



MESA COUNTY Jail Ministry

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

Because of Love

So often I think of things that I want our friends to know. They are things that I may feel are unique to our situation, or maybe seemingly novel to someone that does not know us well. I looked back over our old newsletters, and I had to admit that I have said most of the things that bear repeating or revealing. I keep finding myself wanting to say the same things over and over. There is nothing strikingly interesting or negatively pressing that I need to share with everyone. The more life seems to change, the more it stays the same.

When I looked back at the first newsletter when I became the Chaplain, I was amazed at the number of Bible studies the volunteers did. In October of 2022 we facilitated 125 classes with 1,044 attendees. We gave away 58 Bibles that month. THIS PAST MONTH we conducted 219 classes with 1543 attendees, almost 500 more than we did around four years ago. We also gave away 84 Bibles. This, in a sense, is absolutely amazing! We are so thankful for the open door we have at the jail. We have great volunteers and great staff members that keep us and the community safe. How can we not be thankful for this?

On the bright side, we see people that have met Jesus and seem to be thriving on the outside. We have received letters from Department of Correction's inmates that are still walking with Jesus. We have witnessed baptisms, weddings, and graduations of former inmates. We have even seen some of our former inmate friends preach.

On the negative side, we have seen our friends leave the jail and walk straight into the arms of a new "meth girl" or "meth guy." We have had other friends abscond from

COMCOR or deal drugs again. We see some of our jail friends walking the streets homeless because drugs are holding them captive. We have even had friends that have left the jail, relapsed back into drugs, and then killed another human being. We still have friends that quit going to Bible studies and recovery groups, and then "ghost us" when we attempt to get ahold of them. These things will always hurt.

When I think of all of these situations, I can't but help of thinking about love. Why do our volunteers spend so much time here? Where do people find time to nurse an inmate that is in a half-way house? Why do people spend hours attempting to find former criminals places to live? Why would anyone want to sort books that often smell funny? Why do people support us financially when they hardly know us? It all comes back to love. We love because He first loved us. Regardless of our ministries and callings, one thing is certain, we give back so little compared to what we owe. We are only doing "that which we ought to have done" (Luke 17:10 NASB)



- Chaplain Tom

YOUR SUPPORT HELPED PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY

JAN.-DEC. 2025 GRAND TOTAL:

- Religious Classes: 2,069 (With 13,748 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 806
- Bibles Distributed: 638
- reading glasses: 326

JANUARY 2026:

- Religious Classes: 208 (With 1,392 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 79
- Bibles Distributed: 51

FEBRUARY 2026:

- Religious Classes: 165 (With 1172 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 72
- Bibles Distributed: 64

MARCH 2026:

- Religious Classes: 219 (With 1543 attendees)
 - One-on-Ones: 116
- Bibles Distributed: 84

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



2026 BANQUET

Every year we gather to celebrate what the Lord is doing in the Mesa County Jail. The goal of the Mesa County Jail Ministry is to bring glory to God and minister His Gospel of grace and mercy in the Jail. After each banquet someone says, "This year was the best Jail Ministry Banquet ever." He never fails to bless.

Once again, we were graciously hosted by First Presbyterian Church and Pastor Tom. John the Ribber provided a wonderful meal for all to enjoy. Pastor Josh opened with prayer, and Lt. Jonathan Chambers graciously kept us on schedule. We were graced by music and song from Carolyn Berry, and Lory Villumsen played the piano beautifully while we ate our meal. This year we heard testimonies about the ministry from Under Sheriff Matt King, Chaplain Tom, Nolan Boyd, Jason Burge, and longtime volunteer Danny Daniels.

Throughout the year this work is faithfully supported by many churches and individuals. The Banquet and Silent Auction serve as a fundraiser making up about one third of the Jail Ministry's annual budget. Psalm 36:5 "Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies," is an expression of gratitude to the Lord for His faithful provision through His people.

Please keep praying for the work inside the Jail and the follow-up with inmates after being sentenced to DOC or as they reenter the community. Typically, the Banquet is held in late February. We will keep you posted on the date and time; hope to see you there.

Paul vG

REDEEMED

In the deepest valleys of addiction, the relentless pursuit of God's grace often becomes the loudest sound in a man's soul. Complete restoration is only found when human effort finally surrenders to divine intervention.

Chaplain Tom and our dedicated volunteers have the unique privilege of carrying the message of God's grace into the Mesa County Detention Facility (MCDF). We are deeply honored to participate in the sacred trust described in Romans 10:14: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

This article highlights the journey of three men we encountered in the MCDF who reached the absolute end of their own strength, only to be met by the unconditional, enduring love of Jesus. Their experiences are a testament, not to their own willpower, but to the profound effect of God's grace in breaking the chains of dependency and rebuilding broken lives for His glory.

Until recently, "Peter" spent his life suffering the consequences of the crushing bondage of addiction. After serving an 8-year sentence, he was released from prison about a year ago. Peter was seeking the Lord, but the rapid accumulation of a job, an apartment, and newfound freedom proved to be too much, too soon, and he relapsed. Fortunately, four volunteers came alongside Peter, offering the accountability of friendship and grace. We are pleased to report that Peter is now four months sober and is following the wisdom of 2 Timothy 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

"James" is a young man whose path was diverted by choices that led him into the drug culture. Industrious and capable, he started his own business. Still, there were temptations that diverted his path. While incarcerated in the MCDF, he was introduced to the Lord. He had many questions and a genuine desire to learn. Years later, he continues to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. James is now working, diligently studying the Word, and consistently seeking out the fellowship of believers.

"John" was in and out of jail for decades during his addiction. The last time John was released, we didn't know it would be his final time; that was 7 years ago. After his release, God provided John with opportunities to associate with a completely different circle of people. He stepped onto the narrow path, which has led him to reconcile with his children and grandchildren. Now happily married to an old friend, John lives in a small town where he and his wife serve the Lord, ministering to disadvantaged children.

Please pray for these men, and for the countless others whose paths are being rewritten by their encounter with God's extraordinary grace.

[The names used in this article have been changed to protect the identity of the men.]

~Paul vG