



# BECOME INVOLVED

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, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US.

# Christian Fellowship PRISON MINISTRIES

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

2023

Fourth Quarter Report

*"I will lift up mine eyes  
Unto the hills..."*

*Psalm 121:1a*



DEAR SUPPORTERS - PAGE 1

## Dear Supporters...

Last Sunday I heard an inspirational message titled "Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh." In the beginning of Luke 21, we could almost become discouraged with all the things that Jesus said will come to pass in the end times. "There will be wars and commotions, great earthquakes and famines, persecutions and imprisonment, nations will rise against nations, and ye shall be hated of all men. There shall be signs in the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and men's hearts failing them for fear. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." In general, we are gloomy and sad when looking down, but looking up cheers the heart and brightens the face.

The word "up" is an interesting word. Tao Lee (an English tutor) wrote this article... "This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word. It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!"

*"Looking up cheers  
the heart..."*

Look up, look up, look up! That's what I want us to remember. It will make all the difference in our lives.

In brief overview of 2023, the prison ministry has experienced a few changes as we try to accommodate the changing prison laws. Some states have transitioned to a digital mail system, which has caused numerous points of confusion, but we are doing our best to adapt. Over the past year, we have also had an increase in literature requests from prison Chaplains, which we've been glad to supply. Along with all the other changes, we recently purchased a computer to replace our old retired one. As we navigate challenges and new opportunities, we endeavor to maintain a flexible and Christlike attitude.

Our ultimate goal is to get Bibles and study materials to those who are hungry and thirsty. Why? Because we know the Word of God still changes hearts and lives! Blessings to all of you, and let's remember to look up! -James Martin

## Financial Report

December 31, 2023

<b>Balance 9/30/2023</b>	<b>\$110,723.35</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>13,001.68</b>
Donations	8,751.68
Church Donations	4,250.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(20,107.98)</b>
Literature	9,425.68
Supplies	494.75
Postage	5,346.82
Legal/Professional Fees	2,520.00
Outside Help	1,316.00
Computer Expense	1,004.73
<b>Gifts-In-Kind</b>	<b>(768.00)</b>
192 "A Good Different" Books	768.00
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$103,617.05</b>

## Literature sent

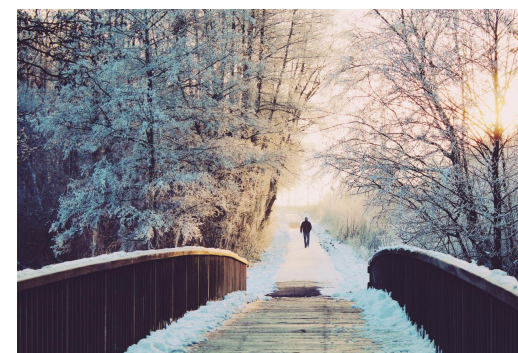
October 1 - December 31, 2023

Bibles.....	236
Concordances .....	163
Bible Atlas .....	5
Bible Dictionaries.....	38
Study Courses.....	326
Spanish Bibles.....	89
Spanish Bible Dictionaries.....	18
Loaves & Fishes Magazine .....	57
A Life Redeemed Book.....	25
A Good Different.....	15
When Others Make Life Difficult .....	69
Marriage Courses.....	2
Letters Answered.....	594
Inmate Newsletters.....	1,228

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INMATE RESPONSES - PAGES 2 & 3



ANNUAL REPORT - PAGE 3

## Board Members

Noah Martin / James Martin  
Stephen Martin / Konrad Steiner  
Henry Beachy / Joe LaFave  
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." John 8:36*



# INMATE TESTIMONIES



*My testimony comes with a lot of ups and downs. I'm happy to say I grew up in a loving Christian home, but I was the black sheep of the family. At a young age I was in a gang, and sometimes I'd ask myself why I didn't need protection. I guess to be honest, at that age I just liked to fight. Why? Well, I don't know why, but thank God I didn't like drinking or smoking. As time passed, I got in a lot of trouble [and ended up in] jail a lot. Every time I was in front of the judge, I'd look back, and my mother was always there with tears in her eyes. As I think about that now, it makes me sad. More time passed, and thank God I got out of the gang. However, I was still acting bad.*

*Then my life went straight down - I was arrested for a crime I didn't commit. They took me to the county jail, then about a month later, I was in a cold cell by myself. It was very silent in the middle of the night, and I could hear only the sound of wind blowing (my window was cracked). I was in a roller coaster of mixed emotions, asking myself a million questions. I decided to do something I have never done. Pray. So in that dark cold cell, I got on my knees. I don't think it was [a good] way to talk to God, but I told Him, "You talk to me, or I will "turn up" (that's like act bad). Later, I realized I was telling God with tears in my eyes.*

*Then I heard something. I was surprised, so I got up fast and looked out my cell window. The CO officer hadn't come in and the TV had been off. I noticed that it (the tv) was on. I asked myself, how did it go on when there was no one there? So I started listening, and I don't remember [everything] word for word, but it went something like this: "Listen to me. You. Yes you. You feel like you hit rock-bottom, like there's no way out. Wherever you are listening, God has been calling you. He has tried to get your attention, but you don't want to listen. Whatever you are doing, wherever you are, in a closet, in a jail cell, God wants your full attention. He wants your all."*

*At this point I broke down in tears, remembering a [close call when] God saved my life and the lives of four other people in the car with me. (No joke, He really saved our lives!). So, I kept listening to the pastor on TV. He said, "Pray with me, if you don't know how to pray, repeat after me."*

*At this point my heart was pounding fast and I knew that my life was about to change. As he prayed the prayer of [repentance], I felt a big, big heavy load fall off my back. Honestly I did!*

*In the morning, I ran to the phone and called my mom to tell her that I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and that I wanted her to send me a Bible. She was so, so, so happy that she started thanking God and said, "Yes, I'll send you one, first class, overnight shipping." So I got the Bible fast. I started reading and reading.*

*[Now it's] almost 5 years later, and I'm still going strong for God in Jesus' name! I'm holding onto Him, or maybe He's the one holding me together. This sounds crazy, but coming to jail is one of the best things that has happened to me. I needed this anchor. Sorry, my spelling is bad, but I needed this [anchor] in my life. This makes me think of Jacob, when he wrestled with God, and after he walked with a limp, so he could never run from God. God is good, and that's coming from my heart! I look at this like a brand-new beginning. The lower I am, the bigger my testimony will be.*

*Well, thank you for your time and God bless you all.*

*-J. L. Canton JL*

# 2023 Annual Report

## Financial Report

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

<b>Balance 1/1/2023</b>	<b>\$134,860.61</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>41,096.51</b>
Donations	25,807.51
Church Donations	15,289.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(72,340.07)</b>
Literature	36,055.70
Supplies	3,208.44
Postage	23,890.22
Legal/Professional Fees	2,520.00
Outside Help	5,628.00
Computer/Website Expense	1,037.71
<b>GIFTS-IN-KIND</b>	<b>(21,384.00)</b>
800 Spanish Large Print Bibles	11,200.00
500 Strong's Concordances	3,220.00
300 Thinline Reference Bibles	4,896.00
100 Large Print Personal Size Reference Bibles	1,300.00
192 "A Good Different" Books	768.00
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$103,617.05</b>

## Literature sent

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Bibles .....	883
Concordances.....	772
Bible Atlas.....	37
Bible Dictionaries .....	209
Study Courses .....	1,454
Spanish Bibles .....	699
Spanish Bible Dictionaries .....	90
Loaves & Fishes Magazine.....	225
A Life Redeemed Book.....	143
A Good Different .....	15
When Others Make Life Difficult .....	119
The Greatest Love Story Book.....	65
Bilingual Bibles .....	82
Marriage Courses .....	13
Letters Answered .....	3,191
Inmate Newsletters .....	4,827

## True forgiveness

When I woke this morning, this is what you said to me,  
You've got to share with others, true forgiveness is the key.

That weight will be lifted, off our shoulders pulled away,  
When our lives will be shifted, each day, a new beginning.

With all the pain and sorrow, we want to pack around,  
If we but let it go, we stand firm on solid ground.

There is no better feeling, than obedience to our Lord,  
No matter what life is offering, He is the only True Road.

So when you've had enough, with nowhere else to go,  
When life appears to be hopeless, look to the Cross, then you will know!!

-W. K.

