

**SERVING PRISONERS, EX-PRISONERS,
AND FAMILIES OF THE INCARCERATED**

BRIDGE PRISON MINISTRY

BRINGING RENEWED HOPE IN THE DARKEST PLACES
WHERE THE LOVE OF CHRIST IS SO MUCH NEEDED.



Volunteers taking the message of hope, comfort and joy through Christmas caroling at the Pima County Jail Saturday December 21, 2019. We had a blessed time visiting several PODS/Units, caroling and praying with the inmates.

Volunteers provided Christmas services at the Federal Bureau of Prisons; FCI December 8, Camp and Penitentiary December 22. Many received prayer with several of the men giving their life to Jesus Christ.

"I was in prison and you came to Me." Matthew 25:36

MENTORING

Bridge Prison Ministry Mentoring Program provides consistent and caring mentors to guide, support and inspire the incarcerated and ex-offenders. The mentoring program equips and develops the attitude and skills that will help the mentee become successful in their personal lives and as members of society.

One of the most important benefits of having a mentor is their chances of success increases greatly. Offenders and ex-offenders may not have people in their lives that are positive role models. Have you considered becoming a mentor? You can make a difference in the success of a returning citizen.



MISSION STATEMENT

Bridge Prison Ministry is a faith-based charitable organization that serves inmates preparing to transition from incarceration to successful restoration into the community, family, and reconciliation to God.

BPM is impacting the lives of prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families in miraculous ways.

In 2019, Bridge Prison Ministry (BPM) volunteers did an outstanding job serving:

- 3,748 Inmates
- 117 Ex-Inmates
- 217 Children & Families
- 448 GRM Residents at the Center of Opportunity
- 42 Care Packages/Hygiene products to ex-inmates
- 529 Letters to inmates from their pen pal

Men and women are successfully reintegrating, rebuilding their lives, finding employment, safe housing and restoration with family members, church, and community.

Congratulations to all the volunteers for their Kingdom business service and for their faithfulness in serving and sharing the love of Christ to the prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. This would not be possible without your prayers and financial support.

BPM is committed to building on these accomplishments and ask you to partner with us by giving a monthly donation at www.bridgeprisonministryaz.org.

Thank you!



ANGEL TREE GIFT-GIVING CHRISTMAS PARTY



Pastor Bob & Carolyn Sawvelle from Passion Church opened the event with a blessing & prayer.



Mary and Daryl hand painting and praying with every child who was getting their hand painted.

The Angel Tree Gift-Giving Christmas Party for the children and families of the incarcerated was a huge success. The children received their gifts, a stocking filled with goodies, they enjoyed getting their hands painted, eating cookies and a delicious dinner was provided.



L-R: Kyler Brudeau, Mary Nava and Daryl Loveless. Kyler getting his hand painted.



Above: Pusch Ridge Christian Academy Students

Right: Angel Tree Christmas Gift-Giving

Below: The children picking up their stocking and volunteers writing the child's name on their stockings.



Testimonies:

A gentleman gave his life to Jesus Christ. Many children and families received prayer. Three year old girl received healing from kidney failure. A volunteer called dad to connect with him concerning the Christmas party. At the time of the call his 3-year old daughter was in the hospital in ICU with kidney failure. The volunteer offered to pray with dad over the phone. After praying with dad over the phone, the body of Christ started interceding on their behalf. God answered dad's prayer, the 3-year old daughter received her healing. Dad and daughter attended the Christmas party. All Glory and Honor is His!



A very special thanks to everyone who donated stockings, stocking stuffers, cookies, gifts, food, donations, prayers and support to help make this possible.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree
Staff, Students and Families
Pastor Bob & Carolyn Sawvelle
Cheryl Tuck, Sister Connection
Doug Rupel
BPM Volunteers

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy
Passion Church
Jason Anderson
Cecilia Bedoy & Life Groups
Mary Nava & Daryl Loveless

CRT CHRISTMAS PARTY



Volunteers' Christmas party at New Life Bible Fellowship Church Friday December 13.

Born from Below

(Reprinted by permission from Street Psalms | Words from Below | Dec 25, 2019)

“The Word became Flesh and made His dwelling among us...” **From John 1:1-14**

Gideon Ochieng
CTM Kenya
Nairobi, Kenya



Henry will be joining millions of people across the world today as we celebrate Christmas. But, his will be a different kind of celebration. He will unwrap a gift swaddled in both pain and joy. His pain comes from the location of his celebration—a local prison. That's where his son is an inmate.

Our prison system gives the warden absolute power over what goes on in the prison. There are no formal rules, just the whims of the jailer. He decides who comes and goes. And even when visitation is assured, it might still be hard to achieve. Inmates often get sick from the horrid jail conditions, or they may be moved to different facilities without prior notice. Some inmates die due to unattended medical conditions, or get severely injured in fights. The system is a dangerous mess.

Henry is one of our leaders who pastors a church in a slum community in Nairobi. The guards know him as the visitation pastor who reaches out to the convicts. They don't realize he's related to one of the felons. If they knew his son was a prisoner, he would be limited to ten minute visits, if even that.

To maintain his status, Henry must continue to show up as a stranger, a counselor to all prisoners, a priest fulfilling his calling. His layer of joy comes from the fact that he will be celebrating Christmas with his son, unlike in the past when his son would not show up to any family function, let alone Christmas.

You see, Henry's son joined the wrong crowd in his neighborhood. And eventually, he was rounded up with other minors and sent to one of the maximum-security prisons in the outskirts of Nairobi. He was alleged to have committed several crimes.

In some ways you might say he is lucky to be in jail, since many of his friends have since been killed in crime-related activity. Henry's son has never been formally charged, and this is his second year behind bars. It may take many more for his case to be concluded.

When Henry visits the jail, he speaks to all the incarcerated juveniles. They gather around him to listen to news from the outside world and to receive his ministry. His son is always among the outlaw audience, beaten down, with sunken eyes, sitting quietly like his peers. His son waits for his turn at the end of the gathering to speak to the "priest." Like the other men, he hopes Henry will relay his messages to his mother back on the outside.

The son must go to his father as someone being counseled and communicate only through coded language. He must not cry like a child who longs for his father's embrace. Likewise, Henry must hide his tears from the unsympathetic jailers. He prays that he never has to witness his son being whipped...but, if he must, that he be able to withstand the sight and remain calm without revealing his identity.

The jailer seems to be so powerful, reducing the father to a beggar, unable to rescue his own child. Such must have been the feeling of God as the world ushered in the newborn King. It had to be from below, through human flesh, the same path every person travels. It had to be in a manger, the lowest place for a royal to be born.

Our jails, back alleys and slums are the "low" places that Jesus would have been born in today, away from the lights and festivities that mark the opulence our society strives for. Henry's community would be the backstreet that plays host to the newborn king, a place of brokenness where strangers share from the abundance of glimpses of pain and joy born out of shared suffering.

Several leaders that I have come to love and respect, a band of Christian brothers and sisters, are leading hundreds in celebrating the birth of our King today in marginalized communities. In their communities, they have discovered the palace awaiting the birth of our King as they continue to work for the transformation of these spaces.

Henry's son remains behind bars, and Henry will continue to minister to him as a stranger, his fate remaining unknown. But, a light shines in the darkness; there is hope that one day many sons and daughters will be freed.

Jesus' birth from below is an invitation for all of us. Go to the hidden, dark and low palaces in the hearts of your suffering neighbors. It's not too late. Go, celebrate the light as it brings renewed hope in the darkest corners of the earth and our lives!



Photo: Jerry Luo, Light in Prison



“I was in prison and you came to visit me” Matthew 25:36

BPM is committed to building on these accomplishments and ask you to partner with us by giving a monthly donation or a one-time gift to BPM at www.bridgeprisonministryaz.org.

Contact Us

Bridge Prison Ministry
7320 N La Cholla Blvd Suite 154. PMB 157
Tucson AZ 85741

520-907-6987

bridgeprisonministry@gmail.com
www.bridgeprisonministryaz.org