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The Washers

Dear Friends and Family,

We received some discouraging news prior to heading out for our fall semester. Our first tournament was going to be a basketball and volleyball tournament at a ladies prison we've been to many times. Last time we held a basketball tournament there the gospel was preached to around 120 ladies and we ran out of Bibles because so many wanted them. We were told by the staff that new policies don't allow us to bring in Bibles and "Much More" books (due to a growing problem with drugs being wiped on paper entering prison). We thought it might be just that one prison but we received an email from the next

prison in OH telling us that we are not allowed to bring anything in (equipment, sound system, Bibles). After much prayer, we had to cancel the first two weeks of our semester due to this new policy. Giving out the Word of God is a major part of our ministry. After those two we were headed to a prison in Mansfield, OH and they told us that their tournament was going to be canceled due to lack of prison staff. Because of the cancellations and adjustments in schedule we were quite a bit delayed on leaving for our fall travels.

It's not all discouraging news. We have some exciting news about some doors that have opened up for our ministry. It's not all finalized so we will keep you waiting until next month's update. Thanks for praying for our ministry!

Allen Oakwood Correctional (Lima, OH)--This week we were back at the prison in Lima, OH with some of our favorite inmates in the nation! There were 2 firsts at this prison. I was thrilled to be able to take ALL my boys with me to hold a PICKLEBALL tournament on Friday. Our family made 2 teams and, not surprisingly, we both got beat eventually. There were around 25 guys listening to the gospel intently. On Saturday we held a basketball tournament as we've done here several times in the past. There were around 75 guys listening incredibly well with even guys sitting behind me on the other side of the gym listening. It was very quiet in the gym and unusual for this prison. It was evident that the Spirit of God was working! There were around 10 men that responded after both messages. It was such a joy to have them be counseled by other inmates that the chaplain has trained to be gospel missionaries around the prison! I was invited to preach at the chapel service on Sunday afternoon and their "church" has grown since last year—around 140 guys worshipping the Lord! One of our favorite attendees at the chapel service is Rico, an inmate who trusted Christ many years ago at our tournament and has faithfully been disciplined by a local pastor. What a joy to fellowship with him once again!

Putnamville Correctional Center (Putnamville, IN)--We've been to this prison several years and it always has a big turnout. The staff are always very kind and tell us that the men are thrilled when we come back. It was interesting when one of the staff members told me, "The captain said to do whatever you say." I felt like I had a lot of power for a day...Haha! There were 18 teams and around 75 men listening very intently during the gospel messages. Here are

around 75 men listening very intently during the gospel message. Here are several testimonies from the men. "God has changed my heart today. He brought me to Jesus." "God accepted me as His child." "God changed my heart and took my sins and cleansed me." "I gave my life to God and believed His promise to give me everlasting life." "He saved me from my sin and made me His son for eternity." "He saved me and gave me hope in here."

Mission's Conference--Several years ago we held a basketball tournament at a prison near Erie, PA. One of the pastors from a local church in the area joined us for the event. This fall we were invited back by his church to present the ministry of ITL to their church and preach on Sunday. We had a wonderful time of fellowship with the people at Garden Heights Baptist Church and they were so encouraging in their love of what we do on a regular basis. Our family felt it was necessary, since we were so close, to take a trip to Niagara Falls. We had our passports so we were able to visit Canada for the first time as a family. Our boys had never been there and we survived the day without being tempted to go over in a barrel.

Assist Program--We are in need of some more church members (especially men) to write to inmates using our pen pal program. Visit www.itlassist.org for more information.

Thank you so much for your faithful support!
Thank you for your kindness and encouragement!

Jonathan, Emily, Ethan, Hudson and Austin Washer

Schedule

October 4--Soccer game against inmates at Correctional Industrial Facility
(Pendleton, IN)

Southeast Baptist Tabernacle (Indianapolis, IN)

October 11--Basketball Tournament at Pendleton Correctional (Pendleton, IN)

Grace Baptist Church (Anderson, IN)

Grace Baptist Church (Anderson, IN)
Bethel Baptist Church (Greenfield, IN)

October 18--Basketball Tournament at Plainfield Correctional (Plainfield, IN)



Nobody volunteered to go over
Niagara Falls in a barrel. Oh well.



It was so exciting to be able to take
all the boys in to a prison for the first
time ever to hold a pickleball
tournament (also a first!) We made 2
Washer teams and eventually got
beat by the inmates.



Inside the Lines



Assist Program



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