

## Quarterly Newsletter Jottings

### June 2025

**Our mission** - *Onesimus Ministries exists for the purpose of introducing prison inmates, ex-inmates and their families to the lifechanging good news of Jesus Christ, as well as spiritually supporting and assisting anyone in becoming faithful in their daily walk as Christ's disciples.*

## Announcements/Events

This prison ministry has been continuously and exceedingly blessed by God in our first year of new fundraising efforts. Our initial concerns about shifting gears from the annual banquet were beset by our gracious Heavenly Father proving to us the truth of Philippians 4:19, *"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*

In case you missed them, we had a wonderful show of support at our first attempt at three new events:

- **Oct 2024** Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction at Green Street Grill in Downingtown
- **Mar 2025** Benefit Breakfast and Silent Auction at Waterway Church in Oxford
- **May 2025** Benefit Concert and Silent Auction at Grace Covenant Church in Exton

We believe God works through His people to supply many needs, and we thank all of YOU with a heart for this ministry who contribute your time, talents, and treasures each and every week. May God bless you and your family richly for your faithful support.

Mark your calendars for our **2nd Annual Green Street Grill Benefit Dinner** in Downingtown, tentatively set for Friday, Oct 24, 2025. More information to come.

## From the Chairman

Vernon  
Myers

### I Know Why God's Wonderous Grace

In the waking thoughts of early this morning I found the lyrics of "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" running through my mind- over and over and over again as dawn's daylight lightened the sky. It happens quite regularly, a song

is part of my waking thoughts. I regard those semi-conscious thoughts as the cry of my soul with the One who has redeemed me.

Music is the language of the soul. Several weeks ago Onesimus Ministries sponsored an evening of music as a fund raiser for the chaplain's ministry at Chester County Prison. It was a delightful evening. Thank you for the musicians who participated and the guests who benefited from the worship experience. The funds raised in support of the Chaplain Heinrich and Chaplain Rhonda were also a huge blessing for those who benefit from the chaplain's presence at CCP.

For a "moment of blessing" for those who read this article I want to highlight one of my favorite songs--*I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace*. In our world of difficult and uncertain times there are many things we do not know nor understand. However, and it is a "big however," there is one thing we do understand, and it holds us together spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. Without this truth we struggle with life and its difficulties.

The author, D. W. Whittle married the wife of his youth the day before he left to serve in the Massachusetts troops in the civil war. Following the war he settled in Chicago and served with D. L. Moody in his evangelism outreach. This gospel song is based on the truth of 2Timothy 1:12-- "*That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.*" Read the text, embrace the truth, and let your soul affirm that by which you will live and ultimately die.

*I know not why God's wondrous grace  
To me He hath made known,  
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love  
Redeemed me for His own.*

*But "I know Whom I have believed  
And am persuaded that He is able  
To keep that which I've committed  
Unto Him against that day."*

*I know not how this saving faith  
To me He did impart,  
Nor how believing in His word  
Wrought peace within my heart.*

*I know not how the Spirit moves,  
Convincing men of sin,  
Revealing Jesus through the Word,  
Creating faith in Him.*

*I know not what of good or ill  
May be reserved for me,  
Of weary ways or golden days,  
Before His face I see.*

*I know not when my Lord may come,  
At night or noon-day fair,  
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him,  
Or "meet Him in the air."*

## From the Board of Directors

Andy  
Duncan

### **Will God Come Through?**

How many of us have experienced questions, perhaps worded differently, in our walk with the Lord? Questions like: Lord, what are you doing? Where are you, Lord? Why Lord? can arise in our hearts when faced with challenges. These can make us feel out of control. Well, we are. God is sovereign and calls us to trust Him, even when it doesn't make sense. I believe it was Charles Spurgeon who said, "We need to trust God's heart when we can't trace His hand."

Such was the case for me in preparing for and participating in the most recent Onesimus Fundraiser. It was our first ever benefit concert that required coordination of times, dates, and practical items such as food and beverages for the attendees and of course the best part, the music. The idea began last Fall. I pitched the idea to a band I was in, and also to some musicians in the Worship Band at my church. Both bands agreed and I figured that was done. We just need some songs, set a practice schedule and we're good: we've got plenty of time.

As we all know, the best laid plans, right? Life, aka God's sovereignty, took over and things changed quickly and relatively last minute. One of the leaders in one band became a father, he and his wife adopting a beautiful baby girl, and his time now needed to be elsewhere. In the other band, a sudden serious health issue took precedence and now with 2 months before the concert, no bands. Lord, why is this happening and what do we do?

As demonstrated by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego before being cast onto the fiery furnace, it's not our level of faith that matters, it's who our faith is in; our heavenly Father. It's our faith in who is in the furnace with us. I will confess to feeling frantic and in turmoil until I finally gave it over to the Lord in prayer and resigned my soul to His will. Lord, if you want this to happen, You'll provide. If You don't, You have your reasons and I trust You.

He did provide, bountifully. Rick contacted some gifted musicians at his church and they graciously gave of their time, their talents and their music was marvelous! God also blessed us with friends of mine, also gifted musicians who gave of their time and talents, and we enjoyed the gifts God blessed us with that night. Based on the feedback, people were blessed by the music and Onesimus was blessed by their generosity.

I am so grateful that God continues to remind us of His sovereignty and even more so of His love and faithfulness. Thank you, Father, again, for ALL that you do! A special thank you to Rick, who led the efforts and devoted so much of his time to making this happen. He did a tremendous job with so much! Also, a

shout out to my fellow board members – Vern, Dan, Phil, Scott and Jose who helped coordinate the evening. As always – a special thanks to Heinrich and Rhonda who serve so faithfully and sacrificially in CCP bringing the hope of the Gospel to lost and hurting people. You are all amazing blessings!

## Chaplain Jottings



Heinrich  
Botes

### **For a Change: God at Work Behind Bars**

“Change is the only constant.” It’s a familiar phrase—maybe even a cliché—but for those of us at Chester County Prison, it has never rung truer.

Over the past decade, the prison has undergone a wave of transformation. Some changes were dramatic, like the much-publicized escape of a dangerous inmate that suddenly put a quiet institution under the glare of national media. Others were quieter but no less significant—a slow churn in staff turnover, compounded by the chaos and havoc of four years under COVID.

The result? A near-total turnover in leadership. Senior management was replaced. Many in middle management moved on or up. For those who remained, uncertainty loomed. The arrival of “outsiders” to key positions stirred both hope and anxiety. Promotions motivated some. Others, feeling overlooked or undervalued, chose to retire or move on. It has been, by all accounts, an institutional reset—one that is still in process.

But amid all this upheaval, one thing has remained steady: God’s power to transform lives.

As Christians, we know change intimately. We once were lost—living in our “Before Christ” (BC) days—but by grace, we were made new. We didn’t just adjust our behavior. We were reborn. The Holy Spirit took up residence in us and began the lifelong work of changing us from the inside out.

In that sense, we are all part of a prison ministry—because every believer is a testimony to God’s ability to redeem, restore, and renew.

And that’s what we continue to witness here at Chester County Prison. Even as policies shift and staff dynamics evolve, God is working in the hearts of inmates and officers alike. Men and women are experiencing deep, internal change—the kind that doesn’t make headlines but transforms eternally.

Please continue to pray for all of us here. Pray for peace amid transition. Pray for wisdom in leadership. But most of all, pray that God will keep changing each of us—staff and inmates alike—more and more into His image.

Change is constant, Change is necessary but Christ is greater, always the same...yesterday, today and forever.



### The Wise and the Foolish

In a recent chapel service, I shared with the women Jesus' parable about the wise and the foolish builders found in Luke 6 and Matthew 7. It is, of course, a brilliant illustration of how we build our lives and the choices we make, and the consequences of those choices. I love to bring this teaching out from time to time to get the women to think about their choices, as I invariably ask them at some point in the message if they have built their houses on the shifting sand (the standards, morals, and customs of this world) or if they have built their houses on the Rock (God's eternal Word). I know it sometimes, or even often, makes them a little uncomfortable to be confronted in such a direct way with a question like this, but that's okay. I want to get them to think. I want them to realize that there is another way to go, another and different path to take than the one they've been on in their lives.

This most recent time, when I got to the point of asking that question, as usual, there was uneasy shifting in their seats, eyes darting away, and hands fidgeting with clothing and hair, as I let the question hang in the air. I don't really expect anyone to give me an answer. I don't want to put anyone on the spot, but again, I want to get them to think about their lives and their choices. I let them know, even if they have been a foolish builder up till now, it's okay; they can change and become a wise builder.

This time, I had the pleasant surprise of one of the women who spoke out and said she had been a foolish builder for a great number of years, but during her current stay there at the prison, something has changed. She went on to give one of the most honest and heart-felt testimonies I have heard in a long time; speaking of God's power to change a life, and His grace and mercy to those who don't deserve it.

The other women listened with rapt attention. As she spoke, every word rang with truth and it made my heart so glad. I knew that this woman got it. She has become a living example of what the Lord was getting at with this parable; someone who has seen the emptiness of going our own way and has turned to God's way. I was so grateful for the other women to hear her and to have this example set before them. I pray that they will see that if God could do that for this woman, who they see as "one of them", then He can do the same for them. I pray that He would continue to change "foolish builders" into "wise builders".

### Treasurer Report Spring 2025

*"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."* (Luke 6:38)

God is the greatest Giver and expects us to follow in the steps of His Son Jesus Christ Who gave all! When we seek to please the Lord and serve Him it's going to cost us something. The question is, is it worth it? Anything we give up for the Lord and His purposes will have a rewarding affect in our life and literally have benefits that are out of this world!

Let's seek to come before the Lord daily and seek guidance from Him as to how we can give our time and money to share with ministries that need support. If you feel led to give towards Onesimus, please follow the prompts on our homepage at [www.onesimusministries.com](http://www.onesimusministries.com) and prayerfully give your donation so we can help our chaplains Heinrich & Rhonda as they seek to serve these lost souls in Chester County Prison for His purposes.

## Monday Night Fellowship

Dan  
Turley

### Small Stuff

Some time back I took a friend to lunch who was a practicing psychologist. I had a good reason to invite him to lunch; I was stressed about something heading my way in life. Being the good psychologist he was, he listened as I bemoaned my situation. When I finally got through telling him how bad life was getting ready to be for me, he smiled lightly and told me that there were only two things I needed to understand to get through any difficulty in life:

1. Don't sweat the small stuff. It will drive you crazy.

Nodding that I understood number one, he shared number two:

2. Remember, it's all small stuff.

It wasn't until long after my difficulty had passed that I began to realize the wisdom of what he had said. In the light of eternity, everything else is small stuff.

Each Monday night we face men who often see disaster headed their way. They have been arrested and jailed. They are often facing long sentences, are depressed and will not be there to raise their children or hug their wives, sometimes for many years. It doesn't feel like small stuff to them.

There is but one fail-safe shelter in such stormy times and that is the comfort of knowing that, if one is saved, he can rely on God to see him through.

The message in Proverbs 3:5-6 is simple but profound:

Trust in The Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will guide your path.