

JAIL MINISTRY OTSEGO AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

Helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk

JMOC Newsletter

Fall 2020

A Word From the Director

Dear Jail Ministry Team, I would first like to thank you for all that you do for so many of us who are in need of support. Thank you for helping me out in my time of need. My journey these last 7 months took a toll on me and I needed faith. I took advantage of the Bible studies and the One on Ones with you guys and that helped me so much. Thank you so much! I would like to tell you that you guys mean a lot to me. I know I talked a lot, but you guys listened. That's all that mattered. God bless you guys. I am looking forward to continuing reading the Bible, praying and going to services provided. Thanks so much. God bless. J.W.

Thank you so much for all the help! The \$500.00 toward my rent is a big help in helping me take the next step in my life. M.J.

Thank you so much for helping me with my motel expenses of \$450.00 until I can move into my apartment in November. I do appreciate all that you have done for me. C.G.

Dear Pastors and Friends,



The above are just two letters and a word of thanks we received recently from three young men that the Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie Counties was able to minister to through either of our programs in the jail or in our Aftercare program.

There are many young men and women housed in the Otsego and Schoharie County Jails that are in need of hearing the message of the Gospel that has the power of transforming their lives. We could not do what we do without your prayers and financial support Thank you so much.

Despite the uncertainty of the times we find ourselves in with the COVID-19 pandemic the ministry continues to move forward. In this quarterly newsletter I want our two Chaplains and our two Aftercare Coordinators to give a brief report on the opportunities for ministry that God has provided. Lastly, I want to share with you two opportunities for you to get involved in helping us carry out the ministry that God has called us to that being our Angel Tree Christmas outreach to inmate's children and Giving Tuesday.

PSALM 69:33
The Lord hears
the needy and
does not
despise his
captive people.

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Update from Chaplain Cyd Collischonn on the Schoharie County Jail Ministry



I received a notice from the Jail Administrator that they now have inmates housed in the new jail. However, he is waiting on his "Area Oversight Committee" before he will be ready to move forward with letting us begin our ministry there. Please pray that the permission comes soon. Also pray we will be allowed to get the names of the inmates children for our Angel Tree Christmas outreach.

Update from Chaplain Kurt Funke on the Otsego County Jail Ministry



Dear Friends in Mission and Ministry to the Otsego County Jail,

First of all, great thanks for your on-going support for our JMOC ministry in the difficult times of the COVID-19 virus. We continue to covet your prayers for us as we try our best to reach all inmates who are looking for a connection to the God of grace and peace, through Jesus Christ. All we do, we dedicate to Him and the advancement of His Kingdom here on Earth.

As you already know, we are prohibited currently to do any ministry in a "contact" area in the jail. So we are continuing to meet interested inmates for Bible Study and one-on-one counseling, in the one-on-one non-contact space in the visiting area. This is certainly not ideal, but our wonderful ministry volunteers are making the most of it. Through this setting we are now able to distribute greeting cards, spiritual reading materials, and the Angel Tree registration sheets. And now that the women are back with us, we are also offering services to them, on Tuesday morning and afternoon. So even though it has taken a while, God has been good and provided us with an avenue to accomplish the things we did before.

Also, I am happy to report that JMOC has purchased two TV's for the jail for the purpose of doing Zoom worship services on Sundays, as well as other programs which are currently still under development. I believe that once church services become a regular part of the Sunday afternoon schedule again, through this modality, we will regain some spiritual momentum toward participation in all of the services which we offer. The last word was that the TV's would soon be hooked up in two separate areas of the jail, in sync with two desk top computers with cameras. This way we will be able to communicate with one another throughout the services, and get feedback on how our inmates are processing our message and prayers in our time with them.

Lastly, I have put off for quite a while our outreach to local clergy who might be interested having one of our team visit your church to talk about how God moves hearts and minds through the JMOC ministry. Now that we are pretty much settling to our new mode of delivering the Gospel to the jail, we would like to visit with any interested churches, or ministeriums to share with you our common thread of ministry to those incarcerated by steel bars, or by sin... Just let Director Ameen Aswad or myself know if you would like us to come, and we will do our best to schedule a visit soon. Thank you again for your support, and your prayers for our team of ministry volunteers.

Yours in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Pastor Kurt, JMOC Chaplain 607-859-2436

Update from Lona Smith and Diane DeDominicis our Aftercare Coordinators



Since our last newsletter our Aftercare ministry has been busy meeting the immediate needs of those individuals coming out of jail or prison. Here is a brief summary of what we have been able to do because of your prayers and financial support.

We have partnered with the Crossroads Inn by providing for former inmates housed there \$25.00 Aldi gift cards until their SNAP benefits

arrive and for needed toiletries.

We have had several requests for inexpensive cell phones and phone cards so individuals can stay in contact with their Parole Officers and assist with making any needed appointments and assist with their job search. We have been able to provide housing assistance in the form of helping with rent and motel expenses. There have been other requests for clothing, bedding and towels, propane for cooking and even help with towing a vehicle.

It is because of your prayers and financial support we have been able to meet these needs. Thank you so much.



Update from Susan Pinkey our Angel Tree Coordinator

Children with a parent in prison or jail grow up wondering if their mom or dad still loves them. Through Angel Tree, you can be the one to show them they do! We presently have over 100 names of children and more coming that need to be adopted this Christmas. We are not having our annual Angel Tree party this year due to COVID-19, but this year we will be delivering the gifts personally to the children.

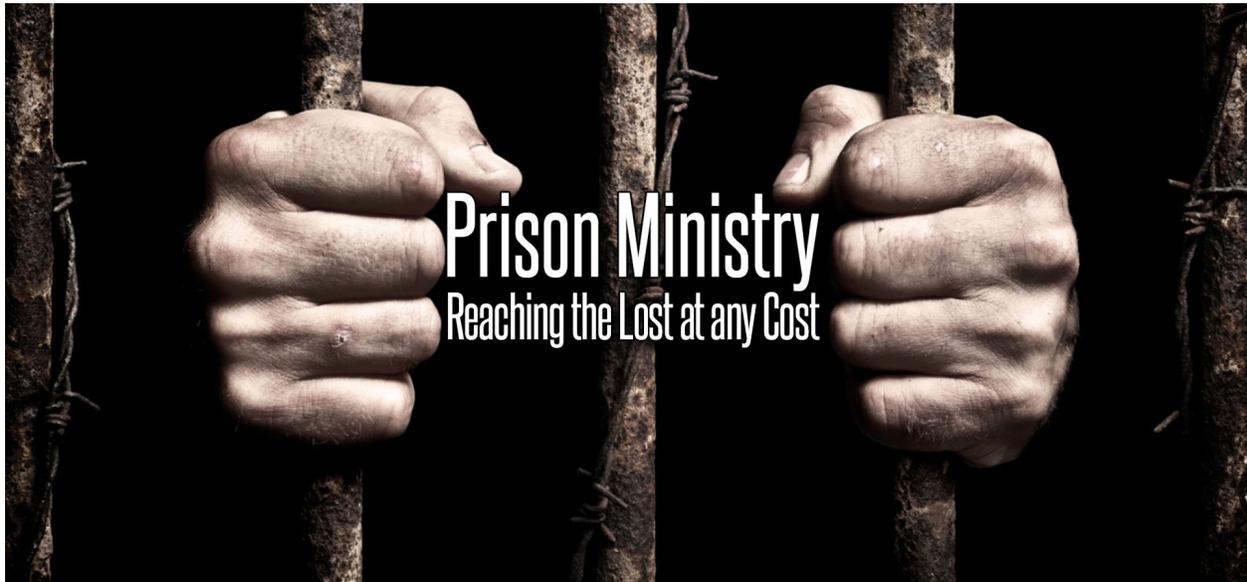
There are two ways you can help us: You can donate like other years - buy and wrap the gifts. Or, like the virtual Prison Fellowship is doing this year, pick an angel, donate the money, but instead of mailing gift cards, we will do the shopping and gift wrapping? If you choose the second option We would need to know before Thanksgiving to shop and wrap so those children's gifts would be ready for delivery the week after Thanksgiving. We also want to provide each local family with a \$50.00 Aldi gift card to buy whatever they need for Christmas dinner.

For more information about the Angel Tree Outreach program please contact Sue Pinkey - Angel Tree Coordinator at (607) 435-3361 or via email at rvnewholland@gmail.com.

Angel Tree / It Starts with a Gift

GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2020



**Now more than ever
we are called to
make a difference.**

Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie Counties

Help us reach troubled lives find peace and wholeness in the Christian walk by making a generous donation.

You can either give online at www.jmoconline.org or mailing a check to JMOC P.O. Box 1023 Cooperstown, New York 13326

Thank You!