

PMA  
**Outreach**



Volume 12 Issue 2

The Newsletter of Prison Mission Association

SEPTEMBER 2006

# Shelton Revival 2006

We praise the Lord for the success of the annual Revival at the Washington Corrections Center at Shelton on July 15-17. Once again PMA was able to assemble a fantastic group of volunteers that worked together remarkably to make for a high-energy weekend of evangelism and spiritual challenge to the inmates at Shelton. The highlight of the weekend was the opportunity given to PMA to use all the regularly scheduled chapel services on Sunday to have follow up Bible studies with the men.

The facility is the main processing center for all the inmates in the State of Washington. After an individual is sentenced he goes from the county jail to the WCC to be classified and to determine the level of custody he will be placed in when he goes to a permanent prison. Previously, inmates would stay at Shelton for as long as six months, but because of overcrowding a new system was instituted this year that reduces the time an inmate is in Shelton to as little as three weeks. For that reason there were fewer inmates in the facility than in previous years. There are eight housing units in the facility, seven are for the inmates being processed and are designated as R1-7, and the eighth unit is for the permanent population that is there to take care of cooking, cleaning and other responsibilities in the maintenance of the prison. The R 1-3 units are for the newly arrived inmates and are segregated from the rest of the population. For that reason PMA has to organize two separate sets of events in each group of units.

No one remembers exactly how many years PMA has been organizing the revival, but we know it has been at least eight. During that time we have had the opportunity to share the gospel with many thousands of inmates and to get many of them interested in studying the Word of God through the Bible correspondence lessons.

Once again the Freedom Team of Bend, Oregon did a first class job of presenting the gospel by using demonstrations of strength

and power to illustrate the power that God has to change lives. The Freedom Team performed three shows for units R4-7 and the permanent population, one on Friday and two on Saturday, in total breaking more than 500 bricks. The New Life Prison Ministry under the leadership of John Thaler-Sanborn helped by performing music and talking to the inmates before the Freedom Team presentations. The softball team from Grace Bible Church of Port Orchard played two exhibition games against an inmate team and they split the double header.

## Revival Statistics

**Inmates attending events: 1077**

**Decisions to trust Jesus Christ as Savior: 123**

**Recommitments of faith: 183**

**Requests for visits by a chaplain: 100**

The program in R 1-3 was lead by the band "Echoes of Creation," a group of musicians from Port Orchard, Washington and Portland, Oregon. They performed original music and shared the gospel with the inmates through words and music. They were joined by the Thurston County Jail ministry team with members that shared testimonies and challenged the inmates to make a decision for Christ.

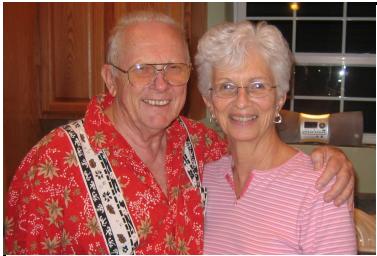
On Sunday a team of nine from churches in Port Orchard and Seattle lead four chapel services that were designed to follow up on those inmates that made professions of faith and recommitment during the weekend. This was the first time such an opportunity was given to us for direct follow-up. The time was a great success as we lead between

400-500 inmates in worship, small group Bible study and prayer. One volunteer, who had been an inmate at the facility, gave a testimony of how God transformed his life. His words clearly resonated with the inmates and opened their hearts to receive the Word of God when we broke into small groups to study a shortened version of PMA's introductory Bible study led by the other volunteers. We feel we were able to make a significant impact in the lives the men we encountered that day.

We have once again been invited to coordinate the Revival next year and we look forward to more blessings as we bring the gospel again to the Washington Corrections Center at Shelton.

**Some have asked, "Why no picture of the Revival?" We are not allowed to photograph inside a correctional facility**

# THE SPANISH SIDE



*The following letter was received by Arnie and Sally Selfors, the directors of our Hispanic ministry. They translated it so that the rest of us could rejoice along with them at how the Lord is working among Hispanic inmates through the BCF lessons.*

Hello Brothers!

I pray that God will abundantly bless you for the work you are doing, that He will give you wisdom and knowledge as you transmit this wonderful message to so many brothers around the world in the Spanish language, especially to those like myself who are incarcerated. I am Emilio and I am 32 years old from the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico and I am so thankful to have your Bible

Studies in my own language. I cannot tell you what joy has come to my life and my heart because of these lessons. Before Christ came into my life I was so rebellious, I always had to do things MY way, but even then I was willing to follow along with anyone with money who would invite me to indulge my life in vicious circles. My life was a total disaster, I completely forgot about my family and now I am so very repentant, I would do anything to change my past. I look at these four walls and I feel so sad, I was always so used to sun and fun and a good life...finally one day I could stand it no longer, I began to pray and asked God to forgive me, I asked Him to give me strength to keep going and I gave Him my life. I asked Him to direct my life in the future. He HEARD ME! Now I am so thankful to study His Word, I feel so good about it, and I thank you and am very very appreciative of what you are doing. ....Until another time, Emilio.

## Reaching Out by Reaching In



Berean Church Muskegon, MI Prison Ministry Team

L to R: Paul Flickema, Carolyn Raymond, Alice Dekker, Justin Boeve  
Not pictured: Berta Bultema, Karen Pease and Kim Pilieci

He worked on the inside enrolling inmates in the courses and meeting with them outdoors in Bible classes while in prison.

The Berean Church of Muskegon has partnered with Prison Mission Association since 1992 in using their Bible Correspondence Fellowship courses in an outreach to inmates in the prisons of Michigan. It all began with Cliff Clark, a former alcoholic who had lost his job, his marriage, his family and car as a result of his drinking problem.

Through the ministry of Berean Church, Cliff trusted Christ and became an avid Bible student and witness for Christ. We introduced him to the PMA Bible Correspondence Fellowship (BCF) studies and he completed every course.

One day he wanted to visit a local prison to see if he could get these lessons into the hands of the inmates. The chaplain invited Cliff to share his testimony in this prison and suggested he leave enrollment cards inviting men to sign up for these correspondence courses.

In August of 1992, Steve Curtice, an inmate in the Muskegon Correctional Facility, picked up an enrollment card and after the second lesson trusted Christ as his Savior. God literally changed his life! Steve had taken a real stand for Christ in our local prison and through a tract he wrote of his life story, he was enrolling scores of inmates in our Bible Correspondence prison ministry. Terri, Steve's wife, offered to become a co-director of this ministry with Steve. He

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# KAREN'S KORNER

An inmate out of Virginia writes share with you of like-precious faith. I thank me and given me a thorough understanding difference is to be able to experience the un-

"Faith!" You and I cannot afford to live into a relationship with Jesus Christ as our Savior. continue believing all that He came to do and say. We are called to participate in truly believing. When Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul likened



"Truly it is always a blessing indeed to be able to my Father for your ministry which has greatly blessed between the prophecy and mystery. To know the dif- searchable riches of Jesus Christ. Thank you again!" without it. Faith began with an act of trust that brought us But it cannot end there. Having believed, we are called to God who began a work in us wants to accomplish far more. we continue to believe (actively) we will have God's power. it to the power God exerted when He raised His Son from the dead! (Ephesians 1:20)

Wow! Just think God can raise marriages from the dead. He can restore life and purpose to those who have given up. To those behind prison bars, He can forgive and purify the vilest offender.

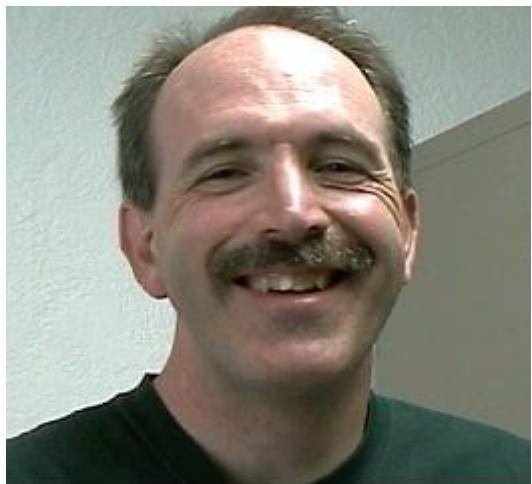
We offer a great ministry through the Word of God. The Scriptures are full of truths and promises that these men and women can apply as they believe God. We are busier than ever with lessons. I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in a mighty way here at Prison Mission Association. Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry! God's Word is active and alive!

By God's Grace,

*Karen*

## Meet the Board of Prison Mission Association

### Nathan Whitham



I have been associated with PMA since 1995. I joined the PMA staff after graduating from seminary and became director a year later. I was a member of Grace Bible Church in Port Orchard for ten years and served on the board of elders. In 2000, I accepted the pastorate at Cascade Mountain Bible Church in Leavenworth, WA. I served as pastor for three years, but continued on as a PMA board member.

In 2003, my wife, Becca, and I moved to Beaverton, OR. I am now a Senior Underwriter for Health Net of Oregon where Becca also works in the customer service department. I am currently serving as a board member of Camas Meadows Bible Camp and, for the last year and a half, Becca and I have been teaching a "parents with young children" class at our church here in Beaverton.

We have two kids, Steven and Lyndell. Steven is doing well in his second year at West Point. Lyndell has left the nest and is beginning her first year at Grace Bible College this fall.



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Justin and Henrietta Boeve are longtime attendees of Berean Church of Muskegon Michigan. Henrietta and her parents were part of the original crew from First Reformed that became Berean Church with Pastor Harry Bultema. Justin became interested in the prison outreach ministry at Berean Church known as Bible Correspondence Fellowship which was an extension of Prison Mission Association. During this time Terri Curtice was Director of this ministry and Justin began to become involved in the visitation of inmates in a local prison. One of the four or five guys he visited was the husband of Terri, Steve Curtice. Steve was one of the first converts in our prison ministry in a prison in Muskegon. Justin well remembers the great interest Steve had developed in our Bible Studies, and he soon became more involved in the prison ministry.

When Steve was released from prison, he and Terri moved back up north to their former community and started their own lumber business. This left us without a Director of our BCF outreach. Before she left, Terri turned the BCF prison ministry over to Justin, along with the names of around 50 inmates who were enrolled in the correspondence Bible courses. He went through a thorough Prison Chaplaincy training course sponsored by the Forgotten Man Ministries program. This training and certification allowed him to have access to inmates throughout the state of Michigan.

When the enrollment in the study courses reached 100 men, Justin realized he was putting in more hours than a full-time job. At one point the enrollment grew to over 200 inmates, and he was able to enlist the help of several others in the church who served as graders.

Justin developed a deep, loving concern for prisoners. He made every letter he wrote to prisoners very personal. He showed real interest for inmates, and although he was straight forward with them, they sensed his tender heart and compassion for them.

What rang a bell with them was that each Christmas he would send all of them a personalized Christmas card and on their birthdays, he would send a personalized birthday card, all produced on his computer. Justin is just a couple of years short of 90 years old! How we thank God that Justin didn't waste his retirement years.

In March of this year, Justin realized he would have to resign from this ministry that he so loved, due to Henrietta's ill health. He needed to devote fulltime to being her care giver. God had worked in the heart of one of the corrector's, Carolyn Raymond, so when Justin asked her to step into his shoes as director she was able to say yes, with God's help, she would carry on. using PMA lessons.