

# YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY 2022 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  
YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY  
P O Box 531  
Reedsville, PA 17084  
570-765-3923  
[www.yokefellowship.net](http://www.yokefellowship.net)  
[info@yokefellowship.net](mailto:info@yokefellowship.net)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR – DAVID LEWIS .....	1
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – CARL GEISSINGER .....	2
ABOUT YPM .....	3
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF .....	4
AREA COUNCILS AND REGIONS .....	5
MINISTRY PRESENCE .....	6
FINANCIAL REPORT .....	7
STATEMENT OF FAITH .....	8
SPECIAL THANKS TO FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS .....	9

Dear YPM Supporters and Volunteers,



One constant in life is change. Prison ministry is challenging. We minister to people that are easily forgotten. We are called by Jesus to minister in institutions whose primary concern is security. We are not in control. We must follow the rules and limitations of the institutions or we lose the ability to minister.

But as challenging as prison ministry can be, the pandemic has made it more challenging. We continue working persistently, patiently, and prayerfully to get back into institutions where we once had a regular presence. We celebrate each time we hear about a reopening or a new ministry begun in a new place.

YPM has been creative during days of exile from in-prison ministry, emphasizing forming mentoring relationships and a new ministry that "Meets at the Door" returning citizens, with a ride to home or half-way house, basic needed items, and a first meal and prayer outside prison walls.

There has been a very significant staff change at YPM as well. On March 1, 2023 Carl Geissinger passed the baton of leadership to NW/SW Regional Director Sean Atkinson. Carl has been a YPM volunteer since 1983 and our Executive Director for the last four and one-half years. Carl has led faithfully and skillfully through a most critical time in our history and now returns to service as a Yokefellow volunteer. Sean Atkinson brings a similar heart for the people we serve and a love for Christ who came to serve us.

Change may come, but our vital mission remains the same. YPM's mission is to "help at-risk youth (young people who have had an encounter with the criminal justice system), inmates, and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives."

Thanks for helping do for others what Christ has done for each of us.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "David M. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Lewis, Chair  
YPM Board of Directors

## 2022 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



**IN-PRISON MINISTRY** - One of the huge challenges of this ministry over the past three years has been the Covid shutout of volunteers from many prisons. Through the 2022 year, doors have been gradually opening to volunteers. As 2022 ended, we were back into 22 of the 44 prisons in which we were ministering prior to the pandemic. We are thankful to be back into 22, but we will give our best effort to getting back into all those prisons and into new prisons where we were not ministering prior to Covid. As a matter of fact, we have begun a new ministry at the Schuylkill County Prison and are in the process of beginning ministries at Butler and Adams County Prisons. These are prisons where we were not serving prior to Covid.

**MENTORING** - For many years some YPM volunteers have been involved in one-on-one mentoring relationships with inmates and returning citizens without an intentional ministry structure. The Covid shutout has prompted us to put more intentional focus on mentoring. Through the past year we have made significant progress in the development of mentoring relationships in YPM. We have around 12 active mentoring relationships and with our new mentor training and mentoring structure, we expect that to grow exponentially. Mentoring will focus on ministry to both returning citizens and inmates.

**INMATE BOOK** - We were blessed with the release of the **Get Free and Stay Free** book in July, which told the stories of eleven persons who were ministered to by Yokefellowship volunteers in prison and have built solid lives upon release. The book sold around 900 copies in the last six months of 2022. Around half of them were on Amazon sales and around half were mailed in bulk to prisons which requested a bulk supply for inmates.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - Our annual conference was held on Sept. 23-24, 2022 at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. The theme of the conference was Get Free and Stay Free. Most of the presenters were persons whose stories were in the book. Videos of our [2022 conference](#) and our 2021 conference are available on YouTube. Search YouTube Yokefellowship.net for all YPM videos.

**YPM FUTURE** - We are excited about the new and ongoing developments of this ministry, but the heart of this ministry is the weekly small groups that are happening in 22 prisons around the state. Faithful volunteers are giving of their time and gas money to help yoke inmates to Christ for salvation and changed lives. Hundreds of inmates are touched, ministered to and disciplined by these volunteers. Lives are changed in big and small ways as inmates and returning citizens are growing in a life shaping relationship with Jesus.

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 2022 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.

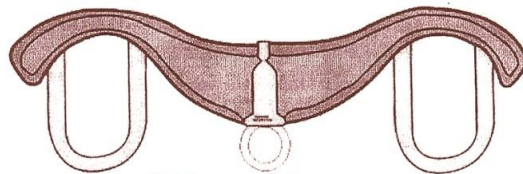
**YPM** grew out of a fellowship movement started in 1955 by Dr. Elton Trueblood (1900-1994), a renowned author, speaker, and theologian. Trueblood believed being a Christian was synonymous to being yoked with Christ (MATTHEW 11:28-30) and that we need to heed the call of PHILIPPIANS 4:3 to help others, "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 12/31/22)

### CHAIR (2023)

David Lewis  
Lehigh Valley AC  
[davidmlewis8118@gmail.com](mailto:davidmlewis8118@gmail.com)

### VICE-CHAIR (2024)

James Axel  
Harrisburg AC  
[Jaxel717@yahoo.com](mailto:Jaxel717@yahoo.com)

### SECRETARY (2023)

Patty Beggs  
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC  
[pattymac924@comcast.net](mailto:pattymac924@comcast.net)

### TREASURER (2023)

Sue Wiseman  
Three Rivers AC  
[swiseman@yokefellowship.net](mailto:swiseman@yokefellowship.net)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2024)

Mark Corbin  
Harrisburg Area AC  
[mrkcrbn@gmail.com](mailto:mrkcrbn@gmail.com)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2025)

Daniel Martin  
Central PA AC  
[martins@truevine.net](mailto:martins@truevine.net)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2025)

Patrick Matthews  
[patrick@hearkenhouse.org](mailto:patrick@hearkenhouse.org)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (2023)

Freddie Nole  
Delaware Valley AC  
[nolejohn346@yahoo.com](mailto:nolejohn346@yahoo.com)

### NE RAC CHAIR (2023)

Sandy Nelson  
Upper Susquehanna Valley AC  
[snelson910@yahoo.com](mailto:snelson910@yahoo.com)

### SE RAC CHAIR (2023)

David Lewis  
Delaware Valley AC  
[davidmlewis8118@gmail.com](mailto:davidmlewis8118@gmail.com)

### SC RAC CHAIR (2023)

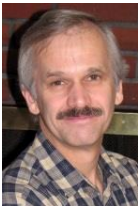
David Bowen  
Central PA AC  
[david\\_bowen2000@yahoo.com](mailto:david_bowen2000@yahoo.com)

### NW & SW RAC CHAIR (2023),

David Manos  
NC PA AC  
[dfm4@psu.edu](mailto:dfm4@psu.edu)

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

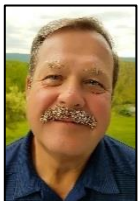
## YPM STAFF



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Carl Geissinger  
570-765-3923  
[info@yokefellowship.net](mailto:info@yokefellowship.net)



**SE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
William Jones  
610-755-2312



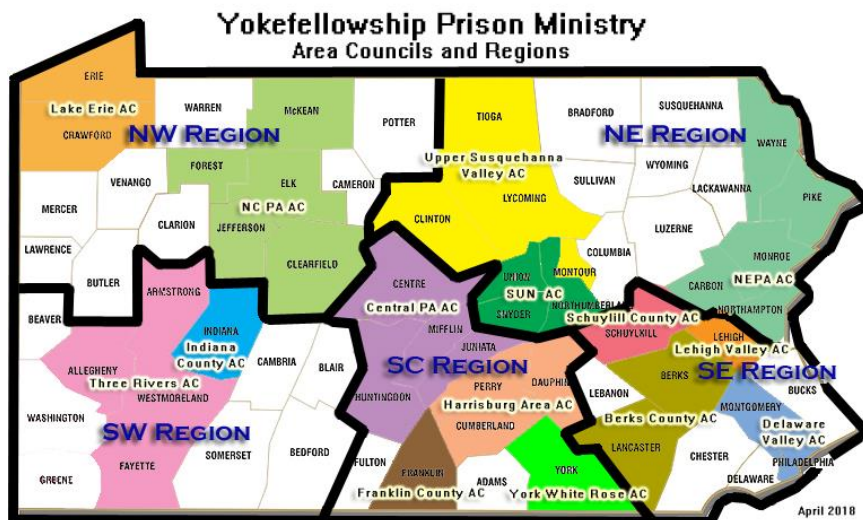
**SC REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
Mike Knott  
814-669-4125  
—



**NW/SW REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
Sean Atkinson  
724—672-0545  
—



**NE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
Nessie Whaley  
570-326-6868



**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 ???  
 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  
 Chair – Jim Patton  
 Council Director –Cliff Balson

As of 12/31/22

**DUE TO COVID THE DOORS TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND  
AFTERCARE PROGRAMS CLOSED TO VOLUNTEERS 3/15/20.  
ONLY HALF HAVE REOPENED BY 12/22**

**MINISTRY STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 2022**

**67**  
Number of years Yokefellowship has been actively ministering in Pennsylvania.

**15**  
Number of YPM affiliates (Area Councils) – ministering in 38 of PA's 66 counties. See page 5.

**318**  
Number of YPM volunteers performing a variety of tasks, primarily ministering inside prison walls.

**51**  
Number of ministries in PA correctional facilities. Many institutions in which YPM previously served have not yet opened their doors to volunteers. See below (C).

**12**  
Current number of YPM volunteers actively mentoring returning citizens. This Aftercare Mentoring Ministry was birthed during Covid and is in the early stages of development.

**6**  
Number of churches in Partnership with YPM to welcome and minister to returning citizens. This ministry was birthed during Covid and is in the early stages of development.

**INSTITUTIONS SERVED PRIOR TO COVID CLOSING & 2022 STATUS**

2022 Status - **C** indicates still closed to YPM volunteers. **O** Indicates opened to YPM volunteers

- PA STATE INSTITUTIONS**
- Benner Township - **C**
  - Cambridge Springs - **O**
  - Camp Hill - **O**
  - Coal Township **C**
  - Fayette - **O**
  - Forest **C**
  - Frackville - **O**
  - Houtzdale **C**
  - Huntingdon - **C**
  - Mahanoy **C**
  - Muncy - **O**
  - Pine Grove - **C**
  - Phoenix - **C**
  - Rockview - **O**
  - Smithfield - **O**

- PA COUNTY INSTITUTIONS**
- Armstrong County Jail - **O**
  - Berks County Jail System - **O**
  - Carbon County Correctional Facility - **O**
  - Centre County Correctional Facility - **O**
  - Chester County Prison - **C**
  - Clearfield County Prison - **O**
  - Clinton County Correctional Facility **O**
  - Dauphin County Prison - **O**
  - Franklin County Jail - **O**
  - Indiana County Prison - **O**
  - Lehigh County Jail - **O**
  - Lycoming County Prison & Pre-Release **C**
  - Mifflin County Correctional Facility - **O**
  - Montgomery County Prison
  - Northampton County Jail - **C**
  - Northumberland County Jail - **O**
  - Perry County Prison - **O**
  - Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center **C**
  - Philadelphia Riverside Correctional Center **C**
  - Schuylkill County Prison - **O**
  - Snyder County Prison - **O**
  - Tioga County Prison - **O**
  - Union County Prison - **O**
  - Westmoreland County Prison - **O**
  - York County Prison - **O**

- YOKEFELLOWSHIP AFTERCARE**
- Lehigh County Center for Recovery - **O**
  - Mifflin County, Lumina Center, Lewistown **O**
  - New Person Ministries, Berks County **O**
  - Stepping Stones to Freedom, Mifflin County **O**
  - Transitional Living Center, Lycoming County **O**



YPM Financial Report  
January - December 2022

**INCOME**

<b>AC Support</b>	
Berks County	\$1,000
Central PA	\$4,750
Delaware Valley	\$500
Franklin County	\$2,000
Harrisburg Area	\$1,400
Indiana Area	0
Lake Erie	\$500
Lehigh Valley	\$650
North Central PA	\$4,000
North Eastern PA	\$200
Schuylkill County	0
SUN Area	\$1,153
Three Rivers	\$1,500
Upper Susquehanna Valley	\$1,320
York White Rose	\$100
<b>Total AC Support</b>	<b>\$19,073</b>
Direct Donations from AC Area	\$10,360
Donations – No AC & Misc	\$0
Grants*	\$80
Interest/Inv Inc	\$1,798
Misc Income	\$472
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$31,782</b>

**EXPENSE**

Contract Services	\$235
Fees	\$15
Fundraising Expenses	<b>\$104</b>
<b>Operations</b>	
Postage, Mailing Service	\$153
Printing and Copying	\$999
Rent & Utilities	\$1,500
Supplies	\$68
Website, Technology	\$24
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$2,243</b>
Payroll Expenses	\$33,752
<b>Program Expenses</b>	
Covenant Meals	\$102
Travel and Meetings	\$860
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$962</b>
Scholarships	\$300
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$38,112</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$6,330</b>

## *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 2022 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 SUN Area  
AC Three Rivers  
AC Upper Susquehanna  
AC York White Rose  
Anonymous  
James Axel  
Michael Baca  
Bethany United Methodist Church  
Keith Boyer  
Donald & Mary Clouser  
Community Foundation Montrose PA  
Marsha Currie-Nixon  
Carol Daniels  
Discipleship SS Class, Lexington SC  
Kevin T. Doss  
Carl & Sherri Geissinger  
Joshua & Ruth Good  
Hearken House  
Robert & Chatherine Holland  
Jessica King  
Nancy & David Lewis  
Cody Lloyd  
Mark Miller  
National Christian Foundation  
Tom Psomas  
Randall & Barbara Schieck  
Virginia Smith  
Beth Truax  
Joseph Walling  
Sue & Dale Wiseman  
Hank Worthington

*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.*

# 2022



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

Carl Geissinger, Executive Director  
YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY  
P O Box 531  
Reedsville, PA 17084-9155  
570-765-3923  
[www.yokefellowship.net](http://www.yokefellowship.net)  
[info@yokefellowship.net](mailto:info@yokefellowship.net)

