served in a variety of ministry roles – as missionaries in Southeast Asia, Mission Field Leaders, Missions and Outreach Pastor, and Senior Pastor. Gary earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Wheaton College and an M.A. in Intercultural Studies from Columbia International University. The Franzes live in the Chicago suburbs. They have four children and one grandchild.

Tickets are now available. See your Chaplaincy Support Team Member Or contact Chaplains Rick or Gayle

2019 Good News Golf Event

Friday, August 23rd – Pine Hills Country Club

8:30 Shot gun start

It’s not too early to start gathering a foursome.

Watch for more info in upcoming Newsletters

Prayer Requests

- * Pray for the churches, businesses and individuals who financially support this ministry.
- * Pray for the men and women who have put their faith in Jesus. Pray that they continue to follow Jesus when they get released or are transferred to other jails or prisons

Ministry Needs – Please pray about helping us with these

- **Chaplaincy Support Teams members from each of our supporting Churches**
- **Standard size pillows – 4**
- **4 - Twin size mattress pads**

On behalf of our Chaplaincy Support Team and the inmates we serve, Gayle and I personally thank every volunteer and every person & Church who partner with this ministry. Your sacrifice and partnership truly make a difference in the lives of families in our community. It is an honor to partner with you as we continue to witness heart changes in men and women through the love of Jesus. We pray for God's richest blessings upon you and your families. We truly believe that Jesus is the answer to everything we see wrong in our world!

We pray that you personally continue to experience God's powerful blessings!

Matthew 25:37-46 (NIV)

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Blessings in 2019,

Chaplains Rick Cawthon & Gayle Janzen