



Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry Newsletter

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.

Will you be a part of our prayer team?

RTJ Prayer partners needed–

I am in the process of organizing a contact list of Churches that have people on their prayer chains that would be interested in praying for RTJ on a regular basis. We will pass on prayer requests sent to us by our supporters and volunteers, as well as the ministry's ongoing needs, schedules of services, and Bible studies to those churches and/or people.

If you are interested in joining the prayer team please contact me, Tami Banchy at:
tamibanchy@yahoo.com

Dear ministry partners,

We have been making efforts to keep you updated as to where RTJ is and what we are doing. Seems like we are in a constant state of change. You can find us on Facebook now as well as at our website,

www.releasethroughjesus.org

We have many new people coming into the ministry bringing great gifts and talents. One thing we have been lacking in RTJ is administrative skills. God has brought Anthony and John into the ministry and this is their strong point.

At our last committee meeting for the dinner banquet Gerry, the committee chairman, asked a question that I don't believe has been asked before. He asked out of all the prison ministries what makes ours any different. I knew the answer but it was great listening to a couple of volunteers who have been with RTJ awhile explain.

We go a little further and do a little more than others. For example we did an all day healing service at Vandalia with 8 ministers. Many times we will shut our service down and have the women or men just come to the altar for prayer. Many of us in this ministry, myself included, before we were saved always went a little further when in the world. We had to have more drugs or more alcohol; we had to go a little further than anyone else. Now this has been turned around for God. A little more, a little further.

We have been praying for workers so that we could begin a Bible study at Big Muddy. Recently we have had some contacts that will be making this dream a reality.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Jim Helton
Founder of RTJ PM

Taylorville CC-

Hello to all supporters and fans of RTJ prison ministry. We started with chapter 27 of *Purpose Driven Life* "Defeating Temptation" and it was very interesting to see the men come together and minister to each other especially one man that came for the first time. He stated that while being in prison he did not have the temptations around him that he was afraid he was going to have to face when he gets out. The thing is we all face temptations daily and it is our choice to cave in or defeat them. There was great participation and it was an awesome thing to watch as these men shared with each other their own fears and temptations and how it is a constant battle but if you put God first he will show you the way out. It is amazing to see how far some of these men have come. To God alone be the glory and thank those of you that make it possible for those of us that go in to the prisons to be equipped and covered with prayer.

Skip Renfro

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We are so happy to have Rev. John Cook as part of our ministry team at Taylorville. John is currently employed with ADM/Stratas with the position of lead man. He is also attending the IL School of Ministry and in March received his certified ministry license through the Assemblies of God. His wife, Rio, has been swing manager for 15 years at McDonald's. They have attended Glad Tidings Assembly of God for 10 years and are part of the Care Team as well as leaders for Life Builders, GT's small group ministry.



Banquet Planning Taking Place



These are the wonderful volunteers planning our banquet. Front row from left: Jamie Helton, Ellie Jenkins, Tammy Laughery, Rev. Lila Chaplin, Selena Clark, Marla Helton
Back row: Gerry Wood, Jim Helton, John Cook, Pastor John Connett, Anthony Cherry
Not pictured: Pastor Rod Hite, Scott Bowers, Tammy Burns, Jody Leonard, Kim Shealey, Zach Helton

Saturday, May 8, 2010, will be the RTJ banquet fundraiser. The speaker will be Frank Bower, former body guard to the "gangster" John Gotti. He has a powerful testimony and you won't want to miss hearing him. More details will follow as our task force moves forward with the plans. If you wish to be involved in planning this event or help with executing the plan, please call the RTJ office at 217-728-8775.

VANDALIA C.C. SERVICE-

The Vandalia service was a moving and powerful one this month. The message was about Integrity and Holiness. The men seem to be somewhat in shock to discover Jesus expects us to do some thing besides just receive grace. When you say you are a christian then you are representing Christ. As his representative we are to live up to his standards through the Holy Spirit and His will.

The Chaplain came forward after the altar call and ask if any men had been off base with who they thought they were serving and if so come up to rededicate their hearts to the Lord and get right with Him. There were about 30 men who came forward in the first service and as many again that came forward in the second service with about 60 men coming to the altar under conviction for the way they were living their lives. Praise God! This is the kind of thing we need to see in the prisons, not men just getting saved but choosing to grow and further their walks with the Lord. Thank you for your support and prayers this can't happen without you.

Blessings in Christ,

Steve Wright

Decatur CC-

Praise and worship was very sweet at our Sun. evening service with the girls. Jesus was so faithful to be there as the girls wept before God, as He healed wounds and captured their hearts.

Lila Chaplin brought a Word about forgiving those in your past who have greatly hurt you. As we forgive, Jesus can set us free to begin our healing journey in Him.

All the girls raised their hands to acknowledge that they had children as Lila engaged them in mentoring them in the Lord for their own personal walk with the Lord.

We had a smaller group of ladies but God sweetly ministered to each one. We all knew that we had been in God's presence. We were blessed with a new soul coming to Christ that night!

Decatur Purpose Driven Life Bible Study-

Our Mon. evening Bible studies are going strong. There is intensity of excitement from the women. They come with testimonies of how God is showing up in their life experiences at the prison and how He is able to use their purpose in life to get them through. Lots of questions come up but God is faithful to supply the right answers. Our time is short to cover 3 chapters but it is power packed. We see these girls as the front line soldiers when they leave the institution. When the light goes on and they see they do have a purpose in Christ it's very exciting for us.

In His Service,
Kim Shealey

Vandalia Bible Study-

God's blessings to all and praise to our Messiah and King. I want to thank Jim and all of the Release Through Jesus staff for letting me be a part of such an awesome ministry.

I started the John Bevere teaching series in february 09 and am now in the "Drawing Near" series already. It doesnt seem like Ive been doing this Thursday night thing for that long , but it has been 30 weeks already and Ive seen God doing some amazing things.

The average attendance started at 65 and now there is an average of 105 men. The word is being received "Hallelujah".

Many men have come to this study and have been convicted so much that they were compelled to attend a Sunday morning service and there receive salvation. Many of these men were the n baptized and returned to the bible study as "new creations in Christ". God is truly awesome.

The Vandalia prison is again under political attack and some of the staff are struggling with headaches and stress. Please keep them in your prayers, as I am.

I am continually strengthened by the incredible favor the Father has placed upon me. May his peace and joy continue and your relationship with him be intimate and fulfilling.

"Praise and honor to the King"
Tim DeSherlia

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the



fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." John 4:34-36.

PLEASE CUT ALONG LINE AND MAIL TO RTJ

AREAS OF INTEREST:

- JAIL/PRISON OUTREACH
- ADD TO MAILING LIST
- OFFICE VOLUNTEER
- OTHER _____

LOVE OFFERING:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____

PRAYER REQUESTS

Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry
PO Box 103
Sullivan, IL 61951-1348
Office: 217.728.8775
Mobile: 217.855.7799
Email: rtjprisonministry@yahoo.com
Web: www.releasethroughjesus.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Decatur, IL
Permit No. 300

Return Service Requested

Speaking Engagements

10/4/09 Vandalia Nazarene
10/11/09 Arcola Missionary Baptist
10/25/09 Destiny Fellowship, Moweaqua
11/1/09 Windsor Methodist Church
11/8/09 Xenia Christian
11/15/09 New Day Community Church
11/22/09 Sherman Nazarene
11/29/09 Muncie Baptist
11/14/09 Pawnee Assembly of God
12/6/09 Omaha Nazarene
01/10/10 Monticello Nazarene
01/17/10 Woodland Presbyterian
02/21/10 Pana Nazarene
02/28/10 Herrick Christian

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.



"... I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME UNTO ME." MATTHEW 25:36

PRISON SERVICES

1st Sunday
Vandalia
Taylorville
2nd Saturday
Big Muddy
2nd Sunday
Graham
3rd Sunday
Taylorville
4th Sunday
Decatur
Taylorville
Friday evenings
Big Muddy

PRISON BIBLE STUDIES

Monday
Decatur
Taylorville
Graham
Thursday
Centralia
Taylorville
Saturday
Decatur Work Release
Quarterly
Lincoln
Centralia

www.releasethroughjesus.org