Then Samuel took up a stone...saying
“Thus far the LORD has helped us.”
I Samuel 7:12
Dear Friends,

It started off just like any ordinary year…and then COVID-19 changed everything. However you might phrase it – virtually every person on the planet has experienced some type of disruption, some level of upheaval as our world has reacted and responded to a global pandemic unlike any in recent history.

Psalm 124 “Had the Lord not been on our side…the enemy would have swallowed us alive…the flood would have engulfed us…the raging waters would have swept us away…but Praise be to the Lord…we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”

Amidst the global mess, the Gospel has continued to be shared. Hearts have continued to be softened and the Spirit of God has continued to draw people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Ministry has not looked the same as it was. Volunteers have been kept out of facilities. Many chaplains have been restricted in their activities. But the cry of men, women and children behind bars for hope has not ceased. Nor has the movement of God in reaching them in their desperation been thwarted by circumstances.

Since 1961, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry has had the joy of reporting to you, our partner in ministry, all that God has done and continues to do through your investment. 2020 is no different. The global conditions may be altered but God is not bound by human obstacles. We are able to look back and see the hand of the Lord meeting every need and empowering us for every challenge.

I hope this Annual Report encourages you regarding the role that you are playing in reaching those who are behind bars helping to bring Hope to the Forgotten.

In Christ’s Service,

Jon Evans
President

**Special Note: Many are aware of the fact that Good News struggled financially following the Great Recession of 2007-2009. This resulted in a debt load that was more than $1.6 million at the highest point. We have prayerfully trusted the Lord to enable us to eliminate that debt without sacrificing ministry. The Lord has allowed us to grow and expand modestly over the past eight years, while gradually reducing the amount owed and we rejoice to report that we are now debt free as of June 30, 2020. The Lord has provided miraculously in this season, allowing us to pay off the final balance without utilizing any regular contributions.
OBSTRUCTIONS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers in the US represent a large segment of our ministry. Typically, for every 40 hours of ministry a chaplain performs each week inside a facility, volunteers also participate with an additional 40 hours of ministry and service… until COVID-19. Since mid-March, most volunteers have been restricted from entering jails. The result? Chaplains have been called upon to increase personal ministry but their administrative/organizational duties have been reduced. Perhaps Satan would like to use this season for evil but clearly God has meant it for good!

TRAUMA HEALING – EXPANDING THE REACH

During the past 12 months we have been able to bring the ABS Trauma Healing program to some notable facilities – specifically San Quentin State Prison, CA and Louisiana State Prison – Angola. In Louisiana, the Department of Corrections arranged for the training to take place inside of a prison facility so that Angola Seminary Graduates (currently incarcerated individuals) could become equipped to conduct healing groups among their peers. Plans are being formulated to seek a broad expansion of the program through the Louisiana Department of Corrections.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING – INTERNATIONAL

The Lord provided, through the generosity of partners, for gatherings of Good News Leadership from virtually every country where we serve. Four Area Conferences were held – Kenya, Egypt, El Salvador, Latvia. Our four Area Directors coordinated these conferences which are vital to equip leadership and to refine country-specific ministry strategies.

LEGAL CHALLENGES

Serving as a Christian non-profit inside of government facilities puts us in a very rare, unique, but clearly God-ordained position. But religious services in today’s climate are regularly under fire. Chaplains who do their job diligently and follow all policies and procedures are still subject to complaints and in some cases lawsuits by inmates who feel their religious rights have been violated. We praise the Lord that, to date, we have not suffered from the rulings in any of the many lawsuits. That said, we are asking the Lord to continue to protect our chaplains and our ministry amidst ongoing litigation.
ETERNAL IMPACT. INCREDIBLE ACCESS.

1.23 Million*  
Attendance at Services/Classes

82,500*  
One-on-One Counseling Sessions

58,450*  
Decisions For Christ

*Numbers were impacted by Covid restrictions in facilities, yet God has helped us continue our ministries.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

U.S. Ministries: $6.42 Million
Cornerstone/General Fund: $615,000
International Ministries: $883,000

$7.918 Million (Total)

FINANCIAL REPORT (past 10 years)

In FY 2020, the Lord enabled us to retire our debt... Praise God!

(Thousands)

2010  2015  2020

(Millions)
8          7          8
7          6          6
6          5          5
5          4          4
4          3          3
3          2          2
2          1          1
1          0          0

Income  Expense  Debt
There was a guy in juvenile hall who accepted Christ and was coming to my Bible studies. He was praying regularly, reading his Bible, and even praying with and talking with other guys in the unit about Jesus. After about a month or so, he stopped coming to my Bible studies, so I went into the TV room and asked him why. He said he had been praying to get out, and he kept getting continuances in court, so he was mad at God for not answering his prayer and did not want to talk about it. So I said, “OK”, and I continued doing the studies with other guys in the unit. Then after several weeks, he shows back up at my Bible study. I asked him what made him come back. He pointed across the room and said, “See that guy over there. That guy is a friend of mine, and he just got here, and he’s in here for murder. If I would have been out, I would have been with him.” I asked if he now understood that God knows what’s best for him, and he said, “Yeah, I get it now.”

- Volunteer B.
Will you become a daily prayer partner with us?

- **PRAYER DAY 1:**
  Pray for health and protection amidst this global pandemic. That God would use this time of crisis in a powerful way in each of our lives but also in the lives of those who are without hope.

- **PRAYER DAY 2:**
  Pray that the Lord would continue to keep doors open for chaplains to take the Gospel behind bars in the U.S. and around the world. Political climates and unstable governments place access to the incarcerated in potential jeopardy.

- **PRAYER DAY 3:**
  Pray for those who are behind bars – that they would receive truth and find hope in Jesus Christ. 10 million behind bars around the world. 350,000 have access to a Good News chaplain.

- **PRAYER DAY 4:**
  Pray for the safety of all chaplains and staff - particularly those in countries where COVID-19 is taxing limited medical resources. Pray also for environments that are hostile to the Gospel.

- **PRAYER DAY 5:**
  Pray for the Lord to provide spiritually, physically and financially for the needs of all of the Good News family – including you!

- **PRAYER DAY 6:**
  We pray for you – our partner in ministry. May God continue to use you to touch lives here and around the world.