

# JAIL MINISTRY OTSEGO AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

*Helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk*

JMOC Newsletter

Winter 2022

## God Sustains and Empowers Us for Each Season



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**“ In Every  
Season  
God  
Remains  
The  
Same”**

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Time passes. Seasons Change. But we can always depend on our unchanging God. No matter what season we're in, He is our Provider and Protector, Father and Friend.

The writer of Hebrews chapter 10:23 states: ***Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.***

This past year and a half has been a season where it seems that life has been put on hold. A season where many of our plans and programs have been canceled. Things have changed and nothing feels the same. It has been a season full of disappointments, fear, doubt, waves of worry, uncertainty, chaos, trials and tests. Even times of darkness where you can't seem to find your way. **Has that been your experience?** Let me share with you some words of encouragement from the pen of Kim Collingsworth.

Joy is not cancelled. Peace still remains  
God's goodness kindness. His grace isn't running low.  
And He has not changed. His power is still abundant.  
His mercies are still new. God's plans have not been cancelled.  
He's still in control, and everything that matters still remains.

This has truly been our experience in the Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie County. We have seen God's faithfulness in many ways during this season, and we want to share that with you in this report.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

### Contact Us

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## In Otsego County:

Ameen Aswad  
Interim Chaplain



In Otsego County we still face many challenges with two sections of the jail being shut down and only being allowed to do Sunday services via Zoom for those who want to attend. Our Wednesday Bible Studies and One-on-One counseling sessions are temporarily on hold. Please pray that the door will soon be open for us to get back to doing in person ministry on Sundays and Wednesday.

## In Schoharie County:

Rev. Cyd Collischonn, MA.,  
Chaplain, Schoharie County Jail



With the new year of 2021, there were high expectations that COVID-19 would soon be behind us. However, it soon became apparent that it was not behind us as much as we had hoped.

Due in part to low numbers of the inmates held in our jail, only a few of the inmates chose to attend services on Sunday afternoons. Robert Collischonn and Rob Reardon faithfully served when there were inmates that wanted services.

Lee Pellieier was able to minister in the One-on-One ministry on Fridays, using the Celebrate Recovery and making disciples materials. Due to some health issues, he was forced to step out, but God faithfully raised up Peter Enders who continues the One-on-One meetings sharing Christ and ministering to the inmates.

Although Peter is willing to conduct Bible Studies, they have yet not begun, in part, due to the fact that most inmates do not wish to study the Scriptures at this point. We remain hopeful that this will change in 2022!

For several weeks during the month of December, our jail had to shut down as a precaution because of COVID. The jail did open for services the day after Christmas.

I remain hopeful that God will move in our jail systems of Schoharie and Otsego Counties. God is faithful as we wait on Him to bring the harvest of souls and set the captives free with the truth of the Word of God!

***You Shall know the truth and the truth will set you free***

***John 8:30(NIV)***



1. That God will create a hunger in the heart of the inmates to want to participate in our services.
2. That we will soon be able to do in person Sunday services in the Otsego County jail.
3. For volunteers who have a calling to minister to those in our two county jails.

## Aftercare Ministry:

Diane DeDominicis  
Aftercare Coordinator



The focus of our aftercare program is to minister to the needs of those Individuals in Otsego and Schoharie counties who have been recently released from jail or prison. We aim to meet some of their basic needs such as providing them with underclothes, shoes, toiletries and possibly a coat. Sometimes we provide them with an inexpensive flip phone to assist them in maintaining contact with their parole officer. Occasionally we will assist with rental deposits, affording them the opportunity to get off to a good start as they re-enter society. We have also, on occasion, extended out services to the spouse of an incarcerated individual who may find themselves in dire need, especially if there are children involved. All of this done in the name of Jesus Christ and in the hope of bringing God's love to those we serve.

Over the past year we have served 17 individuals through the aftercare program. We work in collaboration with SPOA (Single Point of Access), Crossroads Inn, and Catholic Charities to identify needs and connect with individuals.

Our aftercare program is growing and we were able to provide more services in the months of November and December 2021 than we have in the past. As we continue to have limited access to the jail itself, aftercare has become a more accessible way to provide assistance. We look to continue our focus on our outreach through aftercare in the hopes of providing support to the spiritual as well as physical needs of those we serve.



### Report:

Susan Pinkey  
Angel Tree Coordinator

Again this year we saw God provide in our Angel Tree Christmas outreach both in Otsego and Schoharie Counties. Thanks to you, our faithful ministry partners, one hundred seven (107) received Christmas gifts based on the wish list of their incarcerated parent and ten (10) local families received a gift card to purchase items needed for a complete Christmas dinner.

## Mark your Calendar

### April is Second Chance Month



*Every person has dignity and potential. But one in three American adults has a criminal record, which limits their access to education and jobs, housing, and other things they need to reach that potential. Join the Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie Counties as we celebrate "Second Chance Month" in April. Unlocking brighter futures for 70 million Americans who have repaid their debt to society.*

## You are invited to join us



**Date: March 31, 2022**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84399792885?pwd=Z1FQczQxQjRsNmxeHjWUVlQVHdjdz09>**