



FALL/WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL END TO 2024

A Note From The Chaplain:

When our last newsletter came out, I was reminded of all the people that I forgot to thank for their support in the last couple of years. We do not serve in a vacuum, and I will never be able to mention all of the people and groups that have helped us in the not so far off past. It is always scary to thank people, because there is always the chance that I will again forget to mention someone. However, it would be most egregious to omit thanks to some particular people that support us in ways that cannot be overstated.

I would like to begin by thanking Radio Station KJOL in general, and the Andrews family in particular. KJOL has always given Mesa County Jail Ministry free promotion for our events. They have also given us cases of Bibles. They have supported us financially in other ways as well. The way that I am most humbled by them, however, is their habit of praying for us. The matriarch of KJOL and the Andrews' family, Wendy Andrews, has prayed for many ministries over the years, and is facing a hard battle with cancer. Please reciprocate her prayers for us and our community.

Another ministry that comes to mind is The Gideons. They often drop off cases of Bibles when they notice we are low. They have also dropped off Bibles

within 45 minutes when we have needed a quick bridge between expected orders. We always give away at least 50 Bibles a month. Our reported numbers are always low, because we may forget to record them, or we may give one to someone on the outside, or to support an outside Bible study. Our primary purpose in recording the number given out is to make sure that they are not being used as weights or used for bartering. Some of you have donated VERY nice Bibles over the years. These are used as incentives for people to memorize God's word. Generally, we require them to memorize Psalm 1. If the person insists they cannot memorize Psalm 1, they are subjected to singing several Psalms with me until they have a few Psalms rattling around in their heads!

I would also be amiss to fail to mention Debe Colby and First Presbyterian Church. They have hosted our banquet the last few years, and have supported us in many other ways. Each year, First Presbyterian hosts a "Nonprofit Fair." It is fascinating to see so many groups attempting to better our community. We get to see old friends and other ministries that correlate with our own. We have also found new resources for exiting inmates that we did not know existed. The folks at the church have given us blank greeting cards, packed and passed out Christmas bags, and supported us in a myriad of other ways.

Another Ministry that helps our inmates tremendously is Set Free Prison Ministries in Denver, CO. They supply many of our inmates with correspondence courses. I am always amazed at how many courses go back and forth. I usually look at the mailing cost and thank God that ministries like this still exist. They have trusted God for their finances to support a population that seldom can support them in kind.

There are many people that pray for us. Some of these people we are aware of, but most we are not. These are the people that bring us hope and give us glimmers of seeing God at work. Recently we lost Sandy Staton to her Heavenly Father. We mourn her loss and pray for her husband, Ken, and their children. When women of God like her pass, I selfishly fear for myself. Our work is a spiritual one, and we fear losing such prayer warriors. Please pray that God would raise up more saints like her.

Thank you so much for praying for us! We feel as if we are on a crest of a wave at the moment. MANY former Mesa County Detention Facility folks are attending churches, Bible studies, men's groups, and recovery groups. We are very thankful for this!

- Chaplain Tom



BECOMING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

When an inmate is booked into the Mesa County Detention Facility (MCDF), their personal belongings are stored for them and their clothing and shoes replaced by those issued by the MCDF. For the balance of their incarceration, everything the inmate needs is supplied for them. Included in that provision is constant oversight and supervision provided by Sheriff Deputies also known as Detention Deputies. The primary responsibility of a Detention Deputy is to maintain safety for everyone on the Pod. Detention Deputies check each cell regularly to ensure inmate safety and security.

In addition to Booking, there are six Pods at the MCDF that average a daily population of about 400 inmates. Each Pod houses inmates segregated by classification. Classification of inmates is based on, but not limited to, inmate criminal history, current charges, and their behavior in the facility.

A Detention Deputy works 12-hour shifts, rotating between stints of days and nights. Daily life on a Pod is defined by routine. A Detention Deputy's duties range from answering inmate questions, preparing inmates for transport (to medical, court, educational classes and classes on drug and behavioral rehabilitation) to overseeing interactions with mental health, medical, professional visitors, and volunteers. Add in feeding inmates 3 meals a day and the weekly distribution of commissary, and life on a Pod settles into a predictable routine.

Being a Detention Deputy can be very challenging but also very rewarding. Detention Deputies wear many hats when running a Pod beyond simply being a guard. They often act as a mentor, a counselor, a minister, a role model, etc. The job covers a wide range of human interaction ranging from dealing with a distraught inmate coming to grips with their sudden incarceration to counseling someone who has lost a family member. For many inmates, the Detention Deputy is the only stable adult they have contact with and as such, inmates often bring the challenges they are experiencing in their personal lives to them.

Most inmates are compliant and well behaved. However, there are times when disagreements and scuffles may break out between inmates. Other times there may be a medical emergency. The Detention Deputy is highly trained to address non routine situations and has ample back up (medical, mental health, and additional security) to deal with any eventuality.

Verbal skills and empathy are two of the important qualities a Detention Deputy can possess. While an officer on the street makes an arrest, they only deal with the person for the time it takes to arrest and transport them to the Detention Facility. Detention Deputies then take over and they will interact and work with the inmate for the duration of their time in the MCDF, which can be several months or longer. This means Detention Deputies get to know the inmates very well and often develop positive, professional relationships with them. It is not uncommon for Detention Deputies to come across former inmates in the community. They often come up to the deputy to thank them and tell them how well they are doing.

Being a Detention Deputy is a very demanding and difficult job. What most people think being a Detention Deputy entails is only the tip of the iceberg. These dedicated public servants really are unsung heroes who are a vital part of the criminal justice system and are making a difference in our community.

Please continue to pray for them and their families.

-Paul vG & J. Chambers

2023 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



"On behalf of the Mesa County Jail Ministry, The Mesa County Sheriff's Office would like to recognize one of our long-time jail volunteers and founder of the Mesa County Jail Ministry, Paul Von Guerard.

The harvest is plenty but the workers are few (Matthew 9 35-38). This scripture may often represent what the Jail Ministry seeks to be and embodies the heart of our amazing volunteers. Many of which are worthy of all the recognition and praise we are able to give to them. That being said, if there could be one person who God has consistently used to keep this ministry alive and thriving, that person is Paul Von Guerard...

Thank you for your faithfulness, your leadership and vision for this ministry, for many years of encouragement to our staff and for loving the incarcerated."

-Presented by Sheriff Todd Rowell
April 26th 2024

Thank you Paul for your dedication!





A Program of Prison Fellowship

Incarceration can strain family ties to the breaking point. By providing Christmas gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents, children with a mom or dad in prison unwrap joy each year with Angel Tree Christmas—a gift that reminds them they are valued and loved. Prison Fellowship Angel Tree allows local congregations to extend the hope of the Gospel to families with loved ones in prison.

Every year in the Mesa County Detention Facility, we have the privilege to administer the Angel Tree program. In June, the applications arrive. Posters in English and Spanish are put up in the six Pods, each Pod. The application period runs through August.

Part of our ministering to inmates, is to encourage inmates to do their best to maintain contact with their children. Inmates sometimes feel remorse because their circumstances have separated them from their children. The Angel Tree Program gives inmates the opportunity to do something for their children and, although they are incarcerated, helps to develop an attitude of being a parent. This year, 101 children of inmates in the Mesa County Detention Facility will receive Christmas gifts in the name of their incarcerated parent. In many cases, the inmates can participate with their children's gift opening via a video call. Several inmates have expressed appreciation and joy for this opportunity.

We trust God to use this program for children to experience love from their parents and to build the self-esteem inmates need to dedicate themselves to maintaining contact with their children. Pray for this love to bear fruit and lead inmates and their children to Jesus.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

APRIL 2024:

- Religious Classes: 157
(With 1,016 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 62
- Bibles Distributed: 55

MAY 2024:

- Religious Classes: 153
(With 1,020 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 52
- Bibles Distributed: 52

JUNE 2024:

- Religious Classes: 147
(With 1,089 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 42
- Bibles Distributed: 46

JULY 2024:

- Religious Classes: 134
(With 1,073 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 55
- Bibles Distributed: 45

AUGUST 2024:

- Religious Classes: 149
(With 1,068 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 57
- Bibles Distributed: 56

SEPTEMBER 2024:

- Religious Classes: 154
(With 1,105 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 50
- Bibles Distributed: 52

Thank You To ALL Who Sponsor MCJM

Thanks to Our Church & Business Sponsors

- Appleton Christian Church
- Calvary Bible Church
- Calvary Chapel GJ
- Canyon View Vineyard Church
- Canyon West Church
- Church on the Rock
- Clifton Christian Church

- Downtown Vineyard Church
- GJ First Presbyterian Church
- GJ Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Heritage Church
- Monument Presbyterian Church
- Redlands Community Church
- Victory Life Church
- Merge2Media
- Rimrock UPS Store
- Friends of the Library
- Avant Environmental Services
- KJOL Christian Radio





HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for the abundant blessings You have bestowed upon us. As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, we invite Your presence among us. May our gratitude extend beyond Thanksgiving day, reflecting Your love and generosity in our lives. Amen."

May the Lord bless you with joy and peace as you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving.
We are thankful for you!

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness.
Let the whole world know what He has done.
Sing to Him; yes, sing His praises.
Tell everyone about His wonderful deeds.
Exult in His holy name; rejoice you who worship the Lord.
(1 Chronicles 16:8-10)



INMATE EXPRESSIONS

My Spiritual DNA

Dear Lord,

Please open my eyes, reveal to me, Your will for my life.

Some days it's hard to believe

My identity, you've inscribed into me

Every day, a battle indeed

The mistaken identity, Satan thinks I'll believe

I hold true, deep in my heart

The full punishment that payment of you

Blood shed, my sins left on the cross

The ultimate price, Jesus paid for all of us.

Now yielding, the greatest weapon of all

The power of knowledge, who God says we are

Fearfully created and wonderfully made

I now wear, fully cloaked in his armor

The greatest truth, I pray and obey

Though underground, my freedom ripped away

I stay committed, never letting satan seize my day

But of my shackles, discovering God's play

Renews my soul, displaying my true DNA!

No Longer held captive, or imprisoned by shame

All weakness exposed, my greatest darkness displayed

Now fully committed, authenticity now seen

I have found my spiritual DNA, no mistaken identity.

BY Inmate JA



SAVE THE DATE!

The Mesa County Jail Ministry's Annual Banquet will take place
February 22, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church
once again, and catered by John the Ribber.

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](https://mesacountyjailministry.org)

2536 Rimrock Ave Suite 400-171 GJ CO 81505



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