



# WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Of Baseballs and the ten Booms

I am not sure why garages are so hard to clean. I think part of the problem is that we are all materialistic in our own way. My wife could very easily throw "my stuff" away, and I am sure I could throw "her stuff" away. Even little things hold our hearts. I still hoard baseballs. I am 65 years old, and I learned to fear batted balls decades ago. Why do I have a ten-gallon container of baseballs? Part of it is the memories that are tied up with them. As a young family, we spent many hours on baseball fields. We also "hunted" baseballs and found quite a few. We are all tied to "things." Some of the things we value, other people value too. Other things have value only to their owner. If you doubt this, you have never helped someone move!

The Savior was not like this. He was not tied to THINGS. He once said to his disciples, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." At the time of His death, Jesus did not even have clothes. No clothes? Clothes are important! They keep us warm, or cool. They shield us from friction, like rug burns. They give us authority and honor, like police officers and kings. They shield us from shame. I once had to take a lie detector test. I was afraid. What would they ask me? I felt naked. I was not actually naked, but my shame made me feel that way.

Jesus had no clothes as he was on the cross. He felt the weather. He felt the furrows on his back, as his torn skin rubbed across the

rough wood while he attempted to breathe. He DID have a crown, but it brought Him no glory. He was exposed in every way. He could see and hear the soldiers playing games of chance for the clothes that could have covered Him. He could also see His own bones. He was bearing OUR shame in His body on the tree. He was naked for us.

When Betsie and Corrie ten Boom were inspected weekly at Ravensbrück prison camp during World War II, they had to endure the sneers of the guards as their naked, middle aged, ill cared for bodies were paraded past the officers as they walked to Medical or the showers. During one of these humiliating moments, Corrie attempted to encourage her sister by saying, "Betsie, they took HIS clothes, too." Corrie heard her sister's faint response, "Oh, Corrie. And I never thanked Him . . ."

Lord, thank You that you have been tied to nothing but your own love and justice. Thank You for becoming sin for us!

- Chaplain Tom



## YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

### JULY 2025:

- Religious Classes: 165 (With 1091 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 63
- Bibles Distributed: 58

### AUGUST 2025:

- Religious Classes: 183 (With 1,152 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 57
- Bibles Distributed: 39

### SEPTEMBER 2025:

- Religious Classes: 150 (With 929 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 97
- Bibles Distributed: 54

### OCTOBER 2025:

- Religious Classes: 204 (With 1406 attendees)
- One-on-Ones: 121
- Bibles Distributed: 62

## 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

## Thank You To ALL Who Sponsor MCJM



# WHAT WONDEROUS LOVE IS THIS

"What Wondrous Love is This" is the title of a hymn that may be familiar to you. The second verse of the song illustrates the sinner's hope.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul,  
for my soul, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

The work at the Mesa County Detention Facility continues to bring the hope of God's grace and kindness to the Inmates. Many who are "sinking down," some for decades, are weary of their predicament. As they enter the system, we meet them with a consistent witness to God's love and mercy. Chaplain Tom, Yvette, and the Volunteers are faithful vessels who week in and week out pour the "Wondrous Love" of Jesus into the lives of inmates. We find the Bible studies and interactions with the inmates full of amazing moments as the Holy Spirit teaches us all things. It is truly a wonder to see inmates pulled away from conformity to the world as the Spirit transforms their thinking. Seeing God transform lives is humbling. We stand amazed in His presence.

I like to tell the inmates about you, our supporters. I explain the work of the Mesa County Jail Ministry is supported by those in the community who have a burden and love for them. Some inmates express surprise, many understand and express appreciation. Your faithful gifts are God's provision that enables the telling of the "Wondrous Love" of Jesus to continue. Your prayers are essential as we engage in a constant spiritual battle. You are vessels of kindness and love.

Each December, a Christmas gift bag is distributed to every inmate. The Christmas gift bag is a profound way to communicate care. It is a way to express to each inmate that they are valued and loved. "What Wondrous Love is This" that you donate time and treasure to minister to the least of these? From the bottom of our hearts, "Thank you."

God bless you this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Paul vG

## Inmate Expressions

### Remembrance: Inspired by Mark 15

He was bound and brought to Pilate, the Roman Governor.  
In trial He stood, the King of the Jews, amongst the murmur.  
The leading priests accused Him of many false crimes.  
To Pilates surprise, Jesus said nothing to such lies.  
Barabbas, a murderer, the crowd chose to be released instead.  
No crime committed, they shouted at Jesus, crucify Him, put Him to death.

Jesus, now flogged, they tortured Him and tore open His wounds.  
Dressed in purple Robe, they mocked, fitting Him with a crown of thorns.

Mutilated and hardly recognizable, they forced Him to carry His cross.  
Bleeding in agony, He started the grueling walk to the hill across.  
Golgotha, The Place of the Skull, was where it had been finished.  
Where Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice, all of our sins diminished.  
Soldiers nailed His hands and feet to the cross brutally.

They divided His clothes and casted lots, throwing dice in mockery.  
9 in the morning, the sign read, "The King of the Jews," crucified.  
At noon, darkness fell, at 3 His last breath, the curtain tore. It's finalized.  
This man truly was the son of God, the Centurion then exclaimed.  
Jesus' body taken down, wrapped in cloth, buried in tomb He laid.  
Crucified on Friday, Sunday morning now, the 3rd day arrived at the tomb.

Stone rolled aside, the 3 women entered, frightened but by whom?

"Be not afraid," the angel said; Jesus of Nazareth is not here!

He was crucified, but He hath risen from the dead-So do not fear!

For this we gather together in fellowship for communion.

Let us examine ourselves and not judge our fellow brethren.

Steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and teaching.

Heads bowed and knees bent in prayer without ceasing.

As one body partaking in the breaking of bread.

In remembrance of Jesus' body broken, blood shed.

Drinking the cup, In His blood is the new covenant.

Reminding You and I of Jesus Christs' Deliverance.

For God so loved the world so much that He gave His only Son,

So everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

Amen- 1 Corinthians 11:26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until He comes back.

~By a current inmate

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