What a wonderful year of ministry we have experienced in 2016. There is not enough space to share all of the testimonies of reconciliation, marriages restored and many souls beginning a relationship with Christ. Each One Day with God Camp brings Malachi 4:6 alive as we watch God turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Hallelujah, what a Savior. Thirty-two camps are over for this year and January 13-14 will be our first 2017 One Day with God Camp. It will be in Edinburg, Texas. Each team and the leaders across 6 states have given so sacrificially to God’s work and it is with much thankfulness that I thank you for every step you have walked with us this year.

Many have asked when you first began in prison ministry. It is true that God takes ordinary people to do extra ordinary things for Him. He is looking for a willing heart and an obedient spirit. As I share this part of my life please know that He is the reason for all the good that has come from my following Him.

Ten years after my father’s death in 1987 I was happy running a boutique and a hair salon. A prison chaplain and administrator came into the business and asked if I would speak at our local prison. I had no idea what I would speak about in a prison. I remember praying this prayer before I arrived at the prison...” Let the inmate who is closest to eternity [death] find a relationship with you today.” At the close of the service a white-haired inmate raised his hand that he had prayed to receive Christ as his Savior. The next week I was invited back to the prison again because other inmates wanted to hear my testimony. That afternoon the prison chapel was packed but there was no white haired man. I learned that he had terminal cancer and was sent to a medical facility to live out the remainder of his days. How excited I was to know that God had used me to reach a soul.

I had tasted of the goodness of the Lord and wanted to serve him more and more. Doors began to open and I knew that I must walk through them trusting Him for each step. In 2000 we began Forgiven Ministry with 68.00 and 6 volunteers.

Today because of volunteer’s love for Christ and your obedience we have 5,364 precious servants. This ministry is bigger than most people can imagine, but not bigger than God. In February, 2017 we will open the state of Georgia at Wilcox State Prison. What an amazing God we serve.

During this holiday season remember to praise Him and share the reason that we celebrate Christmas.

Merry Christmas,

Jack & Scottie

Gus Harrison, Adrian, MI
Families United

Exciting Matching Gift Challenge

Once again Forgiven Ministry has been blessed with a Christian NC business giving $27,000.00 matching gift. Through this loving generous gift we will be able to meet many needs that make it possible for God’s work to be accomplished in 2017. Would you pray about your part in this exciting challenge? If you feel led to join us in the effort please designate your gift to the matching gift challenge. All gifts are tax deductible. We accept donations through credit cards, checks or through PayPal on our website.

http://www.forgivenministry.org/give.htm
With Many Thanks

There are many things that take place behind the scenes that “One Day with God” volunteers don’t always get to witness so here are a few highlights of different camps that help to demonstrate the heart of Forgiven Ministry.

A Texas Volunteer

One of our volunteers was once a prisoner. She was quite surprised to see a former friend of hers at the “One Day with God” camp. This lady wasn’t a volunteer but was an inmate. Both the volunteer and the inmate had run in the same circle of friends. The difference came when the volunteer left that circle and chose another path. The inmate stayed on the same road and ended up in prison. As the day progressed, the volunteer worked with her former friend. She explained how she was able to break out of her former lifestyle through the help of the heavenly Father. The inmate Mom understood then that there was a way out of her lifestyle and that it was through a relationship with the Father! ...

Inside Blessings

I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. The program had such a great impact on me. I’ve been saved for 4 years and God has blessed me through my whole prison term. But this “One Day with God” program has been the best yet. I have a good relationship with my kids but we mostly just get to talk on the phone. I probably spent more face to face time with them Saturday than I have in the last 5 years. I also enjoyed the “Godly Dads” lectures by Royce Railey. I learned so much. I’m going through my workbook and trying to apply all the knowledge that I gain from it. I also read my “Jesus Calling” and “Beyond Addictions” books everyday. Thank you so much. If you could please thank my child’s mentors, Gladys and Brian for me. They were so helpful with my kids and they are a blessing from God.

• Mountain View, Spruce Pine, NC inmate father

A Future Camper?

Excerpts from a child’s letter:

Dear Miss Scottie,

I would love for you to speak with my daddy’s prison to see if they can do a day with God. It would be amazing to see my daddy for a full 24 hours. I bet my daddy will appreciate it if you made that happen. My daddy tries to make that happen even though he can’t. It would mean everything. Although I get to see him once a month, I still would like a full 24 hours. If you could do that, it would be the best 24 hours of my life. Thank you.

(Although the little girl mistakenly thought “One Day with God” meant 24 hours, we’re sure the seven hours that she would spend with dad would be the best time of her life.)

One Happy Camper

To Whom It May Concern,

I had a great time at “One Day with God” camp in Raleigh. I had a great time doing the activities that were planned. The food that I ate while at the camp was delicious. Getting to spend time with my mom was the best part. I’m glad I got to spend time with my mother and participate in multiple activities that were fun.

Thank You Volunteers

I want to thank Ms. Tenita Smith, Ms. Scottie and all the wonderful people of Forgiven Ministry for all the work they put into theses camps. My brother enjoyed it very much. This was our last camp and my father will be released this year. We cherished every moment and it has changed our life’s truly. These are special memories we will always take with us. Thank you all again.

—Daughter of Inmate
A Big “70” Celebration

You’re invited to help us celebrate the 70th birthday of Forgiven Ministry founder Scottie Barnes in December.

We’d like to gather prayers, well wishes, and financial contributions to Forgiven Ministry in honor of this momentous birthday. Then we will present them to Scottie before the end of 2016. (That also gives you one more opportunity for a tax deductible gift while there’s time!) Since she’s turning 70, we thought we’d make this fun. As you know, 7 is a very important number in the Bible. It’s the number of completeness and reflects how long it took God to create all things. He rested on the 7th day. And there are more important uses of the number 7 in God’s Word. So would you prayerfully consider donating $7, $70, $700 or $7,000? Of course any size gift will be celebrated and put to good use but we thought it could be fun to make this a “Size 7 Celebration.” The gifts to Forgiven Ministry will mean so much to Scottie, to Forgiven Ministry and ultimately to the families we love and serve in hopes they will receive forgiveness and reconciliation that we know is life-changing.

You can mail your check to Forgiven Ministry, PO Box 117, Taylorsville, NC 28681 or go to our website - http://www.forgivenministry.org/give.htm where you can donate by PayPal. You can also call the office and donate by credit card (828.632.6424).

Thank you for a wonderful 2016 and we can’t wait to see what God does through all of you in 2017.

Mary Anne Rhyne
Forgiven Ministry Board

ABC Continues Media Attention

Warden Anthony Stewart of the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility states: “There is nothing worse for society than to have a grandmother, mother and granddaughter incarcerated. The ODWG program requires mothers to be six months misconduct free, while reinforcing parenting skills and conflict resolution. Children are reconnected with their mothers to reestablish relationships that were severed as a result of their mother’s incarceration,” Stewart said. “This is key in breaking the cycle of not only generational incarceration, but also enhancing long term affects that could reduce mass incarceration and recidivism.”

Scottie: There has been more attention drawn to Forgiven Ministry with the airing of the ABC segments and also a NBC segment featuring “One Day with God”. More and more people are beginning to see what inmate families are going through. Since the first of the airings, 6 countries and more than a dozen states have contacted Forgiven Ministry wanting camps in their countries and states. I would do them all if the funding were to come.

We invite you to celebrate the life of a dear friend, author, and volunteer of Forgiven Ministry. Jeff Rudd went to his heavenly home on Monday, September 12th, 2016. Many of you know him as the author and a teacher of the “Godly Dads” program conducted on Fridays before a “One Day with God” men’s camp. He spent months writing and planning the “Godly Dads” workbook and seminar that is used extensively. He is also the author of “Beyond Addiction”, Jeff succumbed to cancer after a 14 month battle. Besides being an invaluable member of our team, he also served as the Director of Free in Christ Prison Ministries for 15 years. His heart was sold out to ministering to those behind bars and to their families. Many will miss his smiling face, encouraging words and loving heart but his legacy lives on as both men and women inmates follow the life principles and scriptures Jeff left for them in his book, “Beyond Addictions.” And his book is also available to anyone who is considering leaving old problems behind and seeking a life centered on Christ.

North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women, Raleigh, NC
The Holy Spirit revealed himself to me when Andrew advised me we had a little girl who didn’t want to be with her daddy. She stayed in the prayer room and wouldn’t budge. I asked the men in white who were serving the camp as stewards to fervently pray for this situation. They began praying in earnest. After a short while we brought daddy in and he sat across the room from her giving her lots of space. He read his love letter to her and choked back a few tears. The mentor who was assigned to this little girl was perfect. She didn’t push and gave the little girl lots of room. Then we coaxed her and Daddy to sit in the hall so they could see the strong man. Eventually they made their way into the main chapel and had a wonderful day together. I saw Daddy at the balloon release and his little girl was hanging all over him. She was laughing, hugging and kissing him. He told me later, “Thank you for being patient.” I told him he received something no other daddy did. He had extra one on one time with his daughter that none of the other men got to experience. The devil tried to defeat this family, but God had other plans. Amen —Texas couple

From a Father’s Heart

The “One Day with God” Camp program is packed full of fun structured activities for the parents and children. One of the most special times of the day is when the parents and children share about the day. We ask them to come up to the front of the group and share what the day has meant to them. Sometimes just a few share while at other times we have a lot. We have had children tell us that the One Day with God camp was better than going to Disney World! Others tell us, that they are just thankful to spend time with their parent. When the parents share what it means for them to get to spend the day with their children it can be very emotional for them. We have had parents tell us that they are scared that their children wouldn’t accept them or love them. But they were thankful that the child ran to them at the beginning of the day and by the end of the day said, “I love you Daddy.” At a recent camp we had one of the most touching words from a father to express his gratitude. This father thanked us for the program and said it had really brought his 6 year old son and him closer together. Then he said you know I have prayed for a long time to be released from prison early. I wanted to be released so that I could go home and be with my son. He needs a father to be with him and show him how to grow up. And also, I just wanted to go home to my family. For the longest time I thought God did not answer my prayer. But God has answered my prayer today through this program. He has brought home to me today! God has allowed me to spend the day with my son just as if we were home together. I will be going home soon and I am thankful for that, but I will be forever grateful for this day with my son. This is what the One Day with God camp program provides for incarcerated parents and their children. It gives them a day to feel like they are at home together. Thank you for supporting this ministry and allowing these families to be reconciled!

Merry Christmas!

Andrew Lackey

Special Needs of the Ministry

- Prayer for the ministry
- A vehicle to replace the Ford Expedition that is approaching 200,000 miles used to pull camp trailer
- Salary for a part time person
- Amazon shoppers please use the link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2225945 and support FM every time you shop.

Moving Forward

We are thrilled to announce that our Forgiven Ministry newsletter has a new look. Not only that, we are now sending electronically so that news can get to you faster and more frequently than once a year. Of course, those without emails will still get a paper version. And, for those of you who are Facebook fans, please check out our new Facebook page: facebook.com/OneDayWithGodCamp

We have also been blessed to receive a new program “Salesforce” for nonprofits which will enable us to work more efficiently and will help us with our newsletters and communication. Special thanks to Joe Moreno in MI and Bill Burnham of NC for their assistance in integrating “Salesforce” into our workplace.