



Pacific Youth Correctional Ministries

Serving Orange County Probation Facilities Since 1981



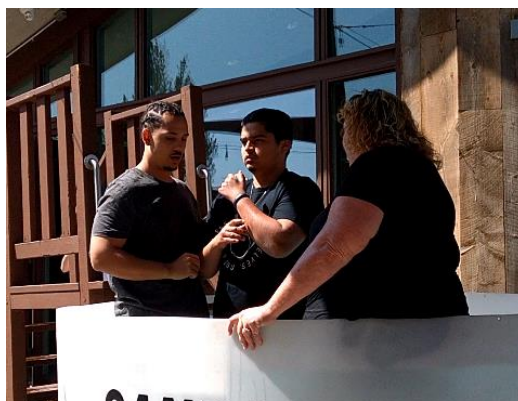
Here are some recent ministry highlights, letters from various incarcerated adults, along with encouraging comments I have received in voice mails, emails, cards, text messages, or in person.



I shared my experience of speaking at Matthew's memorial service in my September Prayer Letter but I didn't have room to also say that his judge had taken a special interest in Matthew and wrote out a speech that I was asked to read at the end of the service. One of the men from Street Light Church lived in the area and drove to the park to give me spiritual support and he ended up ministering to some of the gang members who were there. A video of the service was placed on my YouTube Channel and was viewed several times by those who couldn't be there.



The librarian at the Youth Guidance Center had a reading program over the summer and then filled one of the outside bulletin boards with the covers of the books and a short statement. One day a particular cover caught my eye. It was the cover of the Picture Bible that our ministry donated to the library many years ago (far middle left). Under the photo was what the youth who read it wrote. "I would recommend this book if you want to find the wisdom of God. The book follows the life, path, and rules God gave to his chosen people."



Angel has been mentioned in my monthly prayer letters since February and I was able to visit him on Labor Day. Sandal's Church in San Bernardino has been a huge blessing for him and he shared the photo of him being baptized there last summer.

Moises was someone I met in Juvenile Hall over twenty years ago and since he works in Anaheim, we meet for lunch once in a while. Last June, he sent me a photo of he and his wife being baptized at Calvary Chapel of the Redlands. We made plans to meet at the Harvest Crusade held at the Honda Center.



He had driven to Los Angeles to pick up his sister who was in a program after being released from prison. She was touched by the experience and went to receive a bible from a follow up counselor. The photo is his oldest son (Little Moises) getting baptized a few weeks ago!



For the first time in decades, there have been two Spanish only speaking youth who have attended my church services. The first one was in YLA so I had three pastors cleared and made the services bilingual for a few weeks. After him was a fourteen year old (David) who had been in the Orange-

wood Children and Family Center after coming across the border with his mom and stepdad in May. He made a bad decision in Orangewood and ended up in Juvenile Hall. So I recruited Pastor Alan Amavisca (see photo) from the Spanish congregation at YL Friends Church to join me each Thursday to disciple this new believer who has lots of issues. He will be leaving soon and someone from that church is planning to give David rides to their services.

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Brother Rick

It seems like yesterday when you visited me in jail. Thank you for giving me hope. I asked God to place good brothers into my journey and he has. One of them says I have the gift of counseling. What does that mean? You need a ducat (pass) in order to attend church here. I haven't been able to go since April and would try to sneak in. I was finally given a pass and have been attending the services. I am on the list to go to fire camp but have to go to my annual committee first. I will write more after that.

JP

Chaplain Rick

Thank you for your card and Happy Birthday too. We have been on a modified program for the past four months but tomorrow things will get back to normal. I will be able to use the phone and give you a call right after I get ahold of my family. I have 55 days left until May 30th and will be paroling to a program in Costa Mesa. I am happy that I don't have to go back to my hometown which wouldn't be safe. The only time I need to be in Santa Ana will be to visit my family. I am both nervous and excited about getting out and can't believe it's been so long. I feel ready to do what I have to do. For the past two years I have been clean and have not been in trouble, thanks to God.

AH

Chaplain Rick Johnson

I hope and pray all is well with you and your family. This yard is getting deactivated so because my points dropped when I went to committee a few days ago, I qualify for a Level One Yard. I requested to go to Ironwood or Chuckawalla and am excited about leaving. Someone in Sacramento granted my request to move my Parole Board Hearing up to October 16th. Because of that I am redoing my support letters and wanted to know if you can please help me out by writing one like last time. Thank you so much and God bless you.

RF

Brother Rick

You're a special blessing! We've known each other for 28 years and you have been a gift from God to me and to plenty of other brothers as well. I pray that this season of your life will birth new ideas, dreams, visions, goals, relationships, and a new anointing. God's mercies are new every morning. May the Lord renew your strength.

AR

Dear Chaplain Rick

When I received your letter from the deputy, I was taken back and it took away the stress of being in jail for a few moments. I enjoy hearing from someone since 95% of the letters I write are never responded to. According to my sister, the letters I write to my grandfather get thrown away. I have been doing drugs since the age of 14 and for the last ten years I did not know what I was doing. I have been sober for the past seven months and am starting to feel stable. I can't stand who I have become and when I think about sinning, it makes me scared and sad. I believe in hell and heaven too. I pray God will take me into heaven and at least let me be comfortable there.

JM

Hi Rick

I would like to express my appreciation for reaching out to me and for the birthday card. I am attending bible study every Tuesday and doing the Narrow Way lessons too. My cellmate and I are also reading the bible together. I want Jesus as my Savior and have surrendered my life to him. The Lord's presence is something I feel in my life but need to know what else I can do to fulfill his purpose for my life in this facility.

TE

Letters used by permission

Incarcerated Youth

Talking to you feels better than talking to a therapist. Thank you for meeting with me.

Church Member

Your dedication and humility are admirable. Thank you for all you do for our church.

Army Recruit

I feel blessed to be where I am and couldn't have made it this far without your help.

Former Volunteer

It's a blessing to see how you mentor so many youth. You have truly won the lost for Christ.

Mother of Youth

My daughter calls every Sunday and always says positive things about your church services.

Incarcerated Youth

My grandmother put your card on the refrigerator so I would call you.

Former Parolee

Every person I meet that knows you has something good to say.

Church Leader

Thank you for everything you've done. You continue to bless me with your faithful preaching of the word.

Adult on Probation

I really appreciate our talk because it lifted my self-esteem and made me feel hopeful again.