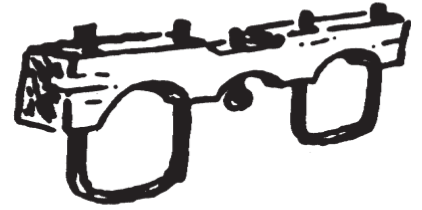


YOKEFELLOW NEWS

A Fellowship of YOKEFELLOWS

Dedicated To A Ministry Of Reconciliation



Winston-Salem, N.C.

Take My Yoke Upon You

Winter, 2008



Expanding outreach

A new volunteer at Forsyth CC (left) signs for deaf inmates during a Yokefellow meeting. Chaplain Robert Wolfe hopes other volunteers who sign will join them and perhaps assist in worship.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Renaldo Addison Landsdale “Bud” Walker devoted a major portion of his ministry career to prison chaplaincy. He became a state-paid chaplain in 1975 when there was only one other state chaplain in North Carolina. At the conclusion of his role as Chief of Chaplains in 1984 there were more than 70 state-paid chaplains and approximately 20 funded chaplains ministering to the inmate population.

Throughout these years Bud had a basic commitment to Yokefellow Prison Ministry as he served on the Board of Directors, as he provided guidance and advice to Yokefellows, and constantly supported our ministry through chaplaincy and

prison administrators.

Bud deeply cared for people — to cite one example is to recall his ministry to one of our early Yokefellow leaders, Max Vestal. Max was a regional coordinator/trainer in the South Central area of our state as well as the pastor of the Eutaw United Church of Christ in Fayetteville.

It was in 1985 when Max was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Numerous times Bud visited him and provided support, understanding, and encouragement. On at least three of these visits I was present and was deeply impressed by Bud’s care and love for Max.

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Meeting helps put Yokefellow in focus

Yokefellow volunteers gathered at First Baptist Church in Burlington, N.C., on Saturday, Oct. 25, for Yokefellow Prison Ministry’s Annual Meeting.

Volunteers from some 22 volunteer groups came together to sing, hear inspirational speakers, share stories, worship, and conduct business as they focused again on what Yokefellow represents and who we are as Yokefellow participants, in our ministry within North Carolina correctional facilities.

Rev. Bruce Pate, a member of the Yokefellow Board and a volunteer for 31 years, reflected on the past, present, and future of the group. Bruce, a United Methodist minister, began his service as a volunteer at the Guess Road Unit in Durham in 1977-78. He had three suggestions for the future:

(1) Pray for the work. Bruce emphasized fervent listening prayer and called all of us to pray for the residents, their families, victims and their families, and those who provide ministry through Yokefellow.

(2) Recruit new volunteers for the work. For those who are already involved, Bruce encouraged them to be “the best you can be,” to know the Yokefellow model and discipline, and to tell the Yokefellow story to others.

(3) Undergird the ministry with financial support. “If every-

body does a little bit, nobody has to do a lot.”

David Vanstory shared his personal testimony about Yokefellow, prison life, and God’s recovery for him. Incarcerated three different times, David described his downward struggle as he became addicted to alcohol and drugs. He noted his heart and motives were not right when he first became involved with Yokefellow. During his third prison sentence — for ten years — he came to realize that “prison could not change me.” In his cell he cried out, “O Lord help me.”

From that moment on, he became involved in the drug treatment program, began to follow the program, and relied on God for guidance and strength. He progressed to become a peer counselor and found that God was changing him for God’s service. During his teaching in the drug program he had a vision of a model for ministry he now uses in his work.

Rev. Reggie Longecrier, the day’s keynote speaker, is a chaplain in the State Prison System and the Executive Director of Exodus Homes, an agency that provides supportive housing for folks in need. He challenged the attendees to hear the call of God to reach out to those in our State facilities.

(Continued on Back Page)

Yokefellow Contributors — 2007

Gifts: \$1 - \$499

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Skyland United Methodist Church, Skyland, NC
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 Western NC Conference, United Methodist Church – Grant

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Rev. David Canady, Parkton, NC

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Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska, NC

If your name has been inadvertently omitted from this list, please let us know so we can make the correction.

**Please put this on your calendar now:
 2009 YOKEFELLOW ANNUAL MEETING
 Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 10 a.m.**

Yokefellow board and group coordinators

Board of Directors

Chaplain Ken Barker, Burlington, NC
 Rev. David Canady, Parkton, NC
 Chaplain Pricilla Durkin, Troy, NC
 Laura Elliott, Winston-Salem, NC
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 Pat Ford, Raleigh, NC
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 Rev. Robert Rierson, Winston-Salem, NC
 Rev. John D. Rights, Winston-Salem, NC
 Ken Ripley, Spring Hope, NC
 Rebecca Schlosser, Greensboro, NC
 Chaplain Melvin Solomon, Vass, NC
 Cleveland Walker, Winston-Salem, NC

Executive Director

Nancy Burkette

State Trainer and Developer

Rev. David Canady

Welcome to new Board

Members:

Chaplain Pricilla Durkin, Pat Ford, and
 Rebecca Schlosser

Group Coordinators

Anson CC: Ben Tillman
 Avery-Mitchell CI: Chaplains Walter Patten
 and Jacob Willis
 Bertie CI: Ben Jones
 Bladen CC: Chaplain Daniel Bryan
 Brown Creek CI: Chaplains Louis Moore
 and Marian Cooper
 Buncombe CC: Nancy Trepes
 Carteret CC: Chaplain John Steen
 Catawba CC: Chaplain Reggie Longcrier
 Columbus CI: Chaplain Gary Bauer
 Craven CI: Chaplain John Pierce
 Dan River Prison Work Farm: Chaplain
 Bruce Hill
 Davidson CC: Jerry Bare
 Duplin CC: Rev. Willie Williams
 Durham CC: Rev. Joseph Lyon
 Eastern CI: Linda Chamberlain
 Foothills CI: Chaplain David Turbeville
 Forsyth CC: Doris Chunn
 Fountain CCW: Lee Etta Pulley
 Gaston CC: Sam Holloway
 Gates CC: Robert and Kristina Pavey
 Greene CI: Kathryn Nobles
 Guilford CC: J. L. Roberson
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 Hoke CC: Louise Shipman

Hyde CI: Bill VanStaalduinen
 Lincoln CC: C. James Jones
 Lumberton CI: Bishop Ford
 Marion CI: Chaplain Nancy Sehested
 Maury CI: Ester Perara
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 Pamlico CI: Grosvenor Barber
 Pasquotank CI: Jerry Mullen, Al and Carol
 Humbert
 Pender CI: David Brown
 Piedmont CI: Eric Beaver
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 Rutherford CC: William Logan
 Sampson CC: Hameed Shereef
 Sanford CC: Harold York
 Scotland CI: Pamela Locklear
 Southern CI: Chaplain Arlester Simpson
 Tyrrell Prison Work Farm: Robert Lassiter
 Umstead CC: Ruth Poole
 Wake CC: Josephine Drayton
 Wayne CC: Ruby Singleton
 Western Youth I: Chaplain Mark Menhinick
 Wilkes CC: Frank Shealey

How you can help Yokefellow Prison Ministry

In 2009, Yokefellow Prison Ministry will celebrate 40 years of service to those in prison in North Carolina. We move into this time of celebration looking back with thanksgiving and forward with expectation for all that God will do in and through our ministry together.

We live in hopeful, but challenging times. Our organization, like many others, needs strong financial support. Every contribution, of any size, helps to move us forward in service to those in prison. We have one paid staff person for a state-wide ministry in 53 (and soon to be more!) correctional facilities involving more than 800 volunteers. Our small budget is not funded by the government, the United Way, foundations, or a big endowment. It is supported by the gifts of churches, church groups, Board members, volunteers, and interested individuals.

Through October we have received small grants from three denominations; gifts from 27 churches, five church groups, 53 individuals; and contributions from three Yokefellow units.

As more people respond to the opportunity to give, our finances will remain strong and we can continue to share Christ's transforming love.

How you can help:

- Pray that, as in the past, God will continue to bless and provide for the financial needs of Yokefellows.

- If you are able to make an on-going, or one-time, or year-end gift to Yokefellow Prison Ministry, please do so today!

- Consider asking family members, friends, a Sunday school class, mission group, or your local church to provide a gift or special offerings for Yokefellow.

YES, I want to help Yokefellow Prison Ministry by...

- Praying for God's blessings on Yokefellow and its ministry to inmates.
- Making a financial donation.
- Asking a family member or friend to make a financial donation.
- Asking my church, church group, or Sunday School to make a donation.
- Please send me more information about Yokefellow.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Return to: Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C., 1001 Reynolda Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Annual meeting puts Yokefellow in focus

(Continued from Front Page)

He cited two reasons for his involvement in such ministry. First, a theological reason: Jesus' call to "go and do likewise." Christians are to be judged on "how we treat the least of these." He was captured by the fact that a resident who is released from prison, in most cases, has nowhere to go. He shared the story of one resident who upon arriving in his hometown was met at the bus stop by the

Yokefellow group begins

Yokefellow's State Trainer and Developer, David Canady, met with volunteers at the Maury Correctional Institution on Nov. 3 to begin a new Yokefellow group.

Five volunteers attended the meeting where David led a mini-training session. Following the training session, approximately 35 inmates came for the first Yokefellow meeting. David reported that there was a brief period with a song and prayer with the inmates and volunteers joining hands in a circle. The 35 inmates broke up into smaller groups with a volunteer with each group. David reports that the participation in his group was excellent.

Yokefellow volunteer, Ester Perara, will be the Yokefellow Coordinator. She has been a Yokefellow at the Green Correctional Center for a number of years. Ms. Perara and other volunteers will be recruiting more volunteers which David will train.

drug dealer. Such behavior challenged him to develop a "gate brigade" which took shape in his housing ministry.

Second, he has a personal reason for being involved in prison ministry. He described himself as the "original prodigal." He had a life of crime with incarceration in reformatories and prison facilities. In a prison in North Carolina he felt God saying to him, "I'm going to make you ask me for help." He became involved in a Yokefellow Group and through that experience God restored his confidence in himself. His pilgrimage as a follower of Christ has taken him from being a resident to being

a State Chaplain. He testified to God's power in his life in one sentence: "Today I hold the keys to the same prison I spent time in."

The Annual Meeting was a powerful experience in God's presence. Through these three speakers, our music and worship, we were challenged to focus again on who we are and what our mission is to be. There had been a revival, a renewal, a new commitment to the service of our Lord through Yokefellow Prison Ministry. God works amazingly through stories to touch us with a fresh desire to be in His service.

— Jerry Richards

Yokefellow volunteer spotlighted

(Continued from Front Page)

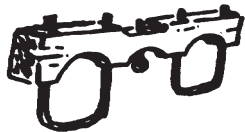
Bud had a special gift of relating to persons. He was at home with government officials, politicians, church leaders, as well as new prison volunteers, members from the smallest of churches, and the least educated inmates. Wherever he traveled as a chaplain he tried to live out one of his favorite themes: "I'm here to bring help and not hassle!"

Bud's love and care did not end with Yokefellow leaders, church leaders, chaplains, and administrators. It extended to inmates whatever their crime(s) or histories. It would be true to say that his greatest passion was to bring equal justice to all regardless of race, sex, or religion. Fair and equal

treatment for all was his marching song! It is not surprising, therefore, that Yokefellow Prison Ministry was close to his heart because the value and worth of each individual is foundational for our Yokefellow Ministry. Beginning with the value and worth of each person, one finds it easy to listen and to build relationships of trust and respect. This is our focus on ministry and Bud found himself in harmony with our commitment to Yoke ourselves with Christ and inmates.

Our ministry has been greatly enhanced by Bud's active participation, support, encouragement, and leadership. We continue to be enriched by his prayers and insights.

— David N. Canady



Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C.

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