

# PMA *Outreach*



Volume 11 Issue 2

The Newsletter of Prison Mission Association

SEPTEMBER 2005

## **Joe Ben Mason 1910-2005**

**Joe Mason, the founder, longtime director and source of inspiration of Prison Mission Association entered the presence of the Lord on April 23, 2005. Below are some quotes from those that spoke at his memorial service at the Grace Bible Church in Phoenix, Arizona on May 1, 2005.**



Bill Babcock - Former PMA Board President

*I look forward to the day when I see Joe and say to him, "Joe, Thank you for being so faithful in so many people's lives, including mine."*



Joe Larry Mason - Joe's Son  
*He was a great man.*



Jeff Barnett - Joe's Grandson  
*It's hard for me to believe the selflessness that he had. I'm in awe of the man.*



Donald Sommer - Current Director of PMA  
*I am both honored and humbled to follow in the footsteps of a man that has had such a powerful influence*



Bob McQueen - A friend. Joe ministered to his son while in prison who later became a missionary to Mexico  
*He planted seeds that continue to be harvested even though he is not here. I know that the rejoicing in heaven was outstanding when Joe stepped across the threshold.*



Kathleen Quiroga- A missionary that was encouraged by Joe Mason  
*Joe Mason was a great man. His greatness was his humility of spirit as he allowed God to use him in a great way.*

## A Note from the Director

Once again it is my privilege to write this brief message to all the friends, supporters and prayer warriors that are part of the PMA team. I would like to say “thank you” each reader of this newsletter. Each and every one is in some way an important part of the our ministry and you have all helped to make it possible for us to fulfill our vision of *Reaching Prisoners for Christ*.

In this issue we have prepared a tribute to the founder of Prison Mission Association, Joe Mason. Joe passed away on April 23 and I had the privilege to attend his memorial in Phoenix on May 1. It was truly a blessing and a time of great celebration of the life of a man of God that touched countless souls during his 94 years on this earth.

We have an exciting article from a couple in North Carolina that have been introduced to prison ministry through Pastor Lynn Dulakis who serves as a chaplain at the Macon County Jail. They have an exciting story of how the Lord has changed the lives of two

ladies that they have gotten to know and been able to introduce to the truths of God’s marvelous grace.

We have an exciting update on the success of the annual Shelton revival. This year’s event was a great blessing for both the inmates and the volunteers that were involved in making it possible.

I would also urge you to read the encouraging story from the Selfors that minister to the Hispanic population. Because of their English classes in prison they have been able to share the gospel with an American inmate.

Enjoy this issue of PMA Outreach!  
In His Service,

*Don*

## Reaching Out by Reaching In

In the previous newsletter, Chaplain Dulakis wrote concerning inmates Melanie and Brittany. We would like to share how these two have really drawn us into their lives and exploded the prison ministry in which we had already been involved. We had been sending PMA lessons to detainees who requested them, receiving the completed lessons back, commenting on them, and returning them with the next lesson, often with a note of encouragement.



Gene and Bev Lynn

Pastor Dulakis shared with us about Melanie, requesting prayer for her along with Bible lessons. The notes she added to her returned lessons touched our hearts. The attitude of this sixteen-year-old girl, incarcerated, not knowing what she faced, and yet being so upbeat and positive, could only be coming from the Spirit within. She would regularly give us names of others who would like to do the lessons. Among these was Brittany. I can’t remember when I have seen such a dramatic change in a person’s life as Christ had made in her life. Admittedly we did not know her before but since we have become very close to her she has shared very openly with us about her previous life. She really has nothing to go back to in her former life, and says that we and the Dulakises are her family now.

These two had witnessed to virtually every one in the women’s dorm in our detention center and many of them have been taking the lessons. Both girls have completed all of the PMA studies, and Brittany has requested to do them again. Each of the girls have become missionaries, telling others about their Savior and suggesting that they too take the studies. Brittany has been instrumental in involving some 30 others to study the Bible

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# Shelton Revival 2005

**July 15-16, 2005**

Prison Mission Association sponsors a large mass evangelistic event each year at the Washington Correction Center. This year's revival was held on July 15-16.

We praise the Lord for another successful event. Nearly 100 volunteers worked together to present the gospel to over 1500 inmates. Nearly 300 indicated they had made a decision to accept Christ or recommit their lives to Him. Each inmate to attend one of the events was given literature and an Introductory Bible study as well as the opportunity to sign up to enroll in our complete set of lessons.

Once again the Freedom Team strength and power team put on a fantastic program as they challenged the inmates with their demonstrations of feats of strength and tied it into the power of God. Their dramatic presentation along with inspirational testimonies of how God changed the lives of the team members provided an atmosphere that allowed the Holy Spirit to convict the hearts of many of the individuals that attended.

For the first time the revival was joined by the band Echoes of Creation. Several members of the band are from Grace Bible Church in Port Orchard, WA. They performed three shows for nearly 400 inmates.

Among the other groups that joined to make the revival a success was the New Life Prison Ministry from Edmond Washington. They assisted as counselors, performed music and gave testimonies and a message on Saturday afternoon. Also joining the group was the Grace Bible Church softball team which played two games against the prison team and the Thurston County Jail ministry team that helped as counselors for some of the concert performances.

We had hoped to be able to have two days of follow-up on the next Monday and Tuesday. As it turned out the facility was not able to make the arrangements to allow access to the inmates on those days. However, the chaplain suggested that next year the PMA team could take over the regular Sunday morning chapel schedule and use the time for personal follow-up for the inmates.

We wish to thank all that prayed for, participated in and donated to the revival. Next year the dates are July 14-15, 2006

## Meet the Board of Prison Mission Association

### Ben Wedding

Hello, I'm Ben Wedding and I currently serve as a board member for PMA, and have been on the board for 7 years. I was born and raised in a Christian home in a small farming community in southwestern Oklahoma. I grew up learning about Jesus and his teachings from my parents, through wonderful Sunday School teachers, and God fearing

Pastors who preached God's Word. I gave my life to Christ as a teenager and have looked to Him for the strength and courage to live life as a member of His church.

After graduating from college I entered the Army and spent 30 years as an Infantry officer serving 12 of those years overseas in different parts of the world. After retiring from the Army in 1997, I entered into a partnership with four other Army retirees to form a management consulting firm that has grown to employ 25 full-time employees and 22 part-time employees. God has truly blessed our endeavors over the past 8 years.

My wife Celeste and I live in Port Orchard, WA and have four grown children. We are members of Grace Bible Church in Port Orchard and have been attending there for 8 years. I serve as an Elder in the church and am also the Secretary of the church board. Celeste is a Deaconess in the church and volunteers two days a week at PMA helping with the reproduction of lessons and the mailings. I feel truly blessed to be a part of PMA and continually pray for God's blessings on our work with those incarcerated. I would ask that each of you pray for PMA and the work of our Director, Don Sommer. Thank you for your support!



# GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

This is the ninth in a series that examines references to prisons and prisoners in the Bible. In this article we will reflect on the brief but important period during which the Lord Jesus Christ was a prisoner at the hands of the Roman Empire. We can read about the Lord's time as a prisoner in the last chapters of the four Gospel records.

More than any other person in history the Lord Jesus was unjustly accused, arrested, incarcerated and executed. He was willing to endure all those injustices which were committed against him in order to fulfill the will of God.

First, Jesus' arrest and imprisonment was the result of betrayal by one that seemed to be a friend. Such a situation is not uncommon as many prisoners today are incarcerated because their friends were willing to testify against them in exchange for a lesser sentence. In the case of Judas, it seems he was just looking for money (Matthew 16:15).

His arrest would have gone peacefully since Jesus was already waiting and expecting the men sent from the high priest to come and get him. However, an overzealous Peter reacted to the situation attacking one of the guards that came to arrest Jesus, grabbed a sword and cut off the guard's ear. Despite all that was happening to him, Jesus turned his attention to the injured guard, the same one that was coming to commit a tremendous injustice against him, and he reattached the ear. This demonstration of compassion showed how the Lord was able to look beyond his personal circumstances and see the needs of others, even those meant to do him harm.

At his trial the Lord, al-

though entirely innocent, did not fight or protest his conviction. Not to imply that an innocent person should allow himself to be railroaded by a corrupt system, but rather it shows that our Savior had a bigger picture in view than his own personal circumstances. He was willing to allow such terrible injustice to be inflicted on him because he knew that his obedience was part of a much greater plan that the Father had for him and mankind. This "bigger than the moment" perspective is described for us in Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus actually spent very little time as a prisoner, less than 24 hours. Yet during that time he received more abuse and humiliation than many inmates that have spent years incarcerated. Much of what happened to him during that time was in order to fulfill direct prophecies about him. The short time that Jesus was in prison was in keeping with the traditional use of jails in the ancient world. Jails were not used for punishment per se, but rather as simply a place to hold an accused individual until he could be tried and punished in a way commensurate with his crime which was either to pay restitution or to be executed.

In the end we see the Lord Jesus Christ as a shining example of how one can endure difficulty and hardship in order to bring glory and honor to God. Jesus was tempted "in every way," yet he never wavered in his commitment to do his Father's will.

## THE SPANISH SIDE

### SELFOR'S UPDATE

In one of our regular English classes for the Spanish prisoners, a sharp middle-aged American man entered and asked if he too could study the Bible with the men, in addition to learning Spanish. If he was to spend days and days in the "pod" with the Latin men, why not be able to speak to them? So, here we had Tony with the PMA lessons in English, along with our Spanish guys doing the EBB lessons, all in one room. We soon learned that Tony is a very gifted man. He had come to Christ as a child, walked away from the Lord during his teen years, and then came back to Christ later in life. Through a false accusation, he was in prison, unable to make the bail. Thirteen months Tony was in jail, but GOD had a purpose for him, to help him get back into relationship with Himself. What a privilege it was to work with Tony, and see him grow again.

Tony was instrumental in bringing out other English speaking men to study the Word, and before we knew it, we were getting together on Saturday mornings studying these precious lessons in English. But as the group began to grow, we needed others to help. What a wonderful opportunity to get some men from Grace Bible Fellowship, Pinellas Park, FL, to get involved. Now, along with three others, we spend some precious hours with these men. Praise God for Tony!

Suddenly one day, Tony did not appear for the classes. Where was he? The others never know, for suddenly they come and

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## An Inmate's Reflection

*An inmate in Indiana originally charged with murder whose charges were later dropped because of a lack of evidence reflects on jail and incarceration.*

I believe deeply in individuality and its crucial importance to humanity. Jail is supposed rehabilitation, yet it deprives one of the freedom that makes them who they are. For a majority of inmates, drugs and alcohol are all that the prisoner is being deprived of, in which case jail has its benefit to society. Jail robs you personally of your individuality. Your ability to laugh, to cry, to express emotion, to love is slowly but surely taken away little by little, day by day. I'm not saying that some do not deserve sanctions, nevertheless I am questioning our approach. Most people incarcerated are already suffering from problems due to troubled childhoods, poor families, which led to self image problems that stem from insecurities. They are already lacking a major ingredient that incarceration does not provide...love. Without this, all jail tends to create are cold-hearted, self righteous animals with no hearts, with no emotions. Jail teaches you're not permitted to show emotion, unless it is anger or bitterness usually within their own hearts yet aimed at innocent targets. This type of anger and bitterness is horrible, it is not at all rehabilitating! Some lessons learned in jail include: "to each his own," "watch your back," "trust no one," "only the strong survive." Is that rehabilitative?

Jail in rare cases is rehabilitative, from my experience thus far. For the most part it seems to be an emotion stealing, love stealing, heart hardener which leaves many people worse off than when they arrived. Solutions are many yet few are adopted or even thought of. Love is the answer that only God can provide. An intimate relationship with the Creator is truly the only rehabilitating everyone needs. Only God can rehabilitate the heart and unless that fact is realized, jail is a cold and heartless place to be, full of people whom jail will never rehabilitate.

## KAREN'S KORNER

The office of PMA in Port Orchard continues to hum with busyness. The average person may think we JUST send lessons. More than just Bible lessons, however, are mailed from our office. Our mailings go out in two forms: regular mail and automated mail. Our regular mail contains the corrected lessons and light-weight literature. The literature for regular mailings include half size inserts like *Focus on the Family, Power for Living, Insights for Living, Have a Great Day*, etc. The contents do not exceed 1.9 oz and postage costs 60 cents each. Automated mail allows us to send heavier literature items such as *Our Daily Bread, The Berean Searchlight, Discovery Series* booklets, etc. Automated mail allows us to fill an envelope with a new lesson and literature up to 3.2 oz for 19 cents each. A big THANK YOU for all those that keep us well supplied with all of this literature.

On various days of the week we have volunteers that come into the office to help with different important tasks. Every other Monday Linda Howell comes in and sends out the children's lessons. She also sends out requests to the people that pray for our inmates. They also faithfully pray for all of our new students that have enrolled in the correspondence lessons. Believe it or not there is a lot of detail she needs to tend to before she sends out the prayer requests. We black out the inmates' address and personal I.D. information. We have to maintain everyone's privacy.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays Celeste Wedding comes to the office and fills envelopes with new lessons and fills the correctors' folders which they pick up weekly to get new lessons. On Wednesdays Karen Gillis helps me with the donation deposits, and any odds and ends I need help with. Louise Hunsaker also comes in and corrects lessons. Gladys Hanson folds new lessons for the bins on

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## SUMMER INTERN SERVES WITH PRISON MISSION ASSOCIATION



For the months of June and July PMA had the privilege of being able to sponsor a summer intern to help him gain a better understanding of prison ministry in general and the work of PMA.

Dean Reinheimer graduated in May 2005 from the Berean Bible Institute in Slinger, Wisconsin. Before seeking a permanent ministry role he decided to take advantage of an opportunity that PMA made available to Bible school students to work as an intern for the summer in jail and prison ministry.

During the two months he served Dean had opportunity to assist the ministry by correcting Bible correspondence lessons, teaching Bible studies in jail, working as a counselor for the Shelton Revival and a variety of other activities. He accompanied PMA Director Don Sommer to the Berean Bible Fellowship and Grace Gospel Fellowship annual conventions and to a variety of churches and other functions throughout the US.

Dean proved to be a blessing to have as part of the PMA team for those two months. Dean described the summer as the most exciting he has ever had as he had the opportunity to learn about prison ministry, meet new people, travel to new places and understand the Lords' ministry in a new way.



## Prison Mission Association

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take away a prisoner. Sometimes they get their sentence and then get sent to another prison within the state, but the ones who remain behind never know where their newfound friends and brothers have gone. Tony was not there for the second class either.

Sunday morning at 8:30 as we were preparing to go to church, the phone rang and it was Tony. He was "out" and anxious to see us. He didn't have a car, a job, any clothes, or money, or he would have come to church. So, the following day, with my wife Sally, we drove the almost 2 hours to find Tony at a friends house, way out in the country. What a joy to see him again. We had lunch together and talked over his priorities and possibilities. God is good. We ask you to pray for Tony, that he would make good decisions, and would soon have a job. Pray with us for his walk with the Lord and his desire to bring others to Christ.

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using PMA lessons. Often the new women are so eager to get started, and Brittany is so eager to help, she has been known to hand copy a lesson. Another time she erased all of the penciled answers from one of her previous lessons. Once she had two girls do a lesson, each doing half. They then each requested their own.

We had talked a number of times about requesting a visit with our two girls but that didn't happen until they were each moved. They are now about 150 miles from us but only about 30 miles from each other. We have made several trips to visit them face-to-face. Though separated by a glass partition, we have sweet fellowship and precious times of prayer together. The following is excerpted from a letter Brittany wrote shortly after one of our visits. "Wow! What a wonderful day! My family came to see me. I'm so thankful I'm here. Yes I am. Life is so wonderful. I'm grateful and thankful to God today."

All in all God has immeasurably blessed Bev and me since we became involved in this exciting ministry. To God be the glory for the things He has done.

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Wednesdays as well. On Thursdays Lolamae Abbott comes in and corrects lessons.

We've added three new correctors so far this year, Wanda Hightower, Candi Bentley, Jamie Sirotzki. The other veteran correctors are Jack Nelson (15 years) and Kay Bodeutsch (6 years).

We covet your prayers for the work we do at the office. We have many tasks to perform and I believe Spiritual Warfare is always at hand. Several of the volunteers have had serious issues in their personal lives and yet they all have remained faithful to this ministry.

*Karen Bodeutsch is the office manager at PMA's headquarters in Port Orchard, WA*