

## Ministry In Action

### Year in Review by Ron Kelley

- We have worked hard to establish connections with companies willing to consider hiring ex-felons. These include Flavorcraft, Zoeller Co., Workaholix and Amazon. A good job is an important need for those leaving prison and these companies have stepped up as we bring them "work ready" candidates that have been mentored in our programs.

- Speaking engagements have increased significantly this year as we spread the word about The Prisoners Hope in the community. Celebrate Recovery events, The Samaritans, many churches, Goodwill, Christian Academy and St Vincent DePaul, to name a few. This permits us to touch many more lives with the message of hope.

- In 2019, we continued our partnership with Christian Academy in two ways. We are the first US based ministry for which they did a spring fundraiser. And we are just completing the second year where CAL art students design Christmas cards and write letters to mentees, families and children. Our mentees and families love receiving these cards and letters and we love the fact that CAL students can demonstrate their faith in a very tangible way. A great win-win.

- We hope you have seen (and joined) our new Facebook Group called Lift Up. It is a weekly prayer focus where we ask the group members to pray during the week about a particular area that affects the ministry and the community. Topics to date have included asking God to work in the lives of prisoners, families and victims of crime; prayer for law enforcement, corrections officials and lawmakers; and for the Spirit to move like a mighty wind everywhere we are involved. You can find and join in at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LiftUpPrayers/>

- And we could not be more thrilled that effective January 1st, we will be partnering even closer with Go Ministries. The guidance and support they have provided has been invaluable these past two years as we operated under their umbrella. We will be further enhancing this partnership in 2020 which we believe can move us ahead even further in our efforts to be more effective in serving more people. More details will be forthcoming.

*From Executive Director, Darryll Davis*



"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him."

Lamentations 3:21-25

### *Devotions from Darryll....*

You have often heard it said that "God is on the move". We can only say AMEN! 2019 has been filled with evidence that God is working in the lives of the men, women and families we are privileged to serve. As of this writing, we have in our programs 91 mentees and 47 families being served by almost 100 volunteers (67 trained as mentors). To handle this increase, we also brought on board and trained 28 new volunteers in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter alone! These are not just statistics, but real people who have the support and encouragement that can only come from God's grace and the personal relationships we have been blessed to provide. Thank you to all our volunteers who serve in any capacity. But most importantly, we are grateful to God for lives transformed and families restored to wholeness. This is the only measurement that matters. (written by Ron Kelley)

DECEMBER 2019

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

## New Faces...

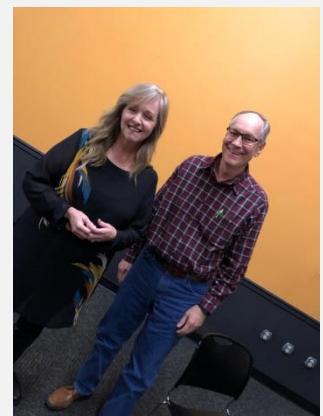
Hello everyone! My name is Selena Coomer and I am the new Assistant Director for The Prisoner's Hope Ministry. I may be new to y'all but I am not new to Tiffany and Darryll



as I am Tiffany's favorite niece! I have had the privilege of seeing their love for one another and The Prisoner's Hope ministry start from the ground up. As a small child I suffered many traumatic events and they left me with a hole so big, that everything I tried to fill it with, only made it bigger! Finally at the age of 28 God brought me to the end of me and taught me how to use all my life experiences to help others around me suffering as well. God turned my mess into his message and filled the hole in my soul. I obtained my GED and began working for The Healing Place meeting people from all over the world. After ten years, I decided I wanted to be a nurse and entered nursing school. Despite a couple of setbacks, I tried harder but the harder I tried, the more powerless I seemed to be. I completed the training and spent last summer at a hospital

only to find out I absolutely hate it. I was stuck and had no clue what I wanted to do. Things took a new road when I realized I was disconnected from the power source. I asked God what He wanted me to do and boom! He led me to The Prisoner's Hope. I looked back to a time in my life where God asked me to follow Him; I refused and was left spiritually, emotionally and physically bankrupt. I knew I did not want to go that route again. So I said, "yes" to Jesus and now I get to help beautifully, broken people at their own crossroad say their own "yes" to Jesus, and love them where they are no matter what it looks like!

I was blessed to get here just in time to help host the annual mentor training facilitated by seasoned veterans in prison ministry, Jan Freibert and Bill Filiatreau. I learned that TPH has almost 90 volunteers and is in desperate need of a volunteer coordinator so I have stepped into that role as well. Going forward to 2020, I'd like to see the mentors gather once a month for an ongoing mentor training. I have learned it is impossible to pour into someone's life if your vessel is empty so we want to help keep those vessels full. Also, it will be a place to share struggles with those who may have experienced a similar challenge. I feel extremely blessed to be able to do what I love with whom I love and wake up every day ready to fight for something that God and I both are particularly passionate about! I look forward in helping Darryll get The Prisoner's Hope where he envisions it and hope to be the change I wish to see in the world!



## Breakfast for Hope

On December 4, we held our first annual Breakfast for Hope at the beautiful Twy House in Plainview. With a limited number of seats for purchase, we sold out and raised over \$20,000 for the work of the ministry. Guests included Jeffersontown Mayor Bill Dieruff, Whitney Meadows from Senator Ron Paul's office and Pastor Matt Reagan from Southeast Christian. With catering services provided by ladies from The Healing Place and sponsors Heine Brothers and Chick-fil-A, everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast before hearing from Founder and Executive Director Darryll Davis. The highlight of the short 45 minute program was the testimony of Carol Edwards and one of our mentors, Jason Tyner. Carol spoke of how The Prisoners Hope mentored her incarcerated son Charlie and her through the difficult times from Charlies arrest and his subsequent sentencing. Jason, as Charlie's mentor, spoke of how his life has been affected as much as Charlie and Carol's by stepping into the role of walking alongside them. Both spoke from their hearts. Tears were shed, and a few light moments, as they unfolded a story of God's grace. Everyone was uplifted and encouraged. The \$5000 vacation generously donated by Paul and Lisa Kellogg was won by happy Phil and Chris Benninger. We look forward to the second annual event in 2020.



## *On The Other Side by David New*

I was born at Langley Air Force Base, VA. A year later, moved to Vine Grove, KY which is where I grew up. My earliest childhood was strained and rocky to say the least. My dad was a heavy drinker and abusive; my mother used prescription meds and was a stay at home mom. I became rebellious at an early age, fighting, back talking and doing whatever I wanted. Around age 7, I had set my only sister in a closet and set it on fire. I was jealous of her and was tired of her telling on me. She's 3 years younger than me. I was the oldest and only son and grandson so my grandparents spoiled me on both sides. My dad's parents had a big farm so I began to stay there a lot which was a totally different atmosphere. They were hardworking Christians and very family oriented as well as my moms' parents were. My sister eventually went to stay. God put a call on my life at an early age and I went through the motions of being saved and baptized. But I never truly was saved. I have 2 daughters 27 and 25 and a son that is 21. I have never been there for them. Started smoking and drinking at 11, by 12 was doing acid and running wild and at 13 I shot a guy by accident (he lived). But I saw the power and fear that came with my new outlaw reputation. At 16, I was involved in a strong armed robbery in South Carolina and was extradited back to KY on burglary 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree and a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault. I ended up at Boys Camp and at 18, turned adult in jail and was walked from juvenile to adult for my birthday. At 19, received my first prison sentence and had my oldest daughter. My drug addiction and criminal activities continued to spiral out of control with no boundaries taking me to the darkest of places. I have been locked up in 4 different states and been to prison 8 times in KY. I have done over 20 years of my life behind bars and walls BUT God...in 2013 I went to a REC (Residents Encounter Christ) at Luther Luckett and was moved by the Spirit of God. I was saved and baptized...the real deal this time. I searched and sought God whole heartedly, daily. It was hard at times but the Holy Spirit got me, though when it came time to go home, I left God at the gate. I thought I had it all under control. By 2015, God was fed up. I was His but could not act accordingly on my own. At the end of my rope in August 2015, God reached down to the pit of hell and pulled me up to solid ground. This began a supernatural period of sanctification in my life that I still can't put into words. (Proverbs 3:5-6) Let's just say, the supernatural became natural and the Spirit world became my everyday life. What was meant for harm by satan, God turned to good. The devil is alive and well and does not want me to serve my Lord and Savior. He comes at me 100 times stronger now than ever. I'm back in prison doing an 18 month deferment for allowing him in after 2 1/2 years clean. I got high and here I sit. But God...has blessed me every single day. I die to self daily because I can't do anything without Him. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all His righteousness and all these things will be added. My name is David New and I am a child of God.



## *A Note of Gratitude from Duane Wilson*

Guys, I'm excited to report that through your selfless generosity, the Strength in Christ Men's Group (SIC Men's Group) was able to partner with The Prisoners Hope Ministry (TPHM) and provide a bountiful quantity of Thanksgiving dinner trimmings for 10 families (over 30 people) that are being ministered to through TPHM. Darryll Davis advised us whole turkeys were already being provided by a church for these families, so we wanted to complete their Thanksgiving dinner with these trimmings (see pic below). It was joy for Rob

Stone and myself to deliver the food on behalf of the SIC Men's Group this morning to TPHM and fellowship with Darryll Davis, and Pat Stinson from the SECC Southwest Campus. We laid hands on this food and asked that the Lord be glorified by these provisions He provided, and that each person and family be touched in a powerful way in Christ's name. Thanks to everyone for their generosity, support and partnership in this blessing.



## *Battle in the Brain by Adam Garrett*

When I entered the room of Recovery, I was met with kindness and acceptance that balanced the broken person I imagined they saw in front of them. I left the meeting with a phrase repeated by many: "don't use no matter what and come back tomorrow". The suggestion to newcomers is to attend meetings for 90 consecutive days. I did this and at the end of 3 months, I gained a lot of insight about my newly examined disease, how my mind worked on long term use, the changes that occur and how to hopeful never return back to the grip of addiction. I learned that using **any** mind altering substance, be it a beer or a joint, would be compromise that eventually would lead me back to my drug of choice...and back on the path to destruction. Mile markers came and went as I accumulated my tokens, symbols of my progress going through what addicts do and knocking down one success after another one day at a time. The newness wore off, the excitement and high of accomplishment faded; I heard "great job!" encouragement from family and support less and less as my clean time became 'normal'. This is where I find 'life' and its terms, not mine. Anxious thoughts return of the past, present and future. Mostly guilt, shame, decisions and choices that were made, excuses, justifications that my disease spoke into my mind. So now I search for an alternative other than drugs to deal with pain and numb it with a new 'high'. This disease was attacking me in all aspects of my being making it the most difficult struggle in my life. It never ceased attacking the already chaotic and confused thought processes running through me physically, spiritual and emotionally. It never seems to let up but finds new ways with trickery, mind games, emotional default to past habits, lies against myself turning me against myself by self-sabotaging my best efforts. Overwhelmed with life's terms—work, bills, priorities, expectations—I met them at the 'Gas Station' with a pocket full of cash. I found myself handing it over to the cashier to pay for snacks, energy drinks, trinkets hanging on displays, knock-off brand sunglasses, bracelets. Whatever shiny item caught my eye along with bags of candy, candy bars and pocket knives; a compulsion that was out of control. I finished it off with cigarettes and dip and a few lottery tickets—at least I wasn't buying drugs. Not one purchase—except for the gas I came for—was a necessity, but everything together could and did feed this addict's thinking and craving to replace the high from drugs. I was doing so well in complying with life's terms in other areas, I convinced myself I deserved these rewards...after all it was my money and it wasn't drugs and I justified the purchases to make them worthy. Soon, I was at a gas station every day and then multiple times a day. In a few months I was spending my hard earned money everywhere I went with no regard of the real price I was

paying, nor did I care. It satisfied a craving for pleasure and control, but now I'm paying my bills and spending the rest of my check on stuff that amounted to nothing. At the end of each pay period, I was broke with nothing to show but feelings of depression, anxiety, failure and a mother asking "What's going on?" My answers were disturbingly similar to her questions when I was an active user. "I've got this, Mom." "I'm handling it," "I've got it under control." "It's not going to happen again." I discovered an area of creativity as every two weeks I invented a new budget plan, every one of which failed due to lack of applying them. Familiar old behavior, thinking and emotions of an addict in denial. I only knew how not to use drugs; addiction is still trying to take my life. I'm an addict again and I can't stop spending money. My first step to recovery: I am powerless over spending and my life has become unmanageable. Part II in next newsletter.



Support Groups:  
502-609-1013

Southeast Christian,  
Thursdays @ 7:15 pm

Northeast Christian,  
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

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See the ways to Donate at:  
[www.theprisonershope.life](http://www.theprisonershope.life)

