

Forgiven Matters

Newsletter



Merry Christmas from Scottie, Jack and the Forgiven Ministry Staff

From the Heart of Scottie:



Another year has passed; we have witnessed the power of God as He changed lives, mended broken hearts, and answered children's prayers for a loving parent and for a home put back

together. It is a privilege to serve our Savior in Kingdom work. Forgiven Ministry served hand in hand with some wonderful ministry partners. I will not try to name them because of the fear of leaving one out. God sent just what we needed at the right time. Two highlights of 2011 were our first leadership trainings. Joe McDonald with Joe McDonald Ministry worked alongside Forgiven Ministry to develop a training manual and then taught the leadership training. Team members from 7 states joined us to learn how to coordinate "One Day with God" camps. God has richly blessed this effort as we see states taking the lead in organizing and operating camps.

Ezekiel's Room, Adams' Center, End of Life Program, Reentry Program and Behind the Walls reach many inmates who would not attend a worship service but through the above programs are loved unconditionally, hear the gospel and learn that God has a wonderful plan for their lives (Jeremiah 29:11). Several weeks ago Forgiven Ministry joined with other ministries to do a series of yard events. In 4 days we ministered to 800 inmates with 200 making decisions for Christ. Could it be this photo resembles those who gathered on the hillside to hear that man called Jesus?

Coming in 2012: **Rev. Mike Boring and His Wife, Brenda**

It is with immense joy that we introduce to you our newest addition to Forgiven Ministry, Inc. Reverend Mike and Brenda Boring. It has long been our prayer that Jack and Scottie have someone to come alongside and assist them. God always sends the right people at the right time. And we truly believe that God has sent the right couple and at exactly the right time.



Mike is leaving a full time paid pastorate and coming to us on faith alone. At the present time, we have no additional funds with which to pay either of them. Mike and Brenda are exhibiting literal faith in action, just as the Bible says in Matthew 10:7, 9-10. "And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand...Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses. Nor script for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat." Please pray for them as they take this giant leap of faith. Mike and Brenda have been married 31 years and were high school sweethearts. They have a 27 year old daughter who is married and has 3 daughters; and they have a 24 year old son who is also married. They are originally from East Tennessee near Knoxville. Mike was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1987. He has been a bi-vocational pastor for 21 years and Associate Pastor/Minister of Education for the last 2 years at Surfside Baptist Church, Surfside Beach, SC. He has a Bachelor's Degree in business management from Maryville College, Maryville, IN. Brenda is a stay at home mom who homeschooled their children. She has been a piano teacher for 24 years.



A "One Day with God" Camp through the Eyes of a First Time Volunteer

By Gabriela Silva

The leader raises her hand and says, "It's time!" The child we're escorting can barely contain her excitement. She's been waiting 1 year for the next 7 hours...[The children of inmates] live a life very few could even imagine. Since the time she was 3 weeks old, her daddy has been in a maximum security prison. For the next 7 hours, she's going to be able to hug him, play games, laugh and spend a whole day loving on her daddy.

All of this is made possible due to an amazing [program] called One Day with God. In 10 different states, on one day out of the year, children who have never met their fathers or who, at the most, see their dads for 2 hours every 3 or 4 months, get to come and spend a day laughing, loving and experiencing forgiveness and restoration. They are

able to hear the Gospel...worship God with their children, bless them and pray for each one of them by name.

I'll be honest. The idea of entering a maximum security prison did not exactly excite me UNTIL I began praying about it, seeing pictures and hearing testimonies; testimonies that used words like, "life-changing" "blessing" and "unexplainable." ..as we walked down that hall out to the yard and saw ultimate joy and love on those dad's faces, I knew that's exactly where God had called me to be.

As they called the dad's names and introduced them to their special guests, every single father ran with excitement and open arms to meet their child. What a beautiful picture of the father of the prodigal son and the way God runs and greets us every single morning...[Words can't explain the joy of] seeing those fathers laugh, carry their kids on their backs, get silly...Light and joy and Jesus Christ came and filled each person with true joy.

After getting to serve and share a meal with these families, we were able to worship God and just praise Him for the time we all got to share together. Fathers were able to hold their children and help them make a small lamp to always remember the love of their earthly and Heavenly Father. [The final Message was given;]...decisions were made and tearful thanks and encouragement was given.

Then the most emotional part of the day was the Father/Daughter Dance. As we stepped back with tears in our eyes, I silently began praying for:

-The father we met at lunch with 3 daughters who is constantly praying he'll get out this year and be able to see them grow up.

-The father whose daughter was the identical image of him and who signed his t-shirt, "Your Angel"

-The father who has been in prison since his daughter was in the womb. Today was her 5th birthday and she didn't recognize him and began to cry...We all began praying for the Holy Spirit to move and by the end of the day they were inseparable. He was the man...whose daughter had just celebrated the best birthday of her life.

-The father whose daughter asked him to make a promise to never leave her again.

-The father whose daughter is turning 18 and will no longer be eligible to attend these camps

-The father whose children came late due to a small car accident and the joy seen when they arrived. And

-The father whose children didn't show up at all.

..[The fathers listed above] were the inmates we were able to talk to in our short time there.

After the dance and blessing from the fathers, each family released a balloon representing the absolute certainty of love felt for one another. Walking out of the prison and saying goodbye to the tearful fathers really opened my eyes to how much I take for granted in this life and how truly beautiful God's people are.

Make a Difference: Sponsor a Child

You can give a child the gift of a day with their incarcerated parent, a day that could make all the difference in a young person's life. A gift of just \$175 will cover the cost of a child attending a One Day with God Camp. Donations of any amount are appreciated.

Forgiven Ministry accepts major credit card donations and PayPal is available on our website. The ministry also has opened an account with Edward Jones for stock donations. Call the office for more information.

2012 Upcoming Camps

Western Youth, Morganton, NC	1/14
Rayburn Correctional, Angie, LA	1/28
Ryan Correctional Facility, Detroit, MI	1/28
Pender Correctional, Burgaw, NC	2/11
Plane State Jail, Dayton, TX	2/25
McConnell Unit, Beeville, TX	3/3
Macomb Correctional, New Haven, MI	3/17
Dan River Prison Work Farm, Roxboro, NC	3/31
Craven Correctional, Vanceboro, NC	4/14
Elayn Hunt Correctional, St. Gabriel, LA	4/28
Craggy Correctional, Asheville, NC	4/28
Pamlico Correctional, Bayboro, NC	5/5
Alexander Correctional (Minimum Security) Taylorsville, NC	5/19
Huron Valley Complex for Women	6/2
Lincoln Correctional, Lincolnton, NC	6/9
Rutherford Correctional, Spindale, NC	6/16
Raleigh Correctional Center for Women @ Wake Chapel Church	7/21
Orange Correctional @ Orange United Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, NC	7/28
Cooper Street Correctional, Jackson, MI	7/28
Avery Mitchell, Spruce Pine, NC	8/11
Alexander Correctional/Closed Custody Taylorsville, NC	8/25
Stiles Unit, Beaumont, TX	9/15
Pugsley Correctional, Kingsley, MI	9/29
Western Youth, Morganton, NC	10/13
Wake & Neuse Correctional@ Raleigh First Assembly, Raleigh, NC	10/20
Kershaw Correctional, Kershaw, SC	10/27
Earnest C. Brooks Facility, Muskegon, MI	11/3
Plane State Jail, Dayton, TX	11/10
Connally Unit, Kenedy, TX	11/17
Caldwell Correctional. Hudson. NC	12/1

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