

# Glad Tidings

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY



*Post-incarceration ministry volunteers from the August 30, 2018 launch.*

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## BOARD POSITION STATEMENT

At its October 10, 2018 meeting, the Yokefellow Board of Directors passed a motion supporting the right of volunteers to bring their Bibles into the prison when they do ministry. Yokefellow leadership and the Chaplaincy services continue to work together to seek resolution of this issue. Both Yokefellow Board of Directors and the Chaplaincy services want to serve our Lord.

### Mark your calendars!

- ♦ **Sat, Jan. 19:** Local Volunteer Training for Swannanoa Correctional in Asheville
- ♦ **Sat, Mar. 2:** Regional Continuing Education Event in New Bern
- ♦ **Sat, May 18:** Regional Continuing Education Event in Black Mountain

## Post-Incarceration Ministry Active



On Thursday, August 30, 2018, Yokefellow Prison Ministry made history by launching its first post-incarceration ministry near downtown Greensboro. Providing aftercare for those returning to society after incarceration has been a dream of this ministry for decades, dating all the way back to Jerry Murray, who was one of Yokefellow Prison Ministry's founders. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this dream a reality!

## Fundraiser at Guilford College UMC

Thank you to Guilford College United Methodist Church in Greensboro, NC, for hosting a fundraising event for Yokefellow Prison Ministry. The church held a fundraiser during "Wednesday Night Out," which is a weekly church dinner. The church raised over \$2,200 for Yokefellow Prison Ministry. After the dinner, Yokefellow "graduate" Steve Kitchens shared his testimony in the sanctuary, giving glory to God for his transformation.

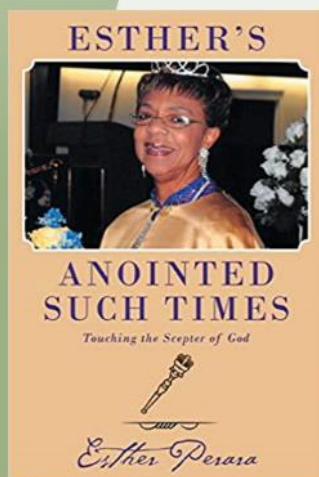


Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C., Inc.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Yokefellow volunteer Esther Perara, who served as the Local Coordinator for Eastern Correctional Institution, recently published a memoir of her life, which is available on Amazon.com. Be sure to purchase the book through the Amazon Smile program at smile.amazon.com, which also gives a donation to Yokefellow Prison Ministry!



Esther's life story includes how she became interested in prison ministry. One of her relatives had several run-ins with the law, and Esther had compassion on him. She never gave up on him, and that same passion fuels her to never give up on the inmates she has served through Yokefellow Prison Ministry for many years. Esther's heart is as big as her beautiful smile!



Esther Perara (second from left) with Yokefellow Staff and the Local Coordinators from Maury Correctional Institution (Henry Williams and Clara Murray).

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Learn more about Michael Llamas, Member of the Board of Directors

#### What is your involvement with Yokefellow Prison Ministry?

Presently I am serving on the Board of Directors of Yokefellow.

#### Why did you get involved with YPM?

I believe inmates {offenders} are people with great needs that can only be met with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yokefellow is a tremendous platform that provides the volunteer the opportunity to present that gospel. While it is true that Yokefellow is not a "preaching" type of service, I believe the gospel is clearly being preached through the volunteers' love, concern and being there for the inmates. I remember a Christian music artist once saying "We are to preach the gospel at all times . . . and sometimes use words". How I got involved with Yokefellow is through my past involvement with President David Morton. We have known each other since 1984. When asked if I'd like to get involved with Yokefellow, I was more than glad to do so.



#### Tell us about your life ministry and call to ministry.

Presently, I work a day job as a machine operator at the Bob Barker Company in Fuquay Varina. I serve on the Ministry Team there and stay very busy in work and activities that we are providing as the Ministry Team. I also pastor a small fellowship in Benson, NC. For years I knew God had a calling on my life. 2 Timothy 1:9 was the scripture that God spoke to my heart about my call. Since being ordained in 2008, God has opened many doors and has provided numerous opportunities to share the Word of God and my testimony. And finally, I am happily married to my wife Cheryl. Strong in faith and steadfast in perseverance, she has truly been my good and perfect gift from above. I am a blessed man in having her as my wife.

#### What is something that most people don't know about you?

Though I have a laid back personality and am mild mannered for the most part, I am very competitive. I also



don't play around when I get into something or commit to something. Always been that way. When it came to sports, when it came to running, when it came to doing drugs (prior to my conversion), I have always been gung ho. Now thank the Lord, my commitment to the Lord Jesus and to the Word of God are the driving passions of my life. Finally, what some may not know about me is that I spent over 26 years in the NC Department of Corrections. The second day of my incarceration is when I gave my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, it was by far the best decision I will have made for all eternity.

**Is there anything you would like to add?** We don't get but so many days on this terrestrial ball called Earth. The Apostle Paul said "Whatsoever we do, do heartily as to the Lord and not unto men." Everything that doesn't have eternal value truly is but temporal. I try to remind myself of this often. I try to enjoy life and the blessings God has bestowed upon me. But most of all, the longing of my heart is to just please Him. He is so deserving of it all and so much more.

Spotlight artwork  
courtesy of <https://openclipart.org/detail/284958/theater-or-studio-spotlight-on-roof-mount>



# Greensboro Continuing Education Event



On October 27, 43 volunteers and 10 Board members & Staff attended Yokefellow's first Continuing Education event in Greensboro. Attendees participated in small group breakout sessions facilitated by Yokefellow leadership. Thank you to everyone who attended!



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

We're all in prisons of some kind. Some have iron bars; some of our own making. The only way out is helping each other and through God's grace. That's why we go. Yokefellow Prison Ministry offers unique opportunities for personal spiritual growth because volunteers get personally involved in the gospel basics: witnessing, listening,

and encouragement. And when Christians catch fire for the Lord, it won't be long before the church grows. Thoughts to ponder:

- ◇ Prison is a spiritual field of harvest with many genuinely seeking change, stability, and love.
- ◇ Prison ministry revitalizes the spiritual lives of volunteers, with positive results in their churches.
- ◇ Volunteering in prison teaches deep spiritual lessons about forgiving, restoring, & praying and practical lessons about listening, patience, and communication.
- ◇ Prison ministry promotes cooperation and goodwill among believers from different denominations, socioeconomic back-

grounds, and theological points of view, helping us keep our eyes on Christ.

- ◇ We have the opportunity to share our experiences and testimony at the local church.
- ◇ Prison ministry shows us why we're all brothers and sisters united in Christ.

I pray that you choose to be yoked with Christ, which is the foundation of Yokefellow Prison Ministry from Christ's invitation to us (Matt. 11:28-30). We can partner with Christ as we walk with and share our brothers' and sisters' burdens. We can only share the amount of grace that we have received ourselves. I pray we extend the free gift of grace to

others, as freely as we ourselves received it.

Thank you to all who serve as Yokefellow volunteers in NC prisons, our Yokefellow Board, the Executive Committee, foundations, churches, organizations and individuals who support our work and ministry prayerfully and financially. Thank you to Vita Alligood and Carlton Gooding, who so effectively and generously lead, train and guide us. And lastly, thank you for providing me the privilege of journeying with you as YPM continues to grow and embrace the opportunities to serve the Lord. I pray we will be "Yoked" as we serve together. To God be the Glory.

David Morton, YPM President





# #GivingTuesday Fundraiser through Facebook

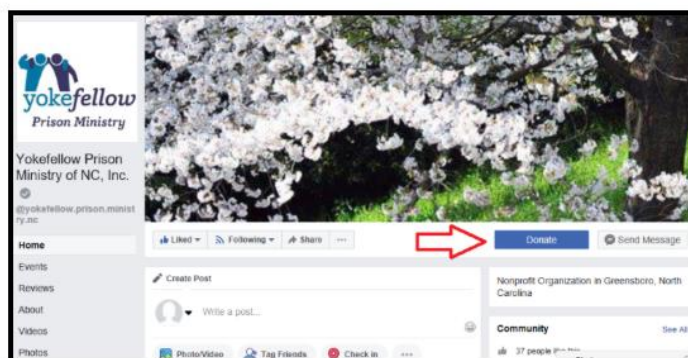
As you may know, #GivingTuesday is an annual event to raise funds for your favorite charity. This year, Yokefellow Prison Ministry is participating in #GivingTuesday through Facebook. Facebook and PayPal will match up to \$7 million in donations to nonprofits through Facebook on 11/27/18. No fees are collected, so Yokefellow will receive 100% of what you donate plus funds matching that donation until the \$7 million match is exhausted across all participating nonprofits.

To participate...

1. Go to Yokefellow's Facebook page at **8:00 a.m. on Tue, Nov 27**: <https://www.facebook.com/yokefellow.prison.ministry.nc/>
2. Click the **Donate** button (below the header on the right).
3. Enter the donation information.
4. Click **Donate**.

Facebook and PayPal will match your donation, doubling the amount Yokefellow receives.

**#GivingTuesday is November 27, beginning at 8:00 a.m. EST. Facebook & PayPal will match your donation!**



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Yokefellow Prison Ministry

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