

YOKEFELLOW NEWS

A Fellowship of YOKEFELLOWS

Dedicated To A Ministry Of Reconciliation



Winston-Salem, N.C.

Take My Yoke Upon You

Winter, 2012

Yokefellows come together

By **DAVID CANADY**
President

Yokefellow Prison Ministry's 43rd Annual Meeting was held on Oct. 27 at the First Baptist Church of Burlington.

This meeting was well attended, with members representing the entire state from Lake Junaluska in the West (Bruce and Jean Pate) to New Bern (C.B. and Vickie Evans) in the East. As usual the fellowship among those present was warm and encouraging.

Our keynote speaker was The Rev. Edward Beddingfield, pastor of The First Baptist Church of Fayetteville. His presentation centered on how we identify with inmates: (1) we too, have broken laws and are guilty, (2) we struggle with value and worth only to find that we are precious in God's sight, and (3) we are hungry for God

and spiritual food.

Kenneth Cherry, a former inmate, shared his testimony. In his story he spoke of trying to understand why Yokefellow volunteers would come into a place, week after week, where he was "trying to get out of." His life changed, he said, as he accepted Christ into his life.

Several Yokefellow volunteers were recognized for their long and faithful years of ministry: Board Members Emeritus — Dr. Jerry Murray and Bill Ward, and members who have been active for more than 30 years — Kathryn Nobles, Louise Shipman, Bruce Pate, and Jerry Murray.

Acknowledgment was made regarding the death of Chaplain R.A.L. "Bud" Walker. A resolution honoring Chaplain Walker was shared with volunteers and presented by mail to his daughter, Susanne Walker

Wilson

It was announced at the meeting that a gift of \$10,000 was received from the National Yokefellow Ministry organization. This gift is to establish a Regional Developer for one of the three central prison regions in North Carolina. Applications are being received for this ministry and inquiries may be made by calling Nancy Burkette, Executive Director, at (336) 724-9801.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President — David Canady, Vice President — Melvin Solomon, Secretary — Pat Ford, and Member at Large — Priscilla Durkin.

A special word of appreciation was extended to Richard Moore who has served as Treasurer of Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C. for more than 20 years. Through all of these years, Richard has donated his time and talent to Yokefellow. Moreover, Richard has offered "to help acquaint/break in/train the new person as necessary." Yokefellow Prison Ministry has been blessed by so many volunteers like Richard Moore during the past 43 years of ministry in our state.

Contributions to Yokefellow Prison Ministry have been steady and encouraging this year. Still, with the increasing costs we face, the call is extended to Yokefellow volunteers, churches, and supportive individuals to continue in strong support of our Ministry.

Through the years we have learned that people respond to needs as they are presented. So, keep on praying for our mutual ministry; keep on sharing the Yokefellow story, and keep on encouraging one another in our serving Christ Our Lord through Yokefellow Prison Ministry.

Paying heartfelt tribute to R.A.L. 'Bud' Walker

By **MELVIN SOLOMON**

I count it a privilege to pay tribute to the late R.A.L. "Bud" Walker for his outstanding work and ministry as the first Director of Chaplaincy Services for the North Carolina Department of Correction, and as a board member of Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina.

Bud's ministry was characterized by his commitment to justice for all regardless of race, color, or religious identity.

His unfailing devotion and service to Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina during his chaplaincy and throughout his retirement years will continue to inspire Yokefellow volunteers now and in the future.

Bud's Christian commitment expressed itself through truth seeking a commitment to racial justice, and through his ability to relate to persons of all ranks and religions.

(Solomon is Vice President of Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina.)

Yokefellow Contributors — 2011

INDIVIDUALS:**\$1 - \$499**

Theresa Blount, Greenville
 Martha C. Bowen, Hope Mills
 Joe and Reba Bowman, Sanford
 Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Boyd, Winterville
 Joseph Branock, Jr., Raleigh
 Rev. and Mrs. David Burkette, Jefferson
 Nancy and Wayne Burkette, Pfafftown
 Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton
 Joan and David Cotterill, Winston Salem
 Mike and Teresa Cude, Pilot Mountain
 Gloria Davis, Winston-Salem
 Mary Jane and John Dewees, Winston-Salem
 Rev. Sydney Dunston, Louisburg
 Chaplain Priscilla Durkin, Mount Gilead
 Mr. and Mrs. Pat Ford, Raleigh
 Gloria Galloway, Greensboro
 Frances Gladden, Greensboro
 Elizabeth Goad, Greensboro
 David Gramley, Winston-Salem
 Bill Hall, Morganton
 Edward Hines, Hickory
 Bob and Pattie Hoffman, Winston-Salem
 Sam Holloway, Gastonia
 Carol and Al Humbert, South Mills
 David and Priscilla Jenkins, Chapel Hill
 Moli Jones, Hurdle Mills
 Rev. John Kale, Greensboro
 Sandra Keiffer, Yadkinville
 Tim Kute, Winston-Salem
 Rev. Henry and Bobbie May, Yadkinville
 John McCloud, Pantego
 Richard Moore, Winston-Salem,
 The Honorable Fred Morrison, Jr., Raleigh
 Rev. and Mrs. Leon Morrow, Lenoir
 Chris Mullen, High Point
 Betty Osborne, Raleigh
 Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Payne, Greenville
 Steve and Carolyn Phelps, Winston-Salem
 Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Richards, Apex
 Richard and Sue Richardson, Pittsboro
 Rev. and Mrs. Robert Rierson, Winston-Salem
 Mrs. Elynor Rights, Clemmons
 Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Graham Rights, Winston-Salem
 Rev. and Mrs. John Rights, Winston-Salem
 Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ripley, Spring Hope
 J. L. Roberson, Greensboro
 Rowson Funeral Home, Edenton
 Dewey and Rebecca Sawyer, Swans Quarter
 Chaplain Melvin Solomon, Vass

Mary Jo and Arthur Spaugh, Winston-Salem
 Melrose Stocks, Winston-Salem
 Dr. John Tector, Fuquay Varina
 John Paul and Robin Timmons, Greensboro
 Bill VanStaaldunen, Pantego
 Rodney and Mary VanScyoc, Durham
 Chaplain R.A.L. Walker, Asheville
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ward, Greensboro
 Steve and Dixie Wyant, Raleigh
 Harold York, Sanford

\$500 - \$999

Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Byerly, Wallburg
 Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Evans, New Bern
 Gene Johnson, Winston-Salem

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Anonymous
 William Hoffman, Maggie Valley
 Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Murray, Rural Hall
 Dr. Leslie R. Smith, High Point

CHURCHES:**\$1 - \$499**

Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern
 Clemmons UM Church, Clemmons
 Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville
 First Assembly of God, Belhaven
 First UM Church, Waynesville
 Grace Alliance Church, Linwood
 Kingdom Impact Global Ministries, Fayetteville
 New Bethel PHC, Fayetteville
 Terra Ceia Christian Reformed Church, Terra Ceia
 Trinity UM Church, Statesville
\$500 - \$999
 N.C. Conference UMC – Advance specials
 Home Moravian Church, Winston-Salem
 North Raleigh UM Church, Raleigh
\$1,000 - \$5,000
 Augsburg Lutheran Church, Winston-Salem
 Friedberg Moravian Church, Winston-Salem
 Long's Chapel UM Church, Lake Junaluska
 Maple Springs UM Church, Winston-Salem
 N.C. Conference UMC – Grant
 Moravian Church, Salem Congregation, Winston-Salem
 Western N.C. Conference UMC – Advance Specials

CHURCH GROUPS:**\$1 - \$500**

Church Women United, Durham
 Home Moravian Women's Fellowship, Winston-Salem

New Friendship Class, New Philadelphia
 Moravian Church, Winston-Salem
 Spring Hope UM Men, Spring Hope
 Sunday School, Rose Bay Baptist Church, Swans Quarter

YOKEFELLOW GROUPS:**\$1 - \$500**

Cash contributions – Annual Meeting
 Guess Road volunteers, Durham
 Hoke Yokefellow volunteers
 Terra Ceia Yokefellows, Terra Ceia

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:**David Atkins**

by Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska

Ethel Canady

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton

Judge Derb S. Carter

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton

Rev. Jeff Davis

by Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska

Charles Gardner

Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska

Beulah Maness

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton

Helen P. Preslar

Son, Edward Hines, Hickory

Bruce Zobel

by Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:**Nancy Burkette**

by Rev. Henry and Bobbie May, Yadkinville

Nancy Burkette

by Chaplain R.A.L. Walker, Asheville

Elsie N. Canady's 100th Birthday

by Martha C. Bowen, Hope Mills

Rev. David N. Canady

by Harold York, Sanford

Gray Cash

by Steven and Dixie Wyant, Raleigh

Rev. Drayton Cooper

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton

MATCHING GIFT

Reynolds American Foundation, Princeton, NJ

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

New life through Jesus Christ

In an isolated prison somewhere in North Carolina, Joseph served his life long sentence, day by day, month by month and year by year. He is separated from the free world, but dreaming about someday starting a new life.

He and his brother were raised in a home where their

father was Islamic and mother a Christian. Soon after incarceration his belief took him into Moorish Science and there he stayed for some 21 years. As all mothers tend to do, she stayed in touch with Joseph and continued to pray for him and his salvation in Jesus until her death in 2000. During one communication

with his aunt, shortly after his mother's death, Joseph was told that she had related a death bed account of "Seeing Jesus at her side just before she passed"!

Hearing his mother's death bed testimony of "Seeing Jesus" sealed his faith in Christianity.

After his conversion to Christ, one of the highlights of each week was being visited by Yokefellow friends who gathered to praise God and encourage him in his walk. Engaging and encouraging him that "God is faithful to the end" and that new life is possible in Jesus Christ for those who trust and obey Him.

Finally that day in 2009 came and he was released from prison. He was able to start over in an entirely new environment after 32 years behind bars!

After many struggles, during re-entry into an open society, he wrote back to thank and encourage those Yokefellows who faithfully visited and encouraged him through the tough years while in prison.

Read, in Joseph's heartfelt words, how he is thankful in all things for the faithfulness of Jesus and the gifts he has been provided:

Brother Bill,

I am very sorry for not responding sooner; but, things have been very busy since I was released from prison on 10-19-09. I don't have the best job in the world but I thank the Father God that it's paying the bills. I work at a pallet company operating a big lift truck (Forklift) on their lumber yard. This was a job that I had on work release and stuck with it after I got out. The Lord blessed me to save up enough to buy a 2000 Toyota Tundra truck, 4X4, when I was released. This kept me mobile through a tough winter in these mountains.

Personally, I didn't want to live in the mountains, but God brought me up here for a reason; And since I've been up here, God has been making a way out of no-way, seemingly. For in less than two years after being released, God blessed me to be able to obtain two vehicles (the truck as well as a 2009 Hyundai Elantra) in the first year, and about eight months after the car, God blessed me to be able to obtain a loan to purchase a house.

There is a lot more to it than what I am writing here, but things don't just happen that fast for someone who spent 32 years in prison, working menial jobs and no one helping him.

Now don't get me wrong, it hasn't been easy. There have been quite a few days and nights that I cried out to God for help and He always provided just what I needed. I don't have a lady friend or prospective wife as of yet. That's probably next on God's list to provide for me. Because I've definitely asked for a wife from Him.

In any event tell everyone that I'm still giving God all the glory for everything that's going on in my life. Also, I attend a Baptist Church and sing in the choir there.

Give my blessings to everyone: Bro Art, Bro John, Sis Mirian, Sis Barbara, and all the volunteers that remember me. Also, tell Berard that I haven't forgotten him either. And if you get the chance to see Brother Johnny, tell him to give me a call sometime.

That's about all for now. I just had to touch base with you because every one of you helped me along this Christian journey.

Thank you all for being faithful.

Much love in Christ,

Bro Joseph

Dear Moses

By PRISCILLA DURKIN

In our last newsletter we wrote a letter to Moses because we were "tempted to quit." Moses gave some great advice from Deuteronomy. Now we'd like to ask James what to do when we feel like we're getting burned out.

Dear James,

Every week my mail box is full of requests for donations. I hate to answer the telephone because of the organizations that want to "thank" me for what I gave them last year and ask me to give that and a little bit more this year. I know they're probably all good causes. I just don't know which ones to support and which ones to ignore. I also worry about how they'll use the money if and when I send it.

When I look around at all the needs I see in our county, I just don't know how to effectively work for change or improvement. I go to meeting after meeting and get tired of people who are so short-sighted. Why don't they "get" what needs to be done and quit debating? They spin their wheels and they worry about who will get the credit. We rarely make any progress or get anything accomplished. I'm sick of extending myself and getting nothing more than

criticism in return.

What do you suggest?

Burning Out

Dear Burning Out,

You might stop for a moment and consider this: Every generous act of giving and every perfect gift doesn't come from you. It comes from above — from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation of shadow due to change. Also, each one of us needs to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and even slower to anger, because anger does not produce the kind of righteousness God intends. If you think you are religious and don't bridle your tongue, you are deceiving yourself, and your religion is absolutely worthless.

When have you looked carefully at scripture lately? (Try the first chapter of my book — verses 17-27.) When you do, you must welcome with meekness the word that has the power to produce anything — including the salvation of your soul. And Burning Out, remember that Jesus provided the ultimate example of extending himself. It is crucial that you continue to be a doer of the word, and not merely a hearer.

Love, James

(Next newsletter we'll send our third letter in this series to Matthew. See you then!)

Yokefellow Prison Ministry needs your help

By **NANCY BURKETTE**
Executive Director

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. The need is greater than in previous years due to the State's decision to eliminate 25 chaplain positions in prisons in our state.

We have one paid staff person

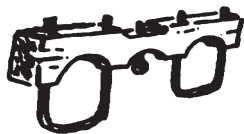
for a state-wide ministry in 47 correctional facilities involving more than 800 volunteers. Our small budget is not funded by the government, the United Way, foundations, or a big endowment. It is supported by the gifts of interested individuals, churches, church groups, and volunteers.

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 offering for Yokefellow.

For the latest information and valuable resources for your chapter, go to www.yokefellowprisonministry.org!



Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C.
1001 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 724-9801
www.yokefellowprisonministry.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Board of Directors

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- Vice-President – Melvin Solomon..... Vass
- Secretary - Pat Ford Raleigh
- Treasurer - Richard Moore..... Winston-Salem
- Appointed Member - Chaplain Priscilla Durkin..... Troy
- Executive Director - Nancy W. Burkette..... Winston-Salem
- Rev. Charles Cameron, Sr.....Southern Pines
- Chaplain Charlie Davis Concord
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