

# SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL SPRING & SUMMER

## A Note From The Chaplain:

It is with a bit of sadness that we share the following poem written by one of our inmates. We will call him Steve. I use the word "We," because Steve's testimony has touched many of us that work in the Chaplain's office. Not only did God change him, God used him to bring revival to two pods in our jail. Many of us can say that God used Steve to bring revival to US as well. Part of Steve's testimony was that he came clean on all of his crimes. He put up little in terms of his own defense. He chose to be clean before God and man, instead of attempting to make his own life easier. He received a very long sentence. We are all very proud of him. We will sorely miss him. The following poem was written by Steve.

- Chaplain Tom



## Testimony

My soul was a playground  
I lived for the sin.  
My soul was a playground -  
The battle within.

I was lost in the lies,  
And far from the truth -  
All the deception and things that I  
knew -  
Women, drugs, money, and fast.  
Those are the words that echoed my  
past.

The enemy kept me bound in those  
chains.  
He kept my mind full of the pain.  
The enemy kept me bound in those  
chains.  
He made me feel the guilt of my  
shame.

He thought that He'd won when I held  
the gun.  
I was flat on my bed,  
Holding it to my head.  
Squeezin the trigger -  
Was seconds from death.  
I was so tired -  
Was searching for rest.  
All of my life had flashed in my eyes,  
Then all of the darkness was pierced  
by the light.

Cuffs on my wrists,  
Tears coming quick,  
Heading to prison  
to pay for my sins.

But God called my name -  
Heard a voice within.  
The Gospel of Jesus  
Had finally made sense.

He was crucified, buried -  
On the third day He rose.  
All part of God's perfect plan that he  
wrote.

Confessed with my mouth,  
Believed in my heart.  
Christ is My Lord,  
So that's where I'll start.

Down on my knees,  
Head to the ground.

Surrendered my life  
When I laid it all down.

He healed the addiction -  
Still works on the lust.  
Believed when He told me  
His grace is sufficient enough.

Rewarder of those who with diligence  
seek.  
If you look at my life,  
You'll see what I mean.  
His Kingdom and righteousness is all  
that I see.

I follow Jesus.  
I bow to the King.  
I follow Jesus.  
He's all that I need.  
My testimony - His mercy displayed.  
The light in my eyes,  
The shine on my face,  
A picture of how He still makes a way.

Hope for the hopeless,  
And love for the lost -  
I'll give my life,  
No matter the cost.

Especially if it means  
I'm martyred for God.  
All failures and victories  
I'll lay at the cross.

I go to war with evil at hand.  
I fight for revival  
And freedom from sin.  
All for redemption that's planned in  
the end.

I'll speak of the prophesy:  
"He's coming again."  
Cause I have the Seal  
Of His Promise within.

I follow Jesus.  
I bow to the King.  
I follow Jesus.  
He's all that I need.

All glory to Him!  
All glory to Him!  
Yeah, He gets the glory!  
I'll say it again

-Steve

## "I HAVEN'T FELT THAT NORMAL IN A LONG TIME!"

Driving by, on the corner there they sit. Sign in hand "Anything Helps. God Bless." How many times do we think, "Why don't they just get a job?"

You catch the news about someone arrested and think, why would anyone do that? We agonize about friends and loved ones who are on the wrong path. Frustrated, we turn away from them having reached our limit.

After more than 40 years of ministering to inmates, I have come to see many of the inmates as being severely wounded in need of healing. For instance:

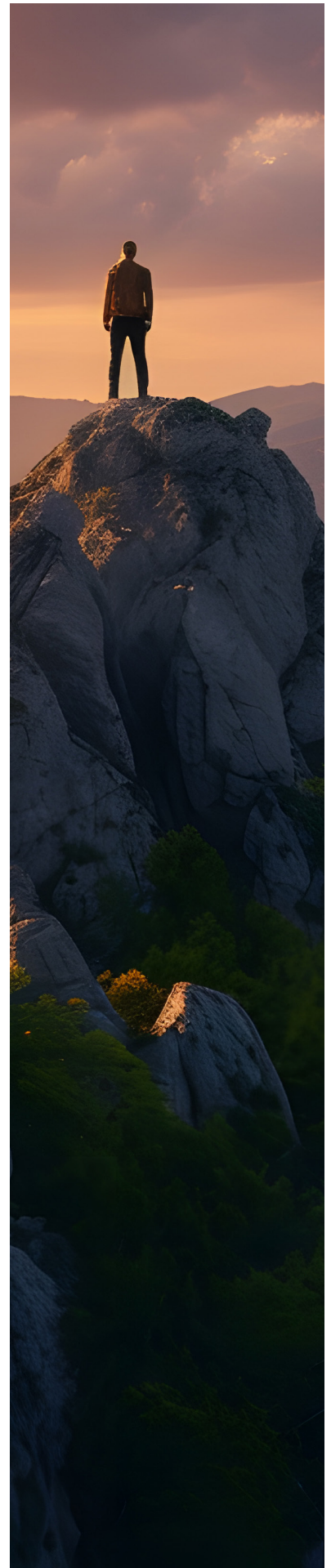
One fellow was raised by parents who cooked meth. When he went to school, he thought it was odd that his friends had no idea what he was talking about. He had been using meth for as long as he could remember. Some have been so brutalized physically and emotionally by their parents and others they are simply broken and escape into drug use. Many are afflicted by depression, PTSD, schizophrenia, and bi-polar disorder. Some of them self-medicate with illegal drugs and alcohol. Those who have been rejected do not fit in and are simply looking for acceptance. With low self-esteem, they find acceptance and fellowship in the culture of substance abuse and gangs.

Many are simply unable to function on their own in society with the only solution being incarceration. For some, the cumulative effect of the cycle of addiction, crime, and incarceration spans 20 years or more. The physical, spiritual, and mental decline for many is palpable. Recently, an Inmate explained to me how the longer he has struggled with addiction and incarceration the harder it is for him to imagine any other way of life. It is not unusual to talk with those whose life is centered around drug use, including alcohol, to have been through rehabilitation/treatment four or more times. It is not difficult for the inmate to relate to the concept of living in darkness. Many will not come into the light for fear that their behaviors will be exposed. As we minister to these inmates, they are pointed to the light of life in Jesus. As they live a life following Jesus, they come to live in the light with Proverbs 3:5-6 becoming their new reality.

Over the years of their arrest and rearrest I befriended an inmate who struggled with meth addiction. His story was one of being brutalized as a child. Each time he would be released from jail, we would try to help him get on his feet and get him into a fellowship at church. Every time he would slip back into the world of addiction only to be rearrested. Well, the last time he was released from jail, we did not know it was his last time, he stuck around. After a few shaky weeks he got a job that took him out of town now and then. That was a big blessing. We would make sure he was in Church on Sundays and included in our lives. One day after visiting in our home with some neighbors, on the way home he looked at me and said "Man, I have not felt that normal in a long time." Today he is living in the light.

Chaplain Tom and those volunteering at the Mesa County Detention Facility have been called to bring the mercy and grace of God to everyone whose path we cross. We do this through Bible studies, Sunday Services, individual counseling, providing Bibles, the book ministry, distribution of reading glasses to the indigent, and many smiles and much encouragement. The prayers and gifts of those who support this ministry are God's provision to ensure that the least of these are encountered and loved.

-Paul vG







## SERGEANT ROUNDTREE MOVES ON

After twenty-one years of service at the Mesa County Detention Facility, Sergeant Shawna Roundtree is moving on to other opportunities with Mesa County. Those who have worked with Sergeant Roundtree will miss her professionalism and spirit of service. The Mesa County Jail Ministry (MCJM) has grown to what it is today due in large part to Sergeant Roundtree's support and guidance.

Many of the protocols and practices that guide the work of the MCJM were instituted during Sergeant Roundtree's tenure as Programs Sergeant. Over the years, her participation in and support of the work of the MCJM has benefited Inmates, Volunteers, and the Chaplain.

A favorite activity of the MCJM is its collaboration with the MCDF staff during the assembly and distribution of Christmas gift bags. Sergeant Roundtree was instrumental in developing the process of addressing special dietary needs of Inmates. That guidance and her joyful spirit helped to promote the annual gift-bag distribution into the success it is each year.

The MCJM is thankful for our association with Sergeant Roundtree over the years. We wish her the Lord's blessing in her new pursuits. Next December, we will be looking for the good Sergeant to help assemble Christmas gift bags.

## YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

### DECEMBER 2023:

- Religious Classes: 172  
(With 1,096 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 57
- Bibles Distributed: 46

### JANUARY 2024:

- Religious Classes: 166  
(With 1,183 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 77
- Bibles Distributed: 50

### FEBRUARY 2024:

- Religious Classes: 159  
(With 1,066 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 61
- Bibles Distributed: 42

### MARCH 2024:

- Religious Classes: 161  
(With 1,143 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 59
- Bibles Distributed: 37

## SUPPORT & DONATIONS

If you are interested in supporting The Mesa County Jail Ministry financially and/or through prayer; scan the QR code below or contact us at: 970.244.3351  
Mesacountyjailministry.org

2536 Rimrock Ave Suite 400-171 GJ CO 81505



Scan QR Code To Donate

## Thank You To ALL Who Sponsor MCJM Thanks to Our Church & Business Sponsors below

Rimrock UPS ▪ Friends of the Library ▪ Downtown Vineyard Church ▪ Appleton Christian Church  
GJ First Presbyterian Church ▪ Redlands Community Church ▪ Victory Life Church ▪ Canyon West Church ▪ Church On  
The Rock ▪ Clifton Christian Church ▪ Monument Presbyterian Church ▪ Calvary Bible Church ▪ Calvary Chapel GJ  
Merge2Media ▪ KJOL ▪ Canyon View Vinyard Church ▪ GJ Seventh Day Adventist Church ▪ Heritage Church

Mesa County Jail Ministry | 2536 Rimrock Ave Suite 400-171 GJ CO 81505 | 970.244.3351 | Thomas.Noble@mesacounty.us



# 2024 Banquet

## Mesa County Jail Ministry Annual Banquet



The Jail Ministry's Annual Banquet took place Saturday, February 24, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church. We appreciate the gracious support provided by First Presbyterian. The banquet was a success with more than 250 in attendance enjoying a fantastic dinner catered by John the Ribber. The banquet is the source of about one third of MCJM's annual budget. This year the Lord provided over \$20,000 in gifts from those in attendance.

We had a wonderful time of fellowship, singing, and hearing amazing testimonies from Chaplain April Urban, Cody & Sydney Truesdale, and Bill Shelby. Chaplain April related her experiences providing a vital ministry to the ladies in the Mesa County

Detention Facility. Cody and Sydney gave their testimonies and related how God is using them as leaders in Reformers Unanimous (RU). Many former inmates and clients in Community Corrections attend RU every Friday evening for fellowship and to learn how to live a life of victory with the Lord. Billy related how after years of incarceration, his relationship with God is leading to restoration with his family. He recounted how the relationships forged through the Jail Ministry has helped him to grow in faith. Each testimony gave glory to God. Many thanks to Joe Hemmer, Bill Moore, and the crew from Community Corrections who helped with tear down and clean up after the banquet. Thank you for joining us!

