

**THE INSIDE
STORY**



AFTERWORD MUSIC MINISTRY

Year End Newsletter

Inside Prison Ministries

December 2015

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

2015 was a very exciting year for Inside Prison Ministries. Our efforts to share hope through music and the message of Christ was returned to Him in a very powerful way. Our team continues to witness changed lives, surrendered hearts, hope, and a sense of restored purpose to many who once believed there was no hope. We are yet finding that **music**, is one of the most powerful and effective tools in bringing this message to light in prisons. In this year of uncertainty, there is certainty in this; Jesus is still on the throne, and all hope is found in Him.

We were blessed to have a great number of volunteer/visitors join us this year. What

a joy to know that many from the "outside church" can encourage those who don't know Christ, as well as those from "inside (prison) church" simply by their presence. Prisoners are amazingly appreciative that someone from the outside, would give of their time for them. Also, when individuals



submit their lives to God in prisons, it often produces behavioral changes, thereby an overall positive difference in the prison system.

Therefore, violence is lessened, moral is increased, and this makes the work load for prison officials and officers much less. **The word of God is our hope** and offers salvation to prisoners. Many of them have never understood or internalized this truth.

However, prisoners across the state of Michigan are drawn to this hope and positivity because of a negative past or environment.

Lives are being transformed in prisons...Janae and I are honored to be a part of it.

-Wayburn Dean

Jesus said, *Come to me all who are weary and burdened down, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

Father's Day Concert in Muskegon!!



WHAT AN AMAZING TIME!!!

On June 19th at E.C. Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon, 37 of our friends joined us to share in worship, a Father's Day concert to encourage the attending fathers. Marge's Donuts donated 450 donuts for the prisoners, and Afterword Music Ministry provided

coffee for the men. What a treat for them. There were approximately 365 men in attendance singing, worshipping, raising hands and praising God. Asked how many father's were in attendance, over 85 percent raised their hands 12 men gave their lives to Christ....AMEN!



Help Us Reach our Goal!

Thanks to supporters like you, we are only \$17,000 from our annual budget of \$150,000. Please help us reach this goal by December 31, 2015.

2015

INSIDE THE MINISTRY NUMBERS

- Conducted 24 concert worship services
- **638 prisoners came to Christ**
- 184 Volunteers joined us in prisons
- Visited 11 different prisons

Imagine...

The first time you walk through the heavy steel doors of a prison, it leaves you with a strange feeling. Hearing the loud clang as it slams shut behind you, gives you since of helplessness. There's no going back. You are in prison, a place no one wants to be.

The guard behind the plated glass window passes a device through a small opening. He tells you to strap it to your waist and says "If someone tries to harm you, don't hesitate to use it".

As we walk across the yard, we hear yelling from prisoners, we try our best to tune it out. Our eyes scan the view and we see hundreds of men dressed in blue and orange. We are now completely sur-

rounded by barbed wire fences. The prison towers once occupied with fully armed guards are now empty because of state government cuts.

Once we get inside the gym where the concert will be held, things begin to change. We come face to face with what society deems the most dangerous criminals. We try not to think about what crimes these men may have committed as it might consume us with fear or even disgust. We then look into the faces of the prison church members that greet us, because of the Lord, they are our brothers, the body of Christ.

"This is when we begin to see what Jesus sees in the eyes of the hopeless".

They welcome us with sincere gratitude.



They are eager to help and treat us with great care. As the music starts, we see prisoners begin to praise God. We also see a deep emptiness in the eyes of those who don't know God, not only physically locked behind bars but spiritually bound by sin. This is when we begin to see what Jesus sees in the eyes of the hopeless.



Prison band during sound check

They have only come, to get out of their cell or to hang out with friends. They are carrying a load of guilt and shame. Most have their heads down looking at the floor or their arms crossed, unresponsive, not sure what to expect.

Once Wayburn begins to sing, in time, they begin lifting their heads as the songs of hope and message of forgiveness move them.

Imagine cont.

Now, all across the gym you see hands lifted toward heaven. Some are dancing, some kneeling and there are others who have their faces buried in their hands, weeping and shaking at the story of God's Son coming to earth to save them from their sins.



Wayburn & Janae outside of prison in Hobbs New Mexico

When we return to share with them again, this time as we walk across the yard, we still hear yelling, but instead they are calling out our names, "brother Wayburn, sister Janae, were coming to the concert... we can't wait...thank you for coming back...

We thank God for this incredible opportunity. Music is our key, the inmates are opening the door to Jesus.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison...

James 5:16 The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective...

YOU CAN HELP US...

God is doing His part by providing us ample opportunity to get into prisons. Our greatest challenge is financial. When we do concerts for churches or promoters, there are several income streams. Honorariums, tickets sales, merchandise sales etc. In prison ministry, none of these income streams exist. So we must rely on those Jesus followers who believe in redemption for **All** God's children, including those in prison.

YOU CAN HELP BY: Prayer, Financial Support, Volunteering or visiting prisons with us. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the prison ministry.

Inside Highlights

PRISONER ART AUCTION/FRIENDRAISER

Approximately 100 of our friends gathered on December 10th to share in fellowship, food and music and to receive a ministry update. Prisoners from across the state of Michigan wanted to give back to INSIDE PRISON MINISTRIES in appreciation of our having visited their facilities. They donated several different forms of beautiful art. i.e. paintings, drawings, woodwork, and leather work for the auction. We are grateful to those who attended/supported the event and who enjoyed this special time with us.



PRISON CONCERT IN THE DESERT

In May of this year, we had an opportunity to share a full concert with the inmates at the Lea County Prison In Hobbs New Mexico. There where over 600 prisoners present for an outdoor concert with an amazing response to the gospel.



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Financial support is tax-deductible, payable to: **AFTERWORD MUSIC MINISTRY** 501 c 3 non-profit music ministry: 4455 Burton Forest Court SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

insideprisonministries.org

