



# JAIL & OUTREACH MINISTRY

Oakland County MI  
Jail Chaplaincy

Volume I Number 6

## JOM REFLECTIONS

### DREAMS OF A 7 YEAR OLD! A 7 YEAR OLD ON OUR MINDS AND HEARTS



In May, a 7 year old boy came to JOM Outreach Office in Pontiac with a family member. Before he left I had discovered:

- ◇ He did not eat any food all day.
- ◇ He was expelled from school
- ◇ His dream is to have a “prison home” some day. (A favorite person is in prison.)
- ◇ He is building his arm muscles, so, he could put his fist through a wall, as well as, fight other kids.

Is anyone aware of his grief over the loss of his uncle living in prison? Is a child of the incarcerated in our midst?

Are restorative justice practices calling us to notice a child that is acting out? Might a 7 year old have some serious heartaches?

If we expel a child at seven, what is the expectation for him/her at 10, 13,15, ...? Do we give up on a child? Is zero tolerance an answer or creating more of a problem?

### VIOLENCE, TEEN VICTIMS, AFTERMATH....

Everything is going backwards—Housing, furniture, food, clothing, on and on. The deepest pain is the loss of a son to a senseless shooting. He was a teen that was inseparable from his brother. The brothers were a year apart. When his brother was killed, a teen

sat in a room for three days grieving. When he rose from his retreat, he was filled with hopelessness, anger, and revenge. He joined a gang and has no respect for himself or others. He is dangerously lost in his agony and eventually we could see him in a newspaper or nightly news....another statistic.

### JOM OUTREACH IN PONTIAC

These are just a couple of the families that we reach through JOM Outreach. There is no magic wand to make all this pain and grief and despair go away. On the other hand, we are present in the midst of the neighborhood.

The 7 year old received food immediately thanks to a donation of lunches from St Joseph Parish in South Lyon. He had a new school bag for back to school. We hope to keep connected to him in various ways over the next few years. One way we keep connected is through JOM Seasonal projects.

For the teen gang member, I am not sure we will ever meet him. On the other hand we are supporting mom and the rest of the family. Even in little ways we are making sure that they grow in some understanding of grief, as well as, have some support getting through basic human needs while experiencing this heart wrenching crisis. These are not easy situations. We stand with the folks we meet. We refer to other resources to meet needs we experience. On the other hand, we walk, listen, and pray with and for people day by day by day.

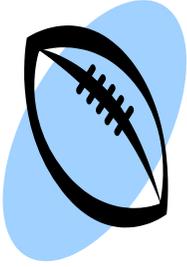


*“When a heart beats with compassion, God is there.”*



## Think Twice Ministry-Pro-Football Players, John & Guy Earle, Visit Oakland County Jail

by Milton Hill, John Mittelstadt, and Jim Jenkins



Milton Hill, John & Guy Earle, Toni Jenkins, Doug Howard, and Jim Jenkins

**JOM OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL PROGRAM**....According to John Mittelstadt, *“ I had a great experience attending a Law & Gospel presentation two NFL, AFL, & CFL retired football players. John and Guy are not only twins but both have championship rings. They are both ministers in the Dallas Texas area and when not in their home Church, travel the country speaking to inmates, students, and any others who are interested in knowing their Lord. These two guys had nine combined broken feet during their careers. They were both professional linemen and have the build to prove it. I was blessed to be able to listen to them. ”* Almost 200 men and women inmates at Oakland County Jail in Pontiac Michigan were able to listen to their message about life experience and the Gospel, especially John 3:16.

**Jail and Outreach Ministry** serves victims, offenders, and families through direct service, education, and advocacy. We have served Oakland County in the jail and outreach for 35 years. JOM became a non-profit in 2010 in order to continue this critical ministry. We are all volunteer and serve all faith groups. Oakland County does not have a prison. In Oakland County the only major institution for the incarcerated is the Oakland County Jail under the leadership of Sheriff Michael Bouchard.

The Co-Chaplain's are Peggy Devaney, IHM and Martha Limbaugh. Recently, both Chaplain's received Awards from the Sheriff for excellence in service, highest standards, and fairness in service. Thank you for sharing and supporting Jail and Outreach Ministry.



## FRANK IS “WATCHING OUT” by Pierre Flajole

### FRANK AS A “WATCH OUT” AND “WATCHING OUT” MAN

Frank was once a “watch out” man at a drug scene. He then spiraled into cocaine “dealing.” During incarceration Frank developed skills he would use to help others; he became an inspirational “watch out man”: a man that “watches out” for the legal rights of others. Frank was our invited speaker to the Jail and Outreach Volunteers Appreciation Prayer Breakfast in September.

### A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR AND PEN PAL

A neighbor of Frank, a fellow lay volunteer at Oakland County Jail, Marlene Morlock says “When I heard Frank got a prison sentence I got his address, and we wrote back and forth.” She says he used to help me do chores; he was always “up” in a good sense; he was always willing to help; there’s no negative thing in him. The neighbors loved him.

### CONVERSION AND TRANSFORMATION OVER TIME

In more than thirty years of visiting people incarcerated at the Oakland County Jail, we have encountered thousands of men and women. A common thought expressed among the vast majority of these men and women has been a desire to change the trajectory of their lives, to turn the corner on the behavior and situations that led them to the conditions in which they find themselves, that is they want a “conversion”. For most of us, the effort it takes to make a major change is easy to understand and we can relate to the people we see at the jail; because to some degree, each of us recognizes our need for conversion or, perhaps we may have experienced a conversion in the past.

### FRANK’S LIFE PRIOR TO JAIL...“IN A SPIRAL TO HELL”

A December 2014 posting of the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) and Criminal Defense Resource Center talks of such a conversion. Frank C. Rodriguez was an inmate at the Oakland County Jail for 3 ½ years. In the posting, Frank describes his life growing up with a mother who was severely ill, a father who left the family and basically, being raised by an older sister. He spent some time in a juvenile facility at age 10, when his mother was unable to deal with him. He struggled throughout school and although he graduated, he was not able to read or write. During his teens, Frank began selling marijuana and eventually, through a set of circumstances, was dealing cocaine. This continued for several years and Frank’s life was characterized by violence and even the death of a close associate. He speaks of his life at this point as “in a spiral to hell”.

### MEET FRANK AT OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL -FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WHAT HAPPENS DURING 3 1/2 YEARS IN OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL?

At age 27, Frank was arrested on drug charges and incarcerated in Oakland County Jail. He was functionally illiterate, had some family roots, caring neighbors, and was potentially facing a lifetime behind bars. He was an inmate in the jail for 3 1/2 years. His only positive in his life at this time was his “ambition to achieve some sort of success”. It was during his time at OCJ that Frank’s “conversion” had begun to take root. He met another prisoner who mentored him and helped him learn to read. The fellow prisoner was well educated and assisted Frank for free; he told Frank that if he did not learn how to read and write, he would probably die in prison. This mentorship and becoming literate was the catalyst that set Frank on a new course. Through the Chaplain’s office, Pat Montenegro, visited Frank once a week and went to his trial.

### WHAT HAPPENS DURING 17 ½ YEARS IN PRISON?

In December, 1997, Frank was eventually sentenced by an Oakland County Court to a term of life imprisonment without parole, 10-30 years, 2-30 years, each sentence to run consecutively to the others. After several years in prison, Frank was able to work in a law library. He eventually was fortunate enough to secure employment with Prison Legal Services of Michigan, Inc. (PLSM), which was then-located inside the prison walls. Some years later, he applied for membership in the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section of the State Bar. In October, 2008, he received confirmation of membership and he continues to be a member in good standing. While in prison, Frank authored articles, assisted prisoners with commutation requests and even assisted SADO with its Clemency and Commutation Project.

### HOW DID FRANK ACHIEVE COMMUTATION IN 2010?

Frank prepared his own commutation petition, and on September 30, 2010, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm granted him a commutation of his life sentence. In all, he spent approximately 17 ½ years in prison, but through his own initiative, the guidance and help of a fellow prisoner, and a strong support system from those with whom he became associated, as well as a neighbor that continued to write over the years, he has had an easier re-entry than most persons and has been able to continue the change in his life’s direction that began when he was first incarcerated.

### WHERE IS FRANK IN 2015?

Frank graduated from Lansing Community College in May of 2015. Frank shared his experiences and insights at the JOM Volunteer Breakfast on September 26, 2015 at Our Lady of the Lakes, St. Joseph Hall, in Waterford, MI. When he remembered life in the jail, he told us that the Jail Holiday Project really touches those incarcerated. At a time when you are most alone and lonely, that silence is shattered by the sounds of Christmas Carols and a small bag filled with items that give expression to the care of the faith community for all God’s people. The Jail Christmas Project is included in this newsletter

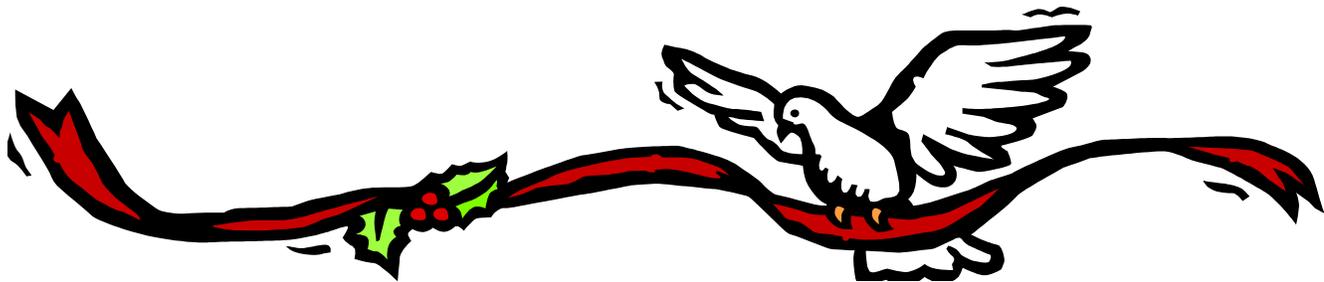




**JOM SEASONAL PROJECTS – VOLUNTEERS, CHOIRS - SINGING GROUPS-DONATIONS**

**JOM FAMILY THANKSGIVING**

Distribution begins at Outreach- **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20**. We hope to assist 100 families. If you would like to Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving or Christmas give us a call. 248-338-9310



**DETAILS ON THE CHRISTMAS AT THE JAIL PROJECT.**

**BEGIN PREPARATION OF JOM JAIL Package for inmates at Oakland County Jail-**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 7** Preparation at Outreach—starts **Monday December 7, 2015** in the afternoon at the JOM Outreach Center.

*Pick up of materials at collection sites is in the morning of December .*

**JOM Jail PRE-Packaging at Outreach—TUESDAY DECEMBER 8**

(ALL DAY/TIL FINISHED) - Volunteers needed; We are pre-packing items for 1600 packages at JOM Outreach for the Jail.



**JOM Assembling of Packages and need for Choirs during Jail Project**

**SATURDAY December 12** 9:30 AM until finished with packages (registration required) Meet at Jail Building 1201 N Telegraph -BLDG. 10 East -Employee entrance and parking.

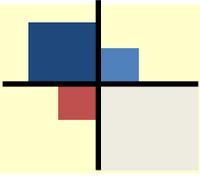
**JOM Choirs at the Jail—SATURDAY DECEMBER 12** 6:30 PM—9:00 PM (meet at assigned locations—registration required)

**DETAILS ON THE ADOPT-A- FAMILY PROJECT CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

We receive Adopt a Family donations in December. Usually, we have about 100 families that churches, individuals, organizations, and various groups adopt.

**We distribute the gifts during the week before Christmas** through the JOM Outreach Office.





# Jail Holiday Project

## PREPARING ITEMS FOR JAIL

### HELP NEEDED!

- **MONDAY DECEMBER 7th AT JOM OUTREACH SORT ITEMS**  
EARLY AFTERNOON
- **TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th**  
SORT ITEMS JOM OUTREACH -  
9:30AM TIL 4:30PM (or til finished)
- **DECEMBER 9th Outreach**  
SORT ITEMS- CALL TO CHECK  
PROGRESS 248-338-9310
- **SATURDAY DECEMBER 12th JAIL**  
ASSEMBLE ITEMS FOR THE  
HOLIDAY BAG **AT THE JAIL.**  
9:30 AM TIL FINISHED  
(usually before 1:00 PM)

USE **NORTH DOOR OF MAIN JAIL**

**EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE**

**& PARKING LOT**

**REGISTRATION NEEDED.**

## JAIL CHOIRS -BAND-SINGING GROUPS

SATURDAY DECEMBER  
12TH AT 6:30PM

ASSEMBLE AT  
DESIGNATED LOCATION  
WITH CHAPLAIN'S  
OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE



### **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

IF YOU ARE MAIN JAIL OR ANNEX CHOIR  
WE NEED TO USE EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE  
AND PARKING LOT LOCATED ON

EMAIL: [pegdev@comcast.net](mailto:pegdev@comcast.net)

JOM FAX: 248-338-2695

JAIL PHONE: 248-858-5475

JOM OUTREACH: 248-338-9310

CELL PHONE: 248-770-5198

**JOM OUTREACH**  
**building for pre packing**

**December 7-9 th**  
**is located at**

46352 WOODWARD AVE  
PO BOX 1366  
PONTIAC MI 48344-1366

*Jail and Outreach Ministry is a charitable 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. This means that Jail and Outreach Ministry is able to provide donors with tax-deductions for contributions and donations. DONATIONS PAYABLE TO:*

**JAIL AND OUTREACH MINISTRY**

*(Just a friendly reminder from Doug Zande, our treasurer. Bank computers prefer exact name on check, so, please make your donation check payable to: **Jail and Outreach Ministry**)*

*Thank you!*



### Clergy Clearance and Visiting Oakland County Jail

#### Clergy Clearance

The jail visitation desk uses the Directory of Churches prepared by the Metropolitan Christian Council as a basis for clergy entering the jail to visit a member of your faith community. Changes need to be updated through the Council 313-870-9550 or e-mail: [Councilweb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Councilweb@sbcglobal.net).



#### How/Why to get listed in the Directory of Churches ?

Many denominations and communions annually update all their church listings. Other faith groups and denominations have to do the updating individually before October. This usually becomes urgent when you are trying to visit a member in jail. Plan ahead. 313-870-9550



#### Tips on Security

- Send materials directly from *publisher*.
- No staples or hard back books allowed
- All Religious materials need to be cleared and delivered through the *Chaplains' Office*
- Bring *Picture ID*
- Be prepared to place *all personal items* in a locker



#### Clergy visiting a family member or relative

If you are visiting family/relatives, you are required to visit as a FAMILY MEMBER in a Jail Setting within *FAMILY times and guidelines*. 248-858-1800 Prisoner Information



#### Professional Clergy listed in Directory of Churches

Family Visitation is not the same as a professional visit with a member of your local church / faith community. If you are listed in the Directory of Churches you will only need to:

- check on inmate location
- clergy times for visiting.  
Call 248-858-1800 Prisoner Information
- Picture ID is mandatory.



#### Professional Clergy not listed in Directory of Churches

Clergy / Faith Representatives needing to visit and NOT LISTED in the Directory of Churches need to Contact:  
Martha Limbaugh / Chaplains' Office 248-858-5475



### DIRECTORY

#### Chaplains' Office— OCSO

1201 North Telegraph Bldg. 10 East

Pontiac MI 48341

248-858-5475 Office

248-975-4390 Fax

#### Prisoner Information and

#### Family Visitation Times

[WWW.OAKGOV.COM/SHERIFF](http://WWW.OAKGOV.COM/SHERIFF)

Or 248-858-1800

#### Jail Counseling

248-858-1731

#### JOM Outreach Center

Monday, Wednesday,

46352 Woodward Ave

PO Box 1366

Pontiac MI 48343-1366

248-338-9310 JOM Phone

248-338-2695 JOM Fax

Website: [www.jail-outreach-ministry.com](http://www.jail-outreach-ministry.com)

#### Representatives

Martha Limbaugh

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Peggy Devaney, IHM

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