1961 Founder Bill Simmer, a Bible college student, establishes the Good News Mission to organize requests for chaplains in the Washington, DC area. Bill is the first chaplain in Fairfax, VA. The monthly budget is $500.

1963 The first Headquarters is purchased at 1036 Highland Street, Arlington, VA which serves as residence for chaplains and eventually as a halfway house for reentering men.

1972 1,600 decisions for Christ, 4,500 Bible Correspondence Courses distributed


1977 Chaplain Ruben de Santos is placed in Sao Paulo, Brazil – Good News’ first international chaplain

1983 Dr. Simmer steps down and Mr. Harry Greene (a product of the ministry) becomes the second President of Good News. The budget in that year is $1,007,000.

1994 Headquarters relocates to Richmond, VA. 32,890 decisions for Christ and 500,000 Bible lessons distributed. Print shop moves to Bristol, TN to expand production. Good News now has more than 100 chaplains serving in 100+ facilities.

1997 Invitation from General Vital Zahars (former Chief KGB officer) for Good News to train chaplains in Latvia. The engagement in Latvia leads to inquiries from Estonia, Siberia, Ukraine, India, Nigeria, Uganda and Italy.

2001 Dr. Harry Fletcher is appointed VP of International Ministry to direct the Good News response to requests for help globally.

2007 Good News chaplains globally exceeds 400 for the first time with doors open in 22 countries. 365 facilities provide access to 193,353 inmates daily.

2013 Mr. Jon Evans becomes the third President of Good News since 1961.

2020 Bible Correspondence Lesson production exceeds 1.5 million annually with lessons available in KJV, ESV and Spanish.

Today Good News is the largest provider of chaplains to jails and prisons in the world. The Lord has opened doors to more than 370 facilities in 22 US States and 24 countries. More than 400 chaplains have access to 370,000 incarcerated men, women and children every day - all of whom have the opportunity to hear the Gospel, talk to a chaplain, or receive a Bible if they care to.

GOOD NEWS THROUGH THE YEARS

Bill Simmer with fellow chaplains

Top: Harry Greene in full pardon
Below: Harry ministering on air

General Vital Zahar invites Good News to train chaplains in Latvia

Jon Evans at a local GNJ&PM event
Dear Friends,

Do you remember Pan Am Airways, Blockbuster Video, Oldsmobile, Circuit City, Fotomat, F. W. Woolworth, Tab, and Kinney Shoes? What do they have in common? They are no longer here. Businesses are built then collapse – brands rise and fall – trends come and go. The Lord has uniquely preserved Good News Jail & Prison Ministry and our presence behind bars for 60 years. Along the way there have been many powerful moments as shown on the previous page.

We believe the Lord wants us to continue to partner with others who have a heart for those impacted by incarceration. God has provided us with immense experience and expertise over these 60 years and we want to help others to be more effective in reaching forgotten people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We continue to explore new opportunities in the U.S. and overseas to expand the impact of the gospel. In 2022, our Trauma Healing Expansion program will bring the THI program to California, Michigan, Louisiana, West Virginia – areas where we do not have a presence but others are ministering behind bars. We also will be working with two other national organizations to equip them to conduct Healing Groups to the populations they serve.

Our Bible Correspondence Lessons have been a cornerstone of our ministry for 50+ years and proved to be a most essential tool during the COVID lockdowns. In the last three years, the number of lessons available for study has expanded from 224 to more than 400. More than 10 other ministries are now using the program to share the Word of God with their audiences.

God is Faithful. He has been Faithful. He will always be Faithful. We have the honor of His blessing upon our ministry as He has preserved us, protected us, and enabled us to fulfill the call that Dr. Bill Simmer received in 1959 – to share the love of Jesus Christ with those that many have forgotten and most would rather forget. Thank you for your faithfulness as you have stood with us and supported the work of our chaplains. To God be the Glory – Great things He has done!

Gratefully,

Jon Evans
President

August 7, 2021

$60,000 MATCHING GIFT

Use the enclosed card with your next gift and a generous partner will match your gift. You can also give online at: www.goodnewsjail.org/match
60 YEARS IMPACTING LIVES BEHIND BARS

2.34 Million
Services/Classes Conducted

3.56 Million
1 to 1 Counseling Sessions

2.45 Million
Decisions For Christ

16.94 Million
Bible Lessons Completed

CURRENT GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

408 Chaplains
379 Facilities
22 States
24 Countries

FY 2021 EXPENDITURES

Fundraising: $450k
International Ministry: $700k
General/Mgmt: $800k
Domestic Ministry: $6.05 Million
A Changed Heart

Dear Jailer,

I was an inmate in your jail for the last 2 years. I was in the Life Change Program for a little over a year. I am writing to thank you for supporting that program. I know you gave a lot of funding and help to the LCP. It changed my life. It took a very angry, upset man and has changed my heart to love God and to want to live a life without drugs and crime.

People say there are no such things as mercies. Well, I beg to differ.

When God changes a man’s heart like he has mine, that’s a mercy.

Without your support and belief in the program, that could never have happened. I am not out of prison yet but will be in the next 8 months and that’s when the real test starts. I know this but with the support I have received from the volunteers and my GN chaplain, I know that I will be able to succeed.

Just wanted to take the time to thank you. Without your support it would not be possible. Thank you again and God bless you!

Best Regards,

AW
Will you join us as we pray for these needs?

**PRAYER DAY 1:**
Pray for our International Area Directors: In order to support chaplains in 24 countries on 5 continents, the Area Directors need to travel a great deal. Prayer for safety, open doors and borders (COVID restrictions) and fruitful times of encouraging, equipping, and training of chaplains and national directors.

**PRAYER DAY 2:**
Minneapolis, MN (George Floyd) and Volusia, FL (Othal Wallace) have been turned into war zones with high profile cases involving law enforcement as the accused and as victims. Pray for our chaplains to have the Lord’s protection and fruitful ministry in these and other areas where basic safety and security for staff and chaplains are significant concerns.

**PRAYER DAY 3:**
Pray for new chaplains. We have openings around the country and need highly qualified, spiritually mature individuals to hear and respond to God’s leading them into ministry to the incarcerated.

**PRAYER DAY 4:**
Pray for the growth of our Trauma Healing Program as we seek to teach, train, lead and guide others in the use of this curriculum to see the Gospel impact and transform those who have endured many hardships in life.

**PRAYER DAY 5:**
Pray for the return of volunteers inside of U.S. facilities. Pray that administrators will boldly reopen doors so that ministry might be maximized. Pray that volunteers would return with enthusiasm to share the love of Christ with forgotten people.