

CORNERSTONE FUND

The Cornerstone Fund is foundational to our operation. It allows us to support chaplains, plan for growth and expand new opportunities. With one month remaining in our fiscal year, we need \$100,000 to close the year well. Over \$700,000 has been received already and we praise the Lord for His provision. **Would you consider a gift above and beyond to help us finish FY 2016 well?**

\$700,000 Received To Date - Praise God!
\$100,000 Needed To Close Year Well (by June 30th)

WELCOME, NEW CHAPLAINS!

Chaplain Darren Schoch
 York, Pennsylvania - April 2016

Chaplain Josiah Aldridge
 Okaloosa, Florida - May 2016

BIBLE LESSONS: THE IMPACT



1,000,000
 Bible Lessons
PRODUCED
 by Good News (2015)



280,000
 Bible Lessons
GRADED
 by Good News (2015)



400 INMATES
COMPLETED ALL 224
 Lessons in the Bible
 Correspondence Course (2015)



161 LETTERS
 Sent to Graders in Bristol, VA
 Indicating Faith in Christ
 Through Bible Lessons (2015)

FIVE FOR FIVE!

Answered Prayers for Women's Chaplains

In June of 2015 we began Phase II of our Women's Chaplain Project. Phase I was the completion of study and training materials for women ministering to women in crisis and Phase II was the launch of an initiative to double the number of Good News female chaplains ministering to women. At the time we had 5 and we were praying for 5 more...well, the Lord has answered!

Chaplain Michelle Reynolds

Prince George's County, Maryland - July 2015

Chaplain Mandy Nevarez

Tulare County California - May 2016

Chaplain Jan Hanselmann

Community Chaplain - Chicagoland Illinois - May 2016

Christi Bailes

Chaplain in Training (CIT) - Henderson Kentucky - May 2016

Eunice Arant

New Community Program - Omaha Nebraska - June 2016

We praise the Lord for these new female chaplains and trust the Lord to use them to reach thousands of women this year with the Gospel!!



A DAY OF CHANGE

Making The Grade: Bible Lesson Program Changes Lives

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry touches the lives of countless men and women every year through a wide variety of programs. One very special effort is the Bible Correspondence Course. Designed to help inmates gain a "deeper, more intimate knowledge" of God's word, the course consists of 224 Bible study lessons. Once inmates have completed a study, it is submitted to Good News and graded by a volunteer. If an inmate completes the entire Course—no small feat—they are awarded a high-quality study Bible.

Vision Meets Opportunity

In the late 1960's, Dr. Bill Simmer, Founder of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, recognized an enormous opportunity among inmates: most had plenty of time on their hands. What better way to help inmates pass their time than to provide them with Bible studies? But Dr. Simmer's vision wasn't to provide just a study curriculum. To have the greatest impact, the lessons needed to be checked and graded for accuracy and understanding. The program has now been used for nearly 50 years and GNJ&PM estimates that the studies have been reproduced and distributed as many as 25 million times or more! And the Lord has used the system to reach thousands of inmates with the Word of God - with or without the presence of a Good News chaplain!

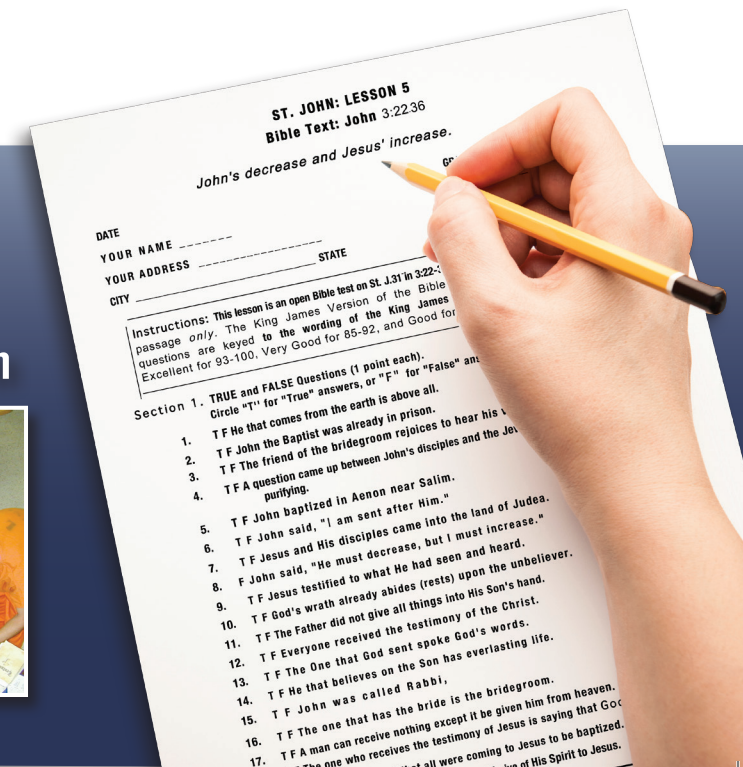
Tired of the endless cycle of bad life choices begetting bad outcomes, prisoners across the country have taken advantage of these simple Bible lessons provided by a thoughtful chaplain or dedicated volunteer. Not surprisingly the program leads to changed lives as Good News Bible lessons have helped place thousands of inmates' feet on new paths from desolation to joy and hope in Christ as Savior.

Grading - A Labor of Love

Few people know the Bible Lesson program more intimately than Ted and Pat Cross, a husband and wife team from Bristol, Virginia. They took on the responsibility of running the grading operation years ago, having devoted endless hours to this task since 2003. At first, there were about 100-200 lessons a week. Now, thirteen years later, approximately 1,000 studies are graded each week there, thanks to the collective efforts of a team of 25 volunteers. This significant growth is due in large part to Ted and Pat's obedience and leadership. An example of their commitment is the "Good News" room in their home dedicated to staging the grading materials.

Lessons Learned

Good News' Bible Lesson program brings the truth of God's Word to hearts hungry for wisdom and solutions to their broken lives.



A True Story

"When a former inmate who has been out of jail for 25 years comes up to you and proudly displays the well worn and used Good News Award Study Bible that he received in jail decades ago and continues to use today - you know you have a program that works!"

Jon Evans, President, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry



A Day Of Change - Bible Lesson Program (cont. from cover)

A 100% Volunteer Army

How did their team become so large? For starters, Pat is “a great recruiter,” according to Ted. Many graders have also come to work for the program having been invited by a friend or church group who are already doing so.

Some inmates say the notes of encouragement – written to them by graders on their completed bible lessons – are the only positive affirmation they have ever received!

Others get involved because they believe this role may impact them personally. “I know graders who grow a lot in their faith from grading,” Pat shares. Pat and her husband find this ministry so rewarding, they regularly grade lessons five or six nights per week, typically working from 7 p.m. until around 2 a.m.!

Whatever their connection to the program, those involved typically have a few common attributes. Pat says “they must be a Christian who wants to serve” others in this way. And, while they don’t have to be a theologian or religious educator, she says they must be “knowledgeable enough to grade the Bible studies” and be able to “apply scripture to life in prison.”

Volunteers are allowed to work at home and are given a grading key. This keeps the standard the same as they are evaluating the

Bible studies, which take inmates about an hour to complete. As the volunteers grade the lessons, they often pray for the inmates, and jot simple notes on top: “You did excellent work on this lesson.” Prisoners are grateful. Some inmates say this encouragement is the only positive affirmation they have ever received! Such truths often bring tears to the eyes of those assessing the lessons and serve as their own reward.

Rigorous, Rich In The Word and Highly Rewarding

If the grading team wasn’t as large and well-organized as it is, it would be nearly impossible to keep up with the growth of inmates interested in this program. The entire course includes lessons from the Gospel of John, I John, Philippians, I and II Thessalonians, Ephesians, Romans, I and II Corinthians, Colossians, I and II Peter, Genesis, Galatians, and Acts. The simple format, 8-page folded booklets, features fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Roughly 280,000 lessons are graded by Good News volunteers across the country every year. In 2015 over 400 inmates around the US completed all 224 lessons and earned their own Award Study Bible. Perhaps most impressive though are the handwritten thank-you notes at the top of a completed Bible study from inmates who wanted Good News to know that it was the lesson which introduced them to Jesus Christ. These simple messages are thrilling reminders that the program helps Good News’ bring the Gospel message to men and women behind bars.

You Can Help! Bible Lessons often find their way to inmates who have never heard the Gospel before. Your specially designated gifts to support the production of Bible lessons provide powerful encouragement to men and women who need it most.

A Lesson Found, A Life Changed

William (name changed) was of Middle Eastern decent. He found himself incarcerated but was beginning to be drawn to the Bible and away from the religion of his birth. Fearing ill treatment from other inmates for straying from his faith, William studied and read the Bible at night, when no one could see him. Slowly the Word began to impact his life. After being transferred among several prisons in the US, William wound up in a facility where Good News had a chaplain.

Within a few days of arrival, William and some other inmates entered an adjoining cell on their block that had recently been vacated, looking for anything of value. Left behind was a set of Good News Bible Lessons in the cell which William quickly claimed for himself. Working through the lessons, while continuing his own independent Bible study, William soon felt a need to see the chaplain. In an arranged meeting with the chaplain, William asked the question every Good News worker loves to hear: “Chaplain, what must I do to be saved?” and William was led to faith right there.

Stories such as William’s could be recounted scores of times. Countless numbers of “discarded” lessons have, over the years, found their way into the hands of needy inmates. *Isn’t it remarkable how the Spirit of God works to touch lives through such “coincidences” at just the right time!*



GoodNewsJail.org – New Site. More Impact.

All new website features more stories of transformation and greater resources, too.

As your first stop on our new website, we recommend the “Changed Lives” page. Here you’ll find videos featuring inspiring stories of inmates whose lives have been radically changed through their involvement with GNJ&PM. Leta, for example, is a former drug user who is now a licensed therapist ministering to others with addictions. Tommy is a convicted felon now serving as a Good News Chaplain. Your heart will be encouraged and your faith strengthened as you see the impact of GNJ&PM’s ministry.

Find out how GNJ&PM got its start in the early 60s when the Lord called Dr. Bill Simmer to serve the spiritual needs of incarcerated men and women and how Good News has now grown to serve 22 states and 25 countries worldwide. You’ll also find brief introductions of our current president, Jon Evans, along with the rest of the leadership team. And of course, you can read our statement of faith, vision, mission, and purpose, as well as our financial policy and accountability statement.

Pray

Prayer is the lifeblood of Good News’ efforts. You can:

- **Receive ongoing prayer requests** – You can sign up for emails of breaking news and prayer concerns as well—we’re always happy to return the favor!
- **Share a prayer request** – Whether your own request, whether personal or for an incarcerated friend or family member, please share it through the website and a Good News team member or volunteer will be honored to pray for you.

Connect

The site also features numerous practical resources including:

- **For families/friends of the incarcerated** – Resources include guidance during and after incarceration. Videos and articles, plus links for purchasing other resources cover topics such as marriage, money, prison survival; there are even resources for children with a parent in jail.
- **For volunteers/chaplains** – If you would like to be personally involved in our work, visit the “Get Involved” page. Discover GNJ&PM locations to see if we’re working in a facility near you. Volunteer to teach a Bible study, grade lessons, help with worship, or mentor a new believer. There’s even information for those interested in learning about becoming a Good News chaplain.

Give

As one final stop on your tour, the “Give” page lets you:

- **Give to the ministry** – Donate toward the financial needs of the ministry. On the “Give” page, you’ll notice opportunities to donate a vehicle, assets, electronics, or even gift cards. All of these can help us continue our vital outreach to men and women behind bars worldwide. For sustained impact, you can also quickly and conveniently set up an ongoing gift (you choose the frequency) with just a few clicks.

Thank you for your past support and ongoing interest in our mission. We look forward to our ongoing partnership!

Ready to bring freedom & hope? 1-800-220-2202 | GoodNewsJail.org