

Not a Hand Out . . .

But a Hand Up

Please know that there remains much work to be accomplished and your financial support is greatly required. I encourage each of you to pray that Father's will shall be done. I strongly believe in intercessory pray! If you're church or perhaps an individual wishes to financially support the Calhoun County Jail Ministry, please contact Mrs. Mae Burrows at (256) 237-5171. If the Jail Chaplain can be of any assistance please call Chaplain Green at (256) 343-2474.

- Bibles Given Out..... 900
- Toiletries Given Out.....1058
- Baptisms.....191
(76 pending)
- Confessions of faith..... 476



Jail Chaplaincy Ministry
CROSS
1130 Woodstock Avenue
Anniston, AL 36207

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Calhoun County Jail
Chaplaincy Ministry is a
ministry of CROSS.
www.acrossministries.com
Volume 2, Issue 1



CROSS

Calhoun County Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Newsletter

Indigent Care Mission

The Calhoun County Jail permits the Chaplain's Ministry to provide indigent care packages every other month. On average 50 percent of all inmates do not receive a personal family package due to poverty or other circumstances. In December 2009 237 packages were distributed and in February 2010 249 were given. Included in each package is:

- ⇒ bottle of shampoo
- ⇒ tube of deodorant
- ⇒ bar of soap
- ⇒ package of paper
- ⇒ writing pens
- ⇒ envelopes
- ⇒ various Christian tracks/Bible



The estimated cost of each package is \$7.50. Thanks to many of you the needs have so far been met. Please continue to pray that funding will be provided for this special program. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**



Words from the Sheriff

Advisory Council

The Calhoun County Jail Chaplaincy Ministry serves as an entity under **CROSS (Christian Resource and Outreach ServiceS)**, which is a non-profit organization. Below are the members of the Advisory Council:

- Sheriff Larry Amerson
- Chief Deputy Matthew Wade
- Ms. Anne Bradshaw
- Rev. Jim Burke
- Sgt. Jon Garlick
- Rev. C. O. Grinstead
- Rev. Bob McLeod
- Mr. Jake Matthew
- Mr. Eric Starr
- CROSS officer

Rev. Richard Green is the on-staff chaplain.



We know that almost all drug users will complete their sentence and return to society just to make the same mistakes again. We offer drug rehab and other services to attempt to break that cycle. The best and most important single

thing we can do for them is to reach them with the good news of Jesus. While in jail they are sober and have time to reflect on their mistakes. It is a perfect time to bring the word to them. It took me many years to see how important it is for us to make this effort.

The Calhoun Baptist Association and a few churches have responded to His important ministry—and YOU CAN HELP! Your church or you can support the ministry with your dollars and you can get personally involved as a worker.



"I was a stranger and you took Me in; . . . I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

To date we have seen more than 200 baptisms. We book about 400 people per month into the County Jail—with its average daily population being 450. Almost every one of these inmates have children and multiple broken homes outside. Consider how many lives will be impacted for good when an inmate accepts Jesus as their Savior. Consider how many drug deals, thefts, forgeries, assaults, or worse crimes that will not happen.

YOU ARE NEEDED! Please make a choice to make a difference in your neighborhood, town, and county!

Larry Amerson, Sheriff



Chaplain's Corner

On January 2nd the first anniversary of the Calhoun County Jail Chaplaincy Ministry was celebrated. It has been my privilege to serve the men and women incarcerated at the County Jail and providing support and spiritual counseling to various correction officers and other staff. In the past year I have witnessed our Lord working through the Christian volunteers, correction officers, and often inmates to plant seeds of renewed hope for grace, mercy, and peace. I've witnessed churches of various denominations come together to meet the financial needs ranging from my salary to furnishing Bibles, Christian literature, and hygiene products for the inmates. Despite the stigma people place on those in jail, many have heard clearly His instructions and continue to faithfully fulfill His Scriptures.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Approximately 500 souls were rededicated with 191 receiving baptism within the walls of the jail—where many met our Lord for the first time. If you have not already visited our Web site, www.acrossministries.com, I invite you to do so where you will see a short film of our first baptism. Even today as we prepare this message to you, some 76 men and women are awaiting baptism. You may ponder why our Lord is allowing a revival to take place in the County Jail, and yet if you reflect on how Jesus Christ served the masses while on earth, it truly makes sense.

An equally important aspect of our mission is that of helping to restore and reunite families. This aspect of the mission is performed with the assistance of Ms. Anne Bradshaw, who works diligently to accomplish this task. Sister Anne works with inmates and their families in order to reunite them whenever possible. By helping families rebuild broken relationships this mission helps reduce repeat offenders. We strive diligently to connect these families to a local church where they can become part of a church family who will give Christian counseling and develop a new lifestyle once they are released from jail. It is imperative that our local churches welcome these hurting people who have made mistakes in their lives. Every attempt is made to assist inmates being released in finding a church home that will accept them just as they are—tattoos and visible and invisible scars.

In the women's section Anne assists me in ministering in that section where results have been remarkable! On average some 50 women of all ages, race, and socioeconomic status are confined on only given day. The fruits of Anne's labor are so appreciated; yet she will be the first to remind each of us that this is not man's work but the power of Jesus Christ. I encourage each inmate to view their time in jail as a special season that God has given them to rediscover their relationship with Him.

Many inmates use the time in the County Jail wisely; however, there will perhaps always be those who have become so disrespectful in society they must face the ultimate penalty of law and be locked away for the rest of their lives. Despite the crime I believe that you and I must continue to honor our Lord Jesus Christ and provide each of God's children with Christian guidance and love.

In His Service, Richard S. Green



Planting Hope

Over a year ago I was asked by Chaplain Green to serve as the liaison with him in serving the women's section at the County Jail to bring our Lord's word to the

women—at the same time meeting the judicial system guidelines requiring an approved female to be presented for accountability. With this journey God opened the door for a rich blessing to occur in my life.

I soon discovered that the Chaplain needed help to reach out to the women and men in other ways. Our sessions are all Christ-centered with life lessons applied to help the inmates discover that only Jesus holds the true answer. Basically, I have become the family outreach coordinator which allows to give hope through Jesus to the incarcerated and their spouses, children, parents, and loved ones. It gives love, dignity, acceptance, and the promise of redeeming love.

Personally, my biggest reward is the 3 to 4 hours I spend at least three nights a week calling families to update the progress of their loved one while discussing and planting seeds concerning our Savior's love. This consist of pairing released individuals with churches for a continuation of their walk. This is helping to reestablish the family unit that so often broken by the world's sin that allows us to see results.

For the last 30 years my favorite word to hold onto has been HOPE, and hope is what Chaplain Green and I strive to give.

In Christ, Anne Bradshaw