

YOKEFELLOW NEWS



A Fellowship of YOKEFELLOWS

Dedicated To A Ministry Of Reconciliation

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Take My Yoke Upon You

Winter, 2010

Annual meeting brings us together

On a crisp autumn Saturday morning in October, Yokefellows from across our state met at the First Baptist Church in Burlington for the 41st Annual Meeting.

David Canady recognized volunteers for their years of faithful service, hymns were sung, statements of faith were read by Chaplain Priscilla Durkin, and testimonies were made by Bob Lowry, Raynard Hoover, Chaplain John Steen, and Millie Gordon. Board Member Frances Gladen addressed "The Ministry of Giving." Chaplain Bill Hall of Morganton gave the keynote address, "Yokefellow Prison Ministry: A 30 Year Perspective."

Bill asked, "Do we know who



PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED TIMES OF SINGING.

we are?" and "Do we change identities as circumstances change?" Bill suggested that as Yokefellows we are people who *have found the listening ear of God*. As such, we have responded to the call to listen to others, to honor God's image in others; and participate in the restoration of the dignity of personhood of God's people in prison. With that in mind, Bill asks that we think about Listening, Perception and Ownership. (The following are quotes from Bill.)

Listening:

"We take great pride in being able to multitask: read and watch tv at the same time; pray and sleep at the same time; talk and listen at the same time."

"I would guess that we either talk or we listen, but we really don't do both at the same time, no matter how hard we try.

"Following a Yokefellow meeting an Inmate said, 'Look what they laid on me tonight,' as he fanned out about a dozen tracts about heaven and hell. 'Did you tell them that you are already a Christian?' 'They didn't give me a change to tell them anything.'"

"Talking or listening. I suspect that we find it easier to talk because we are then in charge, *we are in control*."

"When we listen, control is not an issue. Relationship is then central. Relationships that are good, growing, nurturing, car-

ing, etc do not involve control on either side. Rather, relationships involve sharing."

"I suspect we want to make them something, rather than let them be themselves, and become who they are."

"We ask, 'What good am I doing?' I would suggest that we ask instead, 'Am I being present, honest, and open?'"

Perception:

"What is your perception when you enter a prison?"

"If you check your perception, would you see Jesus in prison? Would He be sitting at your table? What would it be like to listen to Jesus, as He tells

(Continued on Back Page)



REV. DAVID CANADY



CHAPLAIN BILL HALL

Yokefellow Contributors — 2009

Gifts: \$1 — \$499

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

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(Listed by regions in the state)

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Nancy Burkette

State Trainer/Developer

Rev. David Canady

Chaplain Ken Barker, Rev. David Guthrie, Cathy Kimel, Rebecca Schlosser, and Cleveland Walker will rotate off the Board of Directors in 2011. Thank you for your faithful service while serving this ministry. We wish you well.

We welcome new members — Reverend Patience Brumley, Chaplain Charlie Davis, and Louise Shipman. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

How you can help Yokefellow Prison Ministry

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 52 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 interested individuals, board members, volunteers, churches, and church groups.

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

Hall challenges Yokefellows at meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

you His story?"

"If we approach people with our own agenda or seek our own will, we will fail on all levels. That is the reason for our min-

istry being a ministry of listening."

Ownership:

"Yokefellow was the first Prison Ministry I encountered in 1975. I have been involved with the Ministry in some fashion

since that time."

"I believe it is a ministry that should be claimed and owned by those who are part of the ministry."

"Other prison ministries such as Prison Fellowship, Epiphany,

Karios, Disciple Bible Study, etc. are able to raise thousands of dollars to support ministries that are indeed valuable but are far less in scope than Yokefellows."

"Yokefellows: If those ministries can raise that kind of money, mostly from those participating, then certainly Yokefellows should be able to do the same, and more."

"I challenge you to become a financial supporter and take some ownership in this ministry."

In conclusion, Bill shared a reading from Hospice because it applies directly to Yokefellow's ministry:

"What people at the end of life need more than any material comfort, is another human being who can offer an hour of their physical presence, to simply listen and be."

Chaplain Melvin Solomon led the group in "A Time of Rededication." After a prayer of Thanksgiving by Elder Bishop Ford, everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch followed by a short business time. Dr. Jerry Murray gave the benediction.

New training plan developed

The Yokefellow Board of Directors is committed to providing effective and timely volunteer training for all Yokefellows throughout our state.

A newly developed lesson plan has been recently approved by our Board and will become the foundational standard for all statewide training. This lesson plan will benefit our newest Yokefellows as well as our most experienced veterans.

The topics covered in the training focus on Yokefellow:

- Heritage
 - Foundational principles
 - Structure purpose
 - Disciplines
 - Methodology
- Plans are currently being for-

mulated to deliver training classes in strategic locations across the state. At this time we are targeting three areas of our state as: **West / Central / East.** Location and target dates are as follows:

• **East** — Terra Ceia (Beaufort County), Feb. 5, 2011

• **West** — Marion CI, March 2011

• **Central** — Greensboro, April 2011, and Raleigh, May, 2011.

The above locations and dates are subject to change.

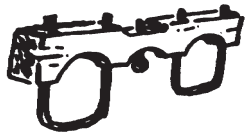
Current training locations and dates will be maintained on our WEB site at: <http://www.yokefellowprisonministry.org>. Here you will find a Volunteer Training page(s) with the most current

training dates, locations, and other useful training materials.

Please contact Nancy Burkette, (336) 724-9801, or David Canady, (910) 425-5273, with any additional training request or schedule questions.

We know Yokefellow volunteers gain additional insight and learn new ways to increase our effectiveness as we train and fellowship together. Training events also provide an excellent opportunity for Yokefellows to affirm one another in our ministry as Disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We're looking forward to seeing you and your entire Yokefellow team at the next training session.



Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C.

1001 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 724-9801

www.yokefellowprisonministry.org

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