

# Glad Tidings

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY



Members of Noble Academy's service club, Helping Hands, prepared 575 envelopes for Yokefellow Prison Ministry's Spring Direct Mail Campaign. Thank you, Helping Hands!

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## YOKEFELLOW REFRESHER TRAINING

**Saturday, 6/26/21**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom**

Connect with volunteers across the state for Yokefellow's first online refresher training, using an interactive format. Breakout rooms will be used for small group interactive discussions on the following topics:

- ◇ Listening ministry skills & tips
- ◇ Prison boundaries considerations and concerns
- ◇ Other questions/concerns raised by volunteers

Online refresher training is also available on the website.

## Prisons Moving Toward Reopening!

As we shared at the Virtual Town Hall meeting on May 8, some prisons have begun offering volunteer/blue card training in anticipation of resuming volunteer activities. When this newsletter went to press, Yokefellow had not yet been notified of a specific launch date. However, three prisons had provided blue card training.

While each prison is different, volunteers at Lumberton, Nash, Polk & Wake have been told that volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated to resume ministry.

Because blue cards must be update annually, volunteers will need to go through blue card training to resume minis-

try. Yokefellow encourages each local ministry to contact the prison to ask about upcoming blue card training opportunities.



## Bob Barker Foundation Grant



The Bob Barker Company Foundation, which supports nonprofits that help reduce the recidivism rate, awarded Yokefellow Prison Ministry a \$20,000 grant. Yokefellow Prison Ministry is grateful for the Bob Barker Company Foundation's continued support!

## IN MEMORIUM



**Evangelist Esther E. Perara**  
**Local Coordinator for**  
**Eastern & Neuse Correctional**  
**1939-2020**

Yokefellow volunteer Esther Perara passed away on December 19, 2020. She was the Local Coordinator for Eastern Correctional until the women were transferred to Neuse Correctional as part of a NC-DPS prison reorganization. She continued ministering to the women there until prisons were closed to volunteers in March 2020.

Esther was profiled in this newsletter in Fall 2018 after writing an autobiography that included her passion for prison ministry.

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**Larry Green**  
**Volunteer**  
**New Hanover Correctional**  
**1954-2019**

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**Gary Jameson**  
**Volunteer**  
**Southern Correctional**  
**1946-2020**

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**James Letterlough**  
**Volunteer**  
**Wake Correctional**  
**1941-2020**

# Noble Academy's Helping Hands Assist Fundraiser

Helping Hands, a service club of Noble Academy in Greensboro, helped Yokefellow Prison Ministry prepare 575 envelopes for the ministry's Spring direct mail campaign. Because Yokefellow only employs two part-time staff, time-consuming mass mailings like the Spring Campaign tax the ministry's limited resources. Helping Hands came to the rescue!



Students at Noble Academy who care about helping out nonprofits in the local community volunteered their time to prepare the envelopes for mailing. This included stuffing each envelope with a remittance envelope and affixing the return address labels and bulk mailing requirements. Doing this 575 times can be tedious, but the students worked together to make it an enjoyable experience.



As you can see from the photographs, the students had the added challenge of having to socially distance and wear masks while completing their volunteer work. They helped out in the Winter while the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak. Even a pandemic could not stop these students from giving back to the community!

Thank you Helping Hands  
for assisting in this fundraiser!  
Yokefellow Prison Ministry  
appreciates you!



Yokefellow continues to provide aftercare services for returning citizens in two formats:

- ◇ In person on Monday nights at 2nd Chance Community Church in High Point
- ◇ Through Zoom on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday nights

## LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL WEBINARS

On April 6 and 13, Yokefellow held Zoom webinars with Local Reentry Council (LRC) representatives across the state to generate more interest in the Virtual Aftercare ministry. This was an opportunity for LRC reps not only to learn more about Yokefellow but also to collaborate with one another. LRC leaders representing different counties from various parts of the state had the opportunity to get to know one another and share

ideas for providing emotional support services for returning citizens.

Yokefellow plans to host more LRC webinars on a quarterly basis and welcomes representatives from every LRC in the state to participate. Our goal is to collaborate with all LRCs to learn how we can assist with providing returning citizens with much-needed emotional support.



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

We, as Yokefellows, strongly believe that people's lives are changed through committed relationships. We work to make the redemptive love of Christ known through the trust and the care present in these relationships. I can honestly say that my life has been enriched through these committed relationships. How about yours?

Each week, volunteers from a variety of churches across the state will soon conduct Yokefellow meetings for inmates in our state and federal correctional facilities. We have had a time to prepare for the next steps of service. It is my hope that you have communicated with the program staff at your facility and taken

the necessary steps to train and secure your volunteer badges. And, it's my prayer that you've asked the Lord to prepare your hearts for what is ahead of us.

Our volunteers are male and female, clergy and laity, from different racial, ethnic and denominational backgrounds. Some have served for many years! And this is a testimony to the blessings involved in such experiences. Thousands of inmates have found acceptance, a listening ear, an encouraging voice, and the reality of Christ's love in these relationships. And, in right fashion, we will once again serve the men and women incarcerated in our state as God opens the doors of opportunities to us.

Since 1969, Yokefellow Prison Ministry has lived out its mission statement: "to enable prisoners, yoked in personal relationship with community volunteers, to examine their lives; experience the forgiveness, healing and power of God's love; and return to family and community with a covenant

commitment to personal responsibility and contribution."

We are in a time of transition as an organization as we seek to take the best of our traditions and combine them with new and creative ways to engage our community with the Gospel and thereby expand God's Kingdom. Accordingly, we must seek the knowledge found in 1 Chronicles 12:32. The Scriptures teach that these "had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."

Likewise, it is incumbent upon us to recognize that our community is rapidly changing, and we must understand it and how to meet their hopes and needs if we are to share Christ with them. Such an understanding includes how we present our movement to the world. We have to acknowledge that our decision to do this now is done through the lens of great faith. We believe that God is positioning Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC to reap the bountiful fields that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 9:37-38. We recognize that this harvest will be one of new disciples

of Jesus who are not only inexperienced in the ways of faith, but in the practices of the faith. Our desire should be to prepare ourselves to meet the challenges before us. And the time is now.

So, how can you help in this process? First, ask God to grant all of us the wisdom and understanding. Secondly, ask God what you need to do to prepare now for what is ahead for Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC and what you can do to be a laborer in His harvest field to bring to fulfillment the tasks ahead. Finally, let us endeavor to always be a people overflowing with grace as we recognize that the world needs to experience grace now more than ever before, and how we extend it amongst ourselves is how we will extend it to the world at large.

Many blessings of health and well being to you all. Many thanks to each of you.

Faithfully,

David Morton  
President

Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC



# Supporting Yokefellow



Faithful Friends are donors who have pledged to donate at least \$10/month in 2021. Thank you to all of our Faithful Friends!

Brian & Vita Alligood  
Barbara Bays  
Theresa Blount  
Gary & Emily Cagle  
Rob Ferry  
Frances Gladden  
Leon & Yvette Morrow  
David Morton  
Clara Murray

Nancy Murray  
Bruce & Jean Pate  
Cathy Robertson  
Anita F. Smith  
David Stanford

*It's not too late to become a 2021 Faithful Friend. Email yokefellowprisonministrync@gmail.com or call 336-724-9801 for details.*

## Facebook Fundraiser

Is your birthday around the corner? Consider hosting a Birthday Fundraiser on your Facebook page. Here's how to do it:

1. Go to your Facebook account.
2. Click **Home** at the top.
3. Click **Fundraisers** in the left column.
4. Click **Select Nonprofit**.
5. Type **Yokefellow** in the search bar and then click to select it.
6. Type in the requested information:
  - How much money do you want to raise?
  - Select Currency.
  - When should the fundraiser end?
  - What's the title of your fundraiser?
  - Why are you raising money?
7. Select a cover photo.
8. Click **Create**.

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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