



Emmaus Ministries Inc

**Our Mission:** The mission of Emmaus Ministries Inc. is to walk with Jesus in everything we do and recognize Him along every path that God takes us.

**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!** We sincerely hope this Christmas season is finding you and your family safe and joyous and that you will take time to remember the reason for this joyous season. As most of you know, Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas. The event of his birth was predicted more than 500 years before it happened. In Isaiah 7:14 it says "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign, behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." Again, in Isaiah 9:6, it is written "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be on his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." I certainly hope that knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior is what brings you peace this Christmas season. I realize it's not popular to say Merry Christmas anymore, but I encourage you all to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" to remind those around you of the hope you have in Jesus Christ.

**Wonderful Counselor.** Of the names of Jesus mentioned in Isaiah 9:6, Counselor is the one I think I like best. There are probably many around you this Christmas who are struggling with depression or loss, experiencing their first Christmas without a loved one. They may be in need of a Counselor and we know the Wonderful Counselor. The best news is that this Wonderful Counselor did not leave us alone after he was crucified and rose again and ascended into Heaven. In John 16:7 Jesus tells his disciples: "Nevertheless it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him to you." The word for Comforter in that verse is "parakletos" which is the same word translated Holy Spirit elsewhere in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity is here with us to comfort us and to counsel us and to walk with us through good times and through difficult ones. Now that is definitely something worth celebrating this Christmas!

**Deep Meadow Correctional Center.** We travel to Powhatan, VA to Deep Meadow Correctional Center every first and fifth Sunday. There have been a lot of changes and transfers happening out there and our Bible Study that normally consists of more than 25 men has dwindled because of the changes. Please pray for the transitions taking place at Deep Meadow and that new guys being transferred in will sign up for Bible Study and that the guys transferring out will find a solid Bible believing fellowship and ministry in the institutions there are transferring to. We will update you next time on how the transition is going, but your prayers are needed during this challenging time for the inmates.

**Sussex II State Prison.** We have been going regularly every second Sunday to Sussex II State Prison in Waverly, VA and our co-laborer, Dave has been going regularly as well on third Sundays and to Sussex I as well. The groups we minister to range from 75-100 men. We got snowed out on the second Sunday in December, but in November, we shared a message about grace. The