

and beyond

LIBERTY BEHIND BARS MINISTRY

Sending Church: Black Creek Baptist Church

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound (Isa 61:1)

Isaiah 25:4

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Greetings! We pray you all had a blessed Resurrection Day!

Although we have been home - we have been very busy presenting the ministry at new local churches and mission conferences! We are pleased that we have received several new church and individual monthly supporters - what a blessing! We did lose a couple churches due to the unfortunate circumstance that their doors have closed. We do have several new churches that we will be presenting the ministry this spring and summer.

Trying to raise monthly support and be home to work the ministry is always a challenge - but we are thankful that we have some men from our church that have helped by going into the jails to preach!

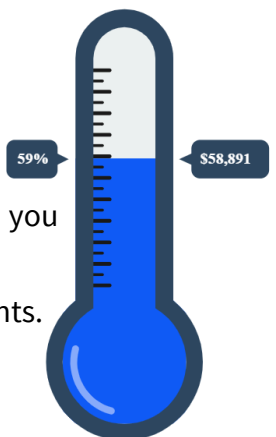
Since I am close to home during the week - I've had several opportunities to make one-on-one visits with individuals in county jails and state prisons. It has been a blessing to minister to them the Word of God and share the hope that they too can have. We've had several men and women ask to be taught on what true bible salvation is and they want a closer relationship with Jesus! These are individuals who want a changed life!

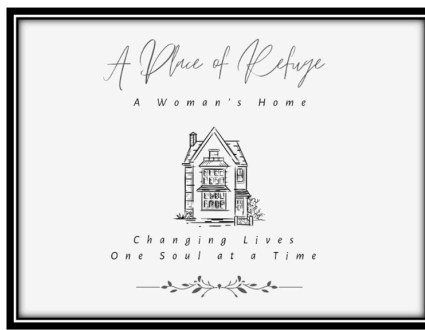
We've also been faced with much disappointment with individuals who made a "jail-house profession" and were making some progress in jail. However, once released, they are either back in jail or have disappeared. They left Jesus at the gate... We are asked to plant and water - and allow the Lord to give the increase. We pray that maybe they will remember something from the Word of God to make them return!

GOAL: \$100,000

A Place of Refuge Update

WE HAVE A HOME! Praise the Lord that he led us to a home not too far from where we live! The contract has been signed and we are waiting for a date for the closing! We are hoping that when you receive this letter we have already closed on the house! The Lord allowed us to pay cash for the home, in order to not incur any debt. However, we are still raising funds for needed improvements.





Ecclesiastes 4:10

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Why Women:

Most women when they are released from jail or prison are faced with overwhelming obstacles. Many have nowhere to go except government appointed halfway houses or rescue/homeless shelters. They return to the same unhealthy environment which led them to incarceration in the first place. Most of the women have no financial means to support themselves and over 65% do not have a highschool/GED diploma.* Due to no family, friends, or support, more than 68% of these women end up being arrested again within 5 years! **

A Safe Home for Women:

This home will be a residence for women who are looking to establish a new life based on Jesus Christ and avoid harmful environments from their past. Christian values taught from the King James Bible, the Word of God and a commitment to learning, growing, and serving Jesus Christ will be the foundations of this home. The services and structured environment will be adhered to by each resident for the purposes of enriching their top potential in becoming a stable, Christian woman.

How it will look:

We will provide house guidelines that will assist in living with a diverse group of women harmoniously. We are looking to house only 4 women with the hopes of one "house mother." We are praying that either an individual who has gone through the training will want to stay and minister to others who come in or that the Lord would put on the heart of a stable, single Christian woman to be the overseer of these 4 women. This overseer would facilitate and coordinate morning and evening devotions, meal preparation and household training, bible studies, and group fellowship. The overseer and LBB would help residents connect with resources for healthcare, employment, education, transportation, and any other mandated court appointed counseling. Women would be required to attend all church services including mid-week prayer night, bible study, and any other special services. LBB will be holding a weekly Christian Addictions class that women will partake in.

This will be a learning process for all of us and I am sure we will adjust things as we go along! Please pray for wisdom!

* U.S. Dept of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, Education and Correctional Populations; April 2003

** U.S. Dept of Justice Special Report, Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010; April 2014



Praises

*Praise
the Lord*

- Praise the Lord that we are able to continue to mail in KJV bibles to those that are incarcerated locally and across the nation! Funds continue to come in for this part of the ministry!
- We appreciate the opportunities for open doors to present the ministry at new churches and share our burden for those in and beyond the jail/prison walls.
- Many people we are working with are hungry for the Word of God and want to make serious changes in their lives.
- We have several people who are willing to donate items to the Place of Refuge!

Prayer Requests

- Pray we have **more** opportunities to present the ministry to new churches and they would partner with LBB and support "A Place of Refuge" - we need more monthly support in order to improve and maintain the home.
- Wisdom and guidance from the Lord for running the Woman's Home. We will need additional household items to furnish the home.
- Pray we have the opportunity to minister in jails/prisons locally and nationwide - specifically Allegany, Cattaraugus, and surrounding counties.
- Opportunity to have additional Zoom/online church services on a regular basis with jails/prisons nationwide.

If you know any churches that would be interested in the ministry - please pass our information along!



LBB Helps Ministry

Thank you to those who volunteer to help LBB with various aspects of the ministry!
We truly appreciate all that you do for LBB and for the individuals we work with!

Ways to Support LBB

There are several ways you can support LBB:

- PRAYERFULLY! Please keep us in prayer so we are sensitive to the Lord's leading for the ministry, safety in travel, and wisdom
- FINANCIALLY -
 - By check
 - Cash App (\$LibertyBehindBars)
 - Venmo App (@Liberty-BehindBars)
 - Wire Transfer (please contact us personally for bank info)

PLEASE DESIGNATE YOUR GIVING:

- General
- Place of Refuge
- Bibles
- Mentor Program



Contact

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