

JAIL MINISTRY OF OTSEGO AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

Helping troubled lives find hope and wholeness in the Christian walk

JMOC Newsletter

Winter 2024

The Gospel: Transforming Lives Restoring Hope

A Word from the Director

The Apostle proclaims in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

This is the message we bring to the inmates housed in both the Otsego and Schoharie County facilities. It is only the Gospel that can transform lives and restore hope. Note what Paul says in this verse:

If anyone: This is a promise for **anyone**. **Anyone!** It doesn't matter what class, what race, what nationality, what language, what level of intelligence or what he/she has done because many in prison believe that God would not forgive them for what they have done. **Anyone** can be a new creation in Jesus Christ!

Is in Christ: This is a promise for **anyone** who **is in Christ**. This is not a promise for those who are in themselves, or in the religion of men, or in someone or something else. This is for those **in Christ!**

He is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Paul here teaches the great principle of *regeneration*. Jesus Christ changes those who come to Him by faith, and who are **in Christ**. The saved are not "*just* forgiven." They are changed into a **new creation**.

Who makes us **a new creation**? This is something God alone can do in us. This isn't just "turning over a new leaf" or "getting your act together." But the life of a **new creation** is not something God does *for us*, but *in us*. So, we are told to *put off . . . the old man*, and to *put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:22-24). Being a **new creation** is a gift from God received by faith.

All things have become new is the language of God's perfect, recreated work (Rev 21:5). God wants to do a **new** thing in the lives of those we minister to week after week.

Please pray for **transformation** and **restoration of hope** in many of the lives of those housed in both facilities.

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behold, all things
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[II Corinthians 5:17](#)

Contact Us

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Annual Secretary's Report for 2023



Our board members are: Ameen Aswad, Don Rifanburg, John Clow, Dawn Schuman, Linda Felice, Dave Rutenber, Cyd Collischonn, and Laurie Laymon.

In Otsego County, services at the jail have included Sunday Services and One on One's. A new ministry was started called Personal Adjustment Counseling.

In Schoharie County, services at the jail have included Sunday Services, One on One's, and Men's and Ladies Bible Study.

In 2023, the Jail Ministry participated in Second Chances Month, Giving Tuesday, and Angel Tree. We also held a special event in April, at The Foothills called 'The Story Tour', which was a huge success and was well attended. Many lives were transformed by the power of the Gospel.

The Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie County could not have accomplished anything this year without God's help and the help of our faithful volunteers and the prayers and financial support from churches and individuals. Thank you so much.

Laurie Laymon
JMOc Secretary

A word from our Treasurer



As Treasurer, I would like to say that God truly blessed us again financially in 2023, where we were able to carry on our ministry to those incarcerated at our two county jails and to assist them with some of their immediate needs upon their release. God is so faithful, and we were able to end the year in a solid financial position. Praise the Lord!

This was also made possible by you, our ministry partners, and your willingness to obey God's stirring in your hearts to pray earnestly for our ministry, and at those times to give financially so generously. Thank you for being God's instrument through your prayers and giving to help us in our efforts to meet the spiritual and physical needs of these men and women. I pray God's blessing on each of you. We are expectantly looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2024.

David Rutenber
JMOc Treasurer

Otsego County Jail Ministry Report for 2023

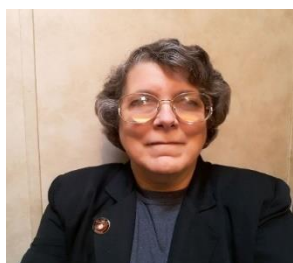


The attendance at our services has been low due to there being only one section of the jail open and many of the inmates boarded out to other county facilities. Even though our attendance has been low God still has been working in the lives of the inmates housed there.

Just recently another section of the jail was reopened and many of inmates returned to the Otsego County Facility.

Please pray that God would create a hunger in the hearts of the inmates and that they would attend the programs we are offering and commit their lives to Christ.

Schoharie County Jail Ministry Report for 2023



Being a part of the jail ministry for 2023 has been a privilege and a blessing. We have seen people change and for those who are longer-term residents of the Jail, there has been a consistency in attendance and attitude. We also have been blessed with dedicated helpers, and fellow ministers following the calling of reaching out to those in prison, a calling Jesus commends in Matthew 25. Amongst these are Peter Enders, myself, Robert Collischonn, Grant Despress (an intern from Phrear School of Theology), Linda Felice from Schoharie Valley Gospel Church, and Robert (Robie) Reardon who unfortunately was taken from

us this year to go be with the Lord. Robie had a special connection with the ministry to the downtrodden in that Jesus delivered him from a spiritual prison, setting him free by the power of the Word of God; a message he shared openly with the inmate congregation.

A typical Sunday service at the jail is ministering to three or four inmates at a time, then opening up for questions and discussion on what was shared or on any subject the people had questions on. Some sessions were quite serious with longstanding questions being answered. We would often ask each participant to make a fresh commitment to a life-changing faith in Jesus and encourage them to read their bibles daily making the most use of their time. Bibles are provided free to the participants thanks to the Jail Ministry of Otsego and Schoharie Counties. Extra services include a men's and women's Bible study, and a one-on-one ministry, each held weekly. If you are interested in getting involved with any aspect of this ministry, please contact Pastor Cyd.

Respectfully,
Pastor Cyd Collischonn
Schoharie County Chaplain.

Aftercare Ministry



The Aftercare Ministry has become a valuable ministry provided by the two correctional facilities

The Aftercare Ministry seeks to assist the person released from jail or prison to become adjusted to life outside the jail or prison in a constructive way. This ministry is multifaceted because every released person has different needs and economic/family resources.

Typical needs addressed by our Aftercare Ministry in 2023 include:

- ♦ providing for basic necessities, such as food, hygiene products, clothing, and cell phones
- ♦ getting the recently released inmate into a Christian study group and/or church.

This past year we have been able to provide goods and services to many individuals thanks to your support of this ministry.

Dawn Schuman
JMOCC Aftercare Coordinator

ANGEL TREE Report



This year two Angel Tree parties were held one in Oneonta and the other in the Utica/Rome area.

- ♦ 12 local families were served with 22 children
- ♦ 13 children from Schoharie County were served.
- ♦ 38 children from Utica/Rome area were served.
- ♦ 58 children had gifts mailed to them
- ♦ We served a total of 131 children

We could not have done this without your support. Thank you so much.

Susan Pinkey
JMOCC Angel Tree Coordinator

