

YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Currently ministering throughout Pennsylvania.



Helping at-risk youth, inmates, and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.



Carl Geissinger, Executive Director
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Dear YPM Supporters and Volunteers,



We continue to thank God for each of you, our many Yokefellows, for your prayers, financial support and faithful commitment to the YPM Ministry in 2020.

Our Ministry experienced a deep lose this year with the sudden passing of a dear board member; Pam Rodkey, a Director at Large, went

home to be with the Lord. Pam made significant contributions while serving on the board and will be deeply missed.

We added two new board members in 2020: Charity Sampsell and Freddie Nole. Both are returned citizens and their experience as such has greatly enhanced our understanding of the needs of inmates both during incarceration and once they are released.

The Covid-19 pandemic affected a number of our volunteers and we lost several wonderful people who dedicated many years to the ministry. Through it all, Romans 8:28 continued to give us hope because the Good News is that God continued to lead us and much was accomplished despite this unprecedented health challenge. We were taken in new directions as we developed our understanding of technology. A promotional video as well as videos of all our 2020 Annual Conference speakers were created and then made available on line for all to view. Our Annual Membership Meeting, still took place with delegates having the option of attending in-person or via the internet.

As our ministries inside the prisons were necessarily paused, we began making re-entry and aftercare focal points of the ministry. With the inclusion of returning citizens on our board we have gained a deeper perspective in both areas. God continues to lead us in that effort as we seek to work more closely with churches to partner with us. Despite our losses, God continues to provide!

In our monthly meetings, the board drafted by-law changes on the Resignation and Dismissal of Board Members as well as created a Board Chair Review and Periodic Planning Conference, which better defines the role of the Board Chair and subsequent expectations. We also adopted Pen Pal Policies and launched our quarterly newsletter for volunteers and supporters.

The YPM Statement of Faith remains a cornerstone of the Ministry. Accordingly, the Board took steps to fortify it by adding Scripture references to define ministry principles and instruct volunteers on how they are expected to conduct themselves (see page 8). Further, the Board adopted policies that Board Members as well as faith-based partners must be in 100% agreement with the Statement of Faith. The updated Statement of Faith also makes our positions very clear when interviewing prospective volunteers or conducting assessments of existing personnel.

We are excited to begin 2021 with all positions on the board filled. With the details regarding in-person ministry still unclear, we continue to seek God's direction on re-entry and aftercare and thank you in advance for your continued prayer support as we seek to change lives as only Jesus can!

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tom Psomas". A long, thin arrow points from the end of the signature down and to the left towards the typed name below.

Tom Psomas,
Chair YPM Inc Board of Directors
July 2019 through Nov 9, 2020

Note: Tom chose not to seek re-election to the board after his term expired. Tom's service and skilled leadership was greatly appreciated. David Lewis who has served on the board as the SE Regional Chair was then elected board chair for a three-year term at the November 9th Annual Membership Meeting.



YPM – OLD WINESKINS OR NEW WINESKINS?

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”

Mark 2:21-22.

The year 2020 brought many challenges as prison doors were closed to volunteers since mid-March. In times like this it was important to focus on what we could do, not what we couldn't do.

“IN PRISON” MINISTRY - We prayed for the inmates and staff in prison at this difficult time. We sought God's face as we refocus this ministry. Some volunteers have been ministering to inmates by sending in study notes or videos to chaplains. And we encouraged all of our volunteers to use their time in whatever way to become more effective in their ministries. I also met with Area Council leaders via Zoom to help them grow in their role of leadership, strengthen the ties between Area Councils, and familiarize them with our many YPM resources.

REENTRY MINISTRY– “In-prison” ministry has been YPM's primary focus for many years but we had recently begun to focus also on reentry. In fact, our 2020 Annual Conference was entitled “Effective Ministry Inside and Out,” and we had dynamic speakers and workshops lined up to help us get there. So with prison doors shut we had even more time and energy to focus on aftercare, helping those about to be released and recently released from prison. back into society. So much of our energy between March and the end of the year was focused on working with and learning from returning citizens. One Area Council started weekly small group conference calls, “Yokefellows on the Outside,” with returning citizens who do not have access to computers and they are encouraging other Area Councils and volunteers to do the same.

Also, we were blessed in this area when two returning citizens who have successfully transitioned back into society, Freddie Nole and Charity Sampsell, joined our board of directors in November. Both jumped in and hit the ground running, spurring us on and helping us to reimagine our reentry approach and goals.

NEW WINESKINS - A friend of mine once said, “blessed are the flexible, for they will not be bent out of shape.” In times like this we are learning to be flexible. We want to be like new wineskins that can stretch to allow the fermentation of the wine. We refuse to be like the old wineskins that are too brittle and have no room for the fermentation of the Spirit. So, in this unplanned sabbatical year we have taken time to listen to the Spirit of God and trust him to shape new wineskins for effective ministry for years to come.

MAJOR STEP FORWARD – Another positive outcome of the 2020 Covid-19 restrictions was that it forced us to grow “virtually”. Like many other organizations that annually hold large gatherings we cancelled our annual conference which was scheduled for the first weekend in October. In its stead, we videoed all of our speakers and workshop leaders and made the videos available on youTube and on our website. We then encouraged Area Councils to meet locally to view and discuss the videos. While the large fellowship was not there, many small fellowships were. And these high-quality videos will be a resource for years to come. You can view the videos on youTube or on our website.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Geissinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ABOUT YPM



YPM's mission is to "help at-risk youth, inmates, and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives." YPM is a 501c3 umbrella organization with local Area Council (AC) affiliates. A governing board of directors, elected by representatives from areas served, provides direction and oversight to the growing ministry. In 2020 there were 15 Area Councils serving throughout PA. Each AC has its own governing body; recruits, trains, and assigns volunteers; has its own treasury and budget; and is asked to contribute 25% of its net income to the parent overarching ministry. Through these ACs, hundreds of volunteers are entering nearly half of the county, state, and federal adult correctional institutions in PA.

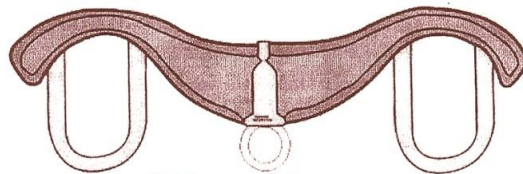
YPM grew out of a fellowship movement started in 1955 by Dr. Elton Trueblood (1900-1994), a renowned author, speaker, and theologian. Trueblood believed being a Christian was synonymous to being yoked with Christ (MATTHEW 11:28-30) and that we need to heed the call of PHILIPPIANS 4:3 to help others, "Yes, *I ask you loyal yokefellow....*". Regarding incarceration, Trueblood stated, "*Separation from the world for a while is justified if new life emerges.*"



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." MATTHEW 11:28-30

YPM focuses on **small group discussions** for spiritual and personal growth through learning and practicing Bible-based disciplines. The result is the changed lives of those we serve as well as our own. The following selected attributes of discipleship are highly valued and taught as "marks" of a Yokefellow:

- **Commitment** - Hearing Christ's call "Come to me" a Yokefellow knows his answer gives a center of stability in life as he or she also joins Christ in lifting the burdens of others.
- **Discipline** - A Yokefellow voluntarily accepts:
 - **Discipline of Prayer** - pray daily.
 - **Discipline of Scripture** - read reverently and thoughtfully a portion of Scripture daily, following a definite plan.
 - **The Discipline of Worship** - to share, at least weekly, in the public worship of God.
 - **Discipline of Money** - give a definite portion of my income to the promotion of Christ's cause and as an act of worship.
 - **Discipline of Time** - use my time as a sacred gift, not to be wasted, striving to make my daily work, whatever it may be, a Christian vocation.
 - **Discipline of Service** - daily lift some human burden.
 - **Discipline of Study** - develop mental powers by careful reading and study.
- **Witness** - A Yokefellow is one who knows that faith in Christ is not a private affair; to be kept it must be shared.
- **Ministry** - A Yokefellow is one who participates in the universal ministry. The New Testament is clear; all are called and all are recruits in Christ's cause (Ephesians 4:1).
- **Fellowship** - It is impossible to be a Christian in isolation. A Yokefellow finds or produces a redemptive Christian fellowship.



***"Take my yoke upon
you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls, For
my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***
-Jesus Matthew 11:28-30

YPM BOARD OF DIRECTORS (AS OF 12/31/20)

CHAIR (2023)

David Lewis
Lehigh Valley AC

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2022)

Virginia Smith
Harrisburg Area AC

NE RAC CHAIR (2020)

Sandy Nelson
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC

VICE-CHAIR (2022)

David Kurtz
Central PA AC

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2022)

Charity Sampsell
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC

SE RAC CHAIR (2020)

David Lewis
Delaware Valley AC

SECRETARY (2021)

Sue Wiseman
Three Rivers AC

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2021)

Curvin Weaver
Berks County AC

SC RAC CHAIR (2020)

David Bowen
Central PA AC

TREASURER (2021)

Sue Wiseman
Three Rivers AC

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2023)

Freddie Nole
Delaware Valley AC

NW & SW RAC CHAIR (2020),

David Manos
NC PA AC

The YPM Board of Directors usually meets via phone conference call the first Monday monthly at 8 PM.

YPM STAFF



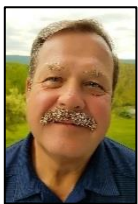
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carl Geissinger
570-765-3923
info@yokefellowship.net



SE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

William Jones
610-755-2312



SC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Mike Knott
814-669-4125



NW/SW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

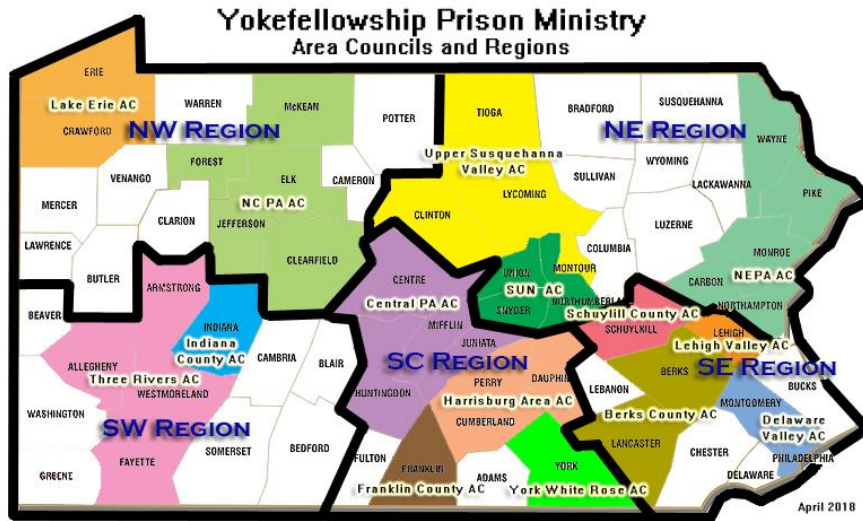
Sean Atkinson
724-672-0545
*Carl Geissinger 1/1-5/15



NE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Nessie Whaley
570-326-6868

AREA COUNCILS AND REGIONS



NW REGION

LAKE ERIE AC

c/o Carol Battin
533 LeBoeuf Trail Road
Titusville, PA 16354
Council Directors & Co-Chairs –
Carol Battin & Mary Miller

NC PA AC

PO Box 1081
Clearfield PA 16830-5081
Chair & Council Director –
David Manos

SW REGION

INDIANA COUNTY AREA AC

c/o Sean Atkinson
13 Depot St
Penn, PA 15675
Chair & Council Director –
Sean Atkinson

THREE RIVERS AC

c/o New Stanton Assembly of God
117 Assembly of God Lane
New Stanton, PA 15672-9402
Chair & Council Director –
Sue Wiseman

SC REGION

CENTRAL PA AC

c/o David Bowen
601 13th St
Huntingdon, PA 16652
Chair – Keith Nolt
Council Director – David Bowen

FRANKLIN COUNTY AC

c/o Roy Fahnestock
2488 McDowell Rd
St Thomas, PA 17252
Chair – Hans Lehman
Council Director – Roy Fahnestock

HARRISBURG AREA AC

PO Box 206
Middletown, PA 17057
Council Director – Don Clouser
Vice Chairs – Rev Doris Crater

YORK WHITE ROSE AC

c/o Keith Boyer
4401 Green Valley Rd
Seven Valleys, PA 17360
Chair & Council Director –
Keith Boyer

NE REGION

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA AC

1200 Almond St
Williamsport PA 17701-2574
Chair - Jack Schrader, III
Council Director - Danesta Whaley

SUN AC

c/o Stanley Bullard
1410 Strawbridge Rd
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Chair - Stanley Bullard
Council Director – John Traver

NE PA AC

c/o Loretta Oswald
2654 Community Dr
Bath, PA 18014-9205
Chair – Glen Claypoole
Council Director – Loretta Oswald

SE REGION

BERKS COUNTY AC

c/o Curvin Weaver
518 Albert Dr
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Chair - Pat Antosy
Council Director – Curvin Weaver

DELAWARE VALLEY AC

PO Box 86
Eagleville, PA 19508
Council Director – James Atkins
Chair – Fred Noles

LEHIGH VALLEY AC

PO Box 3114
Wescosville, PA 18106-0114
Chair – Tom Panariello
Council Director –
Mike Hagen

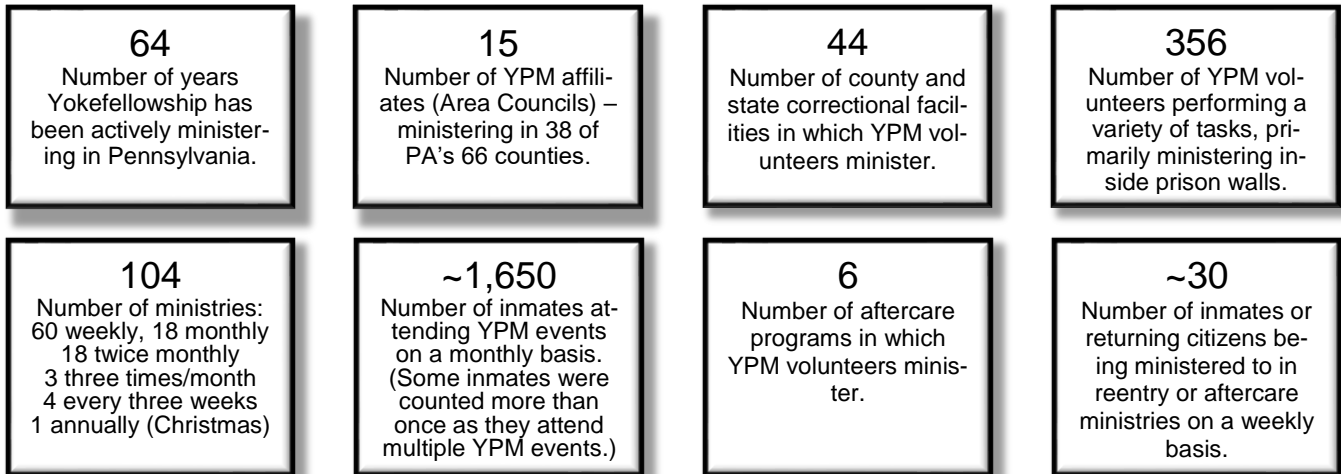
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AC

PO Box 141
Pottsville, PA 17901-0141
Chair – Bernie Bowman
Council Director –Cliff Balson

As of 12/31/20

DUE TO COVID-19 THE DOORS TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND AFTERCARE PROGRAMS WERE CLOSED AFTER MARCH 15.

MINISTRY STATISTICS AS OF MARCH 2020



INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH YPM SERVED UNTIL MARCH 15, 2020

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>PA STATE INSTITUTIONS (15/26) Benner Township Cambridge Springs Camp Hill Coal Township Fayette Forest Frackville Houtzdale Huntingdon Mahanoy Muncy Pine Grove Phoenix Rockview Smithfield</p> | <p>PA COUNTY INSTITUTIONS (29/65) Armstrong County Jail Berks County Jail System Carbon County Correctional Facility Centre County Correctional Facility Chester County Prison Clearfield County Prison Clinton County Correctional Facility Dauphin County Prison Elk County Prison Franklin County Jail Indiana County Prison Lehigh County Jail Lehigh County Community Corrections Lycoming County Prison & Pre-Release Mifflin County Correctional Facility Montgomery County Prison Northampton County Jail Northumberland County Jail Perry County Prison Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center Philadelphia Riverside Correctional Center Pike County Prison Schuylkill County Prison Snyder County Prison Tioga County Prison Union County Prison Wayne County Jail Westmoreland County Prison York County Prison</p> | <p>YOKEFELLOWSHIP AFTERCARE (6) Lehigh County Center for Recovery Mifflin County, New Life Church, Burnham New Person Ministries, Berks County Stepping Stones to Freedom, Mifflin County Transitional Living Center, Lycoming County York County @Life Beacon Foundation</p> |
|---|---|--|

FINANCIAL REPORT

YPM Financial Report January - December 2020

INCOME

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| AC Support | | |
| Berks County | | \$300 |
| Central PA | | \$3,500 |
| Delaware Valley | | \$500 |
| Franklin County | | \$2,000 |
| Harrisburg Area | | \$1,400 |
| Indiana Area | | 0 |
| Lake Erie | | \$100 |
| Lehigh Valley | | \$1,031 |
| North Central PA | | \$3,000 |
| North Eastern PA | | \$250 |
| Schuylkill County | | \$200 |
| SUN Area | | \$1,384 |
| Three Rivers | | \$1,250 |
| Upper Susquehanna Valley | | \$1,320 |
| York White Rose | | \$185 |
| Total AC Support | | \$16,419 |
| Direct Donations from AC Area | | \$13,981 |
| Donations - Other | | \$160 |
| Grants | | \$64 |
| Interest/Inv Inc | | \$1,249 |
| Misc Income | | \$28 |
| Program Income | | |
| Annual Conference (Special Appeal) | \$1,650 | |
| Total Program Income | | \$1,650 |
| Total Income | | \$33,551 |

EXPENSE

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Contract Services | | \$225 |
| Fees | | \$1 |
| Operations | | |
| Postage, Mailing Service | \$290 | |
| Printing and Copying | \$455 | |
| Rent & Utilities | \$1,200 | |
| Supplies | \$110 | |
| Website, Technology | \$202 | |
| Total Operations | | \$2,257 |
| Payroll Expenses | | \$34,193 |
| Program Expenses | | |
| Covenant Meals | \$113 | |
| Travel and Meetings | \$524 | |
| Volunteer Expenses | \$0 | |
| YPM Annual Conference | \$1,120 | |
| Total Program Expenses | | \$1,757 |
| Scholarships | | \$200 |
| Total Expense | | \$38,632 |
| NET INCOME | | (\$5,081) |

We In Yokefellowship Prison Ministry Believe:

- **God** - There is one eternal, almighty, and perfect God in essence, revealed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are faithful to the biblical revelation that in one sense God is one and in a different sense He is three. *Deut 6:4, Matt 3:16-17, Matt 28:19*
- **Jesus Christ** - Jesus Christ is true God and true Man, born of a virgin, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and will return in glory and power. *Matt 1:20, Matt 16:27, Rom 1:3-4*
- **The Holy Spirit** - When a person becomes born again, by believing and receiving Jesus Christ, God resides in that person through the Holy Spirit. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit. *Gen 1:26, Acts 2:28, 1 Cor 3:16*
- **The Word** - The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God given through the Holy Spirit for the purpose of teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. *2 Tim 3:16-17, Heb 4:12-13, 2 Pet 1:20-21*
- **The Fall** - God created mankind in His own image, but through the fall in the Garden of Eden man was removed from the Garden and separated from God. Thus, we are all sinners and cannot earn God's favor on our own. *Gen 3, Rom 3:23*
- **The Plan** – God's original plan to give mankind eternal life was rejected by Adam and Eve. In God's redemptive plan, man is rescued from death by the priceless shed blood of Jesus Christ. His atoning death on the cross ended the separation for all those who come to Him. *Rom 4:23-25, Eph 2:8, 1 Pet 3:18*
- **The Way** – Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through Him. Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved. *John 14:6, John 20:31, Acts 4:10-12*
- **The Call** – Everyone who is reconciled to God through Christ Jesus is called to be a minister of reconciliation – an ambassador of Christ. As Yokefellows, we are called to provide a ministry of reconciliation to those who are or were incarcerated, always showing love and respect to all persons. *Matt 5:16, 2 Cor 5:20, Eph 6:17-20*
- **The Body of Christ** – All believers are members of the body of Christ. With Christ as the "head," every member is called to have a personal relationship with Him, to be His disciple, to love one another, and to use our gifts for the body. *John 12:26, 1 Cor 12:27, Col 1:18*
- **The New Covenant** – Those who yoke themselves to Christ are no longer part of the Old Covenant. Though the OT law is good in that it showed us our need for Christ and how to please God, Christians live by and are under a new covenant of grace alone. Having been released from the law, we are to live by grace and our lives are to continually reflect the glory of God. *Gal 3:13-14, Gal 3:19, 1 Tim 1:8*
- **The Reward** - For taking the message of God's transforming love and forgiveness to captives and sharing the grace that has been given to us, great will be our reward in heaven. *Matt 5:12, Matt 25:34-36, 1 Pet 1:3-5*

(ADOPTED 9/15/07 Rev 4/9/11, 4/29/17, 8/3/20 (added scripture references))

**SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO OUR 2020 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**

AC Berks
AC Central PA
AC Delaware Valley
AC Franklin County
AC Harrisburg Area
AC Lake Erie
AC Lehigh Valley
AC NC PA
AC NE PA
AC Schuylkill County
AC SUN Area
AC Three Rivers
AC Upper Susquehanna
AC York White Rose
Anonymous
Bethany United Methodist Church, Allentown, PA
Franklin Castle
Community Foundation Montrose PA
Kevin Doss
Kathy & Lou Kolb
National Christian Foundation
Thomas & Deborah Panariello
Carol Parsons
Tom Psomas
Schwab Charitable
William & Paulette Stanley
Dale & Sue Wiseman

Please Note: The names of supporters who make donations directly to an Area Council are not included in the above list. Only those who made donations directly to YPM Inc. are known and shown. We also greatly appreciate the faithfulness of those who support our Area Councils.

2020



Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy and
my burden is light.
Matt 11:28-30

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