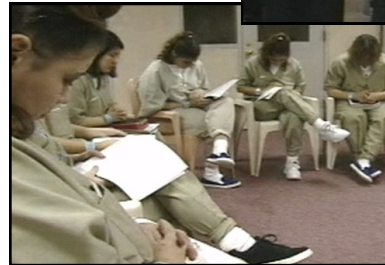
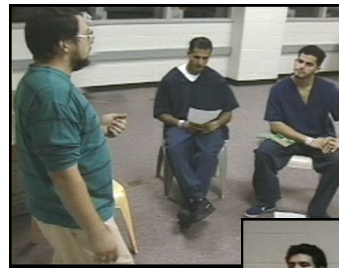


**Yokefellowship Prison Ministry  
Area Councils and Regions**



# YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY



**NE REGION  
DANESTA "NESSIE" WHALEY, REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
570-326-6868**

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CONTACT SEAN ATKINSON  
724-672-0545**

**INDIANA COUNTY AREA AC**  
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**LAKE ERIE AC**  
(Serving Erie and Crawford Counties)  
**NORTH CENTRAL AC**  
(Serving Clearfield, Elk, Forest, McKean Counties)

*"If you don't have a changed heart,  
you don't have a changed man."*  
CHAPLAIN RAY ANDERSON, DAVID WADE CORRECTION CENTER, LA

*"If one person is truly changed,  
all of the effort expended is worthwhile."*  
D. ELTON TRUEBLOOD, FOUNDER YOKEFELLOWS MOVEMENT

*"The basic nature of Yokefellowship.... is the  
transforming power of God's love as it is  
experienced in relationships with each other."*  
DR. LARRY COLEMAN, YPM VOLUNTEER SINCE 1970'S,  
FORMER YPM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**YOKEFELLOWSHIP** is in need of volunteers who love Jesus, love those in prison, and share a faith that is expressed in "our Beliefs" (visit [yokefellowship.net/about-us](http://yokefellowship.net/about-us)). If you would like to explore volunteering, contact Sean Atkinson at 724-672-0545 or [info@yokefellowship.net](mailto:info@yokefellowship.net)

We are also dependent on the contributions of Area Councils, churches and individuals. To donate make checks payable to Yokefellowship Prison Ministry and mail to Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, PO Box 121, Penn, PA 15675.

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Our mission is "helping at-risk youth, inmates and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives."



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# HELPING JUVENILES, INMATES, AND RETURNING CITIZENS YOKE THEMSELVES TO CHRIST AND TO ONE ANOTHER

## YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY

**History to Present** - YPM grew from a "movement" started by D. Elton Trueblood in 1955. Trueblood believed that being a Christian was synonymous to being yoked with Christ and that we need to heed the call of PHILIPPIANS 4:3 to help others, "Yes, I ask you, loyal yokefellow...." Trueblood further believed "Separation from the world for a while is justified if new life emerges."

YPM provides weekly volunteer-led structured small group discussions where juveniles, inmates or returning citizens learn about the life-changing power of Jesus Christ and learn how to live a life of discipline. Lives are being changed: of both those being served and the servant.

**Organizational Structure** - YPM is a 501c3 umbrella organization with local Area Council affiliates. A governing board of directors, comprised of representatives from areas served, provides direction and oversight to the growing ministry. Currently, there are 15 Area Councils that serve throughout PA. Each AC has its own governing body; recruits, trains, and assigns volunteers; has its own treasury and budget. Through these Area Councils, hundreds of volunteers are entering nearly half of the county and state adult correctional institutions in PA.

### Yokefellowship Scripture

*Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of 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 NIV

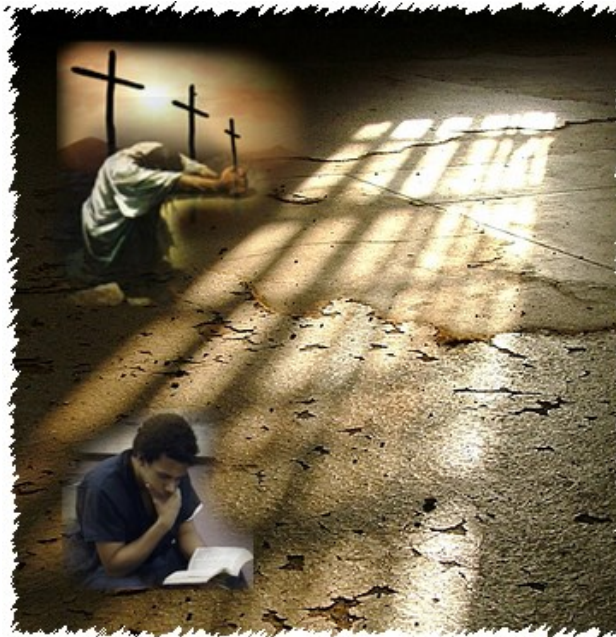
## IN-PRISON MINISTRY

There are 9 federal prisons, 26 state prisons, 64 county prisons and 25 juvenile detention centers in Pennsylvania. There are also 50 Community Correctional Centers in PA. These facilities house inmates on the way out, and in some cases halfway back in for short term remedial purposes.

*YPM ministers in more than 40 of the state and county correctional facilities in PA.*

## AFTERCARE MINISTRY

Currently, several of our Area Councils provide some level of aftercare support such as referrals and financial assistance. Our goal is to develop weekly small groups for returning citizens and their families in all the areas served by our Area Councils.



## YPM'S UNIQUE APPROACH

YPM groups within prison walls as well as those outside prison walls are structured to include two simultaneous journeys – the journey inward and the journey outward. The journey inward involves growing in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The outward journey involves love for all our brothers and sisters around us.

**YPM** is committed to changing people's lives through personal discipline and committed small groups where problems and faith are shared. There are many ministries willing to provide worship services, revivals, and Bible studies for prisoners, but YPM emphasizes giving prisoners not only the opportunity to share the pain, the loneliness, and the isolation within an ongoing, redemptive fellowship but also to learn how to lead a disciplined life.

The goal of YPM small groups is to connect people to God, to connect people to one another, and to raise up disciples in a relational manner. Jesus focused much of His ministry on small group leadership, spending much of His time with the twelve disciples while never neglecting the crowds and other disciples.

The following attributes of discipleship are highly valued and taught as "marks" of a Yokefellow: **Commitment; Discipline of Prayer, Scripture, Worship, Money, Time, Service, and Study; Witness; Ministry; and Fellowship.**

## VOLUNTEER CERTIFICATION

YPM's Volunteer Certification Program demonstrates that YPM is a fully-developed prison ministry with programs in place to assure its effectiveness and develop its most valuable resource, its volunteers. All YPM in-prison volunteers are required to be certified. Certification is good for two years and volunteers have four opportunities to receive this certification. Certificates bearing the YPM corporate seal will be issued to those completing the program.

YPM training helps volunteers develop ministry knowledge, skills, and awareness. During the training, topics relevant to all areas of prison ministry as well as ministry trends that could potentially affect their ministry will be presented. The more volunteers know about prison culture and prison ministry, the more effective they will be. Prison ministry is a dynamic ministry – always changing; only the Word of God remains unchanged. Just as we come to a deeper understanding of scripture with each new meditation, we come to a deeper understanding of the ministry God has called us to when we attend periodic training events.

*Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still;  
teach a righteous man and  
he will add to his learning.*

PROVERBS 9:9 NIV

**Benefits to Institutions** - YPM's Volunteer Certification Program provides institutions with the assurance that YPM volunteers have received both comprehensive and recent training. Having recently-trained ministry volunteers minimizes the potential for situations within the institution that may jeopardize the well-being of the inmates, staff, institution, or community at large.

**Benefits to YPM** - YPM Volunteer Certification Program improves the effectiveness of the volunteer and thus the effectiveness of the entire ministry. A more effective ministry will then be welcomed in more institutions allowing YPM to further grow God's kingdom behind bars and change more lives through Christ.

