



THEY WALK IN FAITH

ALMOST 30 YEARS LATER...

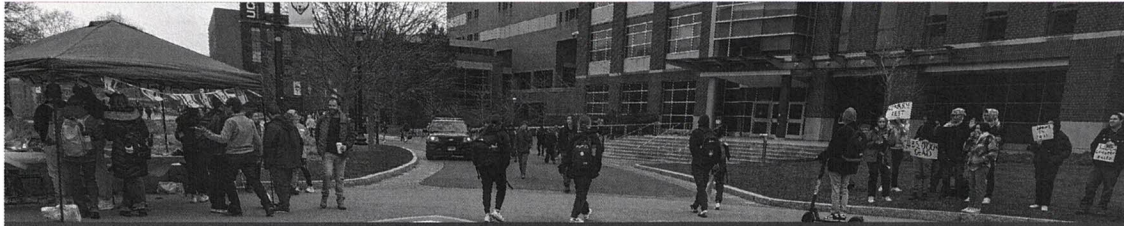
Amos (from Kenya) and his lovely wife, Josephine live in the Philadelphia area so after our regional conference (which was epic, if I may say so!), we visited them and some of their family members. There is no greater joy to see international friends still walking in faith, three decades later. Praise the Lord!

This is what we live and serve for!

If you would like to see a visual and musical version of our trip highlights in a minute or so, click here for the fancy version:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/744746414393473>

[CLICK HERE and GIVE to our MINISTRY ACCOUNT](#)



My prayer walk brought me to two campus groups. On the left, a celebration of all things Jewish. On the right, M*sl*m students calling the Jewish students and all others murderers, participants in genocide. With police at the ready, my heart was breaking for this scene and the people in it. Pray for our campuses all around the world. Pray for UConn. Pray for the Holy Spirit to have eternal impact through His servants.

AMAZING HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR MONTH- PHOTOS BELOW

*Regional conference in Philadelphia was an epic "win" spiritually, socially, and emotionally for me (Ruth)- I served in moderating a prayer group of women and also participated in a round table session twice for people interested in "out of the box" ministry ideas and how the Brunch Bunch was birthed.

*We visited another former student and her husband in Philadelphia who are also in faith, connected to a local church and learning about a new phase in life and living.

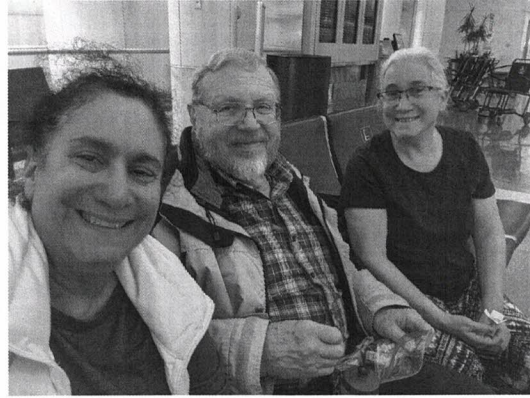
*We flew to Seattle, WA. and visited with Jon's brother and SIL as well as his mom for a few days. Then, we drove to Wenatchee to visit a former campus volunteer and her husband and son and catch up with them.
Praise the Lord for His keeping power.

*THEN- we drove to Bellevue, WA. to celebrate Ching Ching's 50th birthday! She is a former student, now ministry peer, with her husband. We are grateful for this life-long relationship and the blessing it is and has been.


*Finally- we met my sister, Deborah at the Chicago Midway airport during a lengthy layover. She brought good food and company before we finally made it home to Connecticut!

*I had high hopes for Easter/Resurrection Sunday as the last ministry update I sent out asked you to pray for the invitation I gave to 40 international friends. Only one came to church and only four came for brunch after church. Nevertheless, I see God's plan in these gatherings and am undaunted with numbers. We had a greater opportunity to have intimate conversations and to serve. Thank you, Jesus!





Please be praying for God's clear direction for the future, connections with internationals that bear eternal fruit, the Holy Spirit to captivate the particularly "unholy" parts of us to make us more like Jesus, and for Divine Appointments as He does. Looking forward to what God has in store and trusting Him daily for each step, whether it is planned by us and/or Him alone. He is enough. And He wants BETTER for each of us in all life areas. Shalom from Him can be ours!

 [Email](#)

Dear Faith Partner,

It's clear from your faithful giving and engagement with our mission that your community embraces the joyous gift of Easter — thanking God for our salvation through Christ's sacrifice and generously blessing our neighbors in need — especially families facing grave hunger and poverty. So, I want to take a moment to thank you for your unwavering support of Heifer.

Your generosity has helped families build better lives for themselves. May your congregants be blessed with God's abundant and unending love this Easter season and throughout the year.

With peace and goodwill,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christy Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christy Moore
Senior Vice President of Marketing

P.S. Great news! Your congregation's gifts will be matched, doubling the blessings for families in need! I've enclosed an extra form and postage-paid envelope for your future gifts. Please let us know if you need anything by calling 877.243.4337.

Church of the Brethren educator, Dan West, founded Heifer International in 1944. His vision of a worldwide program to end hunger and poverty was born of his Christian faith. From the beginning, this vision has encompassed all spiritual paths and all people who understood that to serve God, we must serve our brothers and sisters. Today, Heifer is comprised of people of many beliefs working together around the world to realize this vision.

Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For 80 years, we have provided livestock and sustainable agricultural training to struggling communities around the world. We currently work in 19 countries, including the United States, supporting local food producers to expand their businesses and earn a living income.



1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202, USA
Heifer.org/Easter | 888.5HUNGER (888.548.6437)

josiah venture

A movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society.

Julia Budd in the Czech Republic

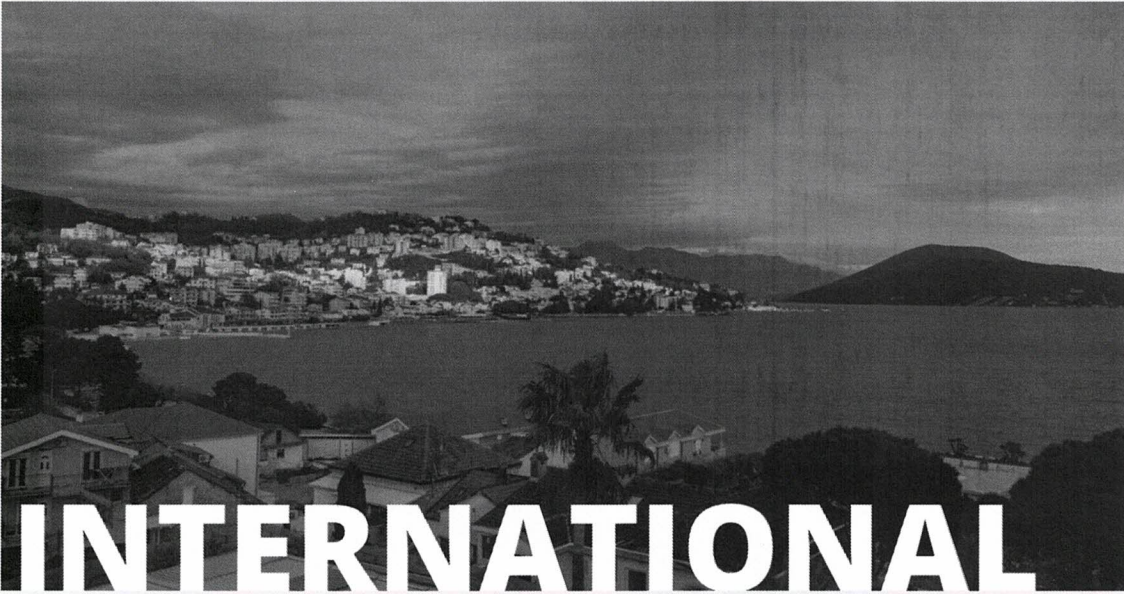
March 2024



Spring in Czech Republic

Hello Deborah!

I know you didn't sign up for these emails for a weather update, but I'm happy to report that Spring is in full effect in the Czech Republic! Here is what the month of March looked like and what the days ahead look like:

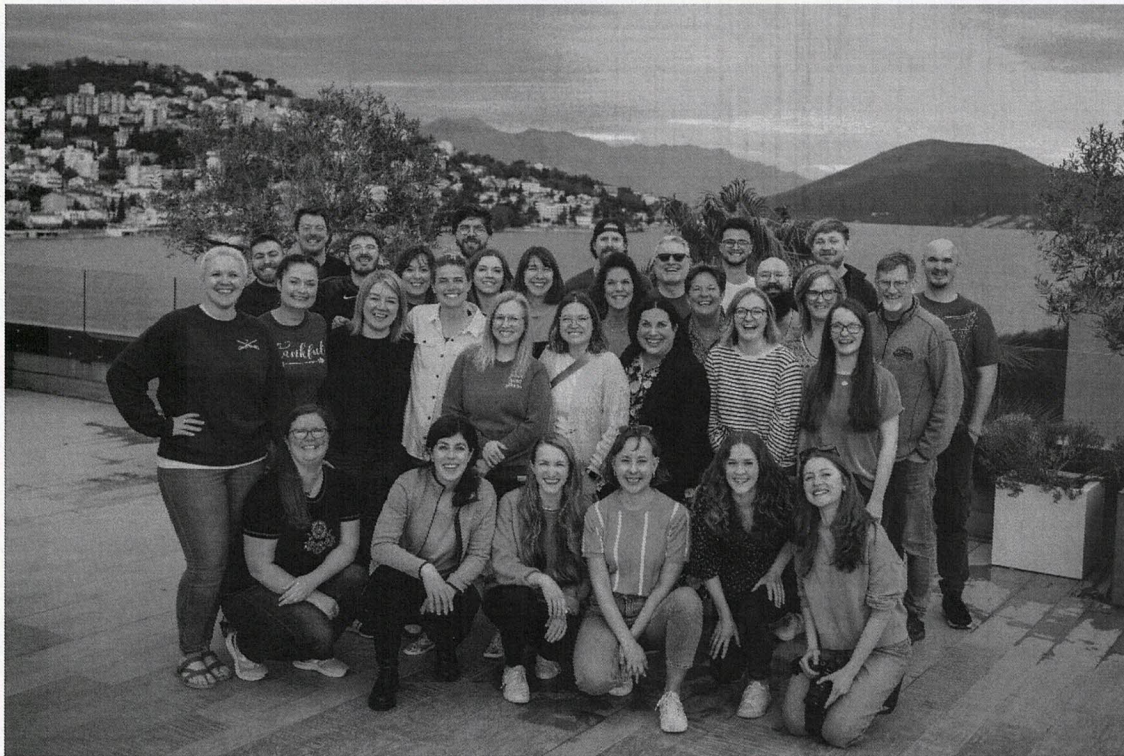


INTERNATIONAL

What's happening in JV International Ministry

JV Singles Retreat in Montenegro

Every few years the single staff members of JV get together for a retreat. This year we gathered in Montenegro, a small country in south-eastern Europe along the Adriatic Sea. I'm so thankful for the time in community, discussions on what it means to serve as a healthy single on the mission field, and the spiritual refreshment.



Our guest speaker, Deb from Mission Training International, was my coach when I was in Colorado for training before I moved here. Her perspective was so valuable because of her years of training missionaries and her several decades of ministry experience in Europe as a single woman.



Abiding in Christ

We spent several days marinating in [John 15:1-17](#). We really dug deep into

the metaphor of living as branches bearing fruit on the vine of Christ. To help Jesus's illustration come alive in new ways, we made a trip to a Montenegrin vineyard where we learned from a professional vine-dresser and wine-maker the entire process of growing healthy vines that produce the best grapes and the process of making wine. I'm continuing to reflect on what it means for me to abide/remain/make my home in Christ's love like a branch on a vine.



I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. - John 15:1-4

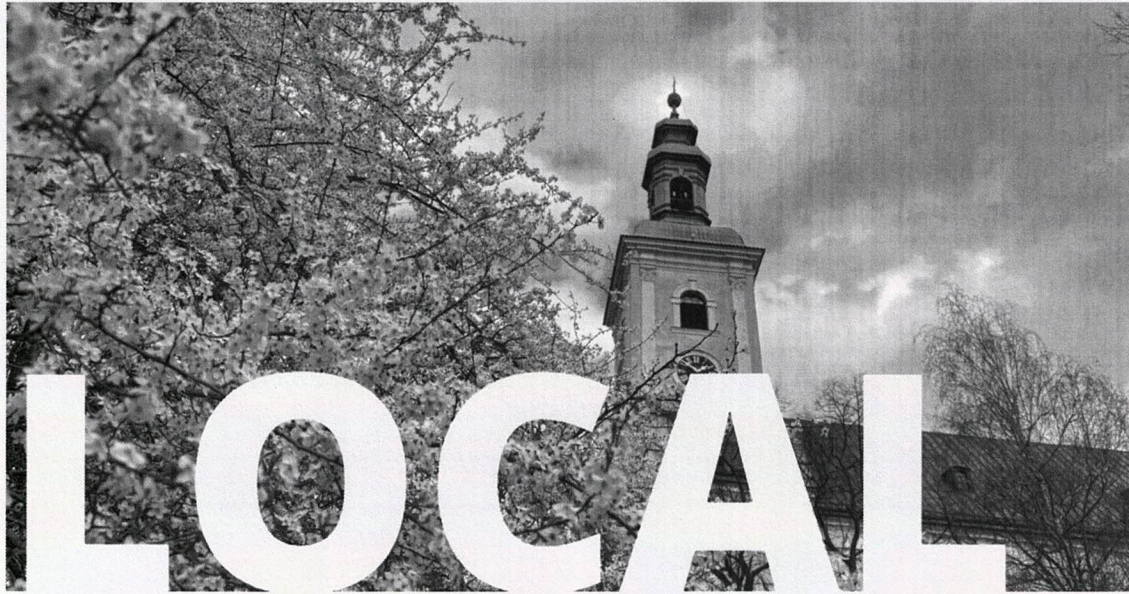


Summer Interns

I'm excited that this summer we will welcome another group of interns to serve with Josiah Venture and God's movement across Central and Eastern Europe. Please pray for these university-age students who will serve in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.



[See our Summer Interns](#)

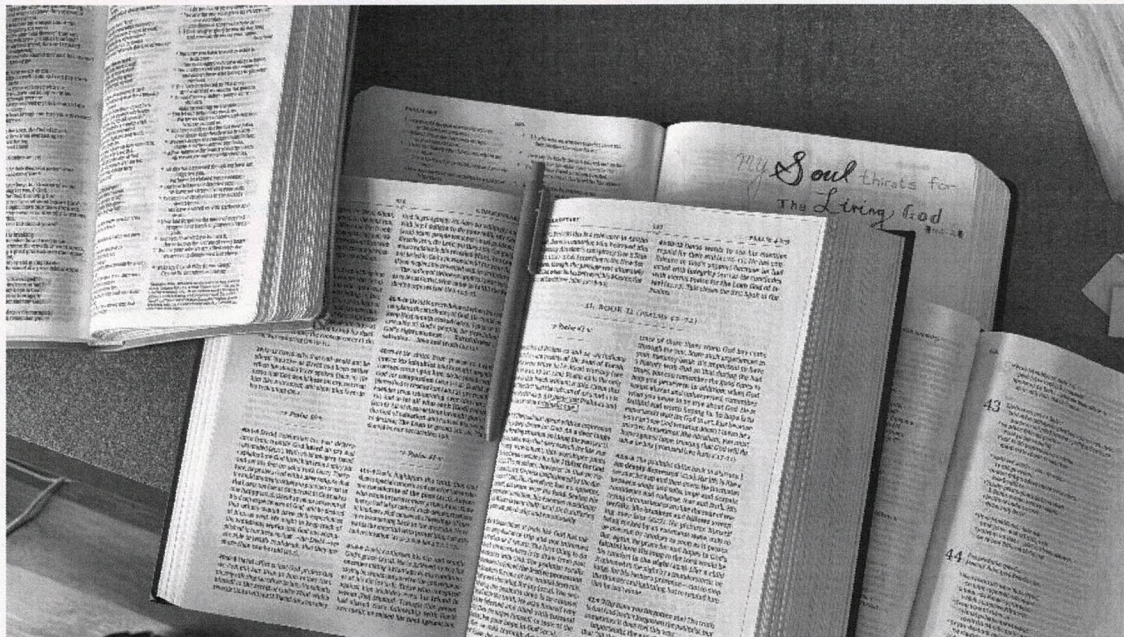


Local Ministry Updates

Speaking at Youth Group (this Friday!)

This Friday (April 5), I'll be giving the talk at our youth group. I'm excited to kick off our series about emotions in the Bible, particularly the Psalms and the life of Jesus. Tomorrow I'll be speaking about Psalm 42 & 43 and some of the more uncomfortable emotions.

This will also be the theme of our youth retreat next weekend. Would you pray for me and the students as we dive into this topic?



Girls Group & Prayer

Within our youth group, we continue to have separate girls and guys groups one Friday a month. In March, I got to host it in my apartment for a second time. What has been the most encouraging for me during these times is the time we have spent sharing our highs and lows and praying for each other.



Ukraine Summer Growth



Last summer, the JV team in Ukraine did over 24 camps, and this summer they are planning to do over 30! Camps have proven to be a valuable tool for reaching Ukrainian students even during the war. However, it can be difficult for students to afford the cost of camp. If you would like to give towards a scholarship fund for campers in Ukraine, **click the button below and in the designation box search for 430080 Ukraine Summer Outreach.**

[Donate to Ukraine Summer Opportunities](#)

Supporting the work

My ministry is fueled by a support network of individuals and churches who partner in my ministry with Josiah Venture here in central and eastern Europe. Thank you for partnering with me!

[Partner with one-time or recurring gifts](#)

Pray with me!

Prayer Summary:

- **Praise!** For a spiritually refreshing time at the JV Singles Retreat.
- **Pray** for me and other JV singles as we continue to process what it means to abide/remain/make our home in Christ's love like a branch on a vine
- **Praise!** For the new habit of praying for each other in our girls group.
- **Pray** for our Youth Group leadership team.
- **Pray** for me as I give the talk at youth group on Friday (April 5).
- **Pray** for our summer interns raising support and preparing to serve with us this summer.

Pray for Ukraine:

- **Pray** for the nine interns who will serve with JV in Ukraine this summer.
- **Pray** for the training of leaders in local churches that will host evangelistic camps this summer.
- **Pray** for the hearts of students seeking the certainty and truth only Jesus can provide in a dangerous environment.

JUST FOR FUN

Here is some of what I've been listening to and reading lately. Maybe you will find them interesting or encouraging!

Listening: [Holy Week](#) a playlist by Verses

Reading: [The Magnificent Journey](#) by James Bryan Smith

Reading: The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning

Reading: She Reads Truth by Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams



"I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love.

John 15:9 (The Message)

Grace & Peace,

Julia



Staying In Touch

Send me an iMessage at **+420 732 761 390** or a text to my US number **(860) 634-3012**.

If snail mail is your thing, letters can be sent to (my new address!):

Julia Budd

Dvořakova 1201/9

73701 Český Těšín

Czech Republic

Care packages are possible! Just give me a heads-up so we can make sure it gets through customs with minimal import fees.

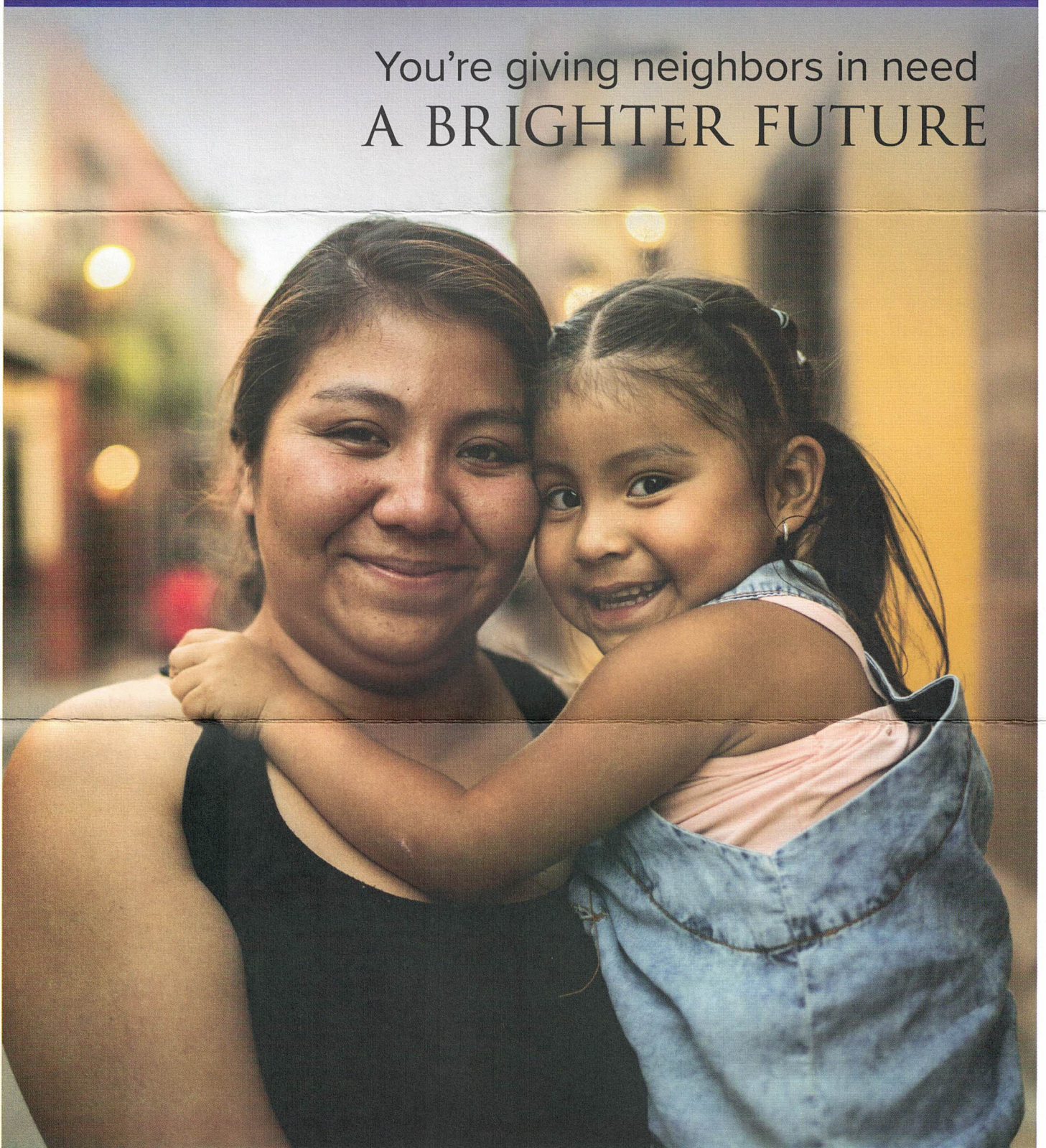


DOING THE MOST GOOD[®]

The Salvation Army
Connecticut

1-800-SAL-ARMY
SalvationArmyCT.org

You're giving neighbors in need
A BRIGHTER FUTURE





**A message from
Majors Debra and
Steven Ashcraft**

Divisional Leaders

A fresh start and new life are extraordinary gifts for people who are struggling, and they are precisely what your generosity gives. By providing tools, care, and guidance, you are supporting our neighbors in ways that answer their prayers.

As we enter spring, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the vast impact you have on our neighbors living through difficult times. Your dedication to offering hope is a true testament to the compassion and kindness within you.

God bless you for all that you do for others.

God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

— Psalm 9:18 (NIV)



After COVID nearly destroyed his life, you helped Christopher get back on his feet.

From near death to independence
You helped Christopher
after the unthinkable happened

When COVID hit in 2020, it turned Christopher's life upside down.

He caught the disease and was found by police unconscious beside the road. His oxygen levels were so low that **he was pronounced dead by the EMTs.**

"I can't remember anything that happened because I was in a coma," says Christopher. He lay unconscious in the hospital for 45 days while the doctors worked tirelessly to save his life.

By God's grace, he survived. But the disease damaged his heart, lungs, muscular system, and memory. It took over a year of rehabilitation before he could walk again.

Before his illness, Christopher had been employed and self-sufficient. But

the debilitating effects of the virus left him unable to make a living to afford food and other necessities. That's when he turned to The Salvation Army.

"Captain Cheryl [McCollum] and her staff were a godsend," says Christopher. "They went out of their way to help me with a variety of services" – services that you made possible. This support made a big difference to him, and he was touched to see the same kindness shown to other seniors in need as well.

Today, thanks to your generosity, Christopher has regained his independence.

You provide a lifeline for neighbors like him when the unthinkable happens. Thank you for being there for those who need it most.

You helped Keisha build a new life

Thanks to you, she and her family have a bright future

Keisha is a warm, resilient soul who left her home in Trinidad and Tobago to rebuild her life after the pandemic. **Thanks to you, she and her family have found a home.**

She, her husband, and son arrived with only three suitcases. When Keisha came to The Salvation Army for help with food, she learned about our Pathway of Hope program, which gives families facing poverty the tools, guidance, and support to become self-sufficient.

The program has been a guiding light for Keisha. **“It’s not easy being a stranger in a new country. They really helped me get my footing,”** she says.

She received help enrolling her son in school, as well as youth activities. **“Every day after school, he had something to do. It was soccer, it was swimming, it was hockey,”** she says.

Keisha also took part in our financial literacy program, where she learned how to budget and build credit. Ultimately, your support made it possible for her to buy a car, get a work permit, find a job, attend community college, and even become a first-time homebuyer.



Your kindness helps struggling families break the cycle of poverty.

Her success story is a testament to the impact your generosity makes. God bless you for your compassion.

You saved Ricky from becoming homeless

His life is back on track because of you



You provide housing assistance and other aid to neighbors facing critical situations.

When 20-year-old Ricky contacted The Salvation Army, he was on the brink of becoming homeless.

He’d been sharing an apartment with his mother, and the lease was in both their names. When she abruptly left, Ricky couldn’t afford the rent. He had no family or friends nearby who could help him.

With only two weeks left before he was due to be evicted, Ricky was at risk of having to sleep on the streets.

Thanks to your compassion, this young man got the help he so urgently needed.

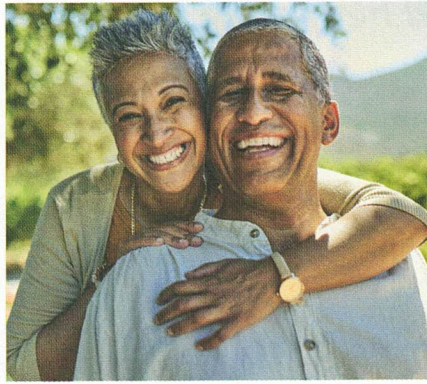
Although Ricky had just started a new, full-time job, he couldn’t afford a security deposit and first month’s rent in order to obtain an apartment. We helped him apply for state assistance and locate a place to live. It was challenging because his credit score was damaged by the eviction.

We assisted Ricky in finding a room to rent. You can imagine his relief when he knew that he didn’t have to worry about not having a roof over his head.

Thank you for giving Ricky a helping hand. **Because of you, he can now focus on building a bright, promising future.**

Leave a legacy of changed lives

Struggling children, families, and seniors in our community receive food, shelter, and encouragement because caring people like you made gifts without reducing their monthly income. You can help with a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime through your will, or by updating a beneficiary designation, without needing to consult a lawyer.



Either way, you maintain full control of your plans while you're living, and the ability to adjust whenever your circumstances change. Give via your IRA or 401(k) and avoid the income taxes that living heirs would have to pay on these assets. Beneficiary designations work with savings accounts, life insurance, Donor-Advised Funds, and many other assets. Our trustworthy gift planners can help you utilize your money in ways that fulfill your personal philanthropy goals.

To learn more, please contact Michael Afflitto, CAP®, Director of Gift Planning, at 860-702-0070 or michael.afflitto@use.salvationarmy.org.



Become a monthly supporter

You can do even more good for our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet by joining our monthly giving program.

3 easy ways to sign up

1. Check the Monthly Frequency box on the back of the reply slip
2. Visit us online at salvationarmyctri.org/hope
3. Call 1-800-SAL-ARMY

If you're already a monthly supporter, thank you!

Your spring devotional

New beginnings through God's love

As we move into the season of renewal, it is a reminder that we are entering a time for reflection and movement, for us to take what we have learned during the dark months of winter and grow in the shining light of the Son.

When we become renewed through God, it is an opportunity for us to reflect on what has been given to us and how we can foster and share those gifts. Give thanks to God for what you have received, and He will pour out His blessings upon you and magnify what you have raised up to Him.

As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

— Hosea 6:3
(NIV)

A PRAYER FOR YOU:

Dear God, thank You for the opportunity to grow and become renewed with Your guidance. May my life be ever enriched by Your encircling love. Amen.



If you know someone in need...

The Salvation Army is committed to meeting human need wherever it exists in our community. If someone you know needs help, please have them call **1-800-SAL-ARMY**.

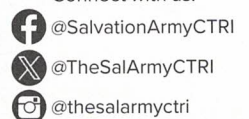
Your gift to The Salvation Army will be used now and throughout the year to support Salvation Army services in our community.

The Salvation Army
Connecticut
1-800-SAL-ARMY

To learn more about The Salvation Army, visit our website: **SalvationArmyCT.org**

Names and photos changed for privacy.

Connect with us:



*Thank you!!
Danny Kin*

Daniel Croce, Senior Chaplain

Sam was raised in several foster homes. He was diagnosed at a very young age with ADHD. He didn't do too well in school and because of his disabilities, was very hard to take care of. In his teenage years he lived on a large farm with the tractors, crops, chickens, pigs, etc. He was somewhat sheltered from city life and he eventually got in with the wrong crowd. He was introduced to drinking and drugs and as a result had some altercations with the police.

Most of his crimes were misdemeanors, like driving without a license, of which, he had several offenses. He had been in and out of jail several times but mostly small sentences like 30 or 90 days, maybe one or two 6 month sentences. His last bid led him to PCCF for driving without a license. Now, at the age of 40, married with 5 children, he realized that this was getting old and so was he. Sam signed up and came to Bible Study. He had heard about the Lord and even went to Church with some of his foster parents as a child, but was not very interested at the time.

Now however, he was very attentive! As I opened the Word of God and shared from the Gospels, Sam would ask a lot of questions and wanted to do the Bible lessons we give for inmates to do during the week. As time went on he heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and became even more interested and he put his faith and trust in Jesus! He has changed from a depressed man without hope to a new man in Christ!

Sam has come such a long way in such a short amount of time! The Lord still does miracles and thank you for being a part of our ministry! **Thank you for your prayers and support!** 😊

GOLF MARATHON!

The Golf Marathon will be coming up in May and we will be looking for any and all interested supporters to help us raise funds for our ministry here at PCCF. If you would like to help and/or support us, please let me know! You can reach me at 508-830-6200 x. 473.

THE SHERIFF'S PRAYER BREAKFAST!

The Sheriff's Prayer Breakfast will be held at the Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, MA, on June 26 2024 at 6:50am. Sheriff Joe McDonald will be there, as well as some Veterans, Police, Firefighters, EMT's, Correctional Officers, Administrative staff and others who serve in Public Safety. There will be a buffet style breakfast and a few Pastors will lead us in prayer and thankfulness for those serving in Public Safety. **Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for breakfast on June 26h!** This is a time to give thanks and show appreciation to those who protect us, our families and communities! If you would like to help by sponsoring a table for this event, let Chaplain Danny know! There are approximately 25 tables to be sponsored! Thank you! If you can attend call Chaplain Danny at 508-830-6200 x. 473 or by email at dcroce@pcsdma.org. **I need to let Hotel 1620 know how many are coming by June 20h, 2024**

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise the Lord!! The inmates are now allowed to congregate for Chapel and Bible Study classes!
- Praise for the inmates and staff that have come to the Lord and are growing in Him!
- **Praise for our new Spanish/Portuguese Chaplain Alonso Dacunha! What a blessing he has been!** (I had been teaching the Spanish and Portuguese inmates for 2 ½ years through interpreters.)
- **Praise for Chaplain Doug MacLeod! He has been a great help and blessing to everyone!**
- Pray for their support to come in and for our golf marathon fundraiser!

SPECIAL THANKS!

We are so grateful to each and every one of you! Jo Woody of Mission Possible has provided many tracts and books for the inmates here and she is a blessing to us. Thanks to Ken & Wendy Begin and Rick Becker for providing Bibles & Study Bibles! We really appreciate Roxanne Costa for grading the many Bible lessons completed by the PCCF inmates.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who have come in to the PCCF to teach a Bible study class: Scott Howland, Wayne Krause and Mark McAulay.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP! 😊😊

- 1) We need Study Bibles for those who complete all the Bible lessons!!
- 2) Also, if anyone has a vehicle that they would like to donate to NHCM, let Chaplain Danny know! Some inmates after their release need a car to get back to work! You can receive a tax deduction for your donation! 😊

If you would like to make a contribution to our ministry, please make your check out to:

New Hope Correctional Ministry or NHCM and mail to:

New Hope Correctional Ministry

P.O. Box 1694

Plymouth, MA 02362

OR, you can give online at our website!! www.newhopecm.org

Thank you for your prayers and support! 😊

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.



As followers of Christ faith and trust in our Savior are at the core of our daily walk with Him. As Hebrews 11:6 says "...without faith it is impossible to please God..."

As a family we want to please God, and it is through our faith that we can do just that! This new season of our life has definitely been faith stretching.

Back in Indiana. We have been back home in Indiana for over four months now and have seen God's hand of providence in our lives. We are thankful for God's provision in our lives and seemingly small blessings are big encouragements to our hearts. We are thankful to be part of our old small home group where we have rich

enjoying time together with dear friends. God is working among us, and we are blessed to be part of it.

In September Caleb was able to join a team to Kenya and Uganda with Redemption Bible Church. He was encouraged by everyone who was part of that team. They spent 4 days in Kenya teaching pastors near Nairobi and then to Uganda where they also taught groups of pastors. God's hand was obvious as He answered direct prayers, and many were encouraged by the Bible teaching.

Much of our ministry time since we last wrote has been filled with Regional Director tasks (reporting, missionary care, and planning a regional event for our ABWE East Africa missionaries) and helping with some mobilization (meeting with people about their current involvement in missions or their potential call to serve as full-time missionaries on a foreign field). We have also met with church and individual ministry partners which never fails to be significant on many levels.

By October we were aware of rising irritation (including, but not limited to)- the road construction on State Street (the main road/intersection by our house). Two questions often came up. First, "Is the end result going to be a road that's any better than what it was like when they started ripping it up? Second, when considering the length of time the repairs were taking we wondered, "Are we back in Jinja, UG?" And while Nico and Nate are both enjoying playing on their school's basketball teams, driving to and from schools for practices and games corresponds with increased efforts to avoid the road construction!

The highlight for Nora and Noel this fall was time with family. They mourned not having their "Little House on the Prairie" movie nights with their Mitchell grandparents when they left in November for a visit to California to spend time with their other grandkids, but it was a joy for all of us to have their Papa Brown and

had such a fun 8th birthday celebration with friends at the beginning of December. Now, well into December, the signs on State Street preparing drivers for detours, and road work are beginning to come down, but for these several months they became more of an analogy than an irritation. Each sign became a reminder of how God often directs us and prepares us for new ways the glory of the Lord may be revealed. During these times we may wonder why God isn't doing things the way we want or think best, but in times of perplexity we can either run from Him in frustration or draw close to Him in deepening faith. We are so thankful that Christ has done all that is needed to make it possible for us to draw near to Him. Blessings to you and yours this Advent season as you remember our Savior's birth, and draw near to Emmanuel, God with us.

Merry Christmas,

The Mitchell Family

ABWE

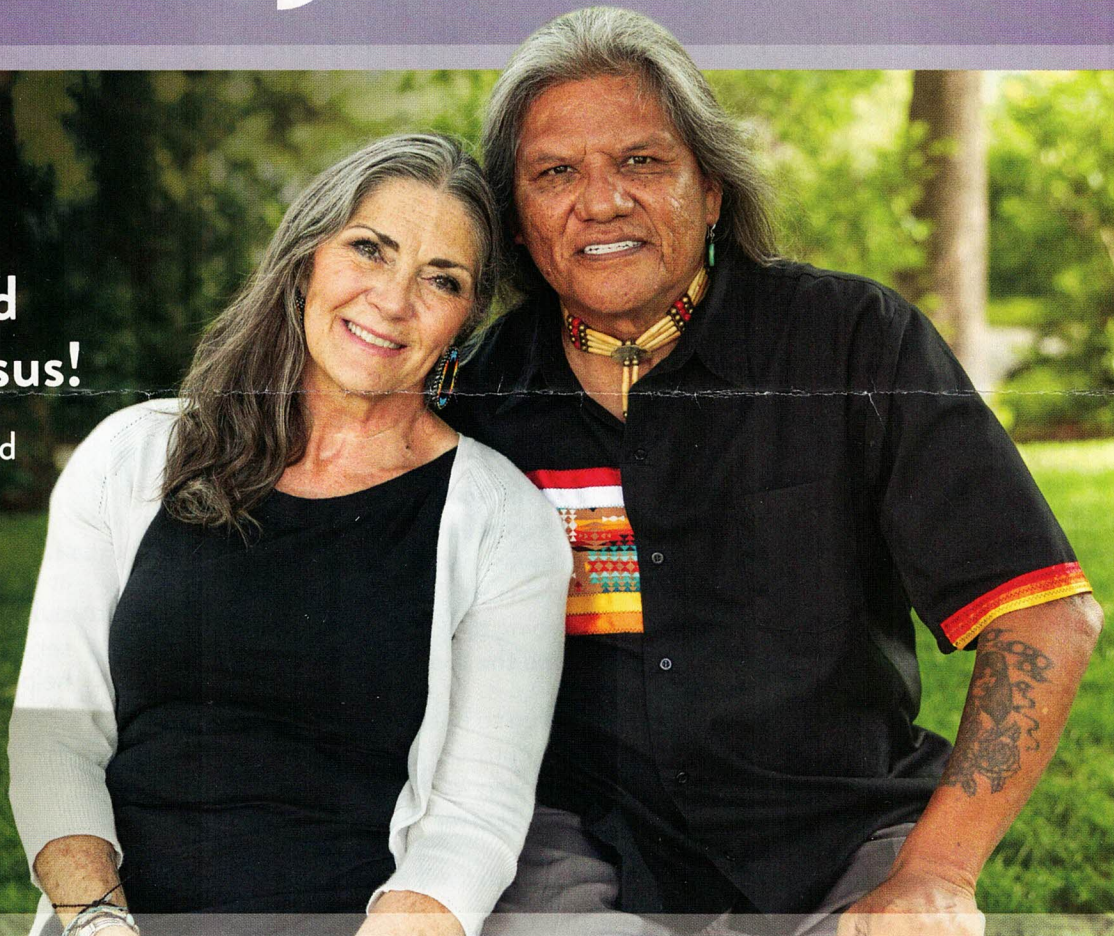


**MATCHING GRANT
DOUBLES YOUR GIFT!**

Thank You for Reaching Beyond Bars to Share Jesus!

Melvin's life was transformed
in prison because of your
partnership.

*Melvin and his wife, Tammy,
are looking forward to serving
prisoners together.*



INSIDE

PG 2 Prisoners Share Their
Appreciation for Hope
Events

PG 3 Angel Tree Profile:
Meet Shane

PG 4 Matching Grant
Doubles Your Easter
Gift



**PRISON
FELLOWSHIP**

Jubilee is the flagship newsletter of Prison Fellowship

P.O. Box 1550, Merrifield, VA 22116-1550
prisonfellowship.org • 877.478.0100

Searching for approval, affection, and a sense of identity he didn't find at home led Melvin to make some bad choices. He says, "I was looking to fill a hole in my life."



By his early 20s, Melvin had a son and a daughter with two different women. But he showed no signs of settling down. Any money he earned went straight to drugs

and alcohol.

"Eventually, I found myself living on the streets," he says. **"I had lost everything."**

At 23, while drunk and high at a party, he was arrested for his part in a murder. While Melvin didn't commit the act, he didn't try to stop it and was implicated.

His mother gave Melvin a small Bible when he arrived at the county jail. But he wasn't interested. He even assaulted other

prisoners who tried to share their faith.

Melvin was convicted and received a life sentence. Behind bars, still searching for his identity, Melvin spent years making himself a leader of other Native American prisoners.

One night in his cell, feeling especially weary and broken, Melvin called on his grandfather in prayer, as was customary in his Native religion. Then, he heard a voice he now knows to be the Lord: "If you really believed in me, you'd believe in Jesus, because I am Jesus."

The next morning, 12 years after receiving the Bible from his mother, Melvin started reading it and found new life in Christ!



Melvin and his wife, Tammy, founded Native Wings Like an Eagle, a nonprofit ministry. He credits the Academy for giving him the tools to succeed, from setting goals to budget planning.

being a Christian. This was the start of a long and meaningful friendship.

After Aaron's release, Melvin learned that Aaron was serving as a program manager for the Prison Fellowship Academy.

In 2018, Melvin enrolled in the program. He says, "I enjoyed all the curriculum. It was basically a reminder of who Christ was in my life, the principles of being a godly man, and the life that I should be living."

After Melvin graduated from the Academy, Aaron asked him to stay as a peer mentor for other men.

WALKING FREE

"The Academy was so influential in who I am today," says Melvin. "I knew I had a calling in my life, but I didn't really know the direction it was going to go. **Prison Fellowship gave me the tools I didn't have before.**"

Due to changes in the legal circumstances surrounding his case, Melvin was released in November 2021 after 38 years in prison.

Melvin lived with his sister after his release. Then, Aaron connected him with a job, and members of his Muscogee tribe helped provide new clothes. Melvin also found a church community and began to preach on occasion.

"Prison Fellowship gave me the tools

I didn't have before."

Melvin reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Tammy, and the couple married in July 2022, with Aaron officiating the ceremony.

Melvin also reestablished relationships with his grown children and enjoys getting to know his grandchildren.

In June 2023, Melvin and his wife received official approval to volunteer

"The message is freedom in Christ," says Melvin. "Whether you're in prison or you're out of prison, that freedom is there for you. I want people to experience that freedom."

at the very prison where he spent so much time. They look forward to serving in the same Academy that helped transform Melvin's life. **He is also hoping to share the Good News at Hope Events this Easter.**

EAGER TO SHARE JESUS

Melvin spent the next 27 years preaching the Good News to anyone who would listen. He received death threats from opponents of his new faith but he persevered.

At one point, Melvin had the chance to apologize to Aaron, a fellow prisoner and Native brother he had ridiculed for

HOW YOU CAN PRAY

Please pray God would use Melvin and Tammy as they share the love of Christ behind bars through the Academy and at Hope Events. Thank you for giving to bring transformation to more prisoners.

Prisoners Share Their Appreciation for Hope Events You Help Make Possible!

"It made me truly believe there is hope for me, not just in here but out there too."

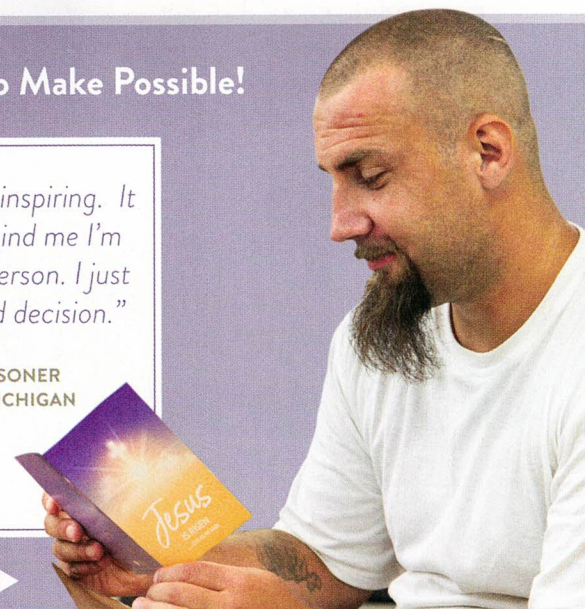
—A PRISONER FROM OKLAHOMA

"Today, this event made me realize I need to ask God to forgive me and take me under His wings."

—A PRISONER FROM MAINE

"It was very inspiring. It helped remind me I'm not a bad person. I just made a bad decision."

—A PRISONER FROM MICHIGAN



You can bless a prisoner with the hope of Jesus Christ when you sign and return your Easter card. ▶

ANGEL TREE PROFILE

How **YOU'RE** making a difference

You make it possible for kids like Shane to experience Angel Tree Camping!

Shane: age 11

Angel Tree camping gives children of prisoners the chance to get away from their daily challenges and have fun in the great outdoors, make new friends, be encouraged by caring counselors, and learn about Jesus.

Shane has been coming to Angel Tree camps since he was 5 years old. His favorite activities include playing with his friends in the pool and flag football. Shane shared with us about how camp has made a difference in his life.

What have you learned recently at camp?

“About the Bible, Imago Dei—the image of God, how you present yourself.”

How has camp changed the way you see yourself?

“I usually doubt myself in everything. I used to be scared to do stuff. I’m more confident now.”

Why is camp important to you?

“To learn about God, about myself, and to meet more people and make new friends.”

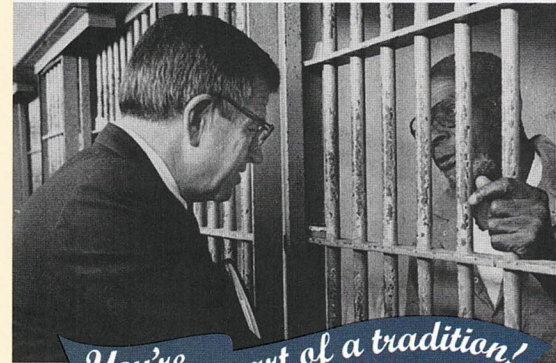
This is the kind of difference you make through your support. You help make it possible for children like Shane to experience Angel Tree Camping and find the hope, support, and encouragement they need during a difficult time. Thank you!

HOW YOU CAN PRAY

Please pray for Shane to grow in his faith and encourage other kids who attend an Angel Tree camp.



COLSON CORNER



Your support of Prison Fellowship continues the tradition of sharing the hope of Jesus behind prison walls at Easter.

EASTER MEANS TRUE FREEDOM

Forty-eight years ago, our founder, Chuck Colson, spent Easter Sunday sharing the Good News behind bars. That marked the start of an annual tradition, because Chuck knew there was no better place to experience Resurrection power.

Part of Chuck’s Easter message was to remind those he spoke with that Jesus died as a prisoner; that He had been beaten, mocked, betrayed, and, ultimately, executed.

But, he would say, *that wasn’t the end of the story.* Jesus rose from the grave to conquer sin and death!

For those behind bars, this message is especially meaningful. They can experience true freedom through Christ.

When Chuck was released from prison, he promised his fellow prisoners that he wouldn’t forget them. And every year, he spent Easter in prison to share the greatest love story—the one where God’s Son willingly suffered and died to save us.

Thank you for giving to carry on our founder’s tradition of sharing God’s love on Easter Sunday—and throughout the year—in prisons across the country.

Matching Grant Doubles Your Easter Gift to SHARE THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION WITH PRISONERS

YOU CAN MAKE TWICE THE IMPACT THIS EASTER

You can help share the Gospel with prisoners at Hope Events across the country planned for Easter weekend—or at one of the hundreds of Hope Events we'll hold in prisons across America this year!

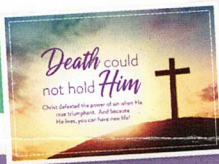
At these events, we bring volunteers, including musicians and speakers, into the prison yard to share the message of God's love and forgiveness and the new life we have in Christ. Each event reaches an average of 250 incarcerated men and women!

A special Easter Matching Grant will **DOUBLE** your gift—up to **\$40,000**—to help reach **TWICE** as many prisoners with the hope of the Resurrection.

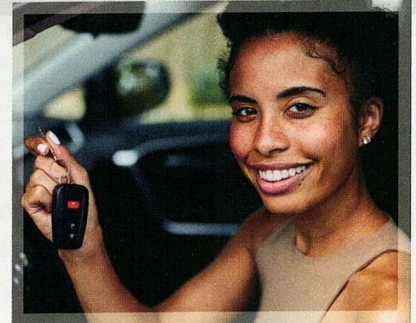
God is using Hope Events to transform the lives of thousands of men and women in prison every year. You can help make this the best Easter weekend ever when you give today.

When you send your gift, please also sign and return the enclosed Easter card—it may be the only card a prisoner receives all year. You'll let them know they're not forgotten by you—or by God.

Offer hope to a hurting prisoner with your Easter card



DONATE YOUR USED VEHICLE and Change Lives!



It's easy to donate your non-cash assets to Prison Fellowship.

When you donate a vehicle like a car, RV, motorcycle, or boat, we take care of all the details and you get a tax deduction. The proceeds go directly to our ministry.

It's a tax-smart way to give and another chance to change the lives of prisoners and their families.

For more information, please contact Planned Giving at **877-PFM-GIVE** or give@pfm.org

Planned Giving is administered by the Prison Fellowship Ministries Foundation through its offices in Lansdowne, Virginia. Please consult your tax or legal adviser.

SPECIAL EASTER MATCHING GRANT DOUBLES YOUR GIFT!



GIVE BY MAIL:

Prison Fellowship
P.O. Box 1550
Merrifield, VA 22116-1550



GIVE BY TELEPHONE:

If you would prefer to donate by phone, please call 877.478.0100 (M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. ET) toll-free.



GIVE ONLINE:

Just visit our website at prisonfellowship.org/march to put your gift to work right away!





Faith That Persists

Dear Friends,

Why did it take seven marches around the walls of Jericho before they fell?

When Juli was just five years old in the country of Albania, he used to stand in line for three hours in the morning, three times a week, for a liter and a half of cooking oil for his family. Living under the most oppressive regime in the world, it was hard for him to imagine that the conditions would ever change. The only way one survived was by dogged perseverance.

Fast forward to today, and Juli is a passionate follower of Jesus, leading our Josiah Venture team in Albania, reaching young people with the gospel in a country marked by freedom. Because summer camps are such an effective tool to evangelize the next generation, God gave him a dream to build a youth camp in the mountains not far from his coastal city of Vlore.



A beautiful piece of land was identified beside a mountain stream, and negotiations were begun with the owners. People began giving toward the vision. But then the doors closed, and the purchase was no longer possible.

Land purchases in Albania are very complicated because of the country's unique history. When communism fell, all property was in the hands of the government. Rather than returning usable land to the original owners, they gave every resident of the country a small piece of property. Many never took official ownership of their small parcel, meaning all their surviving relatives would have an equal claim. Tracking down true ownership and getting every member of simple villager families to agree to sell is a herculean task.

A second possibility also fell through, as did the third and fourth. A fifth property was identified—this time with a slight advantage. Before communism stamped out all religion, Juli's grandfather was a Muslim Imam—from the very village where this piece of land was located. His father was born in a stone building that is now a ruin on the land.

Nevertheless, the task was still far from easy. To purchase a 24-acre piece of land, we needed the agreement of 8 families and the signatures of 46 different people in those family units. It took over a year of negotiations, many long conversations, and even more than seven "marches around the wall" before those agreements were in place.



Juli and his team persevered in faith, and last week, after over five years of active work, land for a youth camp in Albania was finally purchased. The property is set on a beautiful stream, surrounded by 5000-foot mountains, and located just a 35-minute drive from beautiful coastal beaches. Though isolated and private, it is within a 3-hour drive of 70% of the population of the country. Now, we are beginning plans to develop this unique location into a summer camp facility for up to 200 young people.

Perhaps when Juli was just a child standing in line, God was beginning to prepare him for preserving faith. I wonder how he is preparing you?

Dave Patty

Dave Patty
President, Josiah Venture



Equipping young leaders in Central and Eastern Europe to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church