



# SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Of Old Friends and Names We Can't Pronounce:

When we do Bible book studies in the jail, I like to use Philippians for a lot of reasons. It is only 4 chapters, so it lends itself to a quick turnaround, as inmates come and go at around 6,600 a year. It explains Christ very profoundly, but succinctly, in Chapter 2. He is God – yet he died a very horrible death on the cross as the Suffering Servant. It has a myriad of good memory verses that many of us have rattling around in our heads: "... I am confident of this very thing ...", "For to me to live is Christ ...", "... so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW ...", "... one thing I do forgetting what lies behind ...", "Rejoice in the Lord always ...", "Be anxious for nothing ...", "... if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.", "... my God will supply all your needs ..."

But there is another reason I love Philippians. It is a great "body book." We often think of other books, like Corinthians, when we think of books that encourage life in the body. But Philippians is a living example of how the body SHOULD function. Paul says, "Follow Christ's example." But he also offers examples of others who are actually living out that principle. Paul mentions himself, he also mentions Timothy, and he mentions Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus? We hear his name. We struggle pronouncing it. We ask each other, "Who is that?" We know little about him, but we

know this: Paul said to "... hold men like him in high regard." I describe him as Paul's "bagman" to the inmates. I guess I should use the word "courier" instead.

Where would Paul be without Epaphroditus? Starving? Out of parchment and quills? Without a voice? Alone? Where would WE be if Epaphroditus had gotten drunk and left some of Paul's writings in a speakeasy in Asia Minor or Greece? What if he had absconded with the money? How badly would that have hurt the cause of Christ?

We at Mesa County Jail Ministry have our own Epaphroditus. Carl Boydstun was here at the beginning - long before myself and several of our volunteers. He functions as a board member and as our Treasurer. Carl has quietly and humbly taken care of us. He watches our "Ps and Qs." Carl slays the bureaucracy dragon before it rears its ugly head. He knows his job, and does it well. He asks very little of the rest of us. We are going to miss him, as he is retiring due to health reasons. Lt Jonathan Chambers gave the ministry a great compliment at our banquet last year. He said, in effect, that he knew of no other ministry that has a lower overhead than Mesa County Jail Ministry. So much of that compliment is due to Carl Boydstun. Carl helps other non-profits as well. I know that they hold him in high regard also.

Thank you, Carl, for using your gifts, talents, and energy for God's Kingdom!

- Chaplain Tom



## YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

### MARCH 2025:

- Religious Classes: 179 (With 1274 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 62
- Bibles Distributed: 66

### APRIL 2025:

- Religious Classes: 172 (With 1,151 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 48
- Bibles Distributed: 52

### MAY 2025:

- Religious Classes: 169 (With 1,036 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 55
- Bibles Distributed: 43

### JUNE 2025:

- Religious Classes: 164 (With 983 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 53
- Bibles Distributed: 41

## SAVE THE DATE

Mesa County Jail Ministry  
2026 Annual Banquet  
Saturday February 21, 2026 at 5:30pm  
First Presbyterian Church

## Thank You To ALL Who Sponsor MCJM

Thanks to Our Church,  
Business and Personal  
Sponsors

## WHERE GOD GUIDES GOD PROVIDES

During Bible studies with inmates the idea of living by faith usually comes up. We discuss the idea that when it comes to living by faith, talk is cheap. It is easy to learn about faith. Living by faith, well that is another thing.

We find an example of living by faith in Matthew 6:19-34 where Jesus teaches about money and possessions. Essentially, the Father knows what we need. We are to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and He will supply our needs.

When the Mesa County Jail Ministry was formed it was an act of faith. The priority was and still is to glorify God. We believed that God wanted us to support a Chaplain's position at the Mesa County Detention Facility (MCDF) to minister the Gospel to inmates, deputies, and staff. When we began, there was no money to pay a Chaplain's salary. Then Chaplain Doug Winter agreed to accept whatever God provided. Doug was faithful and so was God.

God's faithfulness is expressed by those who step forward providing funds for the Chaplain's salary and Bibles. He blesses through each Annual Banquet. The ministry is blessed with regular supporters who give throughout the year. Their steadfast giving and notes of encouragement are a constant reminder of God's intention for the ministry. Each month as I check the mail and review the online giving, I see the Lord's hand at work through each donor. We receive one-time gifts from people we have no record of. I imagine how they may have heard about Jail Ministry and how the Lord moved their hearts to support His work at the MCDF.

All these years, our faith in God's intention has been confirmed by the faithfulness of those who support the Jail Ministry. In this life, we will never know how many lives were changed at the MCDF by the ministry of the Gospel and God's word. What is certain, through the faithful effort and support of many, God's intention for this ministry of faith is being fulfilled.

Thanks to each of you who partner with us ministering God's grace and love to inmates in the MCDF and beyond. We pray for you and thank God for your faithfulness and support.

Paul vG

## Inmate Expressions

### Desert Wilderness

I found myself in the desert of my soul  
The wilderness, the darkest parts of my whole  
The empty place, the scarcity of a note  
In the deepest depths, where I think there's no hope  
There I stand, in the desert of my soul  
In the darkness, only a sliver of a glow  
Suffering difficulties, another painful show  
In all my angst, despair is all I know  
Sitting at the bottom, in the desert of my soul  
Moving through brokenness, yearning to feel full  
A wild harsh journey, substantially uncontrollable  
I lay now willing, ready for the impossible  
For then the divine epiphany, taken me unexpectedly  
Grabbing a hold of me, leaving me breathtakingly  
As a potter shapes its clay, it then begins beautifully  
A blessing in disguise, being transformed spiritually  
It seems these experiences, are indeed forming me  
Just a desert chapter, I'm leaving blissfully  
He breaks my ego, no shame or guilt miraculously  
Peaceful at heart, full of grace, such spiritual activity  
How crafty using my trials, to blossom me zestfully  
A sharp relief, my soul's essence, a new light in recovery  
Spiritual orphan no more, overflowing with His love joyously  
I now find the living water-flowing in the desert of my soul  
Ever so abundantly! ~ Inmate JA



### 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](http://Mesacountyjailministry.org)

2536 Rimrock Ave Suite 400-171  
GJ CO 81505

