

The Kingsway Banner



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.”

Chartered 1983
501 (c)(3) tax status



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JANUARY 2023

From The President of the Board of Directors

Happy New Year from Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach! We so appreciate each one of you! Because of caring folks like you, Kingsway once again provided Christmas for 9 different facilities and 6,000 inmates! How special each one of you are in allowing us to be able to present Christmas gifts this way in an ever darkening world. Normally these inmates would receive nothing for Christmas, so thank you!

The inmates received a pencil, a writing tablet, a chap stick, a tube of toothpaste, a Christmas card and a book mark. On the back of the Christmas card, Kingsway stamped that we now have correspondence Bible Studies. Because of this, we received interest from 15 new inmates and Kingsway is now in 10 different facilities. God is so good! Little by little we are reaching more and more individual inmates and casting the light of Christ for them.

Christmas Eve, 10 volunteers from Kingsway went to Augusta Correctional Center to have a worship service for the inmates and then deliver the Christmas gifts. There were 70 inmates in worship, and then the 10 volunteers hand-delivered gifts to a little over 1,000 inmates. As we left the pods in each of the buildings, we sang “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and blessed each one of the men.

More good news about Christmas!! Louise Jennings and Richard Jackson were blessed with being able to go into Coffeewood Correctional Center on Christmas Day, spending the day with the inmates, attending their worship service, and handing out gifts to each one.

Kingsway’s wish for each of you is: “May God continually bless you that you may be a blessing to and for others!” Happy New Year!!!

Serving Him,
Vicki Barb, President, Board of Directors

The Banner is published as a bridge between you, the Kingsway supporters, and the hands-on prison and family outreach ministry of Kingsway.

The Banner welcomes your comments, suggestions, questions, testimonies, and article submissions. If there is something of interest you would like to know more about or have included in this newsletter, please let us know.

Please send all submissions and communications for this newsletter to the Editor at kingswaybanner@gmail.com

Encouragers'

Corner

Kingsway provides church services weekly to inmates in Craigsville's Augusta Correctional Center. During these times, the residents who choose to attend enjoy praise and worship music, testimonies, and messages from various Kingsway volunteers. This is a blessing to the men, but even more so to the volunteers who give their time to attend. It is especially encouraging to see men, young and old, grow in their relationship with our Lord.

One young man shares his struggles and victories through acrostics. Here are two:

S-T-O-R-M

Situations That Only Restore Me

Genesis 39 (all)

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Jonah 2 (all)

Luke 15:11-24

Hebrews 12:3-11

S-A-F-E

Stay Away From Evil

Proverbs 11:14

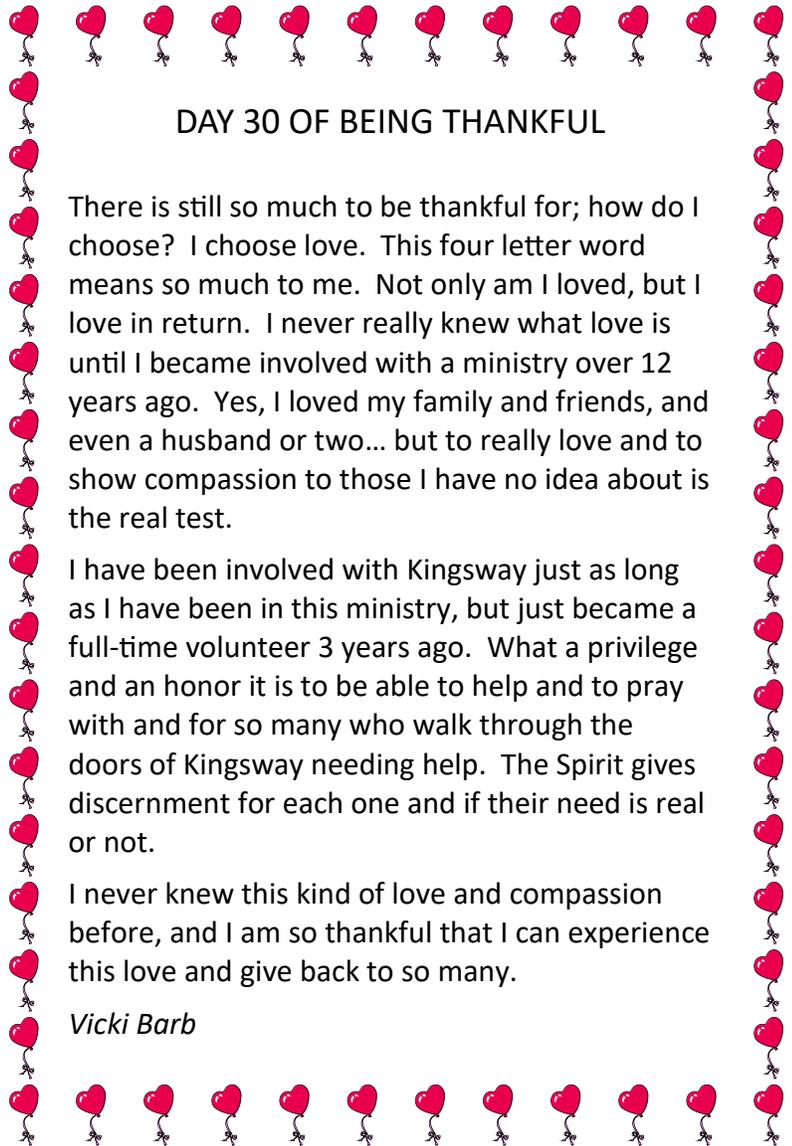
Proverbs 3:5-8

Proverbs 4:10-27

Proverbs 21:30

Proverbs 30:5

Pray for these men as they seek to grow in their walk with our Lord.



DAY 30 OF BEING THANKFUL

There is still so much to be thankful for; how do I choose? I choose love. This four letter word means so much to me. Not only am I loved, but I love in return. I never really knew what love is until I became involved with a ministry over 12 years ago. Yes, I loved my family and friends, and even a husband or two... but to really love and to show compassion to those I have no idea about is the real test.

I have been involved with Kingsway just as long as I have been in this ministry, but just became a full-time volunteer 3 years ago. What a privilege and an honor it is to be able to help and to pray with and for so many who walk through the doors of Kingsway needing help. The Spirit gives discernment for each one and if their need is real or not.

I never knew this kind of love and compassion before, and I am so thankful that I can experience this love and give back to so many.

Vicki Barb



SUPPLIES ALWAYS NEEDED

It's not too early to plan for Christmas 2023!

Toothpaste

(Individually boxed; 6 ounces or smaller)



Pencils: Yellow No. 2

(Any brand; must be unsharpened!)



HELP WANTED!

Has the ministry of Kingsway impacted your life in some way? Have you felt a calling to serve and to have a voice in prison ministry?

Kingsway has two openings on our Board of Directors. If you feel you may be interested in serving, please contact Louise Jennings and/or Vicki Barb to discuss your interest and qualifications.

SPECIAL EVENT!!!

March 3, 2023, is the 40th anniversary of the Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach ministry!

Stay tuned for news as to how we plan to celebrate this important event. We welcome and encourage your participation and support!

TESTIMONIES

Dear Mrs. Jennings & Everyone at Kingsway,

I would like to take the time to say "Thank you" for your birthday and holiday cards. They mean more to me than you could know. This past year has been the toughest year of my life. Last September 3, I found out that my mother, Dorothy Jenkins, died from COVID. That very same afternoon, I was informed that while in the hospital for COVID, my son had been diagnosed with leukemia. Two weeks after this, while planning my mother's funeral and explaining to my son that his grandmother (who also raised him) had passed away, which was exceptionally hard because of his autism, my sister, Theresa Alley, died suddenly due to a bleeding ulcer. As you can imagine, that was a very hard time to go through from prison, especially since I wasn't even allowed to view the services remotely. Then, as the year went on, my son's mother, whom he himself barely knew, stopped all contact between me and him. With him being my only family, and I don't even know how he is doing with his cancer, makes every day harder. Then, as if all this wasn't enough for me to deal with, I became plagued with financial difficulties, such as the screen to my TV being broken when the prison sprayed for cleaning after a COVID outbreak, which of course the prison denied any responsibility for, including mine or the six others that were damaged at the same time. Then I was transferred to my current facility, and after waiting two weeks to get my personal property, I found that my previous prison threw away my shorts, thermals, and sweatshirt because they had gotten holes in them due to regular use, and they considered this altered. My shoes were also discarded because I had tied the soles to the shoes to stop them from coming apart.

So as you can see, this past year has been rough and to be honest, that's not everything I've had to deal with. But I know God has allowed me to face these trials to strengthen me in my faith and to prepare me for the blessings He has in store for me. But your cards have been a blessing when my birthday came or a holiday comes, and I'm down about any family not being out there to send me a card or some mail, or I become depressed about not having anyone in my life right now that cares about me, I get a card from you. Then I think that, even though you don't know me, you care enough to send me a card. Then I see that even though I don't have any family right now, I am cared about, so thank you so much.

Please tell everyone at Kingsway that I am so grateful for their thoughts and their words.

Sincerely,
D. Jenkins

PS: Please forgive the mistakes above. My resources are very limited and able to rewrite.

WHAT DID KINGSWAY DO IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2022?

During October, November, and December 2022, Kingsway provided assistance with the following:

- ◇ 21 phones with \$35 cards
- ◇ Housing assistance for 9 to Oxford House
- ◇ 3 Utility bills (2 electricity, 1 water)
- ◇ 8 Gift cards for gas and underclothes
- ◇ 3 Purchases of auto parts
- ◇ 10 Clothes vouchers
- ◇ 6 Hygiene kits
- ◇ 3 Backpacks
- ◇ 6000 Christmas gifts for inmates
- ◇ Hand-addressed and sent 1800 Christmas cards to inmates
- ◇ Christmas gifts for 150 children of incarcerated parents through the Apple Tree Project (<https://www.kingswayoutreach.org/family-outreach-ministry>)
- ◇ "Leftover" gifts delivered to a behavioral hospital for children, a home/shelter for battered women, and a children's clothes closet
- ◇ Fed a meal to 3 people

Kingsway's regular activities include:

- ◇ Mothers of Prisoners/Inmates (MOPS) meetings every 3rd Tuesday
- ◇ Fellowship Gathering every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm
- ◇ Thursday Night SOS Fellowship with dinner



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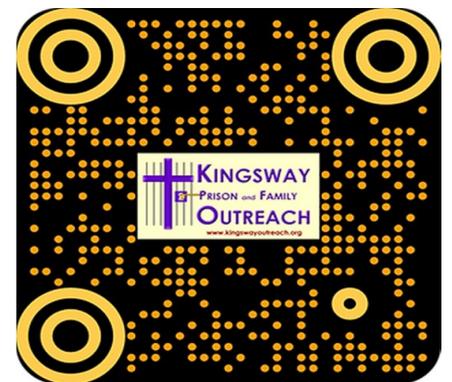
Louise's Corner **Reminiscing**

As I was thinking about something for this newsletter, I was reminded of how Apple Tree began and the Christmases at the start of Kingsway. Even before Kingsway was named, Shel and I were going into Camp 8 at Linville, and we were allowed to have a Christmas Tree decorated and an actual birthday celebration for Jesus with cake and punch. Apple Tree actually began as the result of the flood of 1985. Kingsway found out that the children of flood families were being helped, but the children of prisoners were left out. In 1985 we served 13 children with toys and their families with a turkey and all the trimmings for a great Christmas dinner. In the 80's, we were able to do Christmas parties in Old Staunton Correctional Center and give gifts to the inmates. In 1989, we began going into Augusta Correctional Center, and on many Christmas Eves we didn't leave the prison until 1:00 am Christmas Day as we delivered gifts.

In 1988, we had Christmas Toy land and a party for the children of inmates and street people. We decorated the warehouse with all kinds of mechanical toys and artificial snow. In 1989, we had a Candlelight service in Kingsway's parking lot and had about 30 attending.

Watch for more Kingsway history as we will be celebrating 40 years as Kingsway Outreach in March. Kingsway was chartered with the Virginia State Corporation Commission March 1983.

The Banner provides a means of raising funds to carry on the work of Kingsway. Donations can be made by mail or online by scanning this QR Code.



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