HOPE BEHIND BARS
by Suzanne Hunt

A year ago, I felt the Holy Spirit impressing me to become involved in prison ministry. But my reaction was a little like Jonah’s reaction to God when He asked Jonah to go to Nineveh. I said, “Not me, Lord. Prison ministry is not a good fit for me.” Then last January I had an “in the belly of the whale” experience after a family member was arrested. Navigating the labyrinth of rules in the prison system was daunting: visitation rules, commissary rules, and mail rules. Often times, relatives of inmates feel intimidated like they are in prison too. Not to mention, the impact this all has on the inmate.

REFLECTIONS VESPERS
by Cherie Smith

The holiday season is usually a time when family and friends gather. Sadly, this year there are at least 117 of our members and their families who will have an empty chair as they gather because in 2013 they lost a family member to death.

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt encourages people to remember because “remembering the person I have loved does allow me to slowly heal. Healing does not mean I forget. Actually it means I will remember.” But it may be difficult in the busy holidays to find a quiet place and time to remember.

To provide some quiet, reflective time to remember those we miss and to remind us of the blessed hope God has provided, the pastors are planning again this year to have a special one-hour vesper service on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Once I was more familiar with the prison system, becoming involved in Prison Ministry seemed less daunting. After expressing my interest to get training, the conference pointed me to a group of women from the Ringgold Seventh-day Adventist Church. They invited me join them in semi-monthly meetings in the Alpha women’s unit at Silverdale Prison. This has been a wonderful experience. Not only have I enjoyed the fellowship of some Godly women, God is teaching me humility and hopefully the skills for growing a prison ministry at our church.

If you would like to become involved, the Lord can use your skills to his glory. There is a great need for a group to provide semi-monthly meetings to men downtown at the Hamilton County Jail. Alternately, Silverdale Prison provides annual training in the spring, and our church would like to get groups together by then. Women would be involved with the women’s meetings and men would be involved in the men’s meetings. We need at least two individuals and a maximum of six to conduct a meeting at Silverdale. Here are some of ways that you could be involved in prison ministry:

- Meetings-song service, piano, scripture, prayer, speaker
- Letter Writing
- Book Sponsor
- Coordinate Correspondence Bible Studies
- Inmate Family Member Visitation
- Inmate Visitation

Has the Holy Spirit been impressing upon you to become involved in Prison Ministry? Call Suzanne Hunt at (423) 280-1513 to express your interest. You can be part of God’s ministry to bring hope behind bars. ~

The following individuals have been recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve January 2014 through January 2016. Any objections to this report may be directed to Pastor Ken at (423) 396-2124.

~ Oneita Turner, Secretary, 2013 Nominating Committee

Church Board
Ronna Barker
Mike Barto
Gordon Bietz
Sam Chetty
Andrew Clark
Murray Cooper

Tim Cross
Victor Czerkasij
Tony Dahlberg
Elaine Dodd
Paul Eirich
Steve Ericson
Franklin Farrow
Don Gettys
Brent Hamstra
Brian Henning
Debbie Hinton
William Hurtado
Wolf Jedamski
Brennon Kirstein
Carla McKenzie
Harry Miller
Andy Nash
Sam Nkana
Ken Norton

Cherie Smith
David Smith
Jeanette Stephenske
Marvin Thorman
Carole Verrill

Elders:
Victor Czerkasij,
Head Elder
Kathy Goddard,
Associate Head Elder
Volker Henning,
Associate Head Elder
David Otis, Associate
Head Elder
George Akers
Imogene Akers
Susan Anderson
Jim Aumack

Lynn Aumack
Victor Berumen
Gordon Bietz
Ernie Clark
Ken Cronje
Tony Dahlberg
Jay Dedeker
Celso DeSouza
Liane DeSouza
Franklin Farrow
Jere Fillman
Laurie Ann Gauthier
Bettie Griffin
Ric Griffin
Lester Haag
Chris Hansen
Joseph Herndeur
Steve Hunt
David James
Ingrid Jones
Jay Jones
Mary King
Gerald Kovalski
Sandra Kovalski
Mark LaVertue
LeClare Litchfield
Shelly Litchfield
Amanda Livanos
Mike Mohr
Andy Nash
Cindy Nash
James Naylor
Juanita Naylor
Beatrice Neall
Ralph Neall
Sam Nkana
Ken Norton Sr.
Braam Oberholster
Petro Oberholster
Cathy Otis
Carol Raney
Rob Raney
Ron Reading
Jolinda Ruf
Rick Schwarz
Lisa Thorman
Marvin Thorman
Evie VandeVere
Tom Verrill
Norbert Waegle
Robert Wernick
Judy Winters

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Nominating
continued from page 2

Deacons
Steve Ericson, Head Deacon
Richard Thornton, Sr Assoc. Head Deacon
Linda Buckner, Jay Dedeker, Gary Weber, Dixie Owens, Lester Haag, Amanda Livanos
THAILAND MISSIONARY, Chris Sorensen, will speak for the three worship services in the Sanctuary November 30.

WHAT A WONDERFUL CHURCH FAMILY we have. There is no way to express the appreciation we have for your prayers, love, thoughts, and vast variety of comfort foods. The family of Al Morford

THE CHARLES H EDWARDS FAMILY expresses appreciation to Pastors Cherie and Dave Smith for their love, support, and kindness shown at the time of Daddy’s journey from the hospital to the nursing home back to the hospital and finally to Hospice where his journey ended. Thank you also to the Church family for your support, cards, flowers, and meal after the funeral. At this time we also remember when Daddy had a previous tumble down stairs at the Church and many rushed to his aid. We are forever grateful for the love and kindness the Church family showed him. —Betty, Chuck, and Toni Edwards

FRESH FLORIDA FRUIT, and support missions at Collegedale Academy. Navels: $33/box or $19/half box; Ruby Red Grapefruit: $28/box, $17/half box; and Tangerines: $26/half box. Deadline is December 2. Pickup is Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Academy gym. To order: www.collegedaleacademy.com/citrus or 396-2124 ext. 555 and record your order.

RITA VITAL and her children thank our Church family for all the supportiveness, words, cards, flowers, prayers, visits and the warm, loving prayer shawl. Rita’s recovery from double pneumonia was truly a miracle after ten days in the hospital and ten weeks of convalescence. She praises the Lord with regained strength and will to serve Him anew.

CAYA CENTRAL, our new Youth Center, is open after school (Mon-Thurs 3:00-6:00; Fri 12:30-2:00 - note new Friday closing time). Consider volunteering an hour or two a week to hang out with young people, or donating healthy snack items or leftover event food. Call or text Shelly at (423) 413-1954.

IN MEMORY

Richard G. Boyce, Sr., father of Michael Boyce, passed away November 12. Services were November 16 in Gettysburg, PA.

Roy Allen, father of Kurt Allen, passed away November 7. Services were held in Michigan.

Winifred Mulkern, mother of Bob Mulkern, passed away October 5. Services were held in Maine on October 23.

Rogers Crase, father of Brenda Massengill, passed away November 10. Services were November 13.

Helen Walker, mother of Sandra Benton, passed away November 8. Services were November 10.

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