

Annual Report

2020

Multiple teams...One ministry...One message



saints



prison ministry



Mission Statement

To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to prisoners through athletics, and to mentor them towards spiritual maturity and a successful transition into family/community.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a national and international ministry dedicated to making a lasting change in the lives of individuals, their families, and communities through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Core Values

- † To honor God both individually and corporately
- † To minister with passion and Biblical conviction
- † To prudently and effectively carry out our mission
- † To serve with love, compassion, humility, and integrity
- † To pray and evangelize with urgency
- † To cultivate Spirit-led leadership
- † To honor our volunteers, prayer partners and financial supporters as valued stakeholders in our ministry
- † To trust God to fulfill our ministry's potential
- † To convey God's hope and celebrate what He is doing in the lives of individuals
- † To maintain a God-focused perspective
- † To come alongside the local church body
- † To be responsible stewards of God's resources
- † To faithfully meet Departments of Corrections and other external commitments

Letter from the Director

As I write this at the end of 2020, I am feeling a little bit like a contestant on the game show “Let’s Make a Deal.” I’m really not excited about what I have in hand (our 2020 experience), so I’ll take whatever 2021 has to offer... sight unseen!

With 2020 fading into the rearview mirror, it became a bit tedious to continually report that we had no updated information... yet those were the exact words we heard anytime we checked on the status of prison volunteer policies. The adage “no news is good news” never seemed less accurate.

While you review this Annual Report, I hope that you will note that we are able to report six months’ worth of in-prison ministry activity before the doors began closing. We’ve also maintained the birthday card program, which I’m told has taken on even more meaning to those men who receive cards during these difficult days. Many of the prisons are not only closed to volunteers and visitors, but they are also operating in a state of perpetual lockdown, so the cards are a small reminder that there is still life outside their 6x8 cell!

I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank those faithful supporters that make it possible for me to even be here writing this letter. While we were able to take advantage of some of the Federal government programs offered in 2020, it was our ministry friends that sustained us and have made it possible for us to eagerly look forward to 2021. Thank you for believing that being available when the prisons reopen was worthy of your support and prayers.

Our President’s letter in this report points to God’s unwavering faithfulness toward us. That example of consistency and dependability serves as the model for our efforts here on earth, so it is no wonder that every prison we talk with looks forward to having us back as soon as the veil is lifted. They know that we will not lose hope, we will not abandon our calling, and we will not forsake the men and women behind bars as long as Jesus carries!

Serving Him gladly,
Frank Zeidler, Jr.
Executive Director



Letter from the President

The year 2020 could have many subtitles to it. “The year that we would like to forget”, “the year of the mask,” or “the year where exceptions became the normal” were just some of the themes uttered throughout the year. When the clock hit midnight on December 31, 2019, who knew what was in store for us for the upcoming year? I know that God knew. And God knows what’s going to happen in the future as well. While we sometimes scramble to prepare for upcoming events and plan for the future, we have certainly learned that there are some things we just can’t prepare for.



God asked us to have faith and trust in Him. He will guide, provide, and decide.

Looking back on 2020, we could review all the restrictions, quarantines, and shutdowns. We could reflect on all the things that didn’t happen. We could grumble and complain. We could get discouraged and distracted. Then as we open our Bibles to Exodus and read about the children of Israel, we condemn them for doing the same. I often wonder what it was like in biblical times. Could I prevail and have faith when others around me didn’t? Could I embrace Joshua’s point of view; not looking at the giants in the land but rather looking steadfastly at God?

God guides when we ask for it. As a Board, we pray for God’s Wisdom and Guidance all the time since He knows the future. Even in early March, when a crusade was planned for April, God led the ministry to pause and not purchase the costly plane tickets. As it turned out, that crusade was cancelled. Going back to the children of Israel, God guided them day and night. How could they not trust a God that led them visibly? Yet, they still suffered periods of faithlessness.

God provides in His time and His way. As we follow His direction, He wants to provide for us when we need it. Shutting down all ministry events, crusades, ultimately cancelling most of 2020’s prison outreach never left the ministry hopeless or faithless. God provides. He provided for the children of Israel with manna - exactly what they needed, when they needed it. God provided for the Saints Prison Ministry with the same provisions. Every bill was paid, all the payroll was met, and through it all God provided each step of the way. He didn’t provide so much that we got comfortable. He provided week by week, month by month - exactly what we needed, when we needed it.

God also decides the future. I know that we all might wonder what the new normal looks like or when it will get here. God knows. Yes, God closed some doors this year. We know that God closes and opens doors, as He sees fit. God could be pushing the Saints to stretch the limits of the ministry. God may be causing a thirst for the Gospel in prisons with the doors being closed to the prisons this year. God decides what lies ahead and I know that where He leads, He will provide.

Yes, we all wanted to see 2020 end as soon as possible. Disruptions, quarantines, shutdowns, cancellations all took place. However, God also guided, provided, protected, blessed, answered prayer, and drew us closer to Him. I thought about referencing the proverbial “glass half-full” analogy. However, I think that Jesus’ words to Thomas are more appropriate, “Be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:29 KJV).

We don’t have to wonder how we would have handled things in biblical times; God is seeing our faith as we handle these times.

In Christ,
Jeffrey B. Marthins
President, Board of Trustees

Ministry Highlights

1987 THROUGH 2020

- ▶ 4,638 games played
- ▶ 464 institutions visited in 33 states and Canada
- ▶ Approximately 448,023 inmate spectators
- ▶ More than 404,329 Gospels distributed
- ▶ 34,484 professions of faith

OCT. 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPT. 30, 2020

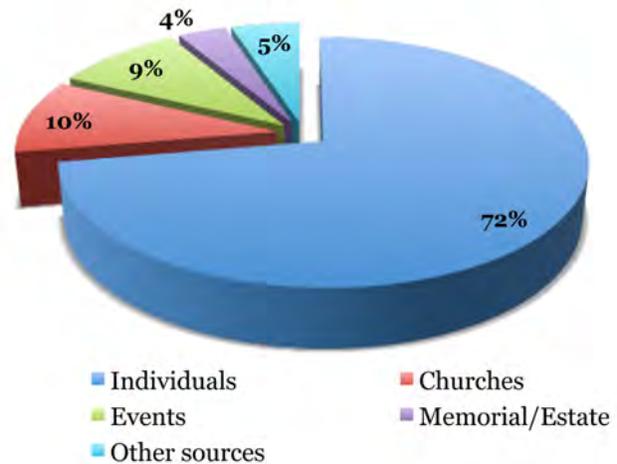
- ▶ 21,519 inmates in our database
- ▶ 151 professions of faith
- ▶ 3,172 Gospel's of John distributed



Financials

REVENUE SOURCES

Individuals	\$324,711
Churches	\$44,077
Estate/ Memorial Gifts	\$15,895
Events	\$41,782
Other Sources	\$22,544
TOTAL	\$449,009



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$346,670
Management and General Expenses	\$93,498
Fundraising	\$22,244
TOTAL	\$462,412



Letter of Recommendation

On behalf of Pontiac Correctional Center, we would like to thank you and the entire Saints Prison Ministry softball team for coming to our institution to play softball against our offenders. The offenders are still talking about how much fun they had. Your entire team brought so much positive energy and showed great sportsmanship during each of the four games played that day.

We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules and with your families to spend the day delivering positive messages and encouraging offenders that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The Saints Prison Ministry softball team has made some great memories for our offenders, and we hope that you continue to do so in the future here at Pontiac Correctional Center. We look forward to having you here in the years to come.

Thank you,
Emily Ruskin
Assistant Warden of Programs



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