

FALL NEWSLETTER

PYCM #003 PO Box 8875 Redlands, California 92375

Forty Years With One Ministry

Forty years ago in September of 1985, I had just left my position at Faith Home Teen Ranch and was living with my parents. I wanted to minister to troubled youth and needed a ministry to be on staff with.

Billy Hull (a friend of mine) knew of my situation and had attended a Campus Crusade for Christ training in San Bernardino. There, he met Jan Lowe who shared that her husband had just started a ministry for those interested in becoming a chaplain. I hardly knew what a chaplain did but within a few days I was in Orange County being interviewed about coming on staff with Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries.

One of the first things Chaplain Steve told me was, "My wife and I just told the Lord that if he really wants this ministry, then let someone call us who wants to become a chaplain."

I am blessed to be the longest serving staff member with the ministry and am thankful to the Lord that he has allowed me to stay with one ministry for all of my years as a home missionary.



In August, Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries turned forty! Chaplain Steve and Jan decided we needed to celebrate the special anniversary and began planning back in May. I called Ayres Hotels and got a return call from Don Ayres who has been a friend of the ministry for years. He was happy we were holding the celebration in one of his hotels and gave a generous room discount. Our chaplains from Texas and Arizona began making travel plans which the ministry arranged to pay for.

All of us on staff began to pray for Chaplain Steve's health to remain stable so he could enjoy the celebration. Staff members from out of state would need to meet with him and we were concerned about maintaining his energy level.

I was given the task of creating a video presentation of photos to capture what the Lord has done over the past four decades. My photo albums contained a lot of old ministry related pictures that needed to be scanned. Chaplain Steve and Jan also sent me photos from early on in the ministry and the video ended up twelve minutes in length.

It was a hot, humid evening in Orange County as twenty-five staff, volunteers, and ministry friends gathered in one of the banquet rooms. Chaplain Steve was able to provide the leadership required and the Lord was honored. I will be creating another video of the highlights for you to enjoy.

Birthday Verse

“I need to know your birthdays,” said Cary one Monday at bible study. I had attended bible study in my unit for four months and was told that Cary would use our birth dates to figure out what verse relates best to us. He used the month of my birth to select a chapter and the day to select the verse. The next week Cary handed each of us a sheet with our special birthday verse on it.

We were told not to read the scripture printed on the sheet until we were back in our room later that evening. So I brought it to my room and laid it on my bed for later. As soon as I entered the room at 8:30 pm, I took the sheet and saw Cary had selected a verse from the Book of Joel. The Book of Joel was unfamiliar to me and I didn't know where to find it in my bible. Once there, I saw it only had three chapters so I read the entire book three times.

I noticed that a big part of Joel's message was about locust invading the land of Judah. That is what my life had felt like prior to my arrest. Something was attacking my life!

The verse that Cary chose for me said, “Do not be afraid land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the Lord has done great things.” Immediately after reading this verse, my mind went back to the night I was taken into custody without a chance to say goodbye to my mom. As soon as I entered my room in the intake unit, I began to process my situation and pray. God began to show me that this was part of his plan for my life.

The verse in Joel helped me see that God was going to do great things in my life too. He brought me to Juvenile Hall to get closer to him and stop me from doing wrong things. Just as the Lord made a promise to restore the land of Judah, he is also going to restore my life.

My goals are to continue attending church and bible study and to get to know the Bible better.

Evan - Juvenile Hall

Chaplain Tim's Book

The night I was arrested was a normal one. I was with some friends waiting to get loaded when my dad called saying that I needed to get home. I told him that I would leave soon but was lying. Shortly afterwards, I found myself in the back of a police car. Now I wish I would have listened. I found out later that my parents drove around that night looking for me.

When I got to my room in the intake unit at Juvenile Hall, there were two books left there by the previous occupant. One was called, “20 Life Questions” by Chaplain Tim and to me it looked like a normal book. I laid down and thought how worried my family must be and felt like I had lost everything. I was in a dark place but then the next day after breakfast, I started reading Chaplain Tim's book. Suddenly, I realized it was a Christian one and the scriptures got me thinking. No other book could have gotten my mind off of my situation like this one did. Part of the way through the book it says, “If this is your first time asking God for his gift of salvation, please turn to page 174.” So I turned there and read about how to become a child of God.

Even though the rooms in the intake unit are cold, I began to feel a warm feeling inside of me. It felt like a hug, a feeling I never had before. I don't normally cry but couldn't hold back the tears even though I tried. The salvation prayer was at the end of the page and I started praying it to God. Later on I learned the Holy Spirit was the one present in the room that day helping me meet the Lord.

One day I was reading another Christian book (The Shot Caller) where the person was in prison and asked to talk to the chaplain. A minute later my door popped open and the staff asked if I wanted to meet with a chaplain so I took that as a sign. Going to church and bible study weekly has helped and I appreciate the PCM volunteers strengthening my faith. I also meet weekly with Chaplain Rick for discipleship.

Kaden - Juvenile Hall



One of my goals each year is to have a movie night. This year the Catholic Ministry agreed to combine and hold an extended bible study on August 20th. The movie selected was called, “Breakthrough” and is a true story of an adopted son in Cincinnati who died in an accident and then came back to life. The story captivated the attention of the youth and had the staff crying too. Staff support was great and all but two youth in the facility attended.