



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."

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KINGSWAY BANNER Summer 2019



Bonnie Lough

Meet Bonnie Lough, Kingsway's Longest Serving Volunteer

Bonnie Lough is Kingsway's longest serving volunteer, having been with the Ministry for over 23 years! We recently celebrated Bonnie's 88th birthday with a pizza party and cake (see above photo). She is steadfast in her commitment to fulfilling Kingsway's Mission of bringing Christ's Love to the captive and those reentering society. The Kingsway family looks forward to sharing many more years of service and fellowship with Bonnie.

You can donate to this ministry online at www.kingswayoutreach.org



Encouragers Needed



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

Think of the inner turmoil in a child when a parent or parents are incarcerated. This can make the child think they are being punished along with their parent. They miss their mom or dad but feel a sense of shame to tell their friends that their mom or dad is in prison.

Kingsway is here to lend an understanding ear and a compassionate heart.

We create our tomorrows by what we dream today. Let's try to make sure they have a better life dream s.

Dearest Louise,

Thanks for the Easter Card and for the information on Oxford House. Yes, I agree with you about not working. One of the things that you have helped me with is learning to trust the Lord to meet my needs, so it has become very easy for me to not to worry and to wait on the Lord... Amen (Matthew 6:33). I've learned a few lessons about waiting/trusting that in the Lord that I didn't learn before. We've had a lot of changes in the administration in the 32 months I've been here. The warden, the assistant warden, major, chief/programs and one of the two captains are all new arrivals that came since I've been here. Our new assistant warden just arrived this week. She (Ms. Roone) came from the correctional center in Waverly, VA. I've had three different counselors.

Mother's Day is almost here and I had thoughts and feelings that I want to express to you. For many, many years (since 1986) you have been like a loving mother to me and I must say to my son too. All the years Kingsway gave gifts to my son Malik through Angel Tree. Malik doesn't know you but even at his age of 37 he still remembers the Love of God from you through the many gifts. One of the things that comes to me in the Faithfulness and Loyalty that you've displayed to me for over 35 years. There are only a few people that have stood with me for the past 35 years. (Proverbs 17:17) Happy, Happy Mother's Day! I am sure that your grand kids think highly of you... I do too! Thanks so much Louise. You are special! In closing, there are four of us here from the Harrisonburg area. None of the others know you and hopefully they will one day commit to Jesus... I do talk to them often. Please say hi to your staff. Much love to all of you.

Peace,

Brother Matthew

Current Statistics on Incarceration in The United States



- 1.** U.S. Has the highest incarceration rate in the world
- 2.** In 2016 alone there were nearly 2.2 million people incarcerated in America
- 3.** For every 100,000 citizens in the United States, approximately 655 them are currently incarcerated
- 4.** \$80 billion each year is spent on correctional facilities
- 5.** About two thirds of prisoners were held in state and local jails and prisons in 2016
- 6.** Many who can't afford bail are essentially trapped in jail, putting poor people at a huge disadvantage
- 7.** Half of prisoners on probation are rearrested within two years
- 8.** 33% of the U.S. prison population are African-American, yet they represent only 12% of the general population as a whole

Don't Give Up

Mason's Story:

I am 45 years old now. I spent most of my life in and out of homes and prison. I don't know why or how I came to the realization that I had to change my life; it just crept up on me while I was serving my last sentence (5 years). It hit me all of a sudden like I honestly hadn't noticed or thought of it before, that I had spent my whole life behind one wall or another. I just remember thinking why? How could my life slip away from the ones who loved me and me? I had children, but I'd spent so little time with them that when I heard them say da, I'd look behind me to see whom they were talking to. I had reached the wall that had somehow managed to attract me back behind it my whole life, but this time I didn't want to come back. A prison is a dehumanizing place. I was drawn to Kingsway Outreach by the way it was set up, using the experience of ex-offenders to support people like me. They ask ex-offenders to help target our areas of need. They listen.

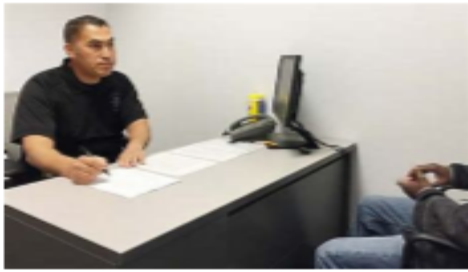
The fact that I felt ready now to try put prison and criminality behind me once and for all, and I could use a service who worked with ex-offenders their families added new energy I felt for life. I engaged upon my release with Kingsway Outreach, and I continued to work on issues that in the past may have to lead me to give up and re-offending. I feel good knowing that I have support with no hidden agenda. It makes all the difference.

The cards and Christmas package I received while in prison from Kingsway encouraged me also. These acts of kindness let me know I wasn't forgotten.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12: 1 NIV





Probation

The whole idea of probation, a program to monitor inmates once they are released from prison or jail, was originally designed to aid and support people reentering society, helping them find jobs and assist them with housing and other aspects of daily living. In essence, assisting ex-offenders in becoming productive members of their communities once again. But this concept has been replaced over the years by a different goal: to potentially violate participants on a wide range of often subjective requirements with the express purpose of returning people back to jail for offenses that are not considered to be crimes in the general population. These may include failing drug tests, not having a permanent residence, not having a job, missing appointments or leaving the county or state without permission, among many others. To be sure, if an ex-offender breaks the law again they should be held accountable. But rather than setting people up with substance abuse or mental health issues for possible failure because they were not helped during the course of their incarceration, offenders should be receiving treatment and support. Half of all people on probation are rearrested within two years, usually because they cannot remain sober or have trouble finding a job due to their criminal background. This leads to a vicious cycle – a revolving door – back to incarceration again. The probation system as it is now is broken. But this is where Churches and Ministries like Kingsway can make a real difference. We can be their support system and a place to find resources that are so desperately needed. It is time to get probation back to its true intention of helping those most vulnerable to return as productive members of society and Kingsway can play a key role in making this a reality.

Pictured Right:
Louise Jennings
With Maude who was
just released from
prison and her family





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In This Issue.....Reaching Out

Louise's Corner

I got a amazing number of Mother's Day Cards from inmates and also some from ex-offenders thanking me for being their Mom. And on May 14th I had the opportunity to speak in Lynchburg for Freedom night at the Lighthouse . This was an invitation of an ex-offender I helped a few years ago that now works for The Lighthouse. This was a dinner for many ex-offenders and street people served by Impact Church. I also had a chance to talk with one of the women that were just released from Fluvanna and will be helping her next month with a project she wants to start at the Blue Ridge Regional Jail. God is on the move.

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

**KINGSWAY PRISON & FAMILY
OUTREACH**

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