

GLAD TIDINGS

ADVENT – A TIME OF ACTIVE WAITING

by Sarah Carver

Greetings to each of you! I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and that you were able to spend time among family and friends. As most of you know, I announced my resignation as Executive Director in September. Since then I have been serving as Interim Executive Director and will continue to do so until the end of the year. It has been a privilege, a pleasure, and a good challenge to serve all of you and this ministry in an administrative role for the last three and a half years. While I am beginning a new chapter in my own life, I believe this is the beginning of a new chapter for the life of Yokefellow Prison Ministry as well. We are in the season of Advent, a time of waiting with expectation for the birth of Christ. But this waiting is not passive.

It is active. It may mean that we look for ways to help and care for others – friends and strangers. It may mean that we need to look inward and discover if there is something we need to change about ourselves or if we need to become more open to new ideas and insights. As you enter this time of transition and change in Yokefellow, it will be a period of waiting. It is my hope and prayer that this will be a time of active waiting. Invite someone to become a Yokefellow volunteer. Talk to your church about Yokefellow. Engage college students in a conversation about our prison ministry. Wait actively! May each of you have a joyful Advent and Christmas season! Blessings to you all!

IMPORTANT NOTICES

From our Board of Directors:

We want to thank Rev. Bruce Pate for his long-time service to the ministry of Yokefellow and his service on the Board of Directors. Earlier this fall, Bruce stepped down from the board and has now become an Emeritus Board member. We are grateful for his insights, vision, longevity, and service to our ministry!

We also want to welcome Michael Llamas to our Board of Directors! Michael joined our board in the late summer and we look forward to his presence and influence as we work together and anticipate the new year.

From our Interim Executive Director:

I want to thank those Yokefellow Coordinators who have faithfully informed me of how your volunteer groups are doing. This is important information and thank you for taking the time to either send it by mail or through a phone call. Your leadership and diligence is truly valued by us!

A Message from our President...

The year 2016 has been a very productive year for Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC. We've encountered new people, new opportunities, and uplifting experiences of God's grace. We are a blessed people who are compelled to bless others. It has been a great pleasure to serve as your president and I look forward to our continued growth as an organization and movement. In 2016, more people have been trained, more inmates have attended our services state wide and we've enjoyed the benefits of new friends and acquaintances. I appreciate the diligent work of our Board and our Executive Committee. We have made some important decisions to strengthen our Yokefellow base and prepare for our inevitable growth.

Yokefellow has sponsored two formal trainings this year. Our Asheboro, NC and New Bern, NC trainings were great opportunities to share our experiences with each other. We also received comprehensive training to keep us energized and ready for our journey to many North Carolina prisons. I'm appreciative for the work of our trainers and our participants. Many thanks are extended to Chaplain Priscilla Durkin, C.B. Evans, and Leon Morrow for planning our training opportunities this year. David Canady, Kyle Fishbaugh, Chris Mitchell, and Sarah Carver have provided outstanding trainings. We are a stronger organization because of these who have so freely shared their experiences and wisdom with us.

Yokefellow has also been blessed to have the very capable and dedicated leadership of Sarah Carver. Sarah has provided outstanding service as our Executive Director over the last three and a half years. We, as an organization, are stronger and wiser as a result of her care. Sarah has recently accepted a new ministry and continues to work with us part time until the end of December. We wish Sarah well in her new endeavors and journey. We pray for her continued growth and pray that God will use her talents and gifts to the fullest. We are a better organization because of her work and dedication to detail. Well done Sarah! You are a blessing to us!

Our Yokefellow Executive Committee and Board are dedicated to making a smooth transition during Sarah's departure. More information will be forthcoming to you about the Executive Director position. The position will be advertised and opportunities will be provided for the interested to make application. In the meantime, if you need information please contact us at **Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC, Inc., P.O. Box 24932, Winston-Salem, NC 27114**, and by telephone at **(336) 724-9801**, or send us an email: yokefellowprisonministrync@gmail.com. We look forward to serving you and are eager to answer your questions and inquiries. Our next board meeting will be held in January of 2017. Yokefellow is a grace driven organization. We attract sinful people. I say this because the people of our world hunger for grace. Sinful human beings are drawn to grace like a bee is to honey. We see this in the way people responded to Jesus during His earthly ministry. We see this in the way people are drawn to you. What will make our organization, the movement called Yokefellow, great? God's grace will! Remember Proverbs 19 – "Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the LORD'S PURPOSE that prevails." I pray that God will continue to bless each of us as we strive to be his faithful servants. I extend my best to you in this wonderful season. I extend this message to you as we embark on the New Year 2017. Bless you all with the grace that only our Lord can give.

- David Morton, President of the Board
Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC

May each of you have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season!