

My name is Eric G. Young and I'm 50 years of age. This is my testimony. I started out going to church with my Grandmother at a very young age. Church was boring. My Grandmother made me go to church 2 or 3 times a week. My mother left us (my brother, sister & myself) with our father at a very young age. The only mother I can remember is Sherry; she was my father's girlfriend. She was an alcoholic. My father had 2 sometimes 3 jobs so he was never home. Sherry would get drunk at a bar and I would have to go get her. I was molested by her at the age of 10 and it went on for 7 years. I started drinking and using drugs with Sherry. I never told my father, I guess I started to enjoy being around Sherry even though I was getting molested by her for so many years. When my father broke up with Sherry I continued to see her until I was 18 years of age. I was still going to church with my Grandmother. I would stay for the singing and the "jumping around", I would leave when the preacher would give the sermon and make it back before it was over, my Grandmother never knew.

I started to hang in the street, gangbanging, using drugs, and drinking heavy. My grades got worse as the years went by. I was kicked off the football team (I was pretty good too), so I dropped out of school. After 2 years of stealing cars and selling drugs, I went to the penitentiary and for 20 years of my life I have been going to the penitentiary again, again and again.

I have been to the joint 6 times. But this last time was different. I was looking at 25 years. I tried to kill myself. While I was unconscious, an angel appeared to me and told me to read, 1

Corinthians 3:16,17. When I came to, I asked for a Bible and read the verse the angel told me to read and I realized that God (Jesus Christ) died for me and this is not my body to do with as I please, this is God's temple. I started to go to Bible study and church in the county jail. My trial started and I got found guilty, my sentence was 12 years. When I got the penitentiary the first thing I did was sign up for church. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior on April 23, 2010. Things went smoothly for me in the penitentiary and I got short with no place to stay (parole to). At the last minute, my counselor asked me if I wanted to go to a faith based ministry; I told her, yes. I filled out an application for Jesus is the Way (JITW); on Friday, my counselor sent word for me that I had a phone call from JITW staff that I was accepted and I was released on Monday. Things didn't go so smoothly once I got here. I have some health and mental issues that the ministry didn't know how to deal with and didn't know if I was going to be able to stay. I prayed to God to help me because I didn't want to leave and He (GOD) answered my prayers. The ministry is helping me with my spiritual journey and my health/mental problems. I am seeing that it is not all about me. I go do charity work, like help the homeless or help send books to prisoners. Once I leave the ministry, I want to continue to help out where I can (help teach a class, give my testimony at churches or wherever it may help lead someone to Christ). My prayer is: May God bless the unbeliever to change his/her mind to walk with Jesus Christ and the believer to strengthen his/her walk with God.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CURRENT GRADUATES

NORMAN ALLEN, DANIEL SKILLINGS, RAY LITTLETON, MARVIN ANDERSON



Norman Allen



Daniel Skillings



Marvin Anderson



Ray Littleton

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Toilet Bowl Brushes

LOVIN' LIFE CELEBRATION BANQUET

AUGUST 28, 2015 AT 6:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

FLUID EVENT CENTER

601 N COUNTRY FAIR DR.

CHAMPAIGN, IL. 61821



NEW LOCATION!

This banquet is to celebrate the changes being made by the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry. Our ministry consists of two parts; 1) ministering in the male & female housing units of the jails and prisons and 2) the aftercare outreach. Our ultimate goal is to bring people to Jesus while training and empowering them to become productive and responsible citizens in our communities. Our aftercare currently serves the male population. This banquet helps us in supporting the mission of our ministry.

We will have a wonderful meal prepared by Nelson's Catering. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Pete Leonard, Founder of I Have a Bean in Wheaton IL. Pete has a great testimony of what God has done in his life and how he is being used to further God's kingdom. We are excited about what Pete will be sharing with us and are sure you don't want to miss it!

H E I S R I S E N

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

Founder
Jesse Mathes (1942-2008)



Executive Director
Dennis Daniel

Assistant Aftercare Director
Scott Krile

Prison Services Coordinator
John Henderson

Jail Service Coordinators
Darrel Dunnigan
David Nisbet
Women's Division
MaryAnn Bridges

Case Manager
Kathy Mayberry

Support Staff
Edith Mathes

Rantoul Staff
Brenda Krile
Vicki Schoonover

JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY

P.O. BOX 98
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RANTOUL, IL

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EMAIL: info@jesusisthewayprisonministries.org
www.jesusisthewayprisonministries.org

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

One in 28 American children has a parent behind bars.

The United States has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners.

There are more people behind bars today for a drug offense than there were in 1980 for all offenses combined.

The U.S. spent \$80 billion on incarceration in 2010 alone.

As of December 31, 2013, the Illinois prison population was 48,653. The Illinois Department of Corrections operates 25 adult correctional centers, employs approximately 10,800 staff members and had a budget of \$1.37 billion in FY2014.

