

# Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry

RTJ NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 36  
December 2011



Dear RTJ Partner,

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. We will be putting the gift bags together for Christmas real soon. We will be at 2 prisons on Christmas night distributing 2,200 of them. So many churches and food banks have helped with this project that I can't even begin to name all of you. Bags will consist of Capri Sun drink, Candy cane, cards from children at area churches that they have made, candy, gummy worms and very importantly a very special tract explaining what it means to receive Christ. Some of you reading this have given plastic bags and everything we have. We will be reaching people that others can't or don't want to reach. It's amazing what a candy bar or a Christmas card will do. We will be reaching the vilest gang members, the Muslim, every denomination you can think of. Those that have committed every crime you can think of. We know by the 7,000 God has let us see come to the Lord in the past that He is going to do mighty things through these bags of candy. I can't thank you enough for what you have done and what you are doing. You will be with each one of the ministry team as we leave our families Christmas night to do what God has called this ministry to do.

Jim Helton  
Founder RTJ

Remember the prisoners as if chained with them. Those who are mistreated- since you yourselves are in the body also

Hebrews 13:13

## Taylorville C.C. Monday Bible Study

The Monday study is about complete with the finishing of "Basic Training for the Believer". We have about 14 men who come on a regular basis and they have enjoyed the study. We will be having some changes coming in the near future. We are going to start doing a study strait from the Bible with a teaching about the use of a concordance and lexicon. We are also going to try to move the study to another day so one of our new volunteers who have expressed a desire to help will be able to participate with us. The men who are coming to the class have expressed a desire to go deeper into the Bible and do an in-depth study. We are looking forward to some truly awesome times in this study. As always continue to keep the teachers and ministers in pray.

Blessings in Christ  
Steve Wright

## Vandalia C.C. Service

The services at Vandalia are going very well. There have been 2 men there that accepted Christ as the Lord of their lives this month. The new Chaplin is a pleasure to work with. He seems to be getting a firm grip on how things work at the Institution. He is a great help getting the men to the services. The services are averaging about 50 me in each service. With 2 services on that day that's not to bad an average. We will continue to "take prisoners for Christ". Thank you for your prayers and support.

Blessings in Christ  
Steve Wright

## NEWS:

- Visit our website for online giving, to sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter and submit prayer requests.
- RTJ is now on Facebook. Pay us a visit for news and pictures.

## A Kingdom is not Democracy

Kingdom .... In scripture, the government or universal dominion of GOD. 1 Chr 29: 11 " Yours, O LORD , is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty for all that is in the heavens and earth is yours ; At Decatur women's correctional we are learning about GOD's kingdom, JESUS paid a high price at Calvary for us to enter into his kingdom . He is LORD of all and cares to know your name , he wants your name written in the Lambs book of Life . We are learning there is a kingdom of light and a kingdom of darkness. Through all the circumstances of life we have to choose each day that we will Serve. Our choices will send us down the path of light or down the path of darkness We must consider every choice we make as important to our life in CHRIST. Many of the ladies are just starting to learn their identity in CRIST is the strength and hope of their life . Make this personal ... GOD did something for you through his divine grace to show you his love . We have been standing on this ... MARK 12:29-31 "And JESUS answered him. The first of all the commandments is, Hear , O Israel: The LORD our GOD is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy GOD with all thy heart , and with all thy soul , and with all thy mind , and with all thy strength : this is the first commandment . And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt Love thy neighbor as thyself . There is none other greater commandment greater than these . We are learning to love GOD from the inside out, many of them have come in feeling defeated, but are leaving with hope from a GOD that loves them .

Thankful to be HIS  
Scott Root

## Letter from Inmate Taylorville C.C.

The Release Through Jesus ministry here at Taylorville Correctional has given me a second chance and a new hope that there is life outside myself. Coming back to God has been a huge struggle for me, through the pain, tear, drugs, alcohol, deaths and abuse I have endured and inflicted. The Purpose Driven Life has been my life saver. It has been a chance for me to take a good hard look at myself and ask who, what, why, also ask why I arrived here in the first place. Rick W says that the painful experiences are the strongest testimony you have. I built my young life on a foundation with a massive crack in it and up until now have tried everything to fill it. (Everything short of God) I am living proof that with God all things are possible. I told the ministry team (Mark and George) that coming to prison was not my punishment, losing my children because of my actions was. Prison however is the place God has put me to learn. I will not walk away from here unchanged. This is my time to fix myself with God's help. I am so grateful to have a chance for a second chance. This ministry has been a huge part of this for me. I want to express my deep gratitude and thanks that this ministry is being provided for me, because without it I may have been lost for good. Thank you and may God bless all of those involved in bringing the good news to all those who so desperately need it.

Sincerely, the inmate with the second chance!

## RTJ Welcomes Bob Walker



My name is Bob Walker and I've just joined with this ministry. I'm really new to prison ministry but I know already that this is what God wants me to be doing. I'm a lifelong resident of Central Illinois. I grew up in Shelbyville, and attended SIU. My very bad habits kept me from graduating, so I joined the work force. I have worked in construction, on the railroad and in the mining industry for ten years. After waking up one morning and hurting everywhere it is possible to hurt, I realized I would never feel any better than I did then, so I quit mining and went back to college. I graduated from University of Illinois at Springfield, and worked in computer technology for twenty years. I have recently retired. Looking back, I see that I always had a desperate desire for God, but the "world, the flesh and the devil" fought to keep me from Him. I made lots of poor choices in my earlier life, and it's Only God's Grace and His purpose that kept me from being crashed on the rocks.

As far as the details of my life, I am married and am a member of Lampstand P.C. in Decatur. I love my church and stay as active there as I can. I love being outside (see my picture) and bury my nose in books when I'm indoors. I can only thank Jim Helton and everyone else involved for allowing me to serve (George, Mark, Chaplain) in this wonderful ministry. God bless you all.

### Re-lease Store

Thanks to Pastor Stephen and his congregation for letting me share the Prison Ministry.



Pastor Stephen and is daughter Olivia

RTJ would like to thank everyone who has helped us out with the Re-lease Store. We have had a number of items donated to us, along with the help of volunteers to sort through everything.



Ask God for wisdom before making decisions

James 1:2-8

PLEASE CUT ALONG LINE AND MAIL TO RTJ

### Update from Sarah

Things are going great at the store. We are not able to do much until the gift bags are done and all the candy is out of the way. We had a washer and dryer donated to the house and the upstairs is packed with clothes, toys, etc. We have a new volunteer, Joy, from Grace Fellowship Church. She has been a great help separating and helping. If you would like to help, please call me. We need all the help we can get. Also, we hope to have the back parking area rocked real soon, before bad weather starts. See you next month.

Sarah  
217-235-3058



### GoodSearch

GoodSearch for Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry. Every search or purchase through their shops earn us money! Since we have joined GoodSearch, we have earned \$175.93 just by using their search engine. Searches powered by Yahoo

Go to [www.releasethroughjesus.org](http://www.releasethroughjesus.org) to download the GoodSearch toolbar

AREAS OF INTEREST:

- JAIL/PRISON OUTREACH
- ADD TO MAILING LIST
- OFFICE VOLUNTEER
- TRANSITIONAL HOME
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE OFFERING:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER REQUESTS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

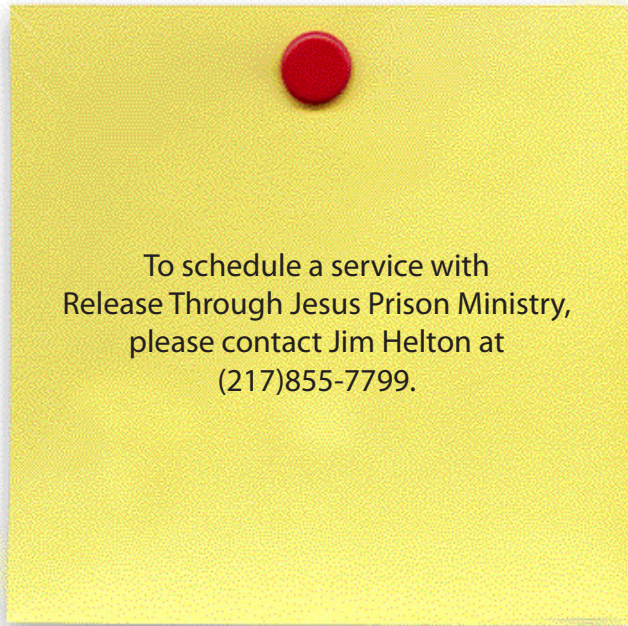
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You can also e-mail your prayer requests to [tamibanchy@yahoo.com](mailto:tamibanchy@yahoo.com)

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Non-Profit Organization  
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Web: [www.releasethroughjesus.org](http://www.releasethroughjesus.org)

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalms 34:18

### PRISON SERVICES

1st Sunday  
Vandalia  
Taylorville  
Centralia NEW!

2nd Saturday  
Big Muddy

2nd Sunday  
Graham

Every Monday  
Lawrence

4th Sunday  
Decatur  
Taylorville

Friday Evenings  
Big Muddy

### PRISON BIBLE STUDIES

Monday  
Decatur  
Graham  
Taylorville  
Big Muddy

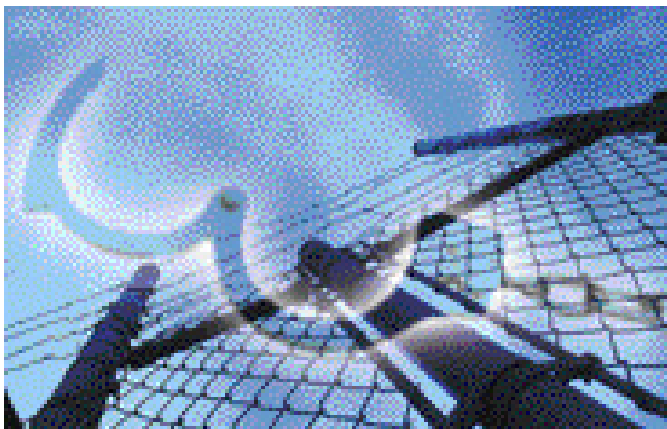
Tuesday  
Big Muddy

Thursday  
Centralia  
Taylorville

Saturday  
Decatur Work Release

## RTJ - Taking Prisoners for Christ!

ReleaseThroughJesusPrisonMinistryentersalllevelsofconfinementfacilitiesto helpmen



and women to know Jesus and lead them to salvation, to teach the men and women to hide the Word of God in their hearts so that they might sin no more, and to regularly visit churches of all Christian denominations to spread the good news of God's work with the incarcerated.