

Grant County Sheriff Chaplaincy Department

The Cross and The Badge both save lives

Spring 2020

20 Baptized

Lives Being Transformed

The chaplaincy department is grateful that the Sheriffs department allows us to hold a baptismal service twice a year. On February 27th we baptized 12 men and 8 women. We had several people from the department be present for the baptismal service. After each person was submerged there was clapping and cheering from all who were present.

In talking with one of the inmates who was baptized, he said that this was one of the more meaningful things he has done in life. This young man made a commitment to follow Christ and was encouraged by his Bible study leader to follow the Lord in baptism. This same man is now a part of the Manhood 101 class, Sunday afternoon block Bible Study, and chapel.

In a 2003 study on adult prisoners, Bryon Johnson and David Larson reported that "inmates who were most active in Bible studies were significantly less likely to be rearrested during the follow-up period." This study was done through the InnerChange Freedom Initiative.

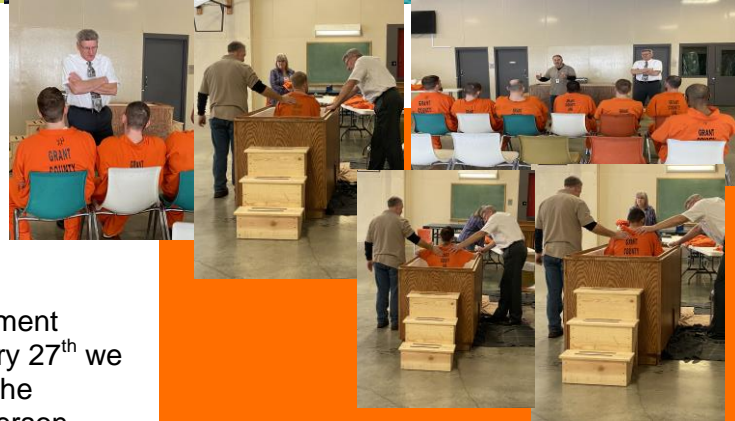
In other words, what happens behind our walls is more than just jail house religion. As one former inmate named Jeremy said, "it is only jail house religion if you do nothing with it once you are released."

We hope you will continue to support our chaplaincy program and its staff through prayer, finances, and volunteering.

Chaplain Tom

**"Baptism is the initial step of a faith heart."
Max Lucado**

**"Baptism is outward expression of an inward faith."
Watchman Nee**



Where your money is spent

\$5 or more buys a Bible

\$20 or more buys needed supplies for our programs.

\$75 or more helps us buy presents for kids at our annual Gifts for Kids program in December.

Others ways you can help...

\$160 you can sponsor a table at our annual fundraising banquet. April 23, 2020.

\$200 or more you can sponsor a team at our annual golf scramble.

Give \$1-\$100 a month to help us continue to invest in changing lives.

A New Program

Healing the Wounded Heart

Back in September of 2019, Chaplain Beth and I went to Wheaton College to be trained by the Healing Heart Institute based in Wheaton Illinois at Wheaton College.

We have been praying for another faith-based program that we could be used with men and women. The material is put together by the American Bible Society and used around the world in prisons, churches, jails, and other faith-based communities.

We started this program back in January 2020 and inmates can come by invitation only. In other words, we look for potential class participants through a one on one counseling opportunity, and we take recommendation from other inmates who are in the class. Each inmate has to be willing to commit to five weeks of intense discussion, role playing, and creative writing/drawing. The material is therapeutic in nature but uses scripture as the base.



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An Inmate's Lament

Heavenly Father, do you not hear me nor answer me when I pray to you? Where are you when I so desperately need you? I know I am not perfect but do you care what happens to me? Have I sinned so great that you would let me be condemned for what I have not done?

Please Lord do not let them do this to me. Put kindness and compassion in their hearts. Give me strength in my time of weakness. My children need me. Do not let them send me away.

I know you love me as much as I love you. I will rejoice when you save me. I will forever be faithful because you have always had love and faith in me.

(Grant County Jail inmate)

(Used with permission)



Update on Manhood 101

We started the Manhood 101 program three years ago. Over this time period we have had nearly 100 men voluntarily come to learn how to become better men. Out of the 100 men, 20 of them completed all 24 weeks of the video series. Of those 20, 9 of them have been released back into the community. Of those 9, **ZERO** has come back to jail or prison over the last three years. That's pretty good! *(The other 11 are in prison or still at the Grant County Jail).*