

Bible Society of Maine

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Our Mission: To Place the Word of God into Hands, Minds and Hearts

FALL 2019

“Hope for the Hopeless” “Light in the Darkness” God’s Word Shines in Jail

by Rev. Jim Duran
Executive Director

As another Bible study session at the Cumberland County Jail concludes, many male inmates stand and make their way over to me with hands extended expressing their appreciation for the visit.

It has become one of the most rewarding moments of our ministry - to make eye contact, share a hand-shake and, often, a smile before the men head back to their cells.

Sharing Life

Over the past four years, once a week for an hour, we have had the privilege to share the life-giving truth found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Each week, typically, 12-18 men attend our study. Some bring Bibles with them, some have never owned or opened one. For sixty minutes they place themselves, knowingly or unknowingly, in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that knows them intimately - like no other.

We open with their Prayer Requests which can be heartbreaking...

• “For my newborn son and his mother who is on drugs.”

- “For my family members, that they will be able to forgive me for making such a mess of my life, and theirs.”
- “That I can find a rehab that can help me out of addiction once I get out of here.”
- “For all us guys in here who need to trust God to help us in life.”
- “For my mom who is dying.”



This time praying together may be the few times that the men get REAL with what is on their minds.

(They spend about 21 hours a day in room/cell.)

After praying, we look to the promises in God’s Word for hope in the days to come. One of our favorite parables is of the Sower. (Mark 4). This parable helps them to evaluate the condition of their hearts (soil) and to begin to understand what God desires for their life, beyond their present situation.

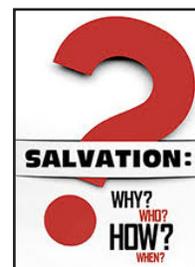
These teachings and others have brought countless men to commit (or recommit) their lives to Jesus Christ. The Spirit has drawn them to the Cross and revealed the depth of God’s love and purpose for their lives.

Jail Ministry: “Free on the Inside”

When people hear about ministry to

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Word in Action



Gospel tracts contain the Word of God, and are like living seed. When planted in a person’s heart, God can use that seed to create new life—eternal life.

We utilize such tracts at the Cumberland County Jail. Men and women spend 21 hours a day in their cells/confined rooms, alone with their thoughts. Reading becomes a past time and a lifeline and gospel tracts are very popular. In fact, beyond our weekly visit for Bible study these resources many take back to their rooms and ponder.

How About You?

Any believer can overcome the fear of sharing their faith by using gospel tracts, because these resources clearly, concisely, and effectively tell of man’s sin and God’s salvation.

Perhaps you’ve felt convicted to share the Good News, but you can’t get past your fear.

Don’t let the fear of failure hold you back from obeying God. The only thing God cannot use is our silence.

One of the many excellent sources of gospel tracts is cbd.com which is the website for Christian Book Distributors.

We encourage our readers to consider using these valuable “seeds” in the lives of those around you. •••

A New ADVENTURE!!

Lancaster Show Trip, Dutch Country and Much More

5 Days & 4 Nights

Monday, April 27 thru Friday, May 1, 2020

\$585 per person, based on double occupancy

- Motorcoach transportation
 - 4 nights lodging
 - 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Admission to the QUEEN ESTHER Show at the Sight & Sound® Millennium Theatre®
 - GETTYSBURG NATIONAL PARK
 - GUIDED TOUR OF PHILADELPHIA
- Visit to charming KITCHEN KETTLE VILLAGE
 - GUIDED TOUR OF LANCASTER
- Visit to Hershey's Chocolate World in Hershey, PA
- For more pictures, video and information visit:

www.GroupTrips.com/BibleSocietyofMaine

Departing from and returning to First Baptist Church, (parking lot) 360 Canco Rd., Portland.

Contact Jim at Bible Society to reserve your seat!

207-712-0282



HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS,

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the incarcerated they may think, "Yes, THEY really need it." But, the truth is that we all need healing.

The men and women at Cumberland County Jail are confined but God's outpouring of love and power is not. For some, these days can birth a NEW BEGINNING. They can truly experience what God's Word promises in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

The Bible Society of Maine is committed to being a part of what God desires to do at Cumberland County Jail, and beyond. If God is impressing upon you to join us in this mission, please contact us. We can provide training and resources for this vital Kingdom work. •••



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Come With Us in Spring 2020!
See Trip Details Above!