

# Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry

RTJ NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 32  
August 2011

Dear RTJ Partner,

Ellie and I were at the Lincoln Prison ministering on Father's Day. I have been doing the Father's Day service there for the past three years. It's an awesome place to be. Fifty-eight percent of the women in prison have been raped or sexually abused by their father. There were some ladies that literally cried the whole service. I remember one lady, probably around the age of 45, raised her hand towards the end of the service. She stood and said, "I have not been able to forgive my father for what he did to me until today and as of now I know I have forgiven him." The message God put on our hearts was when Jesus could do hardly any miracles in his hometown. Of course Jesus can do all things, but a restraint was put on Him because the people saw Him as a carpenter and friend. They couldn't receive Him as Lord and Healer. My question to the ladies was what is your restraint? What is holding you back? What is keeping you from growing and advancing in God? Could it be unforgiveness? Maybe even your father? The message was received quite well. We prayed for many that were sick. Ellie sang a special song entitled "It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)," and that is so true. Let me ask you, my partner: Is there something holding you back? Something keeping you from going to another level with our Lord? Have you been offended or hurt? Maybe by a fellow Christian or even a pastor or friend. Why don't you give it up? It's your restraint. The devil is very busy these last days, and we have

a great tendency to blame each other while the enemy goes free. Thanks for your support. I can't do this without you.

Jim

P.S. Hebrews 13:3: "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

## Decatur DOC

We were at the Decatur Prison Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> in the evening. The worship group from Charleston Assembly of God was with us to lead worship and pray with the women. It was a great time. So many problems and cares were given to God. One lady was healed of pain in her shoulders. She couldn't hardly lift her arms, then all of a sudden her arms were outstretched to praise God. Many deep, deep problems were healed. Thank you for your support.

Kim Shealey



## Help from Vineyard Church

Picture of Corina Yoder, Women's Ministry Director, with Beth Wood who does our newsletter. They will also be helping in different areas of RTJ.



*"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"*  
1 Corinthians 3:16

## 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.

## Graham CC

We've been on a six-month study of Ephesians on the second Sunday of each month and just completed our fourth leg in this journey. We are learning what God has to say about how we are to walk in our daily lives. We discover His directions to us in three steps: **observe** what the Word of God says; **interpret** what God means by studying individual words in their original language, cross-referencing scripture to other scripture passages, and then determining how to **apply** what we learn to our lives. If God's Word is studied and then applied to our lives then we will be content no matter what is happening in our lives.

Paul begins the book of Ephesians by reminding "the saints who are at Ephesus" of their position in Christ. This position is just as true for us today.

1. We were dead in sin.
2. We turned our backs to God and walked with Satan in lust.
3. **Yet** God loved us and will make us alive – by raising us up with Christ.
4. We are His craftsmanship, God owns us – and He chose to save us by grace.

Paul then switched from doctrine to duty. We discovered that we are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been given as children of God (Ephesians 4:1). And what is our calling? It is to "preserve (or keep) the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3) all the while realizing that God is in the process of "building up the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God" (Ephesians 4:12-13).

The goal here is maturity, or Christ-likeness. Maturity comes when every member of the body functions as he or she is called. To do this, we need to speak the truth. "Speaking" the truth

could also be translated as "holding to" or "walking in" the truth of God's Word. That's why we are on this six-legged journey – so we can discover truth for ourselves and know how God tells us to live and thus walk and talk accordingly.

This month we focused upon Ephesians 4:17-32 and discovered how genuine Christianity affects a person's morals and his or her interpersonal relationships. Should there be a noticeable difference in these areas, between the walk of the person who professes to know God and the life of someone who doesn't know Him? YES!

Six men came to understand God's calling and accepted Christ as their personal savior at the end of the service.

In His grip,  
Andy Ritchie

## Decatur DOC

A Strait Place

Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

In our recent captivity series class, a lady said she was being punished by GOD since she gave her life to him. Her question..."When do I know if GOD is punishing me or putting me through a trial?" In the above text there is no "gh" in strait; we are not talking about straight as in walk the plank, but strait as a narrow place because of obstacles standing close about. If a two year old keeps running into the road, an obstacle (fence) must be put into place to create a safe place. The child may kick the fence at first and cry because of "punishment," but Daddy knows the boundary has been

set for safety. A bridge over a canyon has guard rails so I do not go over the edge. She smiled and said, "I'm getting it...That's way cool." We serve a GOD that loves us enough to put obstacles in our way to protect us. These ladies are busy memorizing scriptures and learning about a GOD that loves them, an awesome key to their expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11: "'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,' saith the Lord, 'thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.'"

Blessed to see GOD love,  
Scott Root

## Special Thank You

A Special Thank You to God's Storehouse. They have been donating candy each month to RTJ. We are putting this candy in storage until Christmas. It may sound like we are starting early but when you need candy for gift bags going to 2,300 inmates, it's not early at all.

Jim



God's Storehouse Employee



Kenna works in the distribution department of God's Storehouse

### Vandalia C.C.

Well there are finally some good changes at Vandalia. They have a full-time Chaplain after almost a year. Praise God!

We would like to welcome Chaplain Keith Herberer to Vandalia. He has already made changes to the choir. They have added more singers, and we now have a keyboard player and a drummer. The new men in the choir are awesome. Some of the other changes are that the men now have someone to talk to about their faith. The different chapel services will no longer be three to four weeks out of date. The men have to be put on a list to attend chapel services and Bible study. The Chaplain is in charge of this and since they have one now, the services can be added to as the men come into the institution.

I have talked with the new Chaplain; this is a new type of experience for him as he has never pastured in this setting before, but he seems to truly have a heart for the men in his care. It is going to be a pleasure to have a contact person to work with inside the institution. We would like to ask our partners to keep Chaplain Herberer in your prayers. I know a lot of the problems he is going to face coming

into this position. He also is facing a two hour drive each way every day. Please pray God's mercy on his travels and wisdom to work within this setting.

Blessings in Christ,  
Steve Wright  
Southern Dist. Director

*"The earth is the LORD's  
and everything in it, the world,  
and all who live in it; for He founded it  
upon the seas and established it  
upon the waters."  
Psalm 24:1-2*



### Taylorville C.C.

The Monday morning study is going very well. We have an average attendance of 14 men. The hunger of these men is incredible; they are full of questions as we continue to dig deeper into the word of God. These men are getting the guidance they need to stay in the world when they get released. They are learning the importance of prayer and how it keeps you on track with what the Holy Spirit is doing around you; the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, that He is alive and well in the world today and how to develop that relationship. It is a real joy to be a part of what is going on at Taylorville and to watch as the men learn and grow in their faith. God is hard at work in this place.

God Bless,  
Gary Clem

*"Trust in the LORD with all your  
heart and lean not on your own  
understanding; in all your ways  
acknowledge Him, and He will make  
your paths straight."  
Proverbs 3:5-6*

PLEASE CUT ALONG LINE AND MAIL TO RTJ

#### AREAS OF INTEREST:

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

#### LOVE OFFERING:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

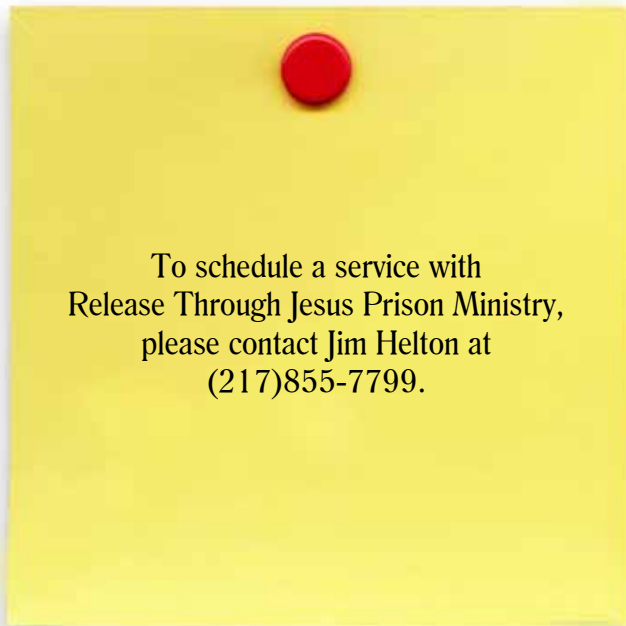
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You can also e-mail your prayer requests to [tamibanchy@yahoo.com](mailto:tamibanchy@yahoo.com)

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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Decatur, IL  
Permit No. 30

Return Service Requested



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Web: www.releasethroughjesus.org

*"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called."  
1 Timothy 6:12*

## RTJ - Taking Prisoners for Christ!

Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry enters all levels of confinement facilities to help men



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.

### 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