



The Florida Prison Evangelist

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Be Reconciled!

In 2 Corinthians 5:16–20 we read that in Christ we are a new creation and are reconciled to God through Christ. He has given us the ministry of reconciliation! We are now ambassadors for Christ and have a responsibility to share this life-saving message so others can be reconciled to God.

The theme of the 2022 National Prison Ministry Workshop was “Be Reconciled!” The workshop was held in Wichita Falls, Texas, and hosted by the Edgemere Church of Christ. This powerful message is something we must share. Prison ministry is a soul-fulfilling work and we experience much joy when we see others obey the gospel. Likewise, we feel much sadness when we see others reject the gospel. We are disheartened not only by people who reject the message, but also by brethren who believe that prison work is not important, or by brethren who tell us those behind bars are a lost cause. We are particularly discouraged when brethren criticize us for trying to build relationships with prisoners, showing the love of Christ. We can be fluent in Bible knowledge and doctrine, but if we fail to show the love of Christ we have missed the mark! Paul said it best when he wrote “*And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing*” (1 Corinthians 13:2).

This workshop was just the encouragement we needed! It was great to see brethren from different parts of the nation come together for this cause. As we departed Wichita Falls we felt renewed and emboldened to continue our mission of freeing souls from Satan’s bondage and equipping them with Biblical life skills to aid them for the rest of their days. In the remainder of this newsletter you will learn of fruit that comes from prison ministry!

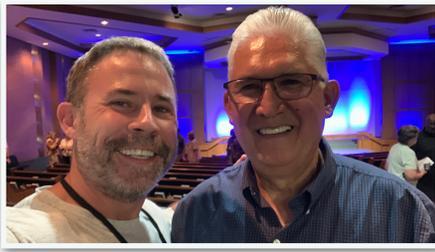
Nation Prison Ministry Workshop 2023

Mark your calendars for June 7-9, 2023 and make plans to attend the National Prison Ministry workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mike Bingham:

The youth minister at Woodland West Church of Christ, Mike and his wife (Mayra) are both graduates of Sunset International Bible Institute. Upon Mayra’s graduation they moved back to Mike’s hometown of Arlington, Texas to take the position with Woodland West where they have served for 7 years. In his previous life Mike was incarcerated for over 18 years. He was immersed into Christ while in prison in 2008. His life experiences ultimately provided Mike with the blessing of being on the other side of prison ministry.





Joe Almanza

Joe grew up on the streets of San Antonio, Texas. His family was (and still is) involved with the Mexican Mafia. These involvements led Joe to four terms in the Texas prison system. In 1984, while incarcerated, he was looking for something to read and he picked up a Christ Prison Fellowship Bible Correspondence Course from the Turnpike Church of Christ in Grand Prairie, Texas. Upon his release, Joe was paroled to Grand Prairie, and

members of the Turnpike church encouraged and mentored him in his Christian walk. Joe completed two years of ministerial training at the Sunset International Bible Institute, and spent the next 20 years working in the Grand Prairie area for the Burbank and Turnpike congregations as an outreach minister. Since September of 2004, Joe and his wife, Becky, have lived in Abilene, Texas, where he works for the Highland Church of Christ as the community minister and a chaplain for the Taylor County Jail.

David Green:

David who was formerly incarcerated and spent eight years on death row, is now the minister at the Church of Christ of Greater New Orleans. He and his wife, Jaime, are passionate about community outreach with an emphasis on prison ministry. David is the founder and president of Keep It Real Ministries, which was established to assist the incarcerated and those returning to the community, as well as affected family members. It is his desire to impact the city for Christ and to help strengthen the local church through active ministry and supportive transitional living.



In Other News...❤️

Our very own prison minister received a blessing from God this past April. Sondra Rojas and Christopher tied the knot! Sondra is from Venezuela and was added to the church in 2016...coincidentally the same year as Christopher; however, they did not meet until Sondra moved across the street from Gary Wyder!



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