



Emmaus Ministries Inc.



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Dear Prayer Warriors and Financial Partners:

Catch Up!

A lot has happened in this past year. At present, we are just trying to keep up with what God is doing in the Florida prisons and in our lives! Emmaus had a little boost in financial giving last year, but minimal. When Rich and I were called by God to be together as husband and wife, we knew that prison ministry and missions were our focus. We volunteered in the Virginia prisons and on the mission field in Honduras. Our hearts longed for missions overseas, but God had another plan. Rich and I first met at a prison ministry prayer meeting for Bridgebuilders at Beulah Prestipino's house in Richmond. She was my Spiritual Mom back in the day and I fully recognize the influence and Spiritual guidance she provided for me during those times. She resides with Jesus now – I have no doubt! Rich and I now see that the primary focus of what God wants to do through us is in the prisons in Central and Western Florida. When we first moved to Florida in August of 2019, we were new to the area, but had done outreach with Life on the Verge (lifeontheverge.com), in Chipley, Ocala, Lowell Women's prison and also CFRC in Orlando in the past while we were still living in Virginia. Just before Christmas 2019, we renewed our training and entry requirements with the State of Florida and had six invitations starting in Spring of 2000 to speak at various prisons here in Florida. Before we could minister in our first prison, COVID shut down visitation in the prisons for almost two years.

In mid-2022 we finally got clearance to minister at Polk Correctional Center ("Polk"). That facility is located more than an hour southwest of Orlando. Since then, Rich and I have been faithful and consistent volunteers at Polk. Rich goes every first Wednesday and we try to go together every third Saturday. Rich and I also joined with the prison volunteer group at Faith Assembly of God in Central Orlando ("Faith Assembly") to minister at Central Florida Reception Center ("CFRC"). This prison is closer, only a twenty minute drive from our home. Rich ministered there mostly covering when others couldn't make it, on intermittent weekday afternoons.

Breakthrough!

In early September of this year, we finally had a breakthrough! Faith Assembly generated multiple new ministry opportunities at CFRC. We are now scheduled for two Sunday evenings a week at two different Units, in addition to the Monday and Wednesday slots. This was inspiring and encouraging for us! We now have an opportunity to minister much more often in the prisons. Faith also has several additional slots at CFRC East Unit on at least three additional days per month and a few of the other volunteers through Faith help cover those. Through collaboration with Faith and Rocco Morelli Ministries, our monthly prison ministry schedule now looks like this:



- Every first Wed. – Polk (Rocco, Rich, Todd and Lisa)
- Every third Saturday – Polk (Rich, Cindy, Rocco, Todd and Lisa)
- Every 2nd and 3rd Sunday evening – CFRC (Ken, Rich and Cindy)
- Every Friday -Polk – Biblical Studies Curriculum (Rocco, Rich and Todd)

Biblical Studies Program at Polk.

The last listed opportunity God opened up this year is the Biblical Studies Curriculum scheduled for every Friday at Polk. It is a program that is being offered to the inmates at Polk free of charge. The estimated cost of this curriculum is an average of over \$1,000 per student. The curriculum is an extensive program study of the Bible designed to equip inmates to expand and enrich their knowledge of The Kingdom of God, resulting in a diploma in Biblical Studies. The curriculum and study materials are provided courtesy of Rocco Morelli Ministries. You can visit their website at roccomorelli.org. We have reviewed the curriculum extensively and also been working to grade their coursework. In our opinion, it is a worthy study program, enriching the inmates' knowledge of the Word of God, with the ultimate goal of steering them away from repeating their past mistakes.

Rich and I could never have imagined what God had planned! God directed us to Central Florida to have an impact on the Kingdom of God! The last several ministry events at CFRC and Polk looked like this:

- Sept. 10 – 75 in attendance - 18 salvations for inmates.
- Oct. 8 -East Unit – 41 in attendance – 8 salvations.
- Oct. 8 – Main Unit – 82 in attendance – 19 salvations.
- Oct. 15 – Main Unit – 76 in attendance – 16 salvations
- Nov. 1 – Polk – 65 in attendance
- Nov. 17 – Polk – Bible class – 19 in attendance
- Nov. 18 – Polk –24 in attendance

It is not about numbers ... but it does help confirm our effectiveness for the Kingdom of God! The numbers above represent 61 souls who have decided to follow Christ! 61 souls that have escaped eternity in Hell and entered the Kingdom of our dear Savior Jesus Christ! Yes ... Hell is real. We are celebrating those who have been rescued!



At the same time, we are weeping for the atrocities that are creating chaos in the Middle East. I will not venture into political realms here, nor will I assign blame, but I will ask everyone to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem! It is Scripturally mandated. Psalm 122:5 states it clearly. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! No matter your religious affiliation, or even if you have none, I believe we can all agree that prayer for peace in these unsettled times is something we all need to do!



Past Experiences and Effective Ministry Moments.

On October 15th of this year – I had the opportunity to share a story from my past with the inmates at CFRC. I was on an outreach mission trip to minister to the homeless population in New York City, the year before the Towers fell on 9/11. I had turned my life over to God asking Him to direct my steps. It was suggested during our orientation, that we walk up to folks and tell them “God sent me here from “[your town]” to tell you that God Loves You! My thoughts turned to ... Yea right! That sounds like a line! But during worship that night before we ventured out to minister to the homeless at Penn Station and the vicinity, one of the leaders came up to me and quoted Jeremiah 18: about the potter and the clay. He told me that I was the clay ... and that Jesus, the potter, was trying to mold me into what He had created me to be! The Scripture is found in Jeremiah 18 starting in verse 1. “The Word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah, saying: “Arise and go down to the potter’s house and there I will cause you to hear My words.” Then I went down to the potter’s house and behold he fashioned a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the porter, so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the Word of the Lord came to me saying, ***O House of Israel, cannot I not do with you as this potter?*** Saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so you are in my hand.” The Good News is that He can do with all of us what the potter did here if we let Him!

So – when push came to shove, as we were walking the streets of New York City in negative 15 degrees Fahrenheit ... we walked up to a guy in Penn Station --- I said: “I’m Cindy and God sent me all the way from Richmond, Virginia to tell you that He loves you!” I expected a brush off... but the guy answered – “I guess I should listen to you! Someone from Phoenix Arizona came up to me two weeks ago and told me the exact same thing! I suppose I should hear what you have to say!” That was the very first person I ever had an opportunity to lead into a relationship with Christ! What I did not know was that God was using this trip and this night to break me of my pride and my addictions and to let me know that He was molding me into to something better – His vessel.

Last month at CFRC-Main on Oct. 8th – it was just me and Rich – the others from our group were at the East Unit – we had 82 inmates there – I shared my experience in New York in conjunction with Jeremiah 18, and by the end of service not only did 19 commit their lives to Jesus, but we had 30+ inmates weeping in prayer kneeled before the altar to let God break them and re-make them! My personal experience told me that God had to break me of my pride and self-sufficiency... in order to figure out what He wanted for my life! He is doing the same work on the potter’s wheel with the inmates at CFRC and Polk!

The following week at CFRC, Rich had an amazing word about removing the Halloween mask! A timely instruction just before Halloween! Our fellow ministers from Faith Assembly tied it into the New Covenant and the identity we have in Christ! 16+ inmates received Christ for the first time!

This is an exciting time from a Kingdom of God perspective! Let’s all pray for our neighbors and friends no matter where we are in the world! Let’s all pray together for peace and justice and stand together to reach souls for the Kingdom!





Financial Challenge.

We are trying to do our part to expand the Kingdom of God. Will you help us? The mileage we rack up with our personal vehicles is over 500 miles per month. That puts our gas expenses alone at the current Federal mileage reimbursement rate of \$.65.5 cents per mile at \$327.00 per month minimum. I am still working full time as a Commercial Real Estate Paralegal, but Rich is committed full time to the ministry, in addition to maintaining our home. We see an opportunity to expand our ministry and reach even more people. We cannot do it without your prayers and support. Please take an opportunity to pray about what God might want you to do. You can assist in covering the cost of tuition for the inmates at Polk, help us out with gas and travel expenses, or provide assistance for administrative expenses, printer ink, post office box fees, website hosting, office supplies and the like.

In Matthew 25, starting in verse 35, Jesus says "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you took me in, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me." Then his disciples asked Him "When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You, or when did we see You sick or in prison and come to You? Jesus answers: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." We realize most of our readers do not have the time nor the desire to visit the least of these in prison, but it is to the least of these that we are called to serve. Will you help us minister to the least of these?

Thanks to all of you who assisted us in 2003, and we look forward to your continued support. Blessings to all and a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Matthew 25:35

Remember the least of these!

Psalm 122:5:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Sincerely

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**