Silent Victims

Some months ago a petite lady, Sandi Huddleston-Edwards walked in our office and with confidence said, “I am here to write your story if you will let me.” I knew God had sent her and it was time that I began to pen the ministry’s journey and my life’s story. With great excitement I want to introduce you to my first book, “Silent Victims”. This 30 day devotional book was inspired by the poems, prayers and letters from the children and their caregivers. Two more books will follow in the months ahead and those who read the devotionals will better understand the hearts of those we serve. If you purchase a signed copy from Forgiven Ministry you will also be buying an inmate one with your purchase. The cost of “Silent Victims” will be $10.00 plus shipping and tax. You can pre-order this book by emailing fmbookorders@gmail.com Once we receive your order then you will receive an invoice for the amount due which can be paid by check, cash or credit card. Please pray that God will use these books to reach the hearts of those who may not know him in a personal relationship.

Forgiven Ministry, Inc.
Holiday Newsletter 2017

The Blessing Jar

It seems only yesterday that we began 2017. God opened the door to the Robbins Unit at North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women in Raleigh, NC. The blessings just keep coming as we serve women’s death row, the infirmary and three other groups of inmates that can’t live in the regular population. Thankful is not the word for the gratitude I see every time Jack and I visit the unit. A new project God gave me was to place plastic blessing jars in each group. Two months later we opened the jars and read their blessings. These ladies know how to be thankful for the little things in life. I was amazed at all that they counted as a blessing. We could learn from them and maybe be much more content with what we have. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV Your prayers, dedication and donations have made all that we do possible. Forgiven Ministry is growing as we see a West Michigan team begin in 2018 and the beginning of ODWG camps in the state of Georgia next year. To God be all the Glory for all that He has done since 2000. As one inmate said, “I don’t even know how to tell my children about God but you do. Thank you.”

To each of you and yours, Merry Christmas and keep serving Jesus!

Jack and Scottie
A True Christmas

Miracle

Christmas is usually a wonderfully joyous time and something especially children look forward to. Every family has specific memories that they look forward to and usually that involves getting to see family that might be far away. However, for families that are separated because of incarceration, that isn’t always the case. This year God opened up a wonderful door for the “One Day with God” camp fathers at Alexander Correctional. They were able to film a Christmas message and send it home to their children. Can you imagine being a child and think, “I would love for Daddy to be able to at least tell me Merry Christmas.” Well this year they got to and it will be something they can play over and over—now and for years to come. The administration allowed us to film it in Ezekiel’s Room which was the first time inmate fathers had been allowed in the room. The messages felt more like home since they were filmed there with a beautiful Christmas tree in the background. The fathers got very creative; some even read a Christmas story to their children. Others wished a Merry Christmas and hoped the children had fun playing in the recent snowfall. What all the videos had in common was that they shared their hearts full of love and excitement and prayed that this video would bring them a little closer for Christmas! Some men shed tears because this meant so much to them. So this year we hope you are able to be with your families, but remember those who are apart. And rejoice in knowing these fathers were able to make their child’s Christmas a little brighter by sending a special message. Being able to have a piece of dad this Christmas is a miracle to these children.

What a Camp!

The One Day with God camp program is such a special and unique day for the inmate parent and children. It is a day like none other and a day full of memories that will be made for a lifetime. This December at our camp for Caldwell Correctional an even more special memory was formed for the fathers and children that attended. At the camps the parents pack gifts that they get to choose for each of their children. This year these fathers had a special gift for each child, a brand new top of the line bicycle. These bicycles where made possible by a special donor that goes to the host church. They wanted to make a special donation for the camp. Thinking back through the years of Christmas presents they have given their children, they thought, “What did we most enjoy giving our children?” It finally came to them, bicycles. They wanted the fathers to experience the joy of being able to give a gift like that and the children to receive it. On Friday morning we arrived at the church for the seminar for the fathers. Proudly displayed in front of the Christmas tree were 18 beautiful brand new bicycles and helmets. As the fathers arrived and we started the day, they couldn’t focus from looking and saying what are all those bicycles for? When the fathers found out they got to give a bicycle to their child you would have thought we told them they were receiving a million dollars. The fathers’ spirits changed to excitement. They spent every break going and looking at them and they would say “I want to give that one to my little girl, she loves “Frozen” and look it is “Frozen” themed,” or “My son would love that trick bike. He sure could do a lot of tricks on that.” The dads waited with excitement for Saturday to come and the big surprise revealed. What a great camp it was with families being reconciled! The end of the day drew near and it was time for the big reveal. The families were called up one at a time and the daddies were able to roll out the bicycles to their children. The children were ready to burst with joy and surprise. They all thanked their fathers in special ways but all with “Thank you Daddy” and a huge hug. Then the children got to ride the bicycles for their fathers to see. At that moment dads and children both were on top of the world. An officer from the facility said an inmate father stood and shared how he would have never thought in a million years he would be able to give his child a new bicycle. It’s not just about the gift but the one who gave the gift. The children would have had just as special a day if they would have only been able to spend the time with their fathers. What I enjoyed is watching these dads, in how proud they were to be able to give this gift to their children. When all was said and done, this is a life memory that will never be forgotten for these fathers and children. This Christmas, set some time aside to share some very special moments with someone you love.

In Christ, Andrew
Help Us Pray About A Ministry Vehicle

Over eleven years ago a couple donated money for us to purchase a used Ford Expedition. At the time it had 27,000 miles on it and today it has right at 210,000 ministry miles. The condition of the vehicle is requiring continual upkeep. In the last 2 months we have spent over $2100 on maintenance. We are praying as to how God would have us move forward. Every time we leave for a ministry trip pulling our trailer filled with supplies, we ask God to put a hedge of protection around our vehicle. He has been faithful to take us and bring us home. Would you help us pray about what God would have us do? We are looking for a large SUV such as a Ford Expedition, Chevrolet Suburban etc. We do not desire top of the line, simply a dependable low mileage vehicle that is large enough to haul a trailer and fulfill all ministry needs. More than anything we seek to be wise stewards of God’s provision.

Matching Gift

Once again Forgiven Ministry has been blessed with a Christian North Carolina business giving a $25,000.00 matching gift. Through this loving generous gift we will be able to meet many needs that make it possible for God’s work to be accomplished in 2018. Would you pray about your part in this exciting challenge? If you feel led to join us in this effort, please designate your gift to the matching gift challenge. All gifts are tax deductible. We accept donations through credit cards, checks or through PayPal Giving Fund on our website. www.forgivenministry.org/give

Sowing Seeds of Connection

Forgiven Ministry received a large manila envelope from a North Carolina inmate with a workbook that he designed to keep him connected with his daughter. His daughter was 10 months old when he entered prison. He knew that with the long sentence it would be a struggle to stay connected with his daughter. He began designing worksheets; and in return she would respond and a relationship was started. He took the worksheets, made a workbook and wanted Forgiven Ministry to use it to help other parents to stay connected. This father is now out of prison and has a wonderful relationship with his teenage daughter. We believe that God sent this workbook as a very special tool for inmate parents and children to stay close even when they are apart. We have seen much success in the hearts of families as they work together in the Sowing Seeds of Connection workbook during our One Day with God Camps. What a touching sight it is to see a family lying in the floor together learning about each other.

On the road again till the next breakdown.

Father & Daughter Working on the “Sowing Seeds of Connection” Workbook

Captain America Joined Our team of Presenters in 2017

A Mother’s Dance of a Lifetime with Her Son

Prayer Accesses the Throne Room of God
**Coloring Book Ministry**

Only God can come up with a coloring book ministry for adult inmates. After receiving a small box of adult Christian coloring books Scottie knew God must be up to something. Scottie had taken some coloring books into Death Row; and it had made a great impact on the ladies. God knows the desires of our hearts and He knew what an impact these books would have on inmates. Word spread quickly throughout the 1700 women housed at NCCIW in Raleigh, NC. After getting permission from the Warden, Forgiven Ministry delivered 1700 adult Christian coloring books and 1700 packs of colored pencils to the prison. One inmate saw no reason to live. She was suicidal; after being given one of the coloring books her desire to die became a desire to live. The scripture that God used on the coloring sheet was Psalm 22:19. “You, Lord, Do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.” God used the picture below to redirect her life. After hearing this story, other prisons began to see the benefit of coloring books for their population and began to request the books. At the time of this newsletter we have requests for 3000 coloring books to be delivered in the next few weeks. Please pray for the inmates as they open the books and read the scripture on each page. God can use anything to reach a soul for the Kingdom. Forgiven Ministry thanks God that every book thus far has been donated.

![Coloring Sheet]

**A Texas Father Comforts His Child Who Misses His Father**

**Make a Difference: Sponsor a Child**

A gift of just $175 will cover the cost of a child attending a One Day with God Camp. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Forgiven Ministry accepts major credit card donations, PayPal is available on our website, and the ministry has an account with Edward Jones for stock donations. Please call the office for more information. Forgiven Ministry, Inc. is a public charity exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is qualified to receive tax deductible contributions. Financial information and a copy of its charitable solicitation license are available from the North Carolina Secretary of State, Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state. Office: (828) 632-6424 Toll Free #1.866.584.7534 or (828) 632-6434 (fax). You can also support us through shopping on Amazon. Bookmark the link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2225945 and help support us each time that you shop.

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**NCCIW Mother Blesses Her Daughters with a Crown and a Rose**