

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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APR 2025

From The President of the Board of Directors

I have been sending Bible studies into the jails and prisons since 2021. As of this day, Kingsway now has 173 participants taking these Bible studies in 22 facilities in the state. Every now and then someone will send a letter to go along with the study as it is corrected, or as we say, “suggested answers.” One such letter showed the excitement he had. This person was a 47-year-old with a 9th grade education. After completing the very first Bible study called “New Beginnings” with Parts One and Two, he was sent a certificate of achievement for doing this. He was so excited he was going to get a frame for it and put it on display for others to see! He believed he had never done anything so good in his life, until now with the Bible study.

About a week ago Kingsway received a letter from another inmate thanking us immensely for the Valentine’s Day card. Each volunteer has signed the cards that were sent, letting them know we care about them. This particular person let his imagination wander as to what we may do in real life... Montana may be a rodeo star and have a roomful of trophies and medals; Nathaniel could be the world’s best fighter pilot; Barbara could be a professional scuba diver; and the list continues.

With your donations, these folks are given hope and a little room for their sense of humor to roam about them. Keep up the good work so Kingsway is able to keep spreading the love of Christ to the least of these.

Serving Him,

Vicki Barb, President, Board of Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Community Give: April 16, 2025, 6:00 am - 8:00 pm

Kingsway’s GCG Open House: April 16, 2025, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm, at the Kingsway office

Kingsway’s Annual Benefit Banquet: August 28, 2025, time and location TBA. MORE DETAILS TO COME!



The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.”

We joyfully celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 20, 2025.

From The Executive Director of Kingsway PAFO

2024 was a busy year for Kingsway! Our invaluable volunteers worked hard and kept us going. Here are a few of the stories to give you a better understanding of what Kingsway does.

- ◆ Correspondence Bible Study:
 - ◆ We provide Correspondence Bible Studies to 177 inmates in 22 prisons and 2 jails.
 - ◆ One of the inmates who takes part in the Correspondence Bible Study wrote a letter to Kingsway in early November saying how much he was dreading Christmas. His parents were dead, he had burned bridges with his addiction, and his remaining family had disowned him. He was anticipating a lonely, depressing holiday. Imagine his joy to receive a Christmas package from Kingsway, because Kingsway was able to take gifts into his prison for the first time ever in 2024. Your gifts to Kingsway helped him remember that God still sees him and loves him!
- ◆ Encourager Program:
 - ◆ We have 23 volunteers corresponding with 88 inmates in the state of Virginia.
- ◆ Mothers of Prisoners (MOP):
 - ◆ Kingsway provides this monthly support group for the mothers and grandmothers of those impacted by incarceration.
- ◆ Apple Tree for Children:
 - ◆ We gave gifts to over 225 children whose parents are incarcerated, with the assistance of 35 churches and other organizations.
- ◆ Inmate Christmas Gifts:
 - ◆ We gave toothpaste, notepads, lip balm, and Christmas cards to approximately 7000 inmates in 12 prisons and 2 jails. Kingsway delivered gifts to 3 prisons we have never reached before!
 - ◆ One Christmas, Kingsway volunteers handed out Christmas packages at Coffeewood Correctional Center. As one inmate walked away, he peeked into his bag. "Yes!" he yelled, "Toothpaste! I haven't had toothpaste since March!" Even a tube of toothpaste means so much when you haven't had any in the last 9 months. Kingsway volunteers handed out gifts to inmates for the first time at Cold Springs Correctional Unit on Christmas Eve 2024, and saw firsthand the joy that just being remembered brought to inmates.
- ◆ We send Valentines Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and birthday cards to approximately 2500 inmates each year. We send cards to inmates in EVERY prison and 2 regional jails in the state of Virginia.
- ◆ Kingsway currently has inside church services monthly at Coffeewood Correctional Center, and we hope to take part in prison services at other facilities in 2025.
- ◆ Kingsway assisted 52 returning citizens with getting into sober living housing.
- ◆ Kingsway provided 170 hygiene kits to returning citizens.
- ◆ Kingsway gave 178 cell phones to returning citizens so they can be in contact with employers, landlords, and parole officers.
- ◆ Kingsway assisted 406 individuals with re-entry in 2024. The requests for this ministry's assistance are only increasing!
- ◆ Kingsway employes only 1 person part-time. In 2024, 32 individuals donated over 4990 volunteer hours. These volunteers gifted the ministry with time equaling \$59,880, if Kingsway were paying minimum wage. The Kingsway ministry depends on faithful volunteers!



YOUR GIFTS make all of this possible. Thank you for your support!

Paula Ford, Executive Director

Louise's Corner



I didn't expect to be writing this from Oak Lea Nursing Rehab Center, but here I am at least until the end of the month.

Feb. 28, my oxygen level and heart rate dropped dangerously low, so my daughter took me to Sentara ER. I had just left the Kingsway office, taking the mail, and told everyone there I was going home because I was tired. I didn't know I was sick.

Tests were run and I was told I needed a pacemaker. It was scheduled for Monday, March 3. However, my temperature spiked to 101.5, so it was done on Tuesday, March 4 with no problem.

On Tuesday afternoon, I received a beautiful purple flower arrangement from one of the young ladies I had ministered to in the local jail as her Chaplain a couple of years ago. Her aunt brought the flowers in as Amanda was working. Her aunt and uncle used to be Kingsway's landlords when the office was on Wolfe Street, and it had been several years since I had seen her. This was a nice surprise! It was exciting to hear from Amanda and to know that she is doing good.

I have a doctor's appointment on Monday, March 17, for them to remove the staples and give me some more Do's and Don't's.

PT and OT are going well, the food is good, and the nurses are great. I have had some visitors, and my daughters are a big help, but I miss being in the Kingsway office sorting through history to write my book.

Until this bump in the road, retirement has been fun. I can pick and choose what I want to help with, and I encourage your support as Kingsway now has a Director that needs to be paid.

God has blessed me.

A TESTIMONY FROM DAVID HEAD

I was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia. As I entered my teen years in the 70s, I started experimenting with drugs and alcohol, which led to committing crimes, court hearings, detention home for juveniles and then reform school, and then the local city farm. At age 18, I was arrested and jailed for a string of burglaries. While in jail, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, just after I turned 19. The first book in the Bible the Holy Spirit led me to read was Revelation. Ever since that time, I've had an unshakable passion to study and understand end-time Bible prophecy. Little did I know then, but it was God who had gifted and called me to study this field of knowledge.

After serving 2 years of an 8-year sentence, I was paroled. Back on the streets, it wasn't long before I returned to my old ways which landed me back in prison a year later for bank robbery, with a 28-year sentence. While in prison I attended church services and continued my study and research of end-time Bible prophecy. The Bible tells us that the gifts and callings of God on our lives are without repentance (Rom. 11:29). In other words, God doesn't just up and take away the gifts and calling He has given us when He saved us just because we mess up.

After serving 8 of the 28-year sentence, I was once again paroled. I did pretty good for a while, then slowly drifted back into my old ways once again. On August 2, 1991, I was arrested on two counts of bank robbery, then later sentenced to 80 years. At the time of my sentencing, a 3rd offender with 80 years in prison would serve about 15 years and be released on parole with good behavior. While in prison, I was notified that I wasn't eligible for parole due to a 1982 controversial No-Parole law for 3 robbery convictions.

While in prison for the 3rd time, I continued with my studies of

end-time Bible prophecy, and continued to pray and believe God that I would again be released on parole one day. In 1999, I responded to God's prompting to write a book, and began working on the rough draft. As I continued to study and write, things gradually came together with God providing the resources and help I needed from the outside. In 2015, my first book, [The End From The Beginning: Demystifying The Last Days Puzzle From Genesis To Revelation](#) was published under my pen name, David Israel. The name Israel in the Bible means "One who has struggled with God and with man yet has prevailed" (Gen. 32:28). The book was designed for the jail ministry to give readers the entire Bible story in a concise format, followed by an exhaustive look into end-time Bible prophecy in the latter half of the book.

In 2017, Virginia got a new governor who appointed a new parole board, which revisited the 1982 controversial "Three Strike No Parole" law. Their interpretation of the ambiguous law opened the door for me and hundreds of others to appeal to the board to get our parole eligibility status restored. Meanwhile, I worked on and then published my second book, [Jerusalem Rising: Countdown To Armageddon](#), which was released in 2018 under my real name. It is basically a revised edition of my first book, published under a different title, created for the worldwide market for Christians who desire a deeper understanding of Bible prophecy.

On April 3, 2020, I was once again by the grace of God released on parole. God is so good. Jesus is Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. His gifts and callings on our life are given the moment we are born again, and He doesn't give up on us or take them back just because we mess up even over and over again. We just have to grow into them spiritually and follow His leading. Part of our growing process is failing. Nevertheless, God has promised to perfect what He has begun in us (Phil.1:6).

TESTIMONIES

Dear Kingsway Family,

I'm writing this letter to show my appreciation for the cards that you send me. They always seem to arrive at times when I need them most, like the Valentine's card I just received recently. The card came to me while I was sitting in the Hole from a bogus charge and waiting for transfer. The charge got dismissed, but still they are transferring me and I couldn't be happier! Anyway, when I first got to the Hole, I felt lost, abandoned, and angry. Then I got your card and it reminded me that there are still people out there that care.

Now I look at your card and try to imagine what kind of lives the people who signed it live. Like Montana for example. Maybe she's a rodeo star who has a room full of trophies and medals. Or Joe... Is he a big-time investment banker with lots of money and fancy cars? What about Pam, a normal middle-class mom with grown kids who in her free time is a CIA assassin?

Nathaniel might be the world's best fighter pilot. Bonnie might be an international bank robber, like the Bonnie and Clyde of old. Although I hope not! Does Vicki own several beauty salons and is recognized by People magazine as "the most chic place ever"? Barbara could be a professional scuba diver, diving in all the most exotic seas around the world. Kim could be a princess from a

royal family long ago, who had to flee their lands to avoid being murdered. Maybe Mary owns a bakery that makes the world's best muffins, that people come from all over to try. Is it possible that Ashley travels all over the world helping the less fortunate, seeing all kinds of wonders and cities? Paula might own a string of laundromats and cleans the money for the mob. Louise could be a cage fighter by night and a doctor by day. Carleen might be a vet, saving dozens of animals' lives. Carol is probably the world's best ping-pong player, yet undiscovered.

Anyway, the point of this is we may all not live extravagant lives, or be super famous. But God loves all of you and you're doing an amazing thing with these cards. No matter what it is you do, or who you are, don't change. Maybe one day I'll actually meet you or see you around and get to see the faces of people who made a difference in my life.

In the meantime, can you please send me an English Bible study? All I have is a KJV Bible, so I hope that's okay, cuz it's hard to get an NIV in the Hole. Thank you for everything you guys do. Sending up prayers for you. God bless!

With much love,

Aaron

Kingsway Outreach,

I am just writing you a small note thanking you and all of your staff for the toothpaste, chapstick, and the junior legal pad you sent for all of the prisoners here at Buckingham CC.

I was just thinking that I needed some chapstick due to the dry winter air, when the Corrections Officer came into our pod and issued the packages. I guess God provides for us in small ways as well as large ones.

I hope you all had a great Christmas, and wish you the best for 2025.

Sincerely,

Joshua W.

Dear Kingsway Outreach,

I just wanted to thank you for thinking of me on Thanksgiving.

Each one of you - Pam, Vicki, Louise, Mary, Ashley, Carleen, Carol, Paula, Bonnie, and Kim. I wish you all the best and all the blessings.
- Danny D.

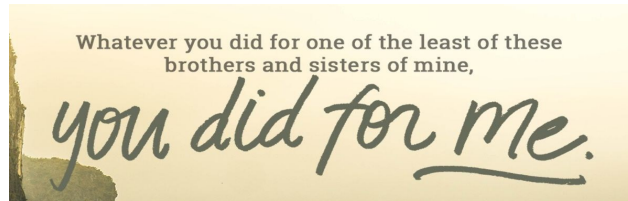
Hello Kingsway Family,

Sending lots of love and greetings to you all from Baskerville Correctional Center. It has been quite some time since we spoke last but make no mistake, you all are always in my heart and continuously in my prayers!

Thank you for the Valentines Day card. It meant the world to receive a card from you all. To simply know that I crossed your mind, to feel loved and seen, and to not feel forgotten is a special gift. Thank you for taking the time to make me feel special. It is true what they say, "It's the little things that count!" Once again, thank you times infinity. Each and every one of you all are true representations of what it means to be the Light and Salt.

All My love,

Airik C



An "Alumni News" Update From Emery (Steve) Reid

Steve Reid is doing well in life after incarceration. He lives in Kentucky, and has worked for Goodwill Industries in Lexington for several years. He is currently a Peer Support Specialist. He recently wrote the following to Kingsway:

"I am one of those who has been greatly blessed with what I have in a world that seems to make less and less sense. Even though I was not totally released from parole this year, I have a very good understanding of what they want and what I need to get there eventually. I have a great parole officer who has been great to work with, so I am blessed on that point. I have a decent job. I hear people tell me that I do not understand a lot of things, but I just let it pass as it seems they do not understand the concept of NOW - No Opportunity Wasted!

"I have spoken twice [recently] to groups at work and I have [met] people who want to help me with things in my own life. They [may] have insight or someone for me to contact. New contacts on some things dealing with the VA and the military, as well as other possible jobs if/when I decide to step away from where I am. Some have been with the company and want some of my ideas in writing on how we can take a step further in the ways that we help people. I will do my pitch in word and in writing and see where it lands."

Steve was the Keynote Speaker last October for the Graduation Ceremony of the Cohort XIII participants who completed the Goodwill Retail Employee Advancement Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program (see photo).

In July 2021, Louise Jennings and Kingsway volunteers Vicki Barb, Pappy Pless, and Sandy Pless visited with Steve at his Goodwill location on a trip to Louisville for the Kairos Prison Ministry Annual Conference. We are always blessed and happy to see our friends doing so well after leaving incarceration!



Dear Kingsway Brothers and Sisters,

I received your wonderful care bag for Christmas. I wanted to thank you for not just the physical items in the bag, though each one is thoughtful and will be used with gratitude, but also for shining the Lord's light into what can be a dark place. "... I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt 25:36b) "... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40b) Your care package is a spiritual visit and I pray to our Lord Jesus in thanks for His faithfulness in sharing His love and care for us, and thank you for answering His call on you to do so! You are the Lord's hands and feet, and moreso His heart. Amen.

Blessings in 2025 and beyond,

Your brother in Christ,

David C.

Dear Kingsway,

Thank you for the Christmas card. Receiving your card is always a reminder of the faithful love and presence of our God. Some people talk the talk, but your ministry follows the path.

Continue to shine the light of His glory on those in this dark world.

God Bless,

Ivan C.

Greetings,

I received a Valentines Day card from your members and I just wanted to say... thanks to everyone. It was awesome for many reasons as I am originally from New Jersey and it was a blessing to hear from the church. I thank everyone for spending the time to care; it was truly heartfelt and made the day better. We are often reminded day after day we mean nothing, so that simple card means so much. It was nice to hear the mail call for such a blessing.

Love & Respect Always,

Stay Blessed,

Michael H.

We want to thank you Kingsway Outreach for being so nice and kind to think of Brianna for your gifts of a beautiful Bible and sterling plated cross and a bookbag for school, which she needed so bad because her bookbag was torn and I, Janice, really thank you from the bottom of my heart because I was not able to give her much.

May God bless your program.

Whoever put Brianna's name in the [Apple Tree] program, tell them thank you!

Janice W.



Please Join Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach for the **GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE** on April 16, 2025

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 16, 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 at 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!

#GREATCOMMUNITYGIVE





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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

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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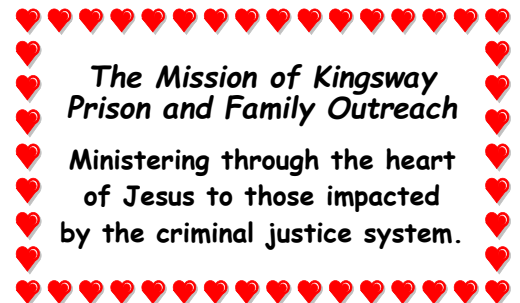
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