



# the connection

WINTER 2019



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## *Inside This Issue...*

As the leader of this ministry, it is my privilege to work with a wonderful group of staff and volunteers. In the centerfold of this newsletter, you can get a glimpse of who they are and where they serve. Please pray for these men and women who give of themselves to Proclaim Christ and Disciple Inmates!

– Don Metzler, President

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# Donut Days

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!”



Donut Days is a joint effort of We Care Program and Strite's Donuts to canvas the prisons of Alabama with the message of God's love for broken man. This year that translated into five days, five prisons, approximately 13,700 donuts, printed tracts with a calendar on the back for each inmate, and a church service every evening. This was our fourth year of seizing the opportunity to impact entire prison populations and their staff. It was an outstanding week. We experienced God moving and leaving His fingerprints on all of our lives. Below are the testimonies of a couple who joined us for Donut Days 2018.

– Dawson Hooley, Development Director



In September my wife and I had the privilege to be a part of Donut Days. We had been wanting to do some type of outreach as a couple and felt this would be a good opportunity. I arrived in Alabama unsure of what to expect. I was very blessed to be part of the team at We Care. My favorite part was interacting with the inmates at the evening chapel services, where I realized the church was blossoming inside prison. Some of these men definitely had Jesus Christ in the center of their lives. I soon realized God brought me there for these men to challenge me in my walk with the Lord. I am confident that if Jesus were on the earth today we would find Him in the prisons ministering to the lost, the criminals and outcasts of society. Mark 2:17 says, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” I am thankful to God that He was able to use me in this way!

– Daniel Showalter



Did you ever do something with the intent of blessing another, but walk away feeling like you were the one who received the greatest blessing? That's how I felt after a week in Alabama serving prison inmates through the gift of love in the shape of a donut. My husband and I were invited to Donut Days by a relative. So we set aside a week and packed our bags for Alabama. Unsure if we were qualified to minister in this way, we went, not realizing how this step would impact our lives in the way it did. Early each morning, our team of donut makers set up equipment at a prison and made donuts for that facility's inmates and staff. In the evenings we attended a chapel service with the inmates at that prison. We shared, they shared, and through the testimonies of both, I believe most of us left rejoicing in the Lord for what He is doing in each of our lives. Together, we worshipped God as a body of believers. Darkness is prevalent in prison, as this is a fallen world, but is it not in darkness that light can shine the brightest? God is not calling the perfect, but servants who want to be His instruments and allow His light to shine through them, casting out the darkness in His name. We are thankful to We Care for giving us this opportunity, and we praise God for the work He is doing in prison ministry.

– Bonnie Showalter







**We invite you to join us in praying for ReNew Hope. It's just around the corner!**

Partner with us as we set aside **January 21** to pray especially for God's leading and His work in and through this event.

Listed below is a specific prayer focus for each day surrounding and during the outreach.

- January 26** – Pray for all the volunteers, musicians and speakers traveling to Montgomery.
- January 27** – Pray for those leading the Orientation assembly and the training session.
- January 28** – Pray for a smooth entrance for all the teams as they go into prison for the first time.
- January 29** – Pray for good weather and that many positive conversations will happen.
- January 30** – Pray for the health of all those involved, especially the musicians and speakers.
- January 31** – Pray that the inmates being drawn by the Holy Spirit would respond this last day.
- February 1** – Pray for the ReNew Hope participants as they return home and for We Care chaplains as we continue to water the seeds that were planted.

# Hope for the Hopeless

## February 24 – March 7

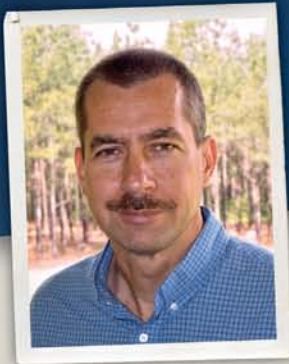


### Prison Ministry Events

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2/24 Batesburg, SC  | 3/3 TBA            |
| 2/25 Fairplay, SC   | 3/4 Wilmot, OH     |
| 2/26 Dayton, VA     | 3/5 Plain City, OH |
| 2/27 Prospect, VA   | 3/6 Odon, IN       |
| 2/28 Franconia, PA  | 3/7 Arthur, IL     |
| 3/1 New Holland, PA |                    |

*Featuring Music by Will & Starlit Stoltz*





# DO OUR PRAYERS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A MESSAGE FROM DON METZLER, PRESIDENT

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Prayer can be a challenge to figure out and do consistently, at least for me it is.

Where is the line of praying with confidence that God will answer but yet not demanding that He must answer our requests? Do our prayers really make a difference? What about when we don't get the results we asked for? Was our faith not strong enough, were we not praying in God's will, or is God trying to teach us something?

Recently I came across this quote on prayer by Max Lucado. He wrote, "Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." I am thankful

*"I am thankful that answers to my prayers do not depend on my style, length, frequency or amount of faith, but they depend on the amazing God of this universe who can do anything!"*

that answers to my prayers do not depend on my style, length, frequency or amount of faith, but they depend on the amazing God of this universe who can do anything!

Ephesians 6:18 & 19 says, "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel." (ESV)

Along these lines, I invite you to pray for our upcoming ReNew Hope prison outreach, using the prayer guide inside this issue. I also ask you to pray with us for God to supply more chaplains to help spread His love and that He would continue to meet the financial needs of this ministry. Thank you for joining with us in prayer!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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