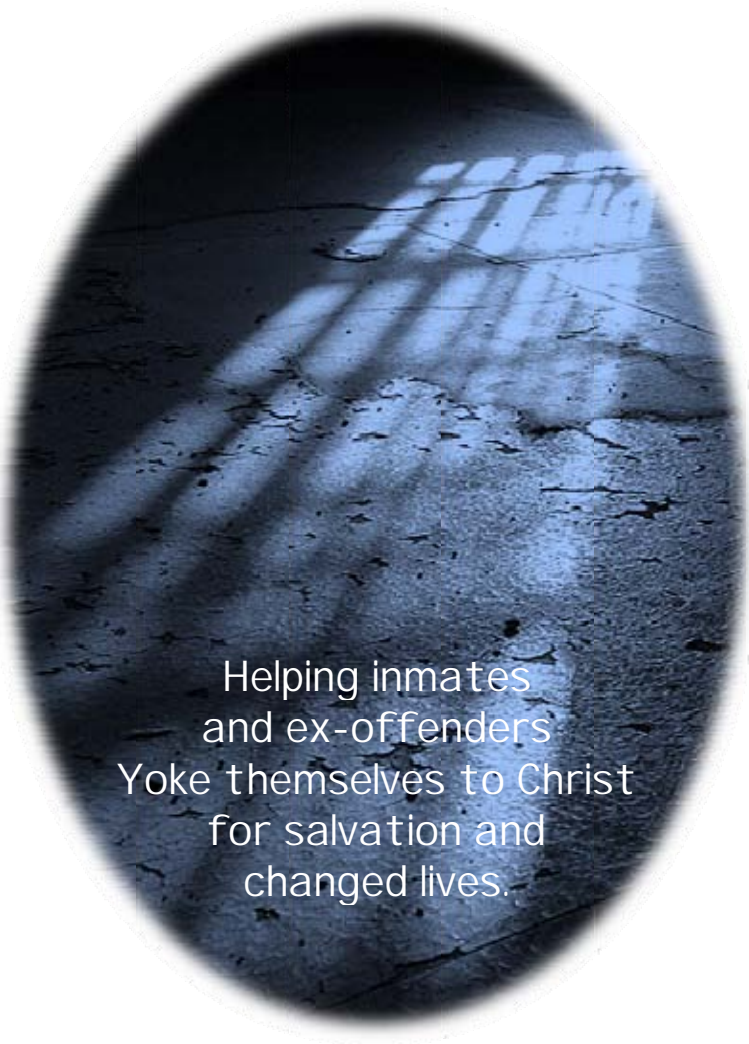


# YPM Annual Report

Serving PA and parts of WV & OH



Helping inmates  
and ex-offenders  
Yoke themselves to Christ  
for salvation and  
changed lives.



# 2007

John L Rush, Executive Director

THE YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY

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## About YPM

**YPM's** mission is to "help inmates and ex-offenders yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives." 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 and in parts of WV and OH. 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 Area Councils, 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 by Dr. Elton Trueblood, a renowned author, speaker, and theologian, in 1955. 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 yokefellows....". 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 this 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.



Rev. John Rush is YPM's part-time Executive Director, currently working two days a week. Rev. Rush is also part-time Executive Director for Justice & Mercy, a nonprofit criminal justice reform organization. This arrangement has worked exceedingly well – sharing both John's time and talents as well as office space and resources.

YPM MINISTRY PRESENCE

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 – 14 owned by state and the rest contracted with the state. These facilities house inmates on the way out, and in some cases halfway back in for short term remedial purposes.

*YPM IS IN NEARLY HALF OF THE ADULT PRISONS IN PA.*

**FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS (3/9)**

Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Canaan

**PA STATE INSTITUTIONS (16/26)**

Camp Hill	Coal Township
Dallas	Forest
Frackville	Graterford
Greene	Greensburg
Houtzdale	Huntingdon
Mahanoy	Muncy
Pine Grove	Retreat
Rockview	Smithfield

**YOUTH DETENTION INSTITUTIONS**

PA - Berks, Harrisburg, Lehigh  
 WV – Helinski, Lincoln

**WORK RELEASE PROGRAMS**

Salisbury, Lancaster, Lycoming,  
 Luzerne

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTERS**

Penncap

**RECOVERY PROGRAMS**

Spring Creek D&A, Harrisburg

**PA COUNTY INSTITUTIONS (28/64)**

Beaver County Prison  
 Berks County Prison  
 Carbon County Cor Facility  
 Centre County Cor Facility  
 Clearfield County Prison  
 Clinton County Cor Facility  
 Dauphin County Prison  
 Elk County Prison  
 Franklin County Jail  
 Greene County Prison,  
 Indiana County Prison  
 Juniata County Prison  
 Lackawanna County Prison  
 Lancaster County Prison  
 Lehigh County Prison  
 Luzerne County Cor Facility  
 Lycoming County Prison  
 McKean County Prison,  
 Montgomery County Cor Facility  
 Northumberland County Prison  
 Perry County Prison  
 Philadelphia Prison System,  
 Schuylkill County Prison  
 Snyder County Prison  
 Susquehanna County Cor Facility  
 Tioga County Prison  
 Wyoming County Cor Facility  
 York County Prison

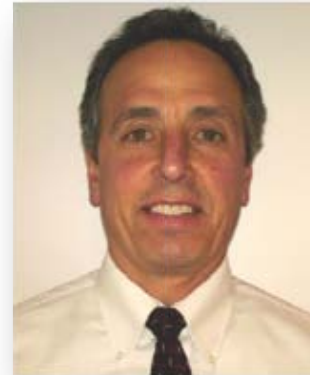
**WV & OH INSTITUTIONS**

WV – Ohio County Jail  
 WV – Moundsville Jail  
 WV – Wheeling City Jail  
 WV – Moundsville State Prison  
 OH – Belmont State Prison



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR – DAVID MANOS

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matt 25:35-40*



***Serving God, a privilege or burden?*** The answer follows, but first some thanks are in order. As I prayed about writing this letter the Holy Spirit impressed upon me, "Please thank those who have been doing my work in this ministry. Thank those who have willingly been my hands, feet, and voice among those who are broken and hurting." Funny thing... to get a message like that to share. Normally I would have first given all praise, honor and glory to God for what He has done in and for us in this ministry. But, just like the gracious Father that He is, He impressed me to say thank you to those who have labored in the fields of the incarcerated this year.

So, thank you to those who go into the many prisons and jails throughout Pennsylvania, Southeastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia. I praise God for all of you. It is miraculous to see your commitment and how God works through all of you week in and week out all year long. What a blessing it is to be associated with people who have such a great love for their Lord and His work of reaching the lost.

Second, I praise God for the leadership and many talents of our Executive Director, John Rush. As you read his activity-packed report keep in mind he only works for YPM two days a week. John is such a blessing to this ministry. He is talented, discerning and gifted, but most of all he is tireless and hard working knowing full well where his strength comes from (Isaiah 40:28-31). What a gift John has been to this ministry. He is unique among anyone I have ever met with regard to his gift for this work. It is accurate to say that without John we would not be the strong, comprehensive ministry that we are.

It has been a good year thanks to those mentioned above, but it has not been a perfect year. One reason comes to us from Jesus himself in Matthew 9:37, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Don't misunderstand, we have a lot of excellent workers, but as John travels through the state as our missionary looking to plant new ministries, he tells us there is still a great need. What does it take to meet that need? You! I have often pondered how a perfect God chose to bring a perfect message through imperfect people. It just doesn't make sense. My only conclusion is that it is a testimony to His great power and sovereignty. It is a testimony to who He is! It is just one more way His name is glorified - by using imperfect vessels to bring a perfect message to save people from a Godless eternity. To be sure, that is what is on the line. Either eternity in the presence of God who is the source of love, peace and every good and perfect thing, or eternity separated from the God.

So if you're reading this letter, here is an invitation for you. If you're working among us now, keep up the good fight. Or, if you're not currently involved in prison ministry, come join us and be part of a great work that blesses not only the hearer but the doer. Be part of a work that ministers to the least among us, those who are our neighbors in the communities where we live. Do it not only for their sake, do it for your sake. Dare to trust our perfect God to bring His perfect message through one more imperfect vessel. You think you'll see prisoners you minister to changed? Oh, much more than that! In the process you will have an encounter with God all your own and wait until you see what He does in you! It is guaranteed you will never be the same!

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – REV. JOHN RUSH

**H**undreds of good folks who enter prisons weekly do so with purpose. The desire of these Christians is to encourage permanent change in the lives of those that listen in the context of discussion groups. Someone stated that in real listening we authentically give ourselves to others. Volunteers can then speak into what they hear and the Gospel becomes good news to that person seeking to be lifted up.

*I see my role as giving oversight to and resourcing the Council Directors of the Area Councils that makeup YPM. As a Christian mission there is also a pastoral role to be served over the spiritual direction of the diverse group of volunteers. Being interdenominational, some focus is needed to discourage peripheral doctrinal ideas from distracting from our stated core seven disciplines. The Executive Director must have the Board's trust in terms of maturity and experience since his or her perspective on teachings and beliefs impact what individual volunteers are told when divergent issues arise, especially when they cause conflict among our mix of volunteers, the inmates or professional staff including Chaplains. Jesus said, "Come, learn of me", and this is what we want to do together, though at times it may include some wrestling with differing interpretations. We need to agree on what the YPM core is and not stray from it for the sake of the inmates especially. We want to care by word and deed.*



*Organizationally, our by-laws define us as a Christian nonprofit group with a governing board of directors comprised of 30 some representatives of our service area. The full board meets in the Spring and Fall and the Executive Committee alone meets in the Winter and Summer. We seek to be sensitive to the Spirit of God's leading. There is a balance between what Councils do locally and what the Executive Director does with and for them. Obviously the broader oversight benefits anyone interested in starting a new area council.*

*As a volunteer-driven organization we strive to provide quality control by asking all volunteers to receive training at least bi-annually. Opportunities for training exist at local annual training workshops and at the YPM Annual Conference. This Conference is a mountain top lift of inspiration, equipping volunteers for more effective ministry. We want our volunteers to keep abreast of current local and regional policies and practices in the professional criminal justice field. To serve best, a missionary must have understanding of the culture and give respect to it.*

*The leaders within YPM also do well to constantly offer the Church assistance in doing outreach to the ever expanding number of "neighbors" being placed in cages nearby. National statistics tell us that one in thirty-two is now under some sort of judicial supervision, and that 1 in 100 are incarcerated. Those arms are getting ever closer to every one of us sinners needing the Savior and it behooves us to care in this land of the brave and the "free". May our Lord grant us boldness to step up to the plate and keep our hand on the Gospel plow in this huge field.*

*Since Chaplains serve as part of the Christian Body, and do so under the sanction of their specific denomination as well as the governing authority, YPM offers itself as one credible resource among other good ones to his or her population. As Executive Director, I seek to periodically remind all local, state and federal chaplains of what YPM has to offer. I feel strongly that we shall relate to other ministries in a kind respectful manner. We recognize that we have left Chaplains down and vice versa. We rejoice for the many times we have worked together in the honor of Christ for the mutually agreed upon end of changing lives for better and lawful living and hopefully in connection with Christ as Lord.*

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Started YPM ministries in several institutions and actively pursued and interfaced with staff at other promising facilities and/or nurtured volunteers in those areas to implement new YPM in-prison groups.

New YPM Ministries- 2007

- SCI Retreat
- Greene County Prison
- Perry County Prison



Quehanna Bootcamp



SCI Fayette



Armstrong County Prison

YPM PROSPECTS

FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS

- FCI Moshannon (private)
- U.S. Penitentiary Canaan

PA STATE INSTITUTIONS

- SCI Chester
- SCI Fayette
- SCI Quehanna Boot Camp

PA COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

- Armstrong County Jail
- Clarion County
- Crawford County Cor Facility
- Jefferson County Prison
- Monroe County Cor Facility
- Northampton County Prison
- Wayne County Prison

YOUTH DETENTION INSTITUTIONS

- Greencastle YDC

*Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.*

*Acts 8: 30-31*

## NETWORKING, PUBLIC RELATIONS, CURRENT AFFAIRS

Communicated YPM's essence to and developed working relationships with those who can assist YPM in accomplishing its mission. Kept abreast of current issues, trends, significant developments, and opportunities relevant to YPM's mission.

Participated in the following programs:

- Clergy seminar in Philadelphia on treatment for drug and alcohol abuse (1/29)
- Preached sermon in Baltimore. (3/11)
- Exhibited YPM literature and website at a national Re-Entry Conference held at FCI McKean. (6/11-12)
- Spoke at UCC adult forum. (1/28)
- Meeting between DOC Executive Deputy Secretary John Shaffer with clergy leaders of Kingdom Care Re-Entry Network. (2/7)
- Attended meeting and gave invocation (5/11)

Attended following events:

- Roundtable on Aftercare led by parole in Harrisburg area. (1/30)
- Death Penalty Issue Coalition in Camp Hill. (2/1)
- Strategic Planning Training for Nonprofits. (2/19)
- Special Meeting Parole Board (5/16)
- Mentoring Seminar taught by Don Smarto sponsored by Liberty Ministries. (5/25)

- Annual PA Prison Chaplin Association meeting in Columbia, PA. (10/23-25)
- Earnest Preate speech at SCI Mahanoy. (9/19)
- Earnest Preate speech at SCI Coal Twp. (10/11)
- Earnest Preate speech at SCI Muncy. (10/29)

Participated in the following meetings:

- Met with Dr. Karen Swanson who heads the Billy Graham Institute for Prison Ministries in Allentown. (2/27)
- Spoke with Nancy Burkette, Executive Director of YPM in North Carolina.
- Met with Parole Board Chair Catherine McVey as part of J&M. (5/3)

Toured the following facilities:

- Sonshine Ministries in rural Perry County where Donna Gardener provides transitional housing for 20-25 men. (4/28)
- National Alliance for Mentally Ill state office. (5/16)
- Numerous programs for prisoners on the grounds of Wernersville State Hospital. (6/14)

## DAILY OPERATIONS & ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS

Maintained official records and documents, and ensured compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Managed YPM programs within budget. Identified and nurtured possible funding sources.

- Performed office duties and managed part-time clerical staff. Hired and trained new part-time staff.
- Prepared for and met with the YPM Executive Board January 13 and June 23, 2007.
- Prepared for and met with full YPM Board April 14 and September 15, 2007.
- Maintained and updated YPM data base.
- Managed finances, interfacing with treasurer, Brian Kulp, when necessary.
- Processed and mailed receipts for all donations.
- Prepared and distributed 2007 Directories.
- Incorporated new logo on letterhead, stationary, brochures, etc.
- Normal correspondence including inmate requests. Solicited help to assure diligent responses.
- Relocated office to new location due to non-renewed lease at ACTV building. Considerable effort required to process move and continue with daily demands of ministry.



## YPM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Organized YPM's annual conference with input and approval from Executive Committee and full board. Tasks included: suggesting and/or soliciting input on theme, presenters, schedule; taking care of location logistics; making arrangements with presenters; preparing and distributing conference information; processing registrations; and numerous other tasks necessary to assure a successful event. YPM conferences have typically been events where YPM volunteers and others interested in prison ministry gather together to hone their skills, share experiences, and learn about ministry-related issues and trends from knowledgeable and highly respected professionals in the field of criminal justice and rehabilitation.

**The 2007 YPM Annual Conference** was held Friday evening Oct 12 and Saturday October 13, 2007 at Best Western County Cupboard Inn and Restaurant, Lewisburg, PA. There were 129 paid attendees representing 26 counties. Special guest speakers included: Lennie Spitale, coordinator of Educational Resources with Good News Jail and Prison Ministry and author of **Understanding Prison Culture Inside and Out**; Catherine McVey, Chairman PA Board of Probation and Parole; and, Pastor Pete Fiske, founder and President of The Church at Prison.

The 2007 conference theme was "Understanding Prison Culture to Enhance Effective Ministry." Spitale spoke on "Spirituality, Our Prime Concern." McVey's topic was "Understanding our System of Probation and Parole –



How Can We Be Partners." Fiske's topic was "Creating Safe Sanctuaries for Sex Offenders." Spitale also spoke concerning Available Resources for Encounter Group Facilitation and Maximum Learning. A question and answer period and a panel discussion were scheduled to allow attendees ample time to interact with presenters.

## DEVELOPING VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Identify and nurture volunteers for new area councils and new ministry opportunities in institutions. Identify and nurture YPM leaders on local and state level.

- Met with Pastor David Martino at Mennonite Community Fellowship east of Milton...who has an elder (named Mr Freed) very interested in prison ministry. (4/27)
- Breakfast in State College. Richard Riddle and I met with Nancy MacQueen and Tom Brewster. She wants to do YPM for the women in **Centre County Prison**. Tom is the new Executive Director of Centre Peace. (4/28)
- In **Northampton Co**, spoke to a group at St Paul's Lutheran about YPM and explained options for them at both their prison in Easton or Monroe Co to the north. (5/26)
- I took Pastor Gerald and Mrs. Prentice along to a prison issues meeting in Philadelphia. He feels several men from his church in Germantown may want to do YPM at **SCI Chester**. Keith Groves is also expressing a willingness to go to Chester. (6/7)
- Monday evening, my wife Esther and I met with Dolores & John Baxter who for a year now are doing YPM at both **SCI Forest** (50 miles south of them) and also their **McKean Co Jail** in Smethport. (Sue Gordon goes to Co Jail women for YPM) (6/11)

## SUPPORTING AREA COUNCILS

Helped to support and strengthen Area Councils. Included, but not limited to: helping to solve problems and conflicts within council and without council; developing local support; providing certification training for volunteers; helping to open and maintaining good rapport with local institutions, and other actions as needed. Also brought YPM Volunteer Certification program to full activation.

### BERKS COUNTY AC

- Led the training for Area Council whose Council Director is Joe Greaves and Chris Readinger the committee chair. It was part of an outdoor picnic. (7/15)
- A second YPM training was offered for Berks volunteers who had not participated in the first training. This was also a business meeting. (10/28)

### CARBON COUNTY AC

- Attended training which also included the Chief in Probation and new Warden and Deputy. (6/16)
- Visited Doug and Venita Archer in their Carbon County home. (7/13)

### CENTRAL PA AC

- Attended training led by Council Director Wes King. (2/10)
- Coordinated tour for a dozen AC volunteers to visit aftercare programs in Lebanon and Berks Co. (3/17)

### CLEARFIELD COUNTY AC

- Attended training led by Council Director Dave Manos. Afterwards met in home of Chaplain Bob Henry who serves at SCI Houtzdale. (2/10)
- Spoke at the annual banquet. (9/28)
- Met with board member, Deloras Baxter, in Bradford who was frustrated because she was not allowed to bring her Bible into SCI Forest prison. When brought to Deputy Secretary, John Schaffer's attention the decision was reversed. (11/1)

### FRANKLIN COUNTY AC

- Led training in the afternoon and then spoke at their annual banquet that evening. (8/25)

### HARRISBURG AREA AC

- Spoke at AC at a fundraising event. (5/12)
- A breakfast in Mechanicsburg was used as an opportunity to get a few ministry people

together from Perry County, in the Cumberland County area, to introduce YPM more fully. (9/29)

### LACKAWANNA AC

- Participated in training lead by Council Director Peg Gorman. (5/19)
- Met with Gary Burkholder who is from the Lancaster area, but travels to the SCI Retreat weekly and is willing to take over leadership of our YPM group there. (11/9)

### LEHIGH VALLEY AC

- Participated in training including Ed Cunningham from Schuylkill AC. May 19
- Attended the annual banquet. (9/22)

### SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AC

- Led training. There was a strong turnout. (8/6)
- Participated in the Schuylkill County YPM breakfast with Don Smarto as speaker. 10/1/07

### SUN AC

- Did YPM annual training. (11/2)

### THREE RIVERS AC

- Training in Wheeling, WV for WV and OH volunteers in morning and Delmont for SW PA volunteers. (5/5)
- Sue Wiseman and I met with Chaplin Jim Badamo of the Westmoreland County Prison to explore opportunities for YPM in that institution. (9/27)

### UPPER SUSQUEHANNA AC

- Attended the AC Banquet. (4/27)
- Conducted training. (10/30)
- Had breakfast with the AC chair, Jack Schraeder, (10/31)

### YORK COUNTY WHITE ROSE AC

- Attended Eugene Chisholm's 24 hour awareness fundraiser by bowling 120 rounds on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. (3/11)

## YPM COUNCIL MEMBERS

## Officers

Exec Dir – John Rush, Chair – David Manos, Vice Chair – Sue Wiseman,  
Secretary – Evadna Cline, Treasurer – Brian Kulp

## Board of Directors

Brian Kulp

### **Berks County AC**

Joseph Greaves  
Mark Menley

### **Carbon County AC**

Rev. Douglas Archer

### **Central PA AC**

Wesley King  
Richard Riddle

### **Clearfield County AC**

Delores Baxter  
David Manos

### **Delaware Valley AC**

Keith Groves  
Linda Hunter  
Rev. MacArthur Littles

### **Franklin County AC**

Carlos Caguas  
Rev. John Rauch

### **Harrisburg Area AC**

Rev. Larry Coleman  
Larry Lingle

### **Juniata Valley AC**

Rev. Gary Krabill

### **Lackawanna County AC**

Margaret "Peg" Gorman

### **Lehigh Valley AC**

Wayne Benjamin  
Nick Lovette  
Alan Palmer

### **Schuylkill County AC**

Alan Sienkiewicz

### **S.U.N. AC**

Rev. Carl Geissinger

### **Three Rivers AC**

Ihab Freiz  
Sue Wiseman

### **Upper Susquehanna AC**

Stevan Atanasoff  
Evadna Cline  
Allen Deise  
Kathy Kolb

### **York County White Rose AC**

Gene Chisholm  
Paul Ilyes



## A BIT OF HISTORY –



The Yokefellows movement, based upon Matthew 11:28-30, began in 1955 when founder Dr. Elton Trueblood gave an address in Washington DC to a group of chaplains from the federal prisons. He emphasized the power of the small disciplined spiritual group to affect a change for the better in the lives of participants. Two chaplains, one at Tacoma, Washington, and the other from Lewisburg, PA saw the possibilities and soon, working independently of each other, established Yokefellow groups in their penitentiaries. Thus was born the Yokefellow Prison Ministry.

In 1968, a split occurred in the Yokefellow organization. A group withdrew from the National Yokefellow Prison Ministry and formed the Yokefellowship of Pennsylvania with the office in Williamsport. Rev. John Mostoller was the Executive Director. In 1986, the two organizations united again, as The Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, with Mostoller as the executive director. Amazingly, since 1986, YPM has had only four executive directors: Rev. John Mostoller (1968-1990), Newman Gaugler, Rev. Don Ripple (1990-1994), Wayne Benjamin (1994-2001), and John Rush (2001-Present). The fact that YPM is still a strong and vital ministry today attests to the caliber of leadership – both staff and the governing board– and to God’s favor. *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8*

In recent years, YPM has added ministries in Wheeling, WV and Belmont, OH while continuing to expand in PA.

**2007 in Review** - In addition to providing input, oversight, and direction for YPM’s growth, the board of directors took several major steps forward, organizationally and programmatically.

Organizationally, the 30 member *inter-denominational* board of directors adopted a new “succinct” mission statement – “helping inmates and ex-offenders YOKE themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.” While shortening the original mission statement, the board expanded the founder’s statement of faith as defined in the 1986 by-laws - “full commitment to Jesus Christ, with the Bible as our primary resource,” and adopted a new YPM Statement of Faith. (See page 2-3.)

In regards to program, with full board support, the first year of our volunteer training/certification program was implemented and hundreds of YPM volunteers – both new and veterans – received their first official YPM Volunteer Certificate. This step reflects YPM’s care and concern for quality, well-trained volunteers entering correctional institutions under the YPM banner. Also, in regards to program, in faith, the board approved doubling John Rush’s hours to two days a week, recognizing the time he actually devoted to YPM work, the additional time needed to implement the volunteer training program, and the vast opportunities to grow the ministry. With a last minute plea for donations, the financial obligations to cover this increase was met. And, finally, an official set of YPM Volunteer Ministry and Security Do’s and Don’ts were adopted. The guidelines are comprehensive including the reasons for each guideline.



***“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 STATEMENT OF FAITH

*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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.

Adopted by unanimous consent at YPM State Board Meeting September 15, 2007

## MINISTRY - DO'S AND DON'TS

**Do** pray before you enter the facility.

**Do** be respectful of inmates at all times. Even narrow prejudices or slight feelings of superiority will negate your presence and purpose.

**Do** be yourself and express your feelings honestly and genuinely.

**Do** be objective, disapproving when it is warranted, as well as praising, supporting and encouraging when it is warranted. Always speak the truth in love.

**Do** keep all conversations with inmates confidential unless you believe that the life or the safety of the inmate or others may be in jeopardy.

**Do** let inmates know, prior to any possible disclosure of information related to past crimes, that religious volunteers are not afforded confidentiality privilege. If they share information about unsolved crimes and *if you are subpoenaed*, you would be required to testify against them. Be sensitive to where conversations may be heading.

**DON'T** use personal physical contact with inmates other than a handshake. Avoid being alone with an inmate of the opposite sex.

**DON'T** ask an inmate why they are incarcerated. It interferes with and is irrelevant to the ministry.

**DON'T** offer legal or *any* professional advice to inmates. Your role is to provide spiritual support and guidance and nothing more. Going beyond this role will jeopardize you, the inmate, and the ministry.

**DON'T** expect thanks or be misled by flattery. Remember, *it is not about you*. Given their past and the difficulties inmates experience, you may even experience hostility at times. Don't be shocked; retain your composure at all times.

**NEVER** make a promise you cannot keep. Learning to trust others may be a key factor in an inmate's rehabilitation.

**REMEMBER** God's forgiving and transforming grace is everywhere, regardless of the intensity of sin and perceived hopelessness.



## SECURITY - DO'S AND DON'TS

**Do** ask for and comprehend the facility's security rules for volunteers. Every facility is different. Volunteer status can be immediately revoked for even the slightest violation of rules, willful or otherwise. Volunteer status is a privilege that must never be tested. In some cases the entire ministry may be jeopardized.

**Do** know and understand what is considered contraband in your facility. Seemingly ordinary items such as chewing gum and spiral notebooks may pose security threats.

**Do** dress conservatively, especially if you are ministering to members of the opposite sex. What may be modest to you may be otherwise to those deprived of contact with members of the opposite sex. Follow facility guidelines.

**Do** be respectful of facility staff at all times and obey them promptly and without argument. Clarification can be obtained after the fact.

**DON'T** share any personal information with inmates. While some inmates are genuinely interested in knowing you, some may be looking for ways to exploit or manipulate you. Be safe by sharing nothing.

**DON'T** take any actions or distribute any materials without securing permission from the chaplaincy or the authorities. One time permission may be granted for some ministry related materials. Giving a Bible to an inmate would be considered distributing contraband. The rule of thumb is "Nothing in, Nothing out."

**DON'T** be conned or manipulated no matter how innocent your response may seem. Never be a middleman by passing along notes, letters, conversations, etc., either inside or outside the facility.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

# YPM Financial Report

January - December 07

<b>Receipts:</b>	25% From Local Councils:	\$21,856.64
	Berks County Council	- \$560.00
	Carbon County Council	- \$0.00
	Clearfield County Council	- \$3,400.00
	Central PA Council	- \$1,465.00
	Delaware Valley Council	- \$100.00
	Franklin County Council	- \$3,000.00
	Harrisburg Area Council	- \$1,750.00
	Juniata Valley Council	- \$1,000.00
	Lackawanna County	- \$600.00
	Lehigh Valley Council	- \$4,334.50
	Schuylkill County Council	- \$75.00
	S.U.N. Area Council	- \$204.50
	Three Rivers Council	- \$750.00
	Upper Susquehanna Council	\$3,417.64
	York (White Rose) Council	- \$1,200.00
	Church Donations	- \$1,200.00
	Individual Offerings and Donations	- \$1,500.00
	Conference Registrations	- \$11,297.00
	Miscellaneous	- \$152.00
		-
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	- \$36,005.64
		-
<b>Disbursements:</b>	John Rush-Director	- \$19,350.00
	John Rush-Traveling Expenses	- \$2,654.69
	Secretary	- \$303.00
	Rent	- \$1,520.00
	Phone	- \$0.00
	Postage	- \$277.40
	Office Supplies	- \$132.16
	Printing Expenses	- \$1,221.05
	Conference Expenses	- \$9,658.65
	Miscellaneous	- \$100.00
		-
	<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	- \$35,216.95



## AREA COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

**BERKS COUNTY AC**

(Serving Berks and Lancaster County)  
 Council Chair – Chris Readinger  
 c/o Joseph Greaves, 911 N 10<sup>th</sup> St  
 Reading, PA 19604  
 610-376-7268 Joe\_Pop@verizon.net

**CARBON COUNTY AC**

Council Chair – Glenn Claypoole  
 c/o Douglas Archer, 3531 Mahoning Mountain Road  
 Lehighton, PA 18235  
 570-388-2346 ccynlpm@ptd.net

**CENTRAL PA AC**

(Serving Huntingdon, Centre and Mifflin Counties)  
 Council Chair – David J. Kurtz  
 c/o Wesley King, 30 Juliasam Dr  
 Belleville, PA 17004  
 717-935-2288 wesking@afo.net

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY AC**

(Serving Clearfield, Elk, Forest, McKean Counties)  
 Council Chair – David Manos  
 c/o David Manos, 588 Faunce Road  
 Olanta, PA 16863  
 814-236-1814 dmanos@pennswoods.net

**DELAWARE VALLEY AC**

(Serving Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties)  
 Council Chair – Rev. MacArthur Littles  
 c/o Linda Hunter, 1133 S. 53rd Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19143  
 215-726-5854 clhunter@verizon.net

**FRANKLIN COUNTY AC**

Council Chair – Rev John Rauch  
 c/o Rev. John Rauch, 2283 Springfield Dr  
 Chambersburg, PA 17201  
 717-261-0842 labici@comcast.net

**HARRISBURG AREA AC**

(Serving Dauphin, Perry, and Cumberland Counties)  
 Council Chair – Larry Lingle  
 c/o Larry Lingle 1681 Round Top Road, Middletown,  
 PA 17057  
 717-944-5120

**JUNIATA VALLEY AC**

Council Chair – Rev. Gary Krabill  
 c/o Rev. Gary Krabill, PO Box 113  
 Mifflintown, PA 17058  
 717-436-2132 pastorgary@pa.net

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY AC**

(Serving Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming Counties)  
 Council Chair – Steven Atanasoff  
 c/o Margaret “Peg” Gorman  
 112 Pollock Dr, Pittston, PA 18640  
 570-655-3928 gormanotto@peoplepc.com

**LEHIGH VALLEY AC**

Council Chair - Nick Lovette  
 c/o Wayne Benjamin  
 4931 Cypress St., Allentown, PA 18106  
 610-398-1765 yokefellowpa@juno.com

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AC**

Council Chair – Edward Cunningham  
 c/o Alan Sienkiewicz, PO Box 141,  
 Pottsville, PA 17901, 570-366-0173

**S.U.N. AC**

(Serving Snyder, Union, Northumberland Counties)  
 Council Chair – Rev. Carl Geissinger  
 c/o Rev. Carl Geissinger  
 1329 ERTley Road, McClure, PA 17841  
 717-543-5130 luvgod4@juno.com

**THREE RIVERS AC**

(Serving SW PA and parts of WV and OH)  
 Council Chair – Sue Wiseman  
 YPM Three Rivers AC, PO Box 56  
 Youngwood, PA 15697  
 724 925-6925 suewiseman@comcast.net

**UPPER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY AC**

(Serving Lycoming, Montour, Clinton, Tioga Counties)  
 Council Chair – Jack Schrader  
 c/o Evadna Cline  
 1200 Almond St, Williamsport, PA 17701  
 570-322-2005 jeracline@evenlink.com

**YORK COUNTY AC**

Council Chair – Eugene Chisholm  
 c/o Paul Ilyes, Jr.  
 65 Kendale Road, Red Lion, PA 17356  
 717-244-6305 paulilyes@aol.com

PRISON MINISTRY STATISTICS

*In 2007, more than 400 YPM volunteers worked with an estimated 1,300 inmates.*



**INSTITUTION # VOL - AVG ATTENDANCE - TIME**

**BERKS COUNTY AC**

Berks County Prison			Th 7
Youth Detention Center			Sat
Lancaster County Prison	2	6-8	W 7
Work Release			
PENNCAP	1-2	4	M 7

**CARBON COUNTY AC**

Carbon County Jail	7	35	Sun 6-9 TWTh 6-9
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**CENTRAL PA AC**

SCI Huntingdon	14	60	Th 7
SCI Smithfield	12	50	T 6:30
Centre County Prison (M)	4	2-4	M 7
Centre County Prison (W)			F 2
SCI Rockview	5	6	M 2

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY AC**

Clearfield County Jail	15	36	Th&Sun 7
Elk County Prison	2		
SCI Houtzdale	6	90	T 6:30
SCI Forest		15	T 6:30

**DELAWARE VALLEY AC**

House of Corrections	6	100/1251st	Sun 9
SCI Graterford	2	15-25	Alt T 6:30
Phil Ind Corr Center (w)	4	12-15	Th 5-6
Montgomery County Prison			
Federal Detention Center	10	30-42	T 6-8

**INSTITUTION - # VOL - AVG ATTENDANCE - TIME(S)**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY AC**

Franklin County Prison (M)	10	20	W 7
Franklin County Prison (W)	10	10	W 7

**HARRISBURG AREA AC**

Dauphin County Prison (M)	3	25	M 7
	3	30	F 6
Dauphin County Prison (W)	2	10	Th 7
Spring Creek Drug & Alcohol	2	10	
Camp Hill SCI	4	16-20	T 6

**JUNIATA VALLEY AC**

Juniata County Jail	18	12	Sun 1-4
	1	3	M 7-8
	1	10	W 1-4
	3	4	Th 7-8
Juniata County Jail D&A	1	4	T 1-3

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY AC**

Lackawanna County Prison	5	12-15	M 9am
	5	18-22	Sun 5
Lackawanna County Prison(W)	3	22-30	Th 1
Luzerne County Prison	3	10-12	M 6
Work Release	3	15-22	M 5
Luzerne County Prison (W)			
Wyoming County Prison	4	9-15	Alt F 6
Wyoming County Prison (W)	5	6-9	Alt F 6



**INSTITUTION - # VOL – AVG ATTENDANCE – TIME(S)**

**LEHIGH VALLEY AC**

Lehigh County Prison	50	75	M 7:30 T WF8:30 F 6:30 4&5Sun 7:30
Lehigh County Prison (W)	14	20	M 1 Th 7:30
Juvenile Detention Center	23	12	Sun 7:30 T 7:30
Salisbury Annex Work Release	2	6	Th 7:30



**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AC**

SCI Frackville	4	4-8	T 9:30am
SCI Mahanoy	5	12-15	T 1:00pm
Schuylkill County Prison (W)	4	10	AltSat 8:30
Schuylkill County Prison	5-6	10	AltSat 8:30
	5-6	10	AltSat 9:30
FCI Schuylkill			T Eve

**S.U.N. AC**

Northumberland Co. Prison	4	15	W 6:30
Northumberland Co. Prison (W)	2	5	Th 12:15
Snyder County Jail	2	8	M 6:30
Snyder County Jail (W)	3	8	Th 6:30
Union County Jail	1	5	T 7:00

**THREE RIVERS AC**

Beaver County Jail	3	6	F 9
Beaver County Work Release	3	3	T 7
SCI Greene	2	8-14	Sat 1
SCI Greensburg	5	25-35	Th 7
Indiana County Jail	2	1-9	Th 7
	2	1-9	Th 8
SCI Pine Grove	6	12	Th 6:30
WV Moundsville Prison	5	8	Sun 6:30
WV Moundsville Jail	12	45	M&F 7:30 M&F 8:30
Helinski Juv Center (G)	3	10	Alt Th 7
Lincoln Juv Center ( B)	4	20	Alt Th 7
OH Belmont Prison	4	30	Sat 6

**INSTITUTION - # VOL – AVG ATTENDANCE – TIME(S)**

**UPPER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY AC**

Clinton County Prison	2	10	W 6 Th 6 Sat 6 Sun 2
Clinton County Prison (W)	2	20	W&Th 8 Sat 8 Sun 3
SCI Coal Township	2	10	Th 6
SCI Dallas	2	5	Alt T 1:30
Danville Center (W)	4	2	Sun 10:30
Danville Center (Youth-boys)			
Ravine Cottage	2	6	Wed 7
Green Cottage	2	2	Sun 7
Reed Cottage	2		Sun 7
Danville Center (Youth-girls)			
DCAF Cottage	2	6	Sun 10:30
Lycoming County Jail	5	23	Th 7
Lycoming County Jail (W)	1	4	Th 1
Lycoming County Jail			
Work Release	3	4	Fri 7
SCI Muncy (W)	5	25	Wed 7:30
SCI Retreat	5		2&3 M 6
Tioga County Prison	1	10	Sun 6
Tioga County Prison (W)	1	5	Sun 6
Transitional Mentoring Center			One-on-One Mentoring

**YORK AC**

York County Prison	1-2	2-10	Th 7
	1	30	Fri 3



# 2007



Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.  
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,  
I will come in and eat with him,  
And he with me.  
Rev 3:20

John L Rush, Executive Director  
THE YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY  
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