

Glad Tidings

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY OF NC

BLACK MOUNTAIN TRAINING & MEETING

Save the date! Yokefellow will host a volunteer training session on **Sat, April 28**, followed by a brief Member Meeting, at First Christian Church, 201 Blue Ridge Road, Black Mountain.

- ◆ 9:00: Check-in & coffee
- ◆ 9:30: Training begins
- ◆ 12:30: Brief Member meeting followed by lunch.

We hope to see you there!

Note: This is the same training that was provided in Asheboro in Oct and New Bern in Jan.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" ~ Ps. 133:1

NEW MAILING ADDRESS



The main office has a new mailing address:

Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C., Inc.
P.O. Box 38964
Greensboro, NC 27438

Artwork courtesy
<https://openclipart.org/detail/19953/label-icon>



Generous Donation Received

On December 27, 2017, Thomas O. Jones, Jr. of Greensboro, NC gave Yokefellow an unusual — and generous! — donation: four cemetery plots, including interment rights, with a five-figure retail value. The cemetery plots are located in National Memorial Park in Falls Church, VA, which is outside of Washington D.C. Yokefellow will sell the cemetery plots and use the proceeds to continue its mission of ministering to inmates across the state. Yokefellow extends a warm THANK YOU to Mr. Jones for his generous and thoughtful donation!

Mr. Jones' gift has inspired Yokefellow to put procedures into place for receiving other types of in-kind (non-monetary) donations, such as gift shares of stock and physical items to be "auctioned off" in silent auction fundraisers. Yokefellow is also looking into alternative forms of fundraising, such as becoming an Amazon Affiliate. Learn more about non-monetary ways to support Yokefellow on the **Support Page** of the website: <http://yokefellowprisonministry.org/support-us/>.

Yokefellow to Launch Social Media

While Yokefellow has had a Facebook page for several years, it has not been very active. Yokefellow plans to change that in 2018 and needs your help!

Despite being an active ministry for almost 50 years, Yokefellow continues to be the "best kept secret" in North Carolina. We want to change this by using social media. Our plan is to collect local "success stories" to post to Facebook and tweet through Twitter several times a week. Imagine donors visiting Yokefellow's Facebook page and reading comment after comment about specific ways that Yokefellow is making a difference in the lives of inmates across the state!

Because volunteers are the ones interacting with inmates on a weekly basis, we need your help to compile success stories to share through social media. We have set up an email address to collect these stories: yokefellow.news@gmail.com. You are also welcome to mail your success stories to P.O. Box 38964, Greensboro, NC 27438 or call them in to 336-724-9801.

The stories will not contain personal identifying information—neither the inmate's name nor the specific prison. Let's tell the world how God is using Yokefellow to minister to inmates across North Carolina!

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THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL COORDINATORS!

Ministry through Yokefellow requires the time and energy of our Local Coordinators. Thank you to each Local Coordinator for all you do. We appreciate you!

- **Avery-Mitchell:** David & Alice Houser
- **Bertie:** Howard Hoggard
- **Butner:** Ruth Poole
- **Carteret:** Buff Chalk
- **Columbus:** Jeanette Rogers
- **Craggy:** Robert Towe & Robert Vaughan
- **Craven:** Ricky Durham
- **Davidson:** David Bush
- **Eastern:** Esther Perara
- **Forsyth:** Doris Chunn
- **Gaston:** Wilfort Powell
- **Greene:** Charles Pierce
- **Harnett:** Collett Davis
- **Hoke:** Louise Shipman
- **Hyde:** Bill VanStaalduein
- **Lumberton:** Bishop Ford
- **Marion:** James O'Neal
- **Maury:** Clara Murray
- **Morrison:** Roberta Wilkes
- **Mountain View:** David Bickel
- **Nash:** Ken Ripley
- **NCCIW:** Ebony Michelle Smith
- **Neuse:** Arnold Thornton
- **New Hanover:** James Dykes
- **Orange:** Janet Flowers
- **Pamlico:** Grosvenor Barber
- **Pasquotank:** Al & Carol Humbert
- **Piedmont:** Eric Beaver
- **Polk:** Bill Boyle
- **Sampson:** Thira Peterson
- **Sanford:** Charles Green
- **Scotland:** Christopher Mitchell
- **Southern:** Richard & Stephanie Lundy
- **Tabor:** Daisy Brooks
- **Tyrrell PWF:** Roland Bell
- **Wake:** Josephine Drayton
- **Wilkes:** Frank Shealy

Spotlight artwork courtesy of
<https://openclipart.org/>

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about Yokefellow's New Executive Director, Vita Alligood!



What brought you to Yokefellow?

This was fully a "God thing." Prison ministry was never on my radar, but God had other plans. First, God called me into ministry to those who believe they are "lost causes," so I enrolled in Divinity School at Liberty University Online, where I am on pace to earn my Master of Arts in Christian Ministry in Summer 2018. Then, I saw the job posting for Yokefellow and realized that prison ministry is for people who believe they are "lost causes." As soon as I saw the job posting, I knew this was God's plan.

Why are you interested in "lost causes?"

I used to believe I was a "lost cause." As a child, I was severely abused by family "friends" for a number of years and was an emotional "hot mess" for most of my adult life. If not for receiving Jesus as my Savior at age 8, I likely would have committed suicide. I struggled with multiple issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), an eating disorder, self-injury, panic attacks, and suicidal urges. I

believed my brokenness was bigger than God, but I was wrong. Praise God!

What is your vision for Yokefellow?

I would like every Yokefellow volunteer to fall deeply in love with God, always seeking His will, because that's what we are here for — to love God and one another. Out of that love, I'd like to see healthy, active local Yokefellow groups working together in unity to serve the listening needs of inmates in every prison across North Carolina and beyond. Jesus said that people would know we are his disciples by our love (John 13:35).

What do you like to do for fun?

Oh, gosh. Since I returned to school, I don't have much time for fun! When I am not working, studying, leading Bible study through my local church, or tending to my fami-



ly's needs, I enjoy going to Christian concerts, reading for pleasure, and traveling. I love to travel! In 2016, I accompanied my then 15-year-old son on a school trip to Italy and enjoyed the tastiest food ever! And then I traveled in 2017 with my cousin through a tour group to Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria (Southern Germany) to honor our grandmother, who was born and raised in Germany and emigrated to the United States after WWII. She passed away in 2015.

Anything else to share?

I am so happy to be here! I have spent most of my career working in Corporate America, and Yokefellow could not be more different ... in wonderful ways! Everyone is so nice and supportive. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with and support!



This was the view from my hotel room in Switzerland. The balcony overlooked the Alps and Lake Lucerne.

This is truly the most beautiful locale on earth!

Eastern Training in New Bern



Sixty-one volunteers attended the Eastern Training Session in New Bern on January 13, 2018. Thank you to everyone who attended! A special thank you to C. B. Evans, who arranged for a delicious barbecue lunch!



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

My thoughts this quarter have been about the continued support and personal growth of volunteers representing Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina. As you know we've enriched people's lives with training and meeting opportunities in Asheboro and New Bern. You are a member of the team, and each member of our team adds to the life of our Yokefellow movement. When Paul spoke about

the Body of Christ, he talked about different members of each church that he had founded on his missionary quests. He witnessed and celebrated the worth of every person, especially those who contributed to the common good. He realized that some had greater gifts than others, and he emphasized that everyone was needed for an effective, healthy, and powerful community of faith.

As our Yokefellow community continues to grow and works together this new year, we ask for your prayers, that God would form and create us into His instruments of service and righteousness. Life for all of us emerges, and God beckons us to change, giving us opportunity to grow in Him. With each new day and experience, I have observed a new perspective of how God is able



to accomplish His tasks through His people. Each person representing Yokefellow Prison Ministry needs your support and prayers so that we may be obedient and pleasing to God. It's my firm belief that each gives their all in service for the Lord. I am convinced that as we continue to work together as the Body of Christ, as people Yoked together, we will become stronger in our mission to our communities, to the individuals we serve, and ultimately the world. I am thankful

to God for placing me in such a position at this stage of my spiritual journey and to have a great opportunity to Yoke with you in service. It is my prayer that God will bless you, our passion for ministry, and our communities that we serve. My thanks to you for the opportunity to serve. Our opportunities are great, and our service is needed. Praise be to God who leads us to serve.

David Morton
President of the Board
Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC



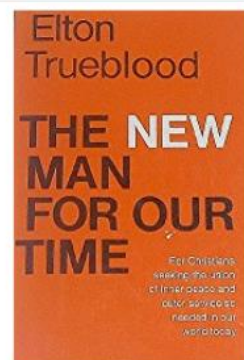
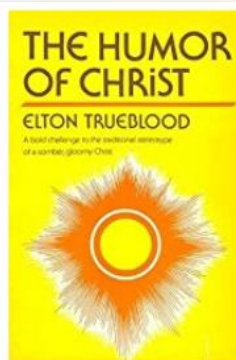
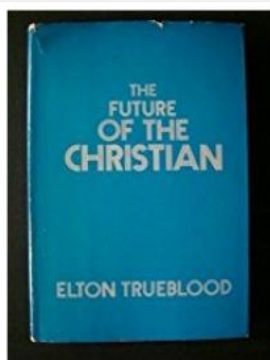
Ways to Support Yokefellow

Did you know that postage and printing costs account for a large part of Yokefellow's budget? Yokefellow has a distribution list of over 500 people, so the costs of printing newsletters, invitations, announcements, and other correspondence as well as purchasing stamps add up.

What can you do to help Yokefellow be a good steward? Go electronic!

If you have an active email address, please send Vita Alligood an email from that email address at yokefellowprisonministrync@gmail.com and tell her you want to go electronic. You will then receive future communications at that email address, saving Yokefellow printing & mailing costs while enabling you to receive correspondence faster.

Check out the Resources Page on the Website!



Book cover artwork courtesy of Amazon.com

Yokefellow is now an Amazon Affiliate! Check out the Resources page of the website at yokefellowprisonministry.org/resources. If you purchase a book or other item from the Resources page, Yokefellow earns a percentage for making the referral.

Also, set up an Amazon Smile account here: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1059009>. Shop Amazon from this URL, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Yokefellow. It's an easy way to support Yokefellow.

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