



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 62

January - February 2017

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Dear Ministry Partner,

As I am writing this, I am waiting on pictures that were taken as we were giving gifts to the men at the Taylorville Prison on Christmas evening. If I do not receive them in time, we will put them in the next newsletter for we are already late with this present newsletter. We are thankful that the Prison Administration would even allow us to have pictures. We were able to present the men bags of candy, cookies, granola bars, along with soap and shampoo. This year, thanks to Pastor Jefferies and his wonderful Sunday school teachers and the great children for bagging these gifts for us (1500 in all) in just a few short weeks. (See pictures)

Those of you that were at our annual fundraising banquet or have supported us monthly, yearly or in any way, this is where your donations went. Soap, shampoo, bible studies and special needs were all met because of your giving. We are especially grateful to Clinton Food Bank and New Life Church for their generous giving. This year we were also allowed to give some of these gifts to men and women in the local jails which we were grateful for.

Years ago, we were allowed to take cookies and other home baked goods donated by those that care into the jails. This was a great help for us ministering there. However, some of the men in jails abused this and litterly made a mess of the gifts. Of course, the sheriffs had to discontinue this. I am seeing them again opening up and allowing us to bring items such as soap, toothpaste, candy bars, etc.

Hebrew 13:3 remember the prisoners as if chained with them, those who are mistreated since you yourselves are in the body also.

As I often say, and this comes from my past, you would be surprised at what a candy bar or act of kindness will do. Thank you so much for your help.

Jim Helton
Founder, Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry

Shelbyville Assembly of God

Thank You to the Youth Department at Shelbyville Assembly of God for sorting through all of the candy and separating them into individual bags. These were the bags that was distributed to the inmates at Taylorville CC. for Christmas.



We would like to focus in our newsletter Rev. Lila Chaplain and her husband Richard.

Lila has been with RTJ for many years. She ministers at the Taylorville DOC and Graham DOC. She is also the Associate Pastor of the Pana Nazarene Church. Lila and her husband are such an asset to this Ministry. They also help with our bake sales and are a great asset to the annual fundraising Banquet.

Lila's heart is seen many times when inmates are released from Prison or parole often write or call her to tell her thank you and many times tell of how their lives have been changed.

Richards first time to help with RTJ was at Christmas time as he went with us to give the gifts to the men. This ministry would not be where it is without the help of these wonderful helpers.

Jim Helton



Child of the Prisoner

I think about the children who are being punished too. All because of the things that we their Mothers do. We go about our business expecting only to hurt ourselves. Then when it's over we find that we have hurt someone else. We think that it is awful to be locked in behind these walls. But it's our little locked out children who takes the hardest falls. When our rights were read to us there was one thing they forgot to say. This means not only you my dear but your children must also pay. Now when someone comes and pays our bond. They will surely let us go. But how will we set free our children and erase the things they know. That awful time, time of absences, stays locked in a child's mind. They wonder what they've done to lose so much of their mother's time. We must quickly devise a solution so that our children won't play this game. Because if we don't correct ourselves or our mistakes we will surely relive this pain.

-Written by inmate at Logan Correctional Center

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