

Release Through Jesus Prison Ministry Newsletter

September 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

P. 1 UPDATE FROM OUR FOUNDER

The day-long deliverance services at Vandalia yielded incredible results.

P. 2 NEW VOLUNTEERS

Also, read testimonies from prisoners who attended the deliverance services at Vandalia CC.

P. 3 TESTIMONIES

Be part of our new prayer network.

More testimonies

P. 4 SCHEDULES

Find our contact information and schedules of both the prison Bible studies and services and where Jim is speaking next.

NEWS

- Visit our website for online giving, to sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter and submit prayer requests.
- RTJ is looking for someone to be editor of our newsletter. Please call Brenda at 217-677-2356 for more information.

Dear ministry partners,

We had such a wonderful time at Vandalia ministering to the men for the Deliverance services. I want to share with you the letter from Chaplain Vaughn.

“Dear Mr. Helton: Please allow this letter to serve as my official thanks for two very significant outreaches we at Vandalia have received from your ministry. First, I and all the inmates who attended your special ‘healing services’ express our thanks for the time, effort and genuine concern that you and your staff showed for over 400 men who were part of the services (4 in all). I am still receiving letters of testimony from men who were positively - and eternally affected by you and your team. Your presentation and professionalism were clearly evident in the way you managed the many men who came forward for prayer. Please also allow me to use this opportunity to personally thank you for the ongoing work here by your team members: Steve Wright, Eugene Holt, and Tim Desherlia. They are a joy to work with and our men are always blessed by their volunteer work.

“We also thank you for the recent book and Bible donation. At the time I received these books we were totally out of even used Bibles to give to members of our congregation. The Bibles and many inspirational books that you donated to us will go a long way in supporting and furthering our ministry work here. I appreciate

your ministry and your care, concern and support to all here at Vandalia Correctional Center.”

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
David Vaughn, Chaplain*

As you can see RTJ volunteers are making an impact on the inmates but we could not do it without the support of our ministry partners.

In this issue you will read some testimonies from the services at Vandalia CC. Thank you for your prayers and financial support to help us take the gospel to the hurting men and women who are serving their sentences in Illinois prisons.

Jim Helton
Founder RTJ"



GOD USES BROKEN THINGS. IT TAKES BROKEN SOIL TO PRODUCE A CROP, BROKEN CLOUDS TO GIVE RAIN, BROKEN GRAIN TO GIVE BREAD, BROKEN BREAD TO GIVE STRENGTH. IT IS THE BROKEN ALABASTER BOX THAT GIVES FORTH PERFUME . . . IT IS PETER, WEEPING BITTERLY, WHO RETURNS TO GREATER POWER THAN EVER."

-Vance Havner

NEW VOLUNTEERS MARK AND TAMMY LAUGHERY

RTJ welcomes Mark and Tammy Laughery to our volunteer team. Mark has worked for Bodine Electric for the past 27 years. He is currently working in the Champaign office as the Construction Manager.

Tammy is employed with the Macon County Health Department where she is working for a program called Healthy Families Illinois. Mark is a member of St. James Catholic Church. He also attends Woodland Chapel Presbyterian Church where Tammy is a member. Both Mark & Tammy are involved in the "Great Banquet and Awakening" movements through Lampstand Ministries.

Mark has just started to facilitate Monday night Bible studies at Taylorville CC with Skip Renfrow & George Burns. Tammy has volunteered to serve on the committee for the May 2010 banquet fundraiser. (More on that later in later issues.)



Testimonies from Vandalia Healing & Deliverance Service

Leg is healed....

I am a prisoner at Vandalia CC. About 2 years ago my left leg began to bother me. I came to the chapel Sunday morning and the healing team prayed for me and I received a blessing. And you can believe that day my pain was gone and my leg has not been hurting. I thank God for healing me. And I thank the healing team for praying for me. God is real and He is good. May God bless you!

Delivered from unforgiveness...

I just want to say the study on forgiveness was very helpful. I would have to confess that God was the hardest person I've ever had to forgive. The death of my 12 year old son 4 years ago left me in a very bad place. And although I'll never get over it, forgiving has allowed me to accept it and move on. Through forgiveness we find peace.

Prayers for family answered....

I had Release Through Jesus Ministry pray for my sister's irregular heart beat during her pregnancy. I have received word that her heartbeat is steady now. God really does answer our prayers. He is real and alive.

RTJ conducted a healing service at Vandalia CC. At that point in my life I had several trials going on in my life. My grandmother was found to have congestive heart disease and I was told I could have Hepatitis C. Also my mother informed

me that my oldest daughter was starting to become very rebellious. At the end of the service they called for us to come up for prayer. I asked for prayer over my grandmother and my daughter that God would move in their lives like only He could. My grandmother is home from the hospital and doing well and my daughter has become more disciplined. Praise the Lord!!! It was confirmed today that I have hepatitis C but 2 Corinthians 4:16 came to mind; "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day!!!" Praise the Lord! All things work for my good!

I received a blessing asking for prayer for spiritual healing, for my drug addiction, and for bonding back with my family. I really want to thank God, give Him all the praise!

Encountered the Holy Spirit....

The Spirit received from the healing service was unbelievable. I feel as though I have been reborn! Thank you and praise God!

I received a spiritual blessing that forever changed my life. All the life-changing experiences I've had in my 26 years of living have happened inside the gates of Vandalia CC. God is present everywhere. My fears have left me & my prayers have been answered. God is a good God.

Lincoln CC

Prison is such an awesome place to minister. The inmates are so hungry for God. Holidays, such as Mother's Day and Father's day are very special. Especially Father's Day in the women's prison. For so many, their fathers left them, beat them or raped them. So much hate; and yet we watched and our Lord walked right through all of that unforgiveness and 15 girls received Christ. Thank you Lila for ministering at the 2nd service.

Jim Helton

More Testimonies from Vandalia CC

I had the privilege of being a part of a great healing service. God was there as always and His presence was felt. There was an unusually large attendance and many were prayed for. There seemed to be a Spirit of Fear among the men when we came, but we left them with deliverance through freedom in Christ. There were a lot of different types of afflictions and we are believing in their healing, even to this very minute.

One big burly guy broke and cried when he came to Jim and I. He asked us to pray for him that he would get the hatred out of his heart for the guy that killed his grand baby.

That was a tough one. I knew that whatever I said to him I would have to pray that I too could do the same thing. I told him first of all that we understood that it was a very hard task to forgive for something so awful. However we know that through Christ this is possible. He himself looked down from the cross at the ones that had hurt him so grievously and said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". We have a Father that knows and cares.

Praise God that we have a place to go where He never sleeps nor slumbers, and give him our burdens. Jesus said " take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29-30 NIV)

Jesus is Freedom!

Mary Purcell

Vandalia Bible Study

The Vandalia bible study is going strong with the numbers going up every week. The attendance is at 102 men. The men just finished the *Bait of Satan* course. There were 75 men who received certificates of completion. Each of the men are getting a lot from the John Bevere series. They are saying that they are receiving the tools they need to change their lives, to be the men of God they need to be. We will be starting the next series called *Drawing Near*, how to develop and maintain your relationship with God. It is truly a privilege and honor to get to work with these men and I look forward to continuing to serve.

God Bless
Tim DeSherlia



Will you be a part of our prayer team?

RTJ is putting together a network of volunteers who will pray for our ministry. We know the "effectual, fervent prayer" of the righteous will accomplish much. Our teams go into the prisons weekly to minister and we need prayer warriors to lift us up as we show prisoners how to change their lives and their spiritual destination. To be a part of this network call Tami at 217-521-5863 or email the ministry and let us know you wish to be on the prayer partner list.

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

9/27/09 Watseka Assembly of God

10/4/09 Vandalia Nazarene
10/11/09 Fairview Heights-Parkview

11/1/09 Windsor Methodist Church
11/8/09 Xenia Community Church and
New Day Community Church

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