

**Isaiah 61:1**

**March 2017**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Sylmar Juvenile Facility	1
Meeting your board members	2
One year	2
One year (con't)	3
Ministry Updates	4



## **MINISTRIES**

*I was naked and  
you clothed Me;  
I was sick and  
you visited Me;  
I was in prison  
and you came to  
Me.*  
**Matthew 25:36**

## **10 YEARS AT SYLMAR JUVENILE FACILITY**

There is always talk about the adult prison ministry work we are busy doing, but did you know that JITK works in juvenile facilities at well? 2017 marks 10 years of participation at Sylmar Juvenile Hall, specifically with helping support their Thanksgiving program. This program intends to share Christ's love with these young people, with encouragement, fellowship, and support.

Planned for the week of thanksgiving, these kids are reminded that people care; many of them don't have family or parents visiting them, and the holidays can be a harsh reminder of this.

Recently, I spoke with Challis Baker of Separated for Christ Ministries, whom we partner with for the

Thanksgiving program. Her ministry began in 2004, as an outreach on the streets of Los Angeles. In 2007 they were able to enter the juvenile center for the first thanksgiving outreach, and have since added a 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ and an Easter outdoor program as well. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ allows for more time of fellowship and outdoor activities.

When asked why she feels this is important or impactful, Challis said "It boosts their hope, and they see that they are important. They don't feel cast aside, or left out. It's meeting them where they are, like Christ does for all of us."

The day is filled with food, fellowship, and fun. Catering is brought in with all

different types of food and dessert, card games and board games to have some fun, and many volunteers to just spend time with the kids and talk and pray with them.

Galo, a board member from JITK, has participated in this since it started 10 years ago, and sees the impact it makes on these kids. Because of Galo's background in the adult corrections system, he is given the opportunity to go inside what is called the compound. It's a gated area, separate from the other units, which houses the young men there for harsher crimes. There they provide them with a meal, fellowship, and even stay and play sports with them. Ga-

lo feels very strongly about this ministry, and donates a lot of time and resources to it.

So how can you help and get involved in this ministry? \$400 would sponsor one unit for the thanksgiving program; this includes all the food provided, games or activities (that are donated to the facility at the end of the event), and even decorations such as plates and tablecloths with the thanksgiving theme.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ, approximately \$650 will feed all 250 people in attendance, to include the staff of the facility!

This is a powerful way to touch troubled youth, by showing them God's love and hope, before they enter their adult years, and live a long life of incarceration and brokenness.

## Meet your board members

Galo Medina joined the board of directors in 2014. He has been married to his wife Robyn for 16 years, and they have 3 children.

Galo is a business man, starting his career as a financial planner. He now goes into MCJ on as one of the chaplain to the higher power unit, as well as focusing on ongoing relationships and follow up with inmates he deals with. One example of this is the relationship built with Mauricio (shown in picture), who is on death row in San Quentin; Galo takes times and regularly visits Mauricio to continue the impact JITK has had in his life. Galo is also heavily involved in the Sylmar Juvenile Hall events mentioned on the previous page.



Galo Medina, Mauricio, and Greg in San Quentin visiting

## One year

The following was written and shared by Allison Welsh, wife of 35 years to Ed Welsh.

It has been a year since my husband died, and it's been over three years since he was diagnosed and given only 6 months to a year to live. After his initial diagnosis we began to live with a purpose. Yes, our lives had purpose before cancer, we served where our passions were,

and spent time with our family; after his diagnosis, this purpose came with more passion. We served with a fire in our hearts, we spent quality time with our family, and we lived each day like the next day wasn't promised, because it wasn't. With this 'expiration date' looming over our heads, our entire family transformed and began to walk differently, to live differently; nothing was left unsaid or undone. But the person that was most different was my husband Eddie. He was sick and tired from chemotherapy and radiation, yet he spent many evenings in the prison. If he caught even a common cold or sickness, it could possibly carry fatal consequences for him, yet he was in the LA county jail many times a week. He carried on

with his ministry because he knew that time was short, but there was still work to be done. There was an urgency to tell the inmates about Jesus and His life changing salvation. During the last week of his life, Ed's ministry was heavy on his mind and his heart. He was weak and tired, yet he wanted to ensure that the ministry, Jesus is the Key, was set up to carry on, that JITK had the right people in the right places, to continue God's work in the jails and the prisons. Ed's pastor came over and Ed was very restless; he was trying to convey a message that it wasn't about the church, or denomination, or the people, but that it was all about Jesus! Ed passionately and adamantly stressed the importance of making Jesus Christ the center of it all, and getting that message out to all. The evening before he died, a member from the

board came to visit him at home and talk. After he left, Ed said that everything was taken care of, that he knew it was all going to be okay, and he had a peace about it. Ed's heart has always been for the inmates. He knew them well; he knew that only HE could change their lives forever. Ed knew how to reach them, and they couldn't pull anything over on him either. Eddie knew that one day over 85% of all the inmates would get out of jail/prison and that they needed hope for a new life, a changed life. Eddie wanted to share that hope with the inmates; that same hope that had transformed his own life from criminal to redeemed. Eddie knew he was dying and read several books about Heaven and eternity. He even did a church wide Bible study, "Behold, Your God", not thinking he was going to be able to finish it before he



## One year (Continued from page 2)

died. All of these caused Ed to have an excitement to go and see his Savior face to face. His excitement manifested itself with strength and renewed energy as he shared the Gospel with the inmates and others. He would come home from the prison or jail absolutely physically exhausted, yet spiritually he had the peace that comes from God alone; the smile on his face after going into one of the jails or prisons was contagious. Simply put, Ed was on fire

for Jesus! As a family, we were concerned. His body was fading, it was tired... doctors didn't give him much time, and we were worried about him doing too much. Often times we would think of discouraging him going into the jail or prison. We would think about the enclosed area, and all the sickness in there; we thought about how tired he would be after all the walking and talking. But

each time he went and came home, we knew why we didn't discourage him from going. He was busy with his Father's work! He knew that in the time he had left, God had a purpose and a plan for him, and he was busy with it. In those last years and months of his life, my husband was a huge example to me and others. Ed was an example of grace, mercy, and compassion; Ed was an example of personal sacrifice. Ed

could have sat at home, and spent his last days in comfort, in peace... Instead, Ed made the choice to follow God's calling, and finish his race strong. If he were here today, Ed would encourage you to find what God is calling you to do, and to get out and do it!

**Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them....**

**-Romans 12:6a**



Street ministry in Russia  
over 20 years ago



Gang Member in a  
prison in Honduras



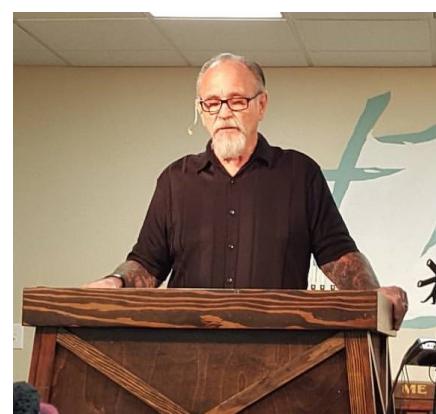
Praying with church members  
after giving a service



Speaking in the chapel at Los  
Angeles county jail



Street ministering to youth  
In Germany



Speaking at a local Southern  
California Calvary Chapel

## Ministry Updates and Pray Requests

We have been busy! Looking back at 2016, we had many changes happening within the ministry. Volunteers moved on, new volunteers joined us, we lost Ed, we gained his two children on the board of directors, and so much more.

We got the opportunity to participate in Angel Tree (Prison Fellowship ministry) for the first time in many years. The Welsh family partnered with us, and did it in memory of Ed. In all, we were able to bless over 150 children in various states and regions. In December, the Welsh family attended an Angel Tree party and they were able to be there to present the children with their gifts. It was a huge blessing to all! Please pray for these children, that they continue to feel God's outpouring of love. Also look for more information later in the year about the 2017 Angel Tree campaign.

Our two sponsored inmates

at CIM started Bible college! With funds donated JITK was able to pay their tuition fees, book and material fees, and buy them CD players they will need to listen to their lessons. We look forward to hearing from them on how it is going.

Our mothers day concert was approved for the women's prison! We will go in on May 13th, taking in 27 volunteers. This includes board members, team members for the monthly services, musicians and vocalists. This is an opportunity to share Jesus with over 1900 women inmates! Please, join us in praying that all gate clearances coming through on time.

Through donations and your generosity, we were able to supply Christmas trees and decorations for a party at CIW. In addition, JITK along with other

volunteer groups donated enough toys for inmates to give gifts to their children that visited on Christmas eve and day.

Pray for the Sylmar juvenile hall ministry. Pray for the youth that come in contact with us, and that the needs be met for continuing on with the programs we are able to participate in for the 4th of July as well as the Thanksgiving day event.

Through your donations, we were able to help buy a new large television for a unit in the men's prison. This is used by our volunteers, to show videos and presentations during their messages.

Pray for Mauricio, currently on death row in San Quentin. While that carries struggles of its own, Mauricio firmly believes in the ministry God has called him to do there,

witnessing to other inmates. He is eager to learn more about Jesus Christ through materials we can provide him, using them as instruments to witness and help others. While his days on earth may be numbered, he looks forward to the day he enters paradise with his Lord and savior.

**In 2016, JITK purchased and distributed over 1600 Bibles to men and women in jails and prisons. We handed out 1200 Daily Breads and over 1800 Guideposts. We purchased and distributed over 400 books, in both English in Spanish, to include commentaries, study books, and other Christian reading material. We also distributed hundreds of tracts, and donated 50 copies of a 30 week in depth discipleship study used in smaller intimate core study groups.**

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Jesus is the Key Ministries is a nonprofit corporation, and is sustained and fueled solely by our donors. Please pray and consider becoming a donor to help assist and further Gods work within the jail and prison system. Below is an example of what your funds could assist and accomplish within the ministry, whether on a one time basis, or as a monthly supporter.

**\$50 = 50 copies of "My Heart, Christ's Home"**  
**\$100 = 1 case of 48 New Testament Bibles**  
**\$380 = 160 Spanish New Testament Bibles**  
**\$400 = 4 cases of 48 New Testament Bibles**  
**\$600 = 1 case of 48 New Believers Bibles**

### Tax Deductible Donations

Should be made out to:  
Jesus is the Key Ministries  
13089 Peyton Ave, Suite C-195  
Chino Hills, California 91709  
501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation

(909)519-2216