

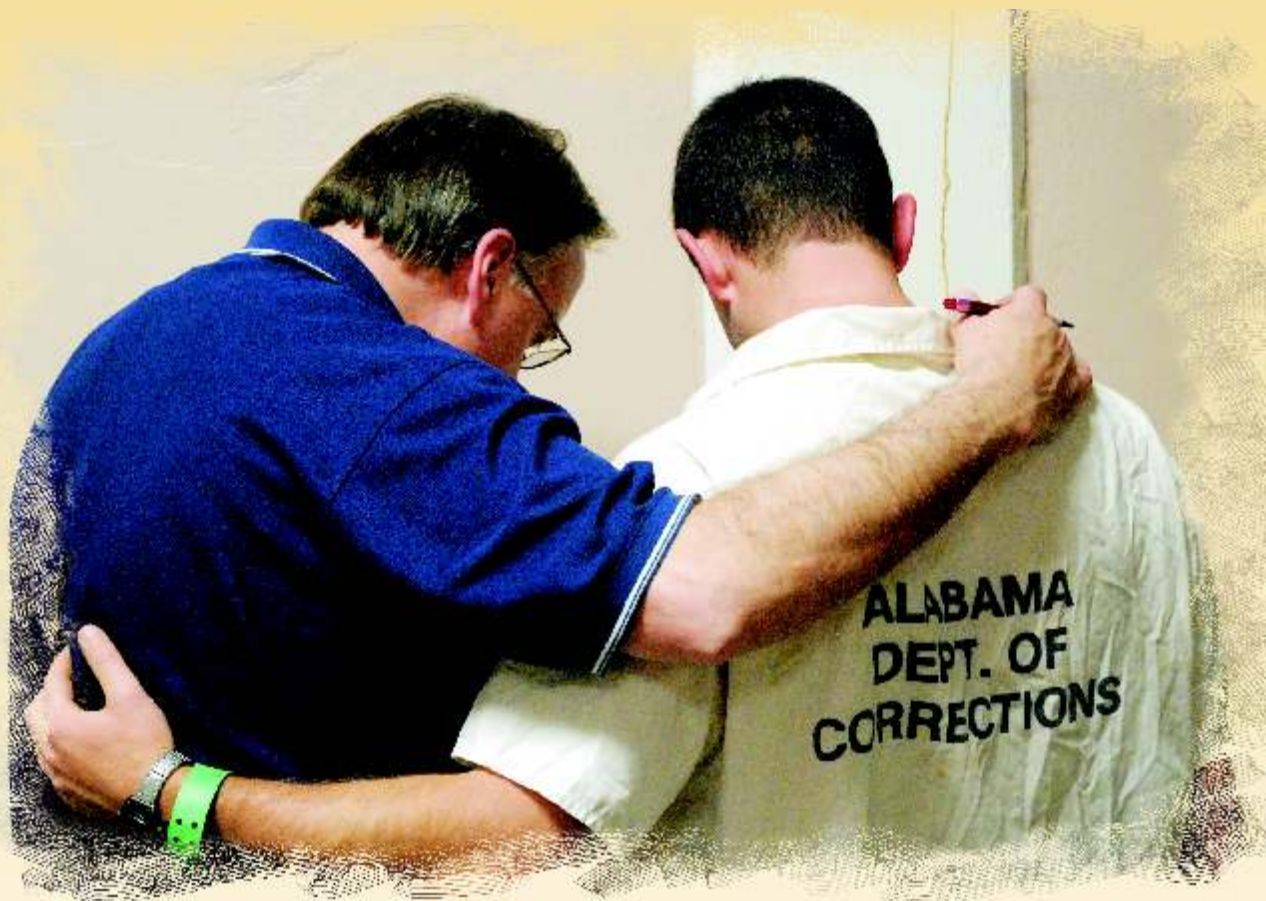
THE

Connection

● THE NEWSLETTER OF WE CARE PROGRAM

● March 2007

2007 CRUSADE EDITION!



January 21-25 marked the 29th annual We Care Crusade in which a diverse group of 346 participants from 20 states and 3 Canadian provinces came together in a unified effort to share the love of God with men and women in seventeen Alabama prisons. In the following pages are photos, testimonies, and stories of God working in our lives and those we ministered to. May you gain a deeper sense of God's heart and mission as you share in our experiences. ✨

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Fulfilling the Great Commission in America's Prisons



www.wecareprogram.org

2007 Crusade Team Pictures



Atmore Work Center



Bibb Correctional Facility

Impressions...

I was moved by the willingness of the inmates to reach out to me and share with me over vast cultural chasms. *-Preston Nowlin, VA*

As I again hear and learn of all the problems that have come from a life of disobedience, I'm so thankful for a rich heritage in living for the Lord. I have again been challenged for the need to be knowledgeable in God's Word.

-Luke Bucher, PA



I was so challenged when an inmate who I didn't recognize came up to me and shared what we talked about several years ago. It reminded me how important planting the seed is and that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

-Paul High, PA



The thrill (that cannot be conveyed to another) of being used by God to help set souls free. The Gospel truly is the answer!

-Albert Miller, VA

It opened my eyes a lot. It reminded me how much Jesus is the only thing that makes life worth living.

-Rachel Brenneman, VA

I was blessed to hear the testimonies of several inmates who reminded us that our presence there in the prisons this week meant far more to them than what we could ever imagine.

-Ernest Glick, PA

I could not afford to come to the crusade, but after coming I could not afford to miss it.

-James Slingland, OH



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Published six times a year, *The Connection* provides news and views of friends of We Care Program. We Care Program is a non-profit, interdenominational organization consisting of Christian men and women who share a burden for and commitment to helping incarcerated men and women. We are accomplishing our mission by recruiting, funding, training, placing, and administering missionary chaplains and chaplain's assistants in prisons to provide friendship evangelism, teaching, peer counseling, and encouragement.

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Birmingham WR



Bullock Correctional Facility



Donaldson Correctional Facility



Happenings...

**inmate names changed*

One of my personal greatest experiences was during an evening service. I was sitting between two inmates and was in conversation with one both before and after the service. After the service, he stood, took both my hands into his and said, "I want to pray for you." He prayed a powerful prayer and left me with tears in my eyes.

-Ben Lapp, PA

"Michael"* shared some of his life story with me. He said he had never been to a church and probably wouldn't attend chapel that night. But he did, and he went forward at the altar call and committed his life to Jesus!

-Ralph Smith, OH

The last day (Thursday) we gathered together for our New Beginnings Workshop. Well, we had only started with our class and then two of the ladies said they wanted to be saved. We were so amazed and happy over that, so before we even went through the lesson we led two of the women to Christ! That was so awesome!

-Bernice Shetler, VA

I had several good contacts at the prison, but one of my "best" was with one of the motel receptionists, a young mother of a severely handicapped child. I showed her pictures of our deceased child, and she knew that I understood what she is going through. She was able to cry and share some of her

heartaches, and I was able to pray for her with genuine feeling and sincerity. When I asked where she stands with the Lord, her face lit up. She said she is a Christian and depends on Him all the time. I have no reason to doubt her testimony!

-Emma Bender, AL

The second day we went to the faith dorm and sang for the ladies. After the singing, we asked them if they wanted to sing and they came down from the bunks, and we held hands and prayed together. That was a God time because we all ended up hugging each other. It was a blessed experience for them and for us.

-Celia Landis, PA

2007 CRUSADE FACT SHEET

17	Correctional Facilities
17	Music Groups/Soloists
23	Evangelists
23	States/Provinces Represented
69	In-Prison Chapel Services
133	Churches Represented
346	Total Volunteers
6,487	Estimated Volunteer Hours
7,594	Estimated Chapel Attendees
18,112	Reachable Inmates

Sunday, Jan. 21 marked the official start of the 2007 Crusade with an all day orientation session in Wetumpka, AL. "Open Your Eyes. Seeing the Need... Answering the Call" was the theme for the day's program, which included training, teaching, worship, special singing, and lots of Christian fellowship. Pictured on these two pages are, clockwise from top left: Chaplain Steve Walker, AL, Dwight Glick, OH, Wissmann Family, NE, We Care Staff presentation, and Hitch Family, NE.





Draper Correctional Facility



Easterling Corr. Facility



Fountain Correctional Facility

From the



Mail box



Dear Christian Friends;

I just wanted to take this for bringing the recent Facility in Brent, Alabama. testimonies were wonderful Spirit's presence. What a blessing again, keep up the good work each of you.

In the love of C
Inmate, Bibb C



↖ Elsie Stauffer, PA, and Emma Bender, AL, share with a friend.

↙ Luke Hoffman, PA, sharing God's Word.

Hello,

I just wanted to write you a letter and let you know I enjoyed the revival you put on here at Bibb Co. Corr. Facility. I went every night and even attended a seminar class on Tuesday. I was really impressed with the way everything was done. I've been in prison a long time (23 years), I E.O.S. this October, and I never saw anything like this. I didn't become a Christian for the main reason I live in a hostile environment and any kind of change would result in me being weak in the sight of others. I also practice another religion. Anyways, I felt the need to write to you and let you know how much I enjoyed your program.

Thank You!
Inmate, Bibb C. F.



Dear We Care,

Thank you so much for such an encouragement myself... Please continue doing... One of the ladies recently re-dedicated her life about how the crusade was the "many faces" of Christianity the same God. Thank You!

May God R
Inmate, Tut



Frank Lee Youth Center



Holman Correctional Facility



J.O. Davis Corr. Facility

opportunity to thank you
val to Bibb Correctional
The singing, music, and
and you could feel the
ing it was for me. Thanks
and may God richly bless

Christ I remain His slave,
Correctional Facility



↑ Louis Thompson, PA,
ministering in prayer.

Dear Mr. Landis,

I have no way of sending a card of thanks to the members of the Crusade here last week, because I have no address. So, please convey my sincere gratitude if you have the opportunity. A very profound statement was made I'll never forget: "The state of AL has and knows my number (AIS#), but Jesus knows my name." God bless "We Care" and their efforts in Jesus' name.

Sincerely,
Inmate, Fountain C. F.



↑ Marv Fisher, VA, doing
some "one-on-one."



↓ Lelia Young, AL, in
Christian fellowship.

ing to Tutwiler! The Crusade was
r many fellow inmates and
the good work that you're
at the Lord crossed my path with
to Christ. We talked last night
perfect opportunity for her to see the
-how different we can be, but serve

hly Bless You,
Tutwiler Prison

On Monday through Thursday, hundreds of volunteers visited seventeen institutions during the day-time hours, building friendships and sharing Christ in a variety of ways.



happenings (continued)

Tuesday morning from the time I woke up until I walked in at Frank Lee, I was feeling empty and even to the point of feeling worthless. I asked myself, "Why did I even come here? What good can I even do for these men?" I did not know what I wanted to share with them or who I even wanted to talk to. I knew that it was Satan trying to stall me. Then a voice said to me, "Are you going to let Satan pull you down or are you going to fight back?" Then I prayed and said, "Here I am, Lord. Use me." Within minutes, a young man I had shared with on Monday came to me and asked, "Can we talk?" I answered, "Yes, we can." Thank You, Lord. God gave me strength, words to speak, and helped me answer some questions this man had about some Scripture verses. Again God was faithful to His Word. All we need to do is give our all to Him. God is good.

-Marvin Stauffer, PA

At the Tuesday evening service at Ventress my heart was greatly moved as I saw the steady line of inmates come into the visitors' center and fill the 202 chairs, leaving 18 inmates outside wanting to come to the service. Wes Smith told us to pray as he went to the officers pleading for them to find chairs for these men. Soon the chairs were brought from another building and the men were seated, giving us an attendance of 222. God visited that service with such an openness to the Gospel message in song and spoken word. There were several men that responded as the invitation was given. PTL!!

-John Forry, PA

When I first saw "Theresa," she scared me because of her hard look. To make a long story short, God used this vessel to be instrumental in leading this dear lady, who was feeling convicted and longed to feel the peace she saw on our faces, to the Lord. What joy in seeing a new peace on her previously hardened face! What joy for her, knowing she was a Child of God! How she cried when she heard that Jesus had died to save her

An afternoon or evening chapel service in each facility brings the day to a close. A special singing group and evangelist are invited to minister in each of these services across the state. As God's love is proclaimed in song and word, laughter, tears, encouragement, and conviction are all evident as hundreds make decisions for Christ. Pictured are Richard Heatwole, VA, Josh Graber, IN, and Dan Utz, IN.



and that her sins were forgiven! More tears were cried when she said, "Now you are my sister." What a privilege to be a part of that beautiful miracle and what awesome evidence of our prayers answered! Please pray for her.

-Sharon Bruckhart, PA

A young female officer seeing my driver's license from Kansas, asked, "Why do y'all come from such a distance to preach?" What a privilege to share the good news of God's transforming power with her!!

-Richard Graber, KS



Tutwiler Annex



Tutwiler Prison for Women



Ventress Correctional Facility

One lady had just left Health Care and was waiting for a commute down to the Annex. Since she was stuck in the Old Dining room where we were, I started chatting with her. She said she'd just found out her mammogram showed three spots. She's lost at least three members of her family to breast cancer. While we talked, another volunteer walked over and sat down with us. She listened awhile and then said, "I've had breast cancer." My mouth dropped open at that God-appointment. They talked awhile and the inmate thanked her for the inspiration as her commute arrived and she left for the Annex again.

-Wilma Mullet, OH

I was stretched as I searched for words to comfort an incarcerated pastor who felt God had betrayed him after many years of faithful ministry. He was extremely depressed, and I held him as he cried. His spirits lifted somewhat that day and the next, but he is sure to have difficult days ahead. I agreed to stay in touch through letters.

-Clyde Hollinger, PA

On Monday night, there was a young man who I had reached out to in camp that day. At the meeting, he responded to the altar call to bring and dispose of those strongholds in life that hinder our walk with God and that could affect future generations. One of "Daniel's" confessions was that he was bitter at God because their baby daughter had died very young. We prayed about it and then sat down. In the meantime, count didn't clear so "New Creation" was called up to sing a few numbers extra. I heard Ron say they would sing a certain song written by a member of the group, a song he said that they didn't sing much in prison. The song talked about a family that lost two babies, and taught that even when life doesn't seem fair, we need to trust God. I looked over at "Daniel" who had tears streaming down his face....I knew he was getting a "hug from heaven."

-Alvin Landis, PA

News of Note

VOL. 39, NO. 1

Atmore, Alabama

March 2007



Construction Update!

ATMORE – God has blessed us with a significant number of volunteer workers over the winter months. Completed since our last newsletter is A/C duct work, rough-in plumbing and electric, a majority of the brick work, rough excavating, insulation, and drywall hanging. Workers are currently doing the drywall finishing.



Of particular note is the blessing we have received by having a number of workers assigned to us from Atmore Work Center. Pictured are Wayne, Wayne, and James, who along with a number of other shorter term workers from AWC have

provided a tremendous amount of man hours to the project. A very special "Thank You!" to these men, the many volunteers who are too numerous to list here, and the local contractors who are helping the new headquarters to become a reality, and to our delight, ahead of schedule.

Board Election Results

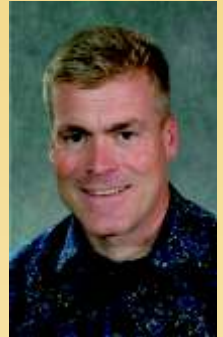
At their annual meeting on January 20, members of We Care Program voted to fill the three vacancies on the board of directors. **Lester Huber** (Atmore, AL), **Aaron Martin** (Ephrata, PA), and **Dennis Nolt** (Ephrata, PA) were re-elected to three-year terms. We deeply appreciate the dedicated service each of our board members gives to We Care Program.

Crusade 2008: Jan. 27-31

PERSPECTIVES

with David R. Landis
President

I'd love to hear from you.
Contact me at
dave@wecareprogram.org



It was something about their eyes. The crusade service had ended, and I positioned myself behind a row of tables to wait as over 200 men began to file out of the visitation room and back into their dorms for another night in prison. I shook hands with many of them and wished them God's blessing, but I also stood back for a minute and just watched the men file by. What caught my attention was their eyes. I don't know why, but as I looked at each man, each so different, some young and vigorous, others aging quickly due to the hardness of the lives they had lived, I couldn't help but wonder what kind of story was a part of each man and what had brought each one to this place.

In some eyes I sensed a longing for a better day. In others, hope. Some looked like their lives were still full of pain, maybe regret. Other eyes held almost a blank stare, hopelessness. In still others, the look of a child who had never experienced a father's love. Some, loneliness; others sickness; some, a mask of hardness. But one thing I knew was that each of these men, along with thousands of others across the state of Alabama, had heard a message of Hope. For the Christian, a word of encouragement. For the seeker, a presentation of the Gospel message clearly delivered. Each man in that room had heard a word from God. As they filed out, I tried to imagine what their response was to what was presented. Only

eternity will truly reveal what happened on that particular evening.

For me, as I stood there and watched the line of men exiting the room, perhaps it was only a fraction of the emotion that Jesus felt in Matthew 9:36, where it says "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them..." Once again my heart was touched with the realization that God loves me and God loves each man that I had just watched file out of the service.

Certainly, many hearts were touched by the multitude of prayer intercessors, donors, and volunteers each of whom played a vital part in bringing men and women closer to Christ during the four-day Crusade. I praise God for that! But I ask you to think about the 361 days in between the annual We Care crusades. Who will minister to these same men and women throughout the year? Our staff and other local ministry volunteers will do our best to "fan the flames" of spiritual life that were ignited during the crusade, but there are many with whom we will not be able to follow up due to lack of personnel. God is moving in Alabama's prison system! As God leads, will you consider praying for us, supporting someone who is involved in ministering to men and women in prison, or perhaps, giving your own life for this important work? 🙏



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