

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



Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach, PO Box 2335, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
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APR 2024

From The President of the Board of Directors

Spring is here and that means Kingsway is gearing up for some special events. We have the Great Community Give in April. We certainly hope you will be able to help us with that. Tell all your friends about what Kingsway is doing and has done in the past and see if they will help us at the Great Community Give as well. And I want to say “thank you” for your support in the past as well as going into the future.

Another thing we are gearing up for is a “Retirement Afternoon” for Louise and for the 40+ years that she has devoted to Kingsway, and to have a vision for what Kingsway has become. And Kingsway is not finished growing! This is only the beginning. Just as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, it was the next 40 years or so where they grew. Just as Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, so Kingsway has been tempted as well and have come out on the other side and there is still more! Watch us for the next 40+ years!

We have a new Executive Director, Paula Ford, who is learning by leaps and bounds from Louise. And Louise is still with us, just not as visible. She is busy writing a book!

All that Kingsway is, is due to Louise and Shel Jennings being fearless leading the way for Kingsway. All because they heard from Jesus, “Is there something more you can do for God?” I’m asking you... is there something more you can do for God? Are you doing all you can for Him?

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

From The Executive Director of Kingsway PAFO

As I write this, I have just completed my second month as Kingsway's new Director. God is leading me, as I learn from whatever challenges each new day brings. Although Louise is no longer involved in the day-to-day running of the Kingsway office, I am so thankful to have her as my mentor. I can only pray that someday, I am able to leave the same kind of Godly legacy that Louise Jennings has!

At a recent gathering of Kingsway volunteers, I asked the volunteers to introduce themselves, tell how they are involved at Kingsway, and tell us what their favorite thing is about Kingsway. Their answers were great, but I thought I would share my answers with you.

Hello. My name is Paula Ford. I have been volunteering at Kingsway since January of 2023 and became Kingsway's new Executive Director in January of 2024. God brought me to Kingsway (but that's a story for another day). My favorite thing about Kingsway is how much we pray! I count it a privilege to meet with the clients who come through our door, listen to them, help where Kingsway can, refer them to community partners when we can't help, but most importantly, to pray with them before they leave the office. I love seeing hope in clients' faces where once there was anxiety and despair. I must confess that seeing hope and praying with those who come to us is my **very** favorite thing!

I am so glad to be right here, right now for this next chapter in Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach's story, and I count it a privilege to meet people's needs where we can and send them off with a benediction. Speaking of prayer, please continue to pray for Kingsway and that we follow God's leading!

Paula Ford, Executive Director

TESTIMONIES

Hello,

*I am Crystal "Criss" Saucedo!!!! I was in Rockingham Regional Jail from December 2021 till August 2022. During that time I did Bible study work and attended Bible class with Kingsway!! I was a lost soul for real. They helped me grow in my relationship with my Heavenly Father. Without them, I feel I would still be lost but they always made me feel worthy and show no judgement to me and my past or present situation. They are also one of the reasons I am in the work that i am doing today!!! I am a Peer Recovery Specialist working with people just like me and giving back to the community. Then when I was released from jail to the halfway house, they helped me and many others with things we needed to get started again. Things like phones, hygiene products, lunch bags, and boots for work. They provide rides to church on Sundays. I know they help with a lot of other things for people, like help with getting into Oxford House or another place if possible!!! They help in so many ways financially, and spiritually I am very **BLESSED** to have the help they provided me and others!!! They made me feel like family!!!*



This note was received from an Apple Tree Project recipient:

Thank you for your kindness, time, and compassion. We are so blessed to have people like you all around. You made Christmas brighter for my children and eased their father's mind knowing he was able to provide for his kids through you.

Thank you and God bless,

A Thankful Mom



To Louise Jennings & The Kingsway Family,

Greetings of love and peace in the authority of our Lord.

On August 3, 2023, I was transferred from Augusta Correctional Center to Deerfield. Without even trying, my mind automatically compares my ten years' worth of experiences at Augusta to Deerfield. Augusta presented its own share of challenges because it is prison. However, the culture was saturated with the ministry of Kingsway. While there I had the privilege of serving as a Chaplain's clerk under two different Chaplains. I observed first-hand how both Chaplains worked hand in hand with Louise coordinating services and special events for the sole purpose of blessing the men at Augusta. Being there so long, I witnessed the testimonies of men from other faith groups sharing amongst themselves about the blessing Kingsway has been to the church body, wishing they had a faithful guardian angel of their own.

It is no secret that Kingsway has been there as a staple from the beginning, running deep into the soil of that institution. From warden to warden down through the years, Shel and Louise found favor in the eyes of God and these men. Greeting cards, Bible studies, religious books, toothpaste, ChapStick, gloves, and socks are but a few of the notable ways Kingsway has consistently blessed all the residents of ACC down through the years. And the men of all colors, religious affiliations, and socio-economic backgrounds came to look forward to your blessings motivated purely by your love for God.

Every Friday night like clockwork, the volunteers from Kingsway's inside ministry would be waiting to greet us wherever the facility provided for us to meet on that particular evening. Men and women with smiling faces and glowing hearts greeted us upon entry ready to shake a hand, uplifting spirits and offering encouragement. For a lot of the men Friday night was not just a church service but a special visit from family. After awhile I began to refer to the volunteers as "The Purple People" and would introduce them as such when I opened the services. Louise embraced the title with the accent of purple hair to match her purple attire. I personally enjoyed the peaceful presence of Jim McManus. He came but didn't object if time didn't permit him to share on a given night. There was also Richard Jackson and his lovely wife. I remember the day I saw her out of the wheelchair lost in worship basking in the glory of God. I love you both! My dear adopted family Don and Carleen. Their given last name is Loveless but I declared that couldn't be right because they are full of love. He was Uncle Don and she was Aunt Carleen. He would strum the guitar and sing praises to God totally dependent upon Carleen's finger to point out his place on the page. The sound men would do their very best to capture his baritone vocals via microphone so all could enjoy his gift, while Carleen on the other hand needed no microphone as her vocals rang out head and shoulders above everyone else harmonizing with her husband. I really miss her fiery passionate sermons that were so honest as she incorporated so much of her life and testimony in every one of them. Sandy and Pappy were the quiet bunch. When given the opportunity, Sandy would give her best impersonation of Louise in her absence. She was always willing to read a poem just like Louise would do at every service. Harvey Senger was a recent addition to the family but he was right on time. His sermons were right down there on the level where the men could receive them. His passion and zeal for God shined bright in every word. Thank you for your heart of service and desire to break free from the status quo of religion in favor of a real relationship with our Heavenly Father. And then there was Louise: the tambourine shaking, "everyone needs to sign in on her sheet," powerhouse of a presence woman. It was easy to see why people called her Momma Louise. Louise is royalty. Her legacy will continue to ring in institutions around the state. There simply is no comparison to the impact Kingsway has made in the lives of the men who have been graced with your ministry. The Apple Tree program is just one example of the loving blanket stretched far and wide over every family affected by incarceration. There are too many testimonies to count, but it is nothing compared to the hours spent behind the scenes with paperwork, shopping, and wrapping gifts. Thank you to every faceless, nameless person who gave of your time and resources to the Kingsway super engine.

As the Chaplain's Clerk, part of my responsibility was to facilitate the services. I also led the praise and worship portion of the service. I recognize the differences in worship styles and readily admit that my style is not the most popular. However, when the Kingsway volunteers came they always gave me license to worship freely. Not only that, I witnessed first-hand eyes closed, hands uplifted, and tear-streaked faces of the Kingsway volunteers in intimate worship. In the throne room, inmates and volunteers became sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. You never rushed me as I endeavored to lead us into His presence. You never questioned me on my stance of not preparing a song list beforehand. I went in totally relying on the Holy Spirit to manifest His presence and will for the service, and He never disappointed us. In His presence He is able to touch us all by Himself in ways that our most prolific dissertation could never. My total reliance on Him became the staple and we experienced growth in the body: not only in numbers, but also in character and integrity, and in lifestyle and zeal for the things of God. I couldn't have done it without your assistance. Thank you.

Please receive these flowers of love and appreciation presented with thankfulness for your many years of service and for how my life was personally impacted.

With Love,
Joseph E. Carter

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry



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10/2/23

Dear Kingsway Outreach:

One 9/30/23 Brother Alvin Yoder gave a wonderful testimony as to the work your outreach is accomplishing there in Harrisonburg I was encouraged by the Lord to send this donating. I do not need anything for tax purposes or receipt. Kingsway was instrumental in the start of Rehoboth Jail and prison ministry 37 years ago. So you all are in our prayers and we are thankful for Brothers like brother Alvin carrying on the work of the Lord.

The Revelation of the Kingdom and Glory of the Savior

This crucial component of Scripture brings the whole story to its God-ordained consummation. Redemptive history is controlled by God, so as to culminate in His eternal glory. Redemptive history will end with the same precision and exactness with which it began. The truths of eschatology are neither vague nor unclear—neither are they unimportant. As in any book, how the story ends is the most crucial and compelling part—so with the Bible. Scripture notes several specific features of the end planned by God.

In the Old Testament, there is repeated mention of an earthly kingdom ruled by the Messiah, Lord Savior, who will come to reign. Associated with that kingdom will be the salvation of Israel, the salvation of the Gentiles, the renewal of the earth from the effects of the curse, and the bodily resurrection of God's people who have died. Finally, the Old Testament predicts that there will be the "uncreation" or dissolution of the universe, and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth (which will be the eternal state of the godly) and a final hell for the ungodly.

In the New Testament, these features are clarified and expanded. The King was rejected and executed, but He promised to come back in glory, bringing judgment, resurrection, and His kingdom for all who believe. Innumerable Gentiles from every nation will be included among the redeemed. Israel will be saved, grafted back into the root of blessing from which she has been temporarily excised.

Israel's promised kingdom will be enjoyed, with the Lord Savior reigning on the throne, in the renewed earth, exercising power over the whole world, having taken back His rightful authority and receiving due honor and worship. Following that kingdom will come the dissolution of the renewed, but still sin-stained creation, and the subsequent creation of a new heaven and new earth, which will be the eternal state, separate forever from the ungodly in hell. MacArthur, Jr., *How to Get the Most from God's Word*, (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing) 1997.

A slave for Christ

Ronald Baker, Chaplain
Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Web site www.jailandprisonministries.org

Ron Baker was one of the first attendees for Kingsway PAFO's church services inside the old Staunton Correctional Center. He said that when he was released, he and God were going to have a ministry inside the prisons the same way that Kingsway was doing. And that is exactly what he did!

Please Join Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach for the **Great Community Give** on April 17th

We ask that you prayerfully consider donating as God leads you.

Kingsway runs **ENTIRELY** on donations as we assist the incarcerated and their families. Without **YOU** and your support, we can do nothing to help those who need assistance during and after incarceration.

You can make a donation the day of the event, April 17, from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, AND/OR you can donate through The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County at P.O. Box 1068, Harrisonburg, VA, 22803. Please write GCG-Kingsway PAFO on the memo line.

For more details on times and special donation events during the day, check out the Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach Facebook Page as well as Kingsway's Great Community Give page at:

<https://www.greatcommunitygive.org/organizations/kingsway-prison-and-family-outreach>

For more information, please call Kingsway at **540-433-5658** or email us at **info@kingswayoutreach.org**.

We thank you so much for your support in helping us to help THEM!



**Please make plans to join us
May 18th, 2024, as we celebrate**

Louise Jennings

**and all that she means to us after
40 years of service to**

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach

**The celebration takes place from 2-4pm
at Harrisonburg Church of the Nazarene
1871 Boyers Road, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801**

**Guests are invited to share a 1-2 minute*
story about Louise and the impact she has
had on their lives. (*as time allows)**

**For more information, check out
www.kingswayoutreach.org or call 540-433-5658**



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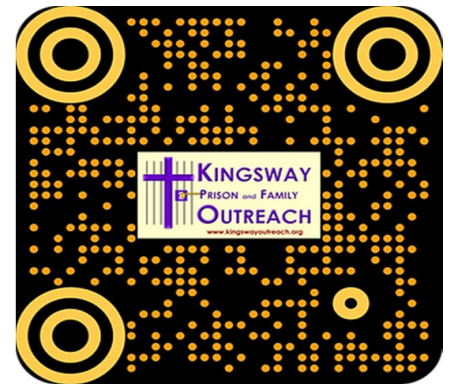
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Louise's Corner

Well, I got through my first month of retirement, but not the way I wanted it. I was able to go inside Augusta Correctional Center for the regular Friday night service, but even that was different because the DOC is closing Augusta the last of June and are moving the men we have known for years. In January 2023 there were over 1400 men and our services were around 80 men; in January 2024 they were down to about 500. It is sad because some of these men have been in Augusta for over 30 years and now, they have to go to yet another prison. In trying to decide what was best for Kingsway and my retirement, I couldn't decide if I needed to stay away or just come in and start plowing through all the boxes of memories I shared about last time, but COVID decided that for me and I spent 10 days sick with COVID. Thank goodness I am over that now. I have an Intern coming in to help me write the book I have been wanting to get done. Just before I got sick, I was invited to do a podcast with pastor Margaret and Grayson at First Church of the Nazarene Voice of Hope. That podcast aired on WBTX on February 11, 2024. The recording of my testimony is now on Kingsway's website under Videos, and is also on Kingsway's Facebook page if you would like to hear it. Pray for me as I continue to volunteer and do what I feel God still has for me to do and that I don't get in the way of progress. Paula Ford is our new Director and is doing a great job.

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.



KINGSWAY PRISON & FAMILY OUTREACH

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