## **BECOME INVOLV**

Join us for prison letter answering **on the** fourth Tuesday evening of the month at **IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** 3533 East Tolbert Road, Wooster, Ohio

To help provide Bibles, concordances, and Bible courses for those in prison, your support would be greatly appreciated. See the enclosed envelope or send your gift to: PO Box 135 / Fredericksburg, OH 44627-0135

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH THE PRISON MINISTRY, CONTACT US.

#### **Financial Report**

September 30, 2021

Balance	6/30/2021	\$102,593.94
INCOME		7,552.30
Donati	ons	2,296.30
Church	n Donations	5,256.00
EXPENS	ES	(14,201.29)
Literat	ure	7,440.11
Suppli	es	901.46
Postag	je	4,680.72
Outsid	e Help	1,179.00
Balance	9/30/2021	\$95,944.95

### Literature sent

July 1 - September 30, 2021

Bibles	205
Concordances	
Bible Atlas	22
Bible Dictionaries	51
Study Courses	
Spanish Bibles	199
Spanish Concordances	0
Spanish Bible Dictionaries	10
Loaves & Fishes Magazine	102
A Life Redeemed Book	24
Marriage Courses	4
Letters Answered	738
Inmate Newsletters	1,005

## "TAKE UP THE CROSS, AND

Follow Me" Mark 10:21



DEAR SUPPORTERS - PAGE 1

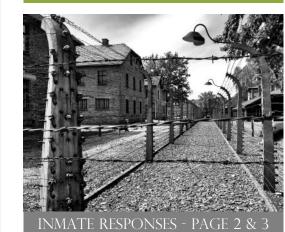


Photo credits: Prison & Coffee: Pixabay; Other photos: Shawn Martin



**Board Members** 

Noah Martin / James Martin Stephen Martin / Alvin Mast Henry Beachy / Joe LaFave Konrad Steiner / Elson Miller

#### **Christian Fellowship Prison Ministries**

PO Box 135 Fredericksburg, OH 44627-0135 Website: cfprisonministries.org "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John8:36

mountains.

worth it.

## Christian Fellowship PRISON MINISTRIES

REACHING THE BOUND TO FREE THEIR SOULS BY THE POWER OF CHRIST

Third Quarter Report

#### **DEAR SUPPORTERS...**

2021

The Bridger Wilderness Area in western Wyoming has 600 miles of hiking trails. The tallest mountain in Wyoming named Gannett Peak is found in this region. The landscape is continuously breathtaking with hundreds of high alpine lakes, glaciers, and wide sweeping valleys. I've never visited this area but reading about it makes me want to explore and experience those breathtaking sights firsthand. Maybe I inherited some of those interests from my Dad who told us stories of his growing up years in Mexico, Belize, Arkansas, and North Carolina. But before I make that trip, I better count the cost. It would take lots of time, it could take lots of money, and I'm sure it would take lots of energy. This Bridger Wilderness area has a place for visitors to leave their comments about the experience they had while in the area. Here are some actual comments that were left behind: 1. Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill. 2. Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the areas of these pests. 3. Please pave the trails... Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them. 4. The coyotes made too much noise last

night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals. 5. A small deer came into my camp and stole my jar of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call... 6. Escalators would help on steep uphill sections. 7. A

"We need to be ready to embrace hardship.

McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead. 8. Too many rocks in the

Reading these comments makes me wonder if these people know what a wilderness is supposed to look like. They may not have counted the cost before they started. We should expect rocks, wild animals, hardship, cold, and annoying insects in the wilderness. We won't be able to enjoy the magnificent views and experience the rushing mountain streams by just sitting on a park bench. We will need to be ready to embrace hardship, cold, and sweat. In Luke 14 Jesus tells the multitudes, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" Jesus lays out the terms of discipleship. He tells us what the cost is. Do we want the enjoyment of the spectacular views and the refreshing rivers without all the danger and the hardships we may face? I'm afraid many people have that idea. Elizabeth Elliot gave this quote, "A faith that is not worth dying for is not worth living for."

Thank you again for your prayers, your interest, and the support that you give in so many ways. May the Lord richly bless you and keep you. Let us count the cost; being willing to endure hardship. The reward will be

In His service, James Martin

# INMATE RESPONSES



## Dear Friends in Christ at CFPM,

I write to you all with thanksgiving in my heart for the KJV Bible I received from your ministry. I pray for much peace, grace, and love to continue to bless Christian Fellowship Prison Ministries from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I received a short letter from a saint who works in your ministry and it truly brought tears of joy to my eyes. It was genuine. I could feel the love through the words on the paper. It was just a short letter but packed with beautiful heartfelt meaning. Thank you whoever wrote it and praise God – all glory to Christ! They signed the letter "A friend in Christ at CFPM". It was wonderful to feel the body of Christ through a piece of paper.

As you know I'm in prison; but rather, I have more freedom than I've ever had before. It's funny how God brought me to prison to find true liberty in Christ Jesus. I had to be shackled and chained physically to finally experience spiritual freedom. Even though I was raised in a church and "accepted Jesus Christ" at a young age, I still was a slave in my mind. For many years the chains of Satan kept me in bondage through the hurt, pain, fear, and stress I picked up through the years of living in and for the world.

My hope is that more broken lost sheep will grasp this peace that surpasses all things I understand or have ever experienced in life. It's true and it exists, but you must accept Jesus' gift of salvation and commit yourself to our Creator. It's hard work and takes time plus effort on our part. But wow!!! It is worth it. From a 35-year-old man who has done it all, including drugs, alcohol, women, searching high and low for anything to relieve stress and misery (which I used to call home), being around the world, 11 years in the military, and countless deployments to combat and having experienced true evil, I now know the Truth in Christ.

Due to the Lord's great power and strength, now I have parole and will be leaving these physical prison walls, yet I walk in the Spirit now and praise His holy name. Through prayer, obedience, and worship, I am blessed with parole; but truly I am free now and, whether in prison or living in a mansion, hungry or with a full belly, alone or with many friends, I am now safe, content, and secure in the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The one True God and Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah, thank you for the chance to cry with joy and testament of Jesus. As always, I send love and faith to you at CFPM.

A prisoner and bondservant of Christ, -Houston TX

#### Dear CFPM,

From my studies, I learned that the best way I reach out to other inmates was to speak on something they could relate to and perhaps understand the meaning of my message.

Probation, parole, conditional release, and house arrest; these are all terms prison inmates can relate to. When an inmate says "I have a life sentence", or, "I'm never going to get out of here", or "I still have 40 years to go", these are indications that he has given up, has no hope, or has become 'institutionalized'. Therefore, they go with the flow so to speak.

One thing that we must never forget is that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:5,8). He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is our hope as long as we live and as long as He patiently waits for us, we have hope. Hope is what God wants us to do. Without hope, we don't have Jesus because He is our hope. If we don't have Jesus, we don't have eternal hope.

With God, all things are possible. Proverbs mentions "hope deferred" in Prov. 13:2. This "hope deferred" is false hope, hoping we can get released and go back into the world and do the same old things over again, only more cautiously. In 1 Cor. 15:19, we learn that "If in this life only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable." In short, we must never give up our hope in Christ. We change, but He never changes. When we give up on Christ, we give up our future of eternal life.

This world is not eternal. Heaven is. Again, in 1 Cor. 2:9, God tells us that "No eye has seen, nor ear hath heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared (It's already done) for them that love Him".

When Jesus said "I will never leave you nor forsake you", can we say that to Him? He deals in fair justice. If we deny Him, He will deny us. If we are ashamed of him, he will be ashamed of us before the heavenly Father. It doesn't matter what you've done, John says in chapter 1:9, "If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness". Is that fair justice?

What it boils down to is that we are all lost or found, on probation as long as this world exists, and as long as

#### Card from an Inmate...

#### A Hug to you...

I send you this hug today, just because I had to say....



we live. If we die in our sins, our probation is over so to speak. Justice will be carried out. "The wages of sin is death". Death is eternal separation from God. There will be no second chances offered.

You can find free Bibles anywhere in America. Salvation is free anywhere you go. It is a gift from God, the only catch is you must receive the gift to obtain it. God doesn't storm your heart and take over your life. You have to invite Him in. I could go on and on with Scripture after Scripture, but unless you receive God's Word, all the preachers in the world together cannot save you. Without God, you will perish forever.

-Monticello FL