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Kingsway Outreach  
Chartered 1983  
501 (C) 3 Tax Status

### **Our Mission:**

Our Mission: "Ministering through the heart of Jesus to the broken hearts of those impacted by the criminal justice system, both those incarcerated and re-entering and their families."

### **Philippians 4:11-13**

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.

## **KINGSWAY BANNER Spring 2021**

When a Mom Or Dad are Incarcerated, things can become financially desperate.

Some families are left homeless. Others their lights are turned off, heating bills can't be paid and food hard to come by.

Kingsway tries when funds are available to help them through the hard times. We help with bills, food and guide them to resources in the community. We pray with them, listen to their concerns, and let them know there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Contributors and volunteers helps us meet these needs. Sometimes the needs are greater then the resources so remember us in prayer.

Jesus would want all to be served, pray and see what he would have you to do. Remember this, those who deserve love the least need it the most.

Love without Judgment is what Kingsway does in service to the Lord through caring for his people.

The year **2020** was one of the most unusual Kingsway has experienced. Despite all the obstacles to the ministry we were able to go forward. Louise worked from home to send out devotions to those incarcerated and respond to their letters. Pat took care of the office responsibilities and The Apple Tree Project. Pappy Pless kept up with the web page. Sandy Pless set up zoom meetings for the board. Volunteers Pam Presgraves, Vicki Barb, Bonnie Runion and Mary Earman kept up with the Holiday Card Program ,Inmate Christmas, Apple Tree and Birthday Cards..

### ***A Big Thank You to our Board***

#### ***Members listed below.***

**Louise Jennings, Executive Director**

**Pat Crouse, Associate Director and Treasurer**

**Vicki Barb, President**

**Sandy Pless, Secretary**

**David Boyce, Board Member,**

**Jeanne Carter, Board Member**

**Jeanne Conley, Board Member**

**Murdock Conley, Board Member**

**Pappy Pless, Board Member**

**Shirley Gibbs, Board Member**

**Alvin Yoder, Board Member**

#### **Office Volunteers**

**Pam Presgraves**

**Carleen Loveless**

**Mary Earman**

**Vicki Barb**

**Bonnie Runion**



### **Childhood Memories**

This picture represents a very special time in my life. The tears you see are happy ones caused by the memories of when I climbed a willow tree in my back yard similar to the one in the picture. God gave me this amazing gift to draw back in 2007 when I was first incarcerated. The inmates in my Pod see my drawings and I am often asked to make things for them. Like this picture, I have made several others but there will never be two alike.

***Drawing Above by Criss***

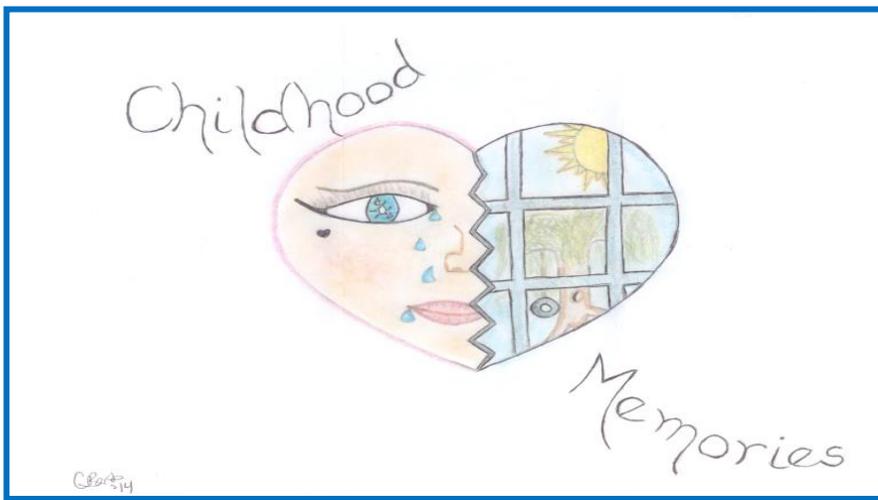
### **Barriers to Work for Ex Felons**

It is often the sad case that most ex-felons find it extremely difficult to find employment. Incarcerated people want to work. Their high unemployment rate reflects public will, policy, and practice — not differences in aspirations. Convicts have paid their debt to society yet are punished for their crimes for the rest of their lives, regardless of the nature of the offense. Stable employment is one of the key factors in reducing the rate of recidivism. Previously incarcerated individuals have an unemployment rate of 27.3%, higher than even the Great Depression. Ex-felons have a callback rate of less than 50%. They even have trouble renting a place to live as landlords often use the presence of a criminal record to deny housing. One solution is to Ban-the-Box, or the pre-employment question asked by employers on the initial application. The criminal background check is only considered after a conditional offer of employment is given. Overall, ex-felons have significant barriers to work that are unfair and unreasonable. There must be significant criminal justice reform for these issues.

**Wayne Berman**



**Pictured  
Pat & Louise**



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**Wayne Berman**



**Pictured  
Pat & Louise**

## **Hello Louise,**

Grace be to you in Jesus Name! Hope that you and all your volunteers at Kingsway are well. As I write to you to express what your ministry means to me one of the first things I did was to pray and asked the Holy Spirit to help me convey this to whoever reads this. I want to start from today and work backwards to the year 1986 when I first met Louise and Shelton at Augusta CC. One thing that comes to mind is not only what Kingsway means to me but others that I've met in the system that spoke so highly of Kingsway Ministry right before I got released from Baskerville CC in 11/6/20. I met Big John who talked of the ministry when Kingsway did monthly church services at Augusta CC. Big John stated that he owed Kingsway so much and he looked forward to the day when He would be able to give back to Kingsway. I am grateful that after my second time in the system that you/Kingsway continued to keep in touch with me in the forms of letters, cards, Christian teachers, etc. For the six years Dec 2014-Nov 2020 I was in. When so many others church family, friends, girlfriend forgot about me Kingsway didn't. Yes Kingsway has always been there for me. Also my son who is now 39 years old remembers Kingsway too. The reason he does is because from 1985-2000. He received cards, Christmas gifts through The Apple Tree Project all those years. That meant so much to me because the gifts were as though they came from me. Now here it is 2020 and Louise and Kingsway still helped me and assisted me. When I was released in November of 2020. I wasn't able to purchase a phone. Kingsway was there to give me a phone and even just last week Louise and I talked by phone. So this is why Kingsway is important to me. I am sure there are many other ways that Kingsway supports people that may be unknown to me. Thanks so much Louise and Kingsway for your service to me and my family. You and your staff are a blessing.

**Joyful,**  
**Merthan S.**

## ***Encouragers Needed***



Calling Christian men to write to inmates thru the Kingsway Encourager program. If you are willing to write please contact Carleen Loveless, coordinator, LouiseJennings1975@gmail.com or call **540-433-5658** and leave a message. This is a safe program.

### **Kingsway's Programs Update**

**250 Children** received gifts through The Apple Tree Project

**6,000 Inmate Christmas Gifts** distributed to Inmates

**Sent Devotionals Inside Prison Monthly**

**Sent 1,600 Cards each Mailing of**

**Valentine's, Easter , Thanksgiving**

**6,000 Christmas Cards**

**Individual Correspondence Answered**

**Re-entry Needs Met When Funds were Available**

## **Kingsway Christmas Programs Volunteer**

This is the first for me. The first time I have volunteered at Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach. The first time I have been involved with the Inmates Christmas and the first time in being involved with the Apple Tree Project.

The month of December was fast and furious. There is something quite satisfying about counting out 6,000 pencils, 6,000 tubes of toothpaste, 6,000 note pads, and 6,000 chap sticks. I am doing this, so others may have a little bit of Christmas and letting them know there are people on the outside of the prison or jail walls that care about another human being. The satisfaction is in knowing that these are the only gifts they receive at Christmas and you don't want to miss count anyone.

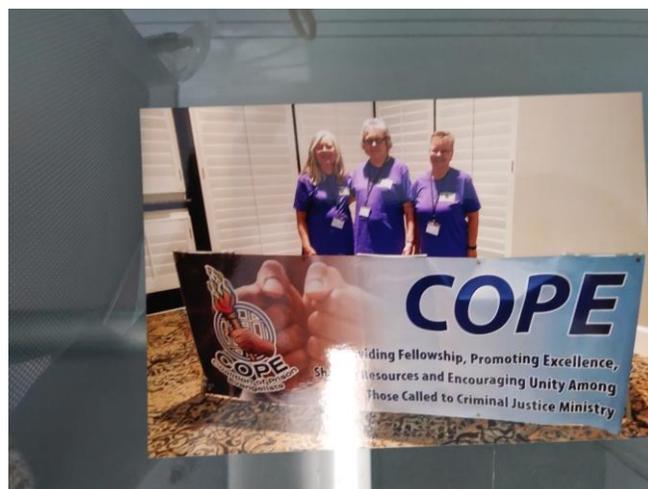
The other first I was involved with was in the calling of the guardians of the children of inmates who received gifts through the generosity of churches in the area. Each child the inmate named received gifts selected especially for them. Calling the guardians and letting them know they could pick up the gifts was a real treat. The guardians were just as excited I think as the children were receiving the gifts.

One person I was personally involved with did not have a phone number, but was in the area I was familiar with. I took the box of gifts with me as I started home. I took a scenic tour of area and found the house I was looking for. There didn't seem to be anyone around, but there were signs "Beware of the dog!" Well, I didn't see any dogs either, but decided to play it safe and I honked my horn. A head popped up from under the hood of a truck. I asked if this was the right place and he said yes. I told him I had gifts and he smiled as big as I have ever seen. He was getting worried the gifts wouldn't make it. I wished him a Merry Christmas and felt just a little like Santa Claus.

This is the reason to volunteer. Your heart just grows a little bigger.

**Vicki Barb, Pastor Parnassus UMC**

***Pictured  
Carol Heatwole, Louise Jennings,  
Vicki Barb  
At  
Coalition of Prison Evangelist  
Conference  
2019***





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Harrisonburg VA 22801

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## In This Issue.....Walking Through



Louise Corner

As I sit in my chair in my small warm apartment with phone in hand listening and watching the Vision of Hope UMC Church service I realize how blessed I am. As I am sitting wondering how those Kingsway has tried to help just find a room to rent are doing and praying they are warm my phone rings and a lady I shared Jesus with at the Jail said she was praying that the Lord would tell her who to call and my name came up on her phone so she called to see how I was doing and if I was still able to be with Kingsway. She thanked me for helping her turn her life around and told me she had been out of jail, happily married and drug free for 10 years now. That call was followed by 2 more calls from male ex-offenders saying they were just thinking about me and praying I was not going out on the ice. One of the men was a repeat offender that recently got out and was working. He wanted to let me know that the company he worked for was hiring and if we had anyone looking for a job and he talked to them first he would get a cash incentive if they were hired, the other one had lost his wallet and Vicki and I had prayed with him on Monday and he called to say he found it. Another call came from a man still in prison Praising The Lord that they did not have any new covid 19 cases in Augusta Correctional Center and would be getting their vaccine. I look forward to the day I will be able to return to the prisons and share Jesus with the prisoners again. Search your heart and see how you can help me help others. It may be praying for Kingsway and me or it may be putting a donation in the mail for Kingsway or online at [www.kingswayoutreach.org](http://www.kingswayoutreach.org) Blessings, Louise

**The Banner is published as a bridge between you, Kingsway's supporters and the hands-on prison and family outreach ministry of Kingsway.**  
**The Banner welcomes your comments, suggestions, and questions.**  
**Is there something of interest you would like to know about? Let us know.**  
**Also remember, the Banner is a means of raising funds to carry on the work at**

**Kingsway.**  
**KINGSWAY PRISON & FAMILY OUTREACH**  
**P.O. BOX 2335**  
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**OR**  
(Note Physical Address )  
**2217 South Main St. (Dukes Plaza)**  
**HARRISONBURG, VA 22801**  
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**Email: [info@kingswayoutreach.org](mailto:info@kingswayoutreach.org)**  
**Web: [www.kingswayoutreach.org](http://www.kingswayoutreach.org)**  
**[LouiseJennings1975@gmail.com](mailto:LouiseJennings1975@gmail.com)**

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