

GULF COAST PRISON MINISTRIES

OFFICE: P.O. Box 779, Ashville, AL 35953, Phone: 205-594-3458, Cell Phone: 850-974-2907,
EMAIL: gulfcoastprisonministries@reagan.com WEBSITE: www.gulfcoastprisonministries.org

April 2021

Dear Friends,

Our large county jail in Alabama continues to be the only open door our entire team is aware of anywhere in the country. If there are any prison ministries allowed to minister behind bars elsewhere, we "...therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice..." (Phil. 1:18).

But what "...a great door and effectual..." (1 Cor. 16:9) Calhoun County Jail is, and we pray will remain to be until, hopefully, other institutions loosen up (and we are told by those very facilities they will reopen to volunteers soon).

You might recall that this jail in Anniston, AL houses over 500 convicts. It has 11 bullpens that hold an always overflowing 50-60 each, plus a solitary confinement unit with twelve 4-man cells, and a medical infirmary.

I preach in this place 1-2 times every week and also facilitate Prison Bible School which I introduced 5 years ago. Additionally, there are 2 separate women's cell blocks we also preach in during our rotation, which may take up to 3 months to complete, and then we start all over again. By this time, we have a brand new congregation because of an approximate 95% turnover rate...it's truly amazing. None of us have ever seen anything like it in the last 34 years. All of our men travel across several states on a regular basis to help here, and there is plenty to do.

My wonderful wife always accompanies us every time we visit the women's cell blocks, and always has through these many years when we preach to women. She loves it.

Prior to this virus, the staff chaplain at Calhoun had over 20 "religious" volunteers coming in and out at various times of the day and early evening doing whatever they did. But they are all long gone, leaving the whole place to our team. Thank you for sending us (Acts 15:3).

JAIL REPORT: Calhoun County Jail – **63 saved.**

A soldier for Christ,

Dr. Dave Turner,

Director

PRISONER TESTIMONIES:

I've always wondered about God, but never really knew Him or even took it serious until that short preacher came into the lock-up section, preached, and gave us soap and candy bars and this card about God. He filled in the gaps for me, and I'm forever grateful. The Lord left the 99 and found this one lost soul through the preacher that came and talked to us. I'm in here for assault – no lawyer, no bond, no way of making it, no money on my books, and have never received a letter or visit. I have nobody but me. But when that preacher came, he gave me hope and a peace of mind, and I hope this letter reaches his heart like it did mine. I want to take those free courses so I can keep my spirit alive. Thank you so much for being a man of faith. The inmates speak highly of you, and your presence is always welcome.

Larry C.

I'm a prisoner at Calhoun County Jail. You and your husband came on Tuesday and brought Mr. Epps from Tennessee to preach. The service really touched me, and I was very thankful to talk to you at the end. God has really been working on me. I've put all my trust in the Lord Jesus.

I was denied parole, but I know God has me no matter what. I had told you that I had a lot of temptation inside the jail, but I'm God's child now, and those drugs don't even phase me anymore. Please pray for me. I may have been denied parole, but I believe God has a different plan for me.

Thank you for taking time to come.

Ashley W.

I'm writing to you for my first book that Bro. Turner informed me of. I'm so grateful that God has people of His to send us love, truth, and His gospel in the name of Jesus, amen!

Bro. Epps is a wonderful messenger of Christ, and his teaching methods are profound – so, maybe, I can be a servant of God instead of the devil and his world in the name of Jesus. Thank y'all, and have a blessed and wonderful day.

Travian L.

I write to you to tell you why I asked to be prayed for and for asking to be saved this past week after Mr. Epps preached in our cell block. I felt very alone in this world. I know for certain that my Saviour is there and standing beside me. I felt like I needed to ask Him into my life because I've done a lot of wrong things. I needed to feel renewed, and I am.

Can I please also get my first book of the Bible course that you told me to ask for when you prayed with me the last time you were here?

May you be blessed.

Brandi M.