

YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY 2021 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,



The last two pandemic years have been especially challenging for inmates, their families, corrections staff, and prison ministry volunteers and staff like us. For YPM the question is *How do we continue to serve and thrive as a ministry?* When our primary ministry is visiting inmates in correctional institutions for small group Bible study and discipleship, and we are denied the ability to enter, how do we minister? *How do we support and maintain our volunteers?*

But God shows us repeatedly what seems like problems for his people are often amazing ministry opportunities. During this time of prison ministry "exile," we have been ministering creatively with the use of video to reach inmates when we cannot be with them in person. We have renewed our focus on mentoring and developed new ways to connect with and support returning citizens, as well as partnering with churches and supporters on the outside. And we know there is no prison wall so formidable that it can keep out or lock in the power of prayer.

Fortunately we received a publishing opportunity through Rich Jacobs and the ministry he leads called "Get Free and Stay Free." YPM's first book, in digital and print versions, consists of 10 soul-bearing interviews with 11 inmates who have been ministered to by our volunteers. These men and women have gained freedom from both physical and spiritual confinement and they have much to teach us. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to YPM for our ministry. As we provide the book to men and women in prison it will bring them inspiration, positive examples, and a strong Gospel message.

At our annual conference on September 23 and 24, 2022, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, we will feature these men and women in panel discussions. We will all learn a great deal and rejoice in these success stories in which YPM has played an important role. The book will be available for purchase at the annual conference and can be ordered on Amazon in print or digital form on or after July 12.

God leads the way, but you supporters and volunteers are the instruments of His actions. Thanks for your prayers, your patience, your persistence, and your creativity. God willing we will be back in the prisons, sharing the Gospel with the incarcerated soon.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave M. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Lewis
Chair, YPM Board of Directors

2021 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



PRISON PRESENCE - Prior to the Covid shutdown in March of 2020, YPM was engaged in ministry in 44 prisons (see page 6). Throughout the year and into 2021 most of those prisons remained closed to volunteers. In September 2021 a few prisons opened to volunteers and by the end of the year volunteers were back into 7 of the 44 prisons. We are thankful that these doors are beginning to open to volunteers and are blessed to be connecting with inmates again! But, as I have emphasized through this shutdown, we must focus on what we could do rather than on what we couldn't do.

YPM NEW FOCUS OF MINISTRY - This shut out of volunteers catapulted us into focusing our attention on a new area of ministry, ***mentoring returning citizens***. We believe that one-on-one mentoring is one of the best ways to minister to returning citizens. We found that at least 12 of our volunteers were involved in mentoring returning citizens. These mentoring relationships primarily developed informally from relationships that were established in the prisons. As part of our commitment to growing the number and quality of YPM mentoring relationships we developed mentor training material for our Volunteer Handbook and our Volunteer Certification Training. Also, out of this initiative, some volunteers have developed a ministry called Meet Me at the Door. This ministry will meet returning citizens on the day of their release and help them walk through some of the transitional challenges.

ANOTHER NEW INITIATIVE - As an extension to our commitment to mentoring returning citizens, we have developed an initiative called ***Partnering Churches***. We are currently building relationships with churches who will welcome, receive, minister to, and include in the church's ministries, returning citizens. We are listing these churches on our website so that returning citizens can find a welcoming church upon their release.

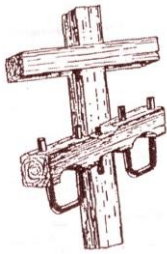
FIRST TIME YPM BOOK PUBLICATION – David Lewis, the Chair of our Board of Directors, spent considerable time in 2021 interviewing eleven (11) returning citizens who had been ministered to by Yokefellow volunteers during their incarceration. Lewis then authored the book, ***Get Free and Stay Free*** which tells the in-depth compelling stories of these individuals who found spiritual freedom and have maintained their physical freedom well beyond a few years! These stories of hope will be inspirational for in-prison and mentoring volunteers, inmates, returning citizens, corrections workers, and many others who care about those who are incarcerated. The book is scheduled for release on July 12, 2022 and will be available only through Amazon.

In our Lord's Service,

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

Carl Geissinger
YPM Executive Director

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.

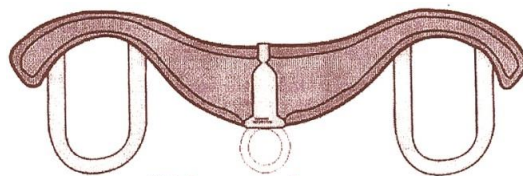
YPM grew out of a fellowship movement started in 1955 by Dr. Elton Trueblood (1900-1994), a renowned author, speaker, and theologian. Trueblood believed being a Christian was synonymous to being yoked with Christ (MATTHEW 11:28-30) and that we need to heed the call of PHILIPPIANS 4:3 to help others, "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 12/31/21)

CHAIR (2023)

David Lewis
Lehigh Valley AC

—

VICE-CHAIR (2022)

David Kurtz
Central PA AC

SECRETARY (2021)

Patty Beggs
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC

TREASURER (2021)

Sue Wiseman
Three Rivers AC

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2022)

Virginia Smith
Harrisburg Area AC

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2022)

Charity Sampsell
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC

—

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2024)

James Axel

—

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2023)

Freddie Nole
Delaware Valley AC

NE RAC CHAIR (2020)

Sandy Nelson
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC

—

SE RAC CHAIR (2020)

David Lewis
Delaware Valley AC

—

SC RAC CHAIR (2020)

David Bowen
Central PA AC

—

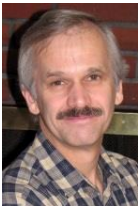
NW & SW RAC CHAIR (2020),

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

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NW/SW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

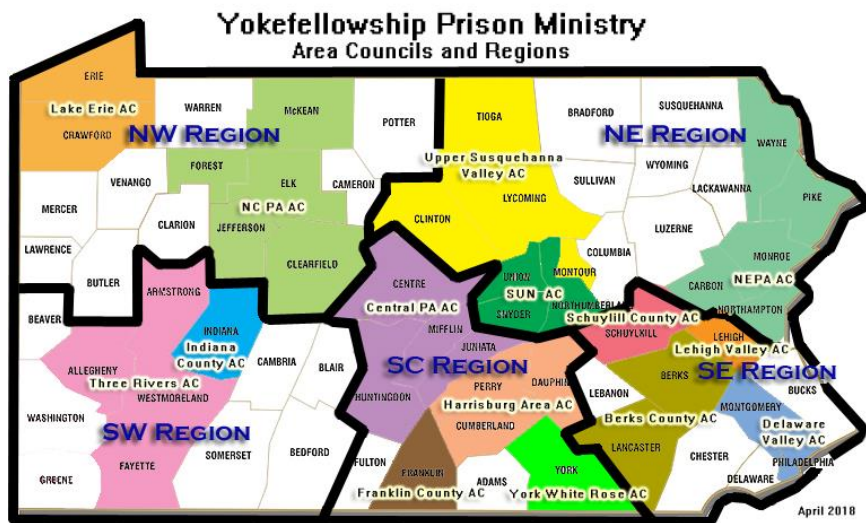
Sean Atkinson
724—672-0545



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 – Tom Spicher
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
Chair & Council Director – Jocelyn
Barbee

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
Acting Chair – Glen Claypoole
Council Director – vacant

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
Chair & Council Director – Fred
Nole

LEHIGH VALLEY AC

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

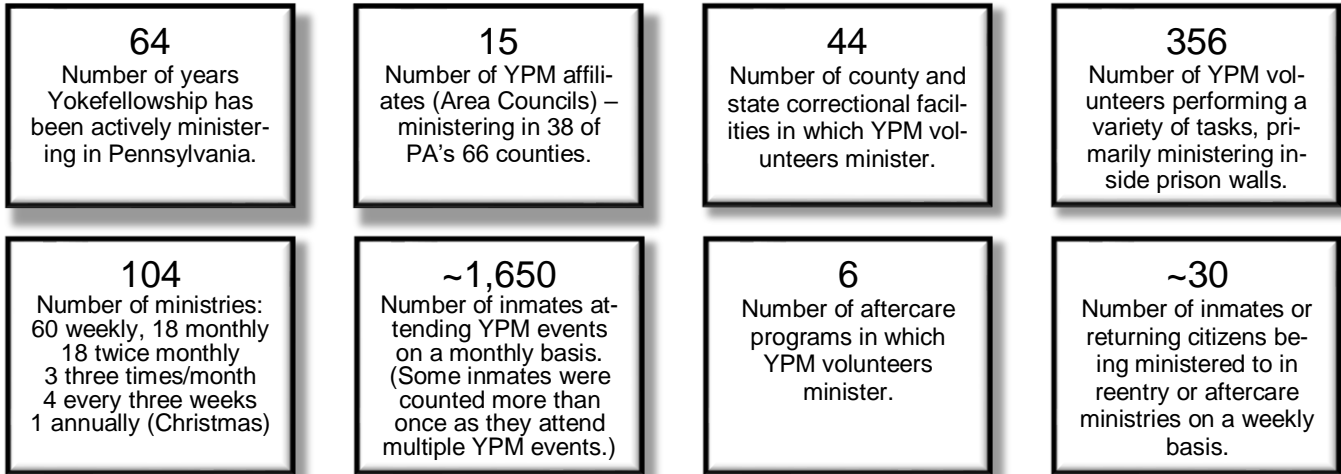
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AC

PO Box 141
Pottsville, PA 17901-0141
Acting Chair – Denim McDemus
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>
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YPM Financial Report
January - December 2021

INCOME

AC Support	
Berks County	\$900
Central PA	\$4,000
Delaware Valley	\$500
Franklin County	\$2,000
Harrisburg Area	\$1,400
Indiana Area	0
Lake Erie	\$500
Lehigh Valley	\$860
North Central PA	\$2,000
North Eastern PA	\$0
Schuylkill County	\$300
SUN Area	\$1,127
Three Rivers	\$1,500
Upper Susquehanna Valley	\$1,430
York White Rose	\$100
Total AC Support	\$16,617
Direct Donations from AC Area	\$10,967
Donations – No AC & Misc	\$5,018
Grants*	\$10,075
Interest/Inv Inc	\$1,299
Misc Income	\$31
Program Income – Annual Conference	\$9,430
Total Income	\$53,439

EXPENSE

Contract Services	\$225
Fees	\$7
Operations	
Postage, Mailing Service	\$175
Printing and Copying	\$532
Rent & Utilities	\$1,500
Supplies	\$47
Website, Technology	\$24
Total Operations	\$2,277
Payroll Expenses	\$29,889
Program Expenses	
Covenant Meals	\$270
Travel and Meetings	\$753
YPM Annual Conference	\$5,373
Total Program Expenses	\$6,295
Scholarships	\$300
Total Expense	\$39,531
NET INCOME	\$13,908

* \$10,000 YPM Upper Susquehanna Valley Area Council
\$74 Community Foundation Montrose PA

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 2021 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 Schuylkill County
AC SUN Area
AC Three Rivers
AC Upper Susquehanna
AC York White Rose
Anonymous
Bethany United Methodist Church, Allentown, PA
Brian Bortree
David & Reba Bowen
Franklin Castle
Community Foundation Montrose PA
Kevin Doss
Joshua Good
Heritage Baptist Church, McConnellstown
Craig Kimble
Kathy & Lou Kolb
National Christian Foundation
Carol Parsons
Tom Psomas
Richard Riddle
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.

2021



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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