

PAPMO

NEWSLETTER

January 2011
Volume 12, Issue 1

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PAPMO
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Presidents Blessing's

Hector Cruz



Thank you so much for your support to PAPMO as we attempt to uplift Jesus in lives of the inmates.

The ways we are able to reach the lives of the inmates are through our:

- 1) Worship services and Bible study groups
- 2) Christian musical concerts
- 3) Letter writing program
- 4) Re-Entry Ministry
- 5) Inmate & Family visitations
- 6) Correctional Chaplain Assistant Program

As times seem to be closing, we continue to your help. Our visions and goals are to uplift Jesus. Our vision is to see every Potomac Conference Church to become involved with Prison Ministry. Our goal is to have every church reach out and minister to the Prisons within their areas. PAPMO would love to come to your church and do a Prison Ministry Day or Prison Emphasis Day. On that Day, we can give Orientation and/or Training. This ministry is very simple. You already are doing Lay Activities outside the



church; PAPMO works within and out of the prison through our various programs. What a beautiful scenario having all the churches reach their visions and goals. Ellen G white writes "Acts of generosity and benevolence were designed by God to keep the hearts of the children of men tender and sympathetic and to encourage in them an interest and affections for one Another in imitation of the Master, who for our sakes became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich."

PAPMO's Correction Chaplain Assistant is being used in various prisons, nursing homes, hospitals and other areas where is a need for a Chaplain.

Additionally, let's not forget our first Hispanic Retreat this past July. We thank God for your tender heart and willing spirit. May our risen Savior be your comfort and peace in these days before He comes again?

In Christ,

Hector Cruz



Remembering 2010

This issue of our newsletter is a call to remember and celebrate the past year of PAPMO.

As we worked to put this issue together, we asked many people to write about their experiences with PAPMO either as a member or inmate, from Hector Cruz's reflections of what our vision is to the thoughts of Linda Tomlin who is continually blessed by her letter writing.

The history of PAPMO is rich with the fruits and lessons of allowing the Holy Spirit to come in us and work miracles.

The many names, faces, and stories of the past year make up a collage worth celebrating.



We currently have over 100 folks, church member from various churches, and men and women behind bars in prison who are corresponding with each other. What a blessing is being received by all.

I received a letter from a young man in response to a "late letter" from a pen pal that I had apologized for. He stated, "I am so happy to receive even one letter from the outside world. I don't care if they only write me once a year. I am praising God for that one letter. No one has any idea what a piece of mail can do for you".

Another inmate wrote a letter to his

"senior pen pal" and stated, "I thank you for writing me. What a blessing, and a joy to be hearing from you. The Lord is good. You age doesn't mean a thing to me at all. Your heart and spirit is all I care about. I am a Christian who lives by the Word of God". (The inmate is 25, and the pen pal is 77).

And another inmate wrote "I thank God for my pen pal. He has a great wealth of knowledge and wisdom and he shares it with me. Praise God. (The inmate is 33 and the pen pal is 85).

I could go on and on and on. We receive hundreds of letters, each one passing



In a few months it will be May 1, 2011. On May 1, 2011, PAPMO will be conducting "Elections of new Officers" for years 2011 through 2015.

Meadowbridge Church will be hosting this event. PAPMO is encouraging all **Personal and Household Membership** to attend this very important Business Session. Your votes will determine the "Officers" that you want to serve in PAPMO Organization.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter due out in April 2011 for further details.

You Hold In Your Hand...

You hold in your hands the key to a great treasure box. Inside the box are gold, silver, and precious jewels. The box in which these treasures are contained is rather unusual, not really very appealing. It is surrounded by razor wire, electrified fences, and armed guard towers. But inside there is great treasure, men and women both precious to God, who are waiting for YOU.

As a Correctional Chaplain Assistant there are some key qualities you must possess....

HUMILITY: Maintain a humble spirit. Remember--you are there to serve.

PERSEVERANCE: Society, friends, and family have given up on many inmates. They don't need someone else to reject them. Be patient. God has promised you will reap spiritual fruit in due season.

EMPATHY: the ability to feel with people as though you were in their place.

In the Old Testament, the Prophet Ezekiel sat with the captives by the River Chebar before he shared God's message to them. They were ready to listen, because they knew he understood. He had "sat where they sat" (Ezekiel 1:1).

SENSE OF MISSION: a desire and determination to give this work priority, a belief that this is what you would rather be doing than anything else!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: You must not only lead inmates to new spiritual growth, but likewise you must be willing and anxious to grow. Spiritual growth is a lifelong process.

LOVE: 1 Corinthians 13. The greatest motivating force behind any ministry--and especially prison ministry--is love. Love for God. An un-conditional love for the inmate and love for the mission to which God has called you.

By Joanne T. Johnson
Communications Director

Real Stories from Real Jails

By Linda Tomlin in Lynchburg, VA

I send Bible studies to about 75 inmates and also visit the jail about once a week. There are many good stories about the blessings I receive from prison ministry and inmate's lives given to God, but also there are some sad ones!

One night the girls (as I call them) were coming in and said, "Oh look, we have all the regular ones". One of the girls said, "No, one of us is gone" and she started crying. I said, "Who" thinking that someone had gone home. She said, "Vicky, she's dead". That was a shock!

Recently Vicky had asked us to pray for her because she was getting ready to undergo surgery. She had out-patient surgery and came back to the jail, and slept for two days. The second day the girls tried to wake her and got no response from her. It was too late, she was dead. It was very sad that night as we all sat and cried. Vicky was really into learning the Bible. We are praying to see her in the kingdom!

Another inmate started with me in November 2009. He writes me quite often. He feels unjustly accused and his parents are working diligently to prove his innocence. His mother is sending me information that they have accumulated that they are going to use in court.

April, a mother of a nine year old son is incarcerated. She says they need help buying him some gifts for Christmas. I brought it up to an organization in my church called "Caring Hearts", and they helped by providing money to get gifts for her son. Mothers, incarcerated have to deal with problems inside the jail as well as try to still form some type of relationship with their child or children, making sure they are taken care of. Being in jail, doesn't stop you from being a mother. A mother just has to deal with reality and learn viable

solutions to mothering their child from on the inside.

Christina was released on November 22, 2010. She was in need of clothes and upon release we gave her a box.

George is a very godly man. His letters are filled with encouraging words and scripture. He also is a loving, gentle man that calls me mother.

THE FORGOTTEN TEARS

Dedicated to all the mothers in prison

I'm sure she cried, the night you were gone. The forgotten tear, that lasted so long.

They said you were guilty, the price you'd pay. She cried in spirit, it seemed all day.

For knowledge she had, of what this meant. She knew of their laws, and where you were sent.

Into their darkness, a place where they kill. Our family members, somehow she felt ill.

At the thought, of what you'd go through. She needed support what would she do?

They named it a prison, a place for correction. They knew not the time, they stole her direction.

For how could she bare, to cast you aside? You are her loved one, that moment she died.

So God sent his angel's to assist in her pain. The mothers and wives, this support she would gain.

For they all knew, the road she would walk. In communing together, the learned to talk.

About their own journeys, each one was unique. Stories told, uplifted the week.

They all had tears, forgotten it seemed. But in this support group, they stood as a team.

For they all had knowledge, of burden's she'd bare. They knew of the prison, these tears they did share.

So come join us women that feel so detached. For we are the candles, and you are the match.

(Author unknown)

This Years Events

Date- January /Enero
Location – Ocean City, MD
Spanish Laity
January 14-16

Date – February/Febrero
Location – Meadowbridge Church
Executive Committee Meeting
February 27, 2011 (10 a.m.)

Date – March/Marzo
Location -
Hispanic CCA Training
March 20, 2011

Date – April/Abril
Location –
Hispanic Leadership Training
April 24, 2011

Date- May/Mayo
Location - Meadowbridge Church
CCA & Elections - May 01, 2011
Exec. Committee – May 22, 2011

Date – June/Junio
Location – New Market, VA
Campmeeting
June 14-19 - Campmeeting
June 21-26 - Hispanic Campmeeting

Date – August/Agosto
Location - Meadowbridge Church
Executive Committee & Strategic Planning
August 28, 2010 (10 a.m.)

Date – September/Septiembre
Location
Hispanic CCA Training
September 18, 2011

Date – October/Octubre
Location - Meadowbridge Church
October 9 - Budget Committee
October 23 – Hispanic Leadership Training

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Date – November/Noviembre

Location

Executive

Committee/Fellowship Dinner & Recognition Day

November 6, 2011. For more information see future newsletter.

Date- December/Diciembre

Location

Hispanic Farewell Dinner

December 18, 2011. For more information see future newsletter.

Letter to Members

By PAPMO BOARD

Dear PAPMO members,

At our last board meeting on November 24th we as a board rededicated ourselves to following God’s vision for this organization that was given to our president, Hector Cruz.

We also wanted to cleanse our own hearts so that we could respond to the moving of the Holy Spirit within us in our efforts to serve you, our members. In that vein, an issue was raised where we, as a board, were convicted that we fell short in our responsibility to our membership. It is on the following issue that we humbly ask for and seek your forgiveness.

At our 2006 certified Chaplain’s Assistant (CCA) training, 70 people were in attendance. Of that number, only 36 received credentials and cards. There were circumstances and obstacles that arose but they do not excuse the shortcoming of your board to see to it that all receive the just reward of their training.

PLEASE FORGIVE US!!!

We would like to try to make amends by offering a free year membership along with reinstatement of the

credentials to everyone that did not receive their credentials at that time. If you fall into this category, please let us know in writing at address below:

PAPMO
P.O Box 68
Highland Springs, Va., 23075

Moving forward, your attendance at our annual CCA training session is still mandatory to receive current credentials. The 2011 training will be May 1st at the same time that our board elections will be held. (Please see attached 2011 calendar).

There will be some exciting and pertinent subjects addressed in the upcoming sessions that you won’t want to miss. You will be hearing more in our future newsletters.

The dates for our executive committee meetings are listed in the calendar. These are open meetings and we would appreciate your attendance and input.

This board serves the will of God for prison ministry in this conference and receives input from the Holy Spirit for guidance. The Holy Spirit could be using you to provide that guidance on a particular subject so if you feel called by the Holy spirit to speak out on a direction for PAPMO, join our next board meeting and let God lead.

May God continue to bless His ministry to those behind prison walls, those just released and their families!

Hispanic Churches on the Go
By Moises Escalera in Northern, VA

In Northern, VA the Hispanic churches are on the move! Praise God, we are serving 9 detention centers and have 57 people working in prison ministry! In Maryland, the three detentions centers have been given 100 Bibles already.

Feeding the Homeless
By Leigh Lewis in Richmond, VA

You are probably wondering why there’s an article on homeless in a prison ministry newsletter.

Many homeless have been incarcerated or are on that path. One in 5 inmates is homeless when they go to prison and 1 in 3 inmates are homeless when they leave prison. Why?

There is almost no support for ex-cons who commit minor crimes, resulting in them often heading back to prison when they become desperate because they are unable to find paid work.

This is where Meadowbridge and Courthouse Road Church members come in. Under the direction of Leigh Lewis, PAPMO’s Regional Director of VA, they are fed physically and spiritually weekly.

Please watch for the upcoming article in the Visitor Magazine.

UPDATES

Wesley Smith, Senior Vice President has moved and regretfully resigned.

Pat Wilcox, Regional Director for the VA Capital area, has resigned.

Until elections, the board has nominated Ryland Holmes as Senior Vice President and Leigh Lewis as Regional Director for the VA Capital area. Please welcome them as they do God’s work.

Important Milestones.....

- Manuel in English and Spanish
- Hispanics have CCA Credentials
- Hispanic Chaplain in Adventist Hospital
- New web site in process! Hope to have finished next week.

To be notified when it’s complete - send your e-mail so I can invite you.

Please send all news updates to:
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January 2011

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