

HeartBound Ministries - Upcoming Concert Dates:

June 6th - Darlene Ballard of God's Rose Ministries, a drama ministry, will be at Rutledge State Prison, Columbus, on behalf of HeartBound Ministries.

June 12th - Anthony Evans, son of Dr. Tony Evans of the The Urban Alternative in Dallas, Texas, will be in concert at GDCP in Jackson.

June 26th - HeartBound, featuring Chris McDaniel and Summer Hullender, will be in concert at Washington SP.

June 27th - HeartBound in concert at Johnson SP.

July 15th - HeartBound in concert at Hays SP.

July 31st - "Melodies from The Heart," a benefit concert for HeartBound Ministries featuring Chris McDaniel, Summer Hullender, and Marcia Hughes, 6:00 p.m. at the Colonnade in Ringgold, Georgia. Governor Sonny Perdue has been invited to speak. All chaplains are invited. Please call Andrea at 404-262-0709 or Jan at 423-309-9411 for more information.

News from the Lord's fenced-in vineyard...

Chaplain Terry Cliett, of Scott SP, reported 14 baptisms and 149 in attendance at a recent April chaplaincy service. Praise God! The joyous occasion was featured in the Milledgeville newspaper, The Union Recorder. We plan to feature an article about Chaplain Cliett's "Integrity" course in our next edition of Chaplaincy Matters.

We would love to hear what God is doing in each state prison. Please send information or story suggestions to ahartbound@comcast.net or you can mail them to us at HeartBound Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 191703, Atlanta, GA 31119-0703.

Agape

By Julius Campbell
inmate, Hancock State Prison

You look at me as a common thief,
But Jesus sees me different.
My outside still may look the same,
But my heart has been repentant.

I hung there right beside Him,
Hopeless and ashamed.
He looked at me so lovingly,
"My friend, I feel your pain."

"Think not of what you did;
Leave your past of what you've done.
Right now is what's important.
What will you do with Me, God's Son?"

I looked at Him intently,
So much mercy in His eyes.
I asked, "What must I do
To have the peace you have inside?"

He said that "You must trust me;
Believe that I am He."
I do believe, I do believe,
Please Lord, remember me.

"Today you shall be with me
In Heaven's paradise,
Because you've put your Faith in me;
I've given thee new life."

"A thief you shall no longer be;
I give my life to you."
It's Christ who lives, no longer I
In Christ all things are new.

The WORD from Our Prisons...

An interview with Chaplain Robert M. Cash, Hancock State Prison

HeartBound Ministries (HBM) asked Chaplain Robert Cash to tell about his class "Financial Planning from A Biblical Perspective" at Hancock State Prison. It has been said that this class has become the most popular class "in the camp."

HBM: Chaplain Cash, what exactly do you teach in this course?

Chaplain Cash: Some of the course topics include how to keep your money, the magic of compound interest, maintaining an emergency fund, budgeting, life insurance, Individual Retirement Accounts, mutual funds, mortgage acceleration, being an example for one's family, and wills and trusts.

HBM: Who takes your class? Is it open to anyone?

Chaplain Cash: I have had non-Christians, Protestants, Catholics, Charismatics, and Muslims take the class. I have had as many as 85 sign up, but no more than 30 can be enrolled in a class. Significant process is indicated by pre and post-testing.

HBM: What advice would you give to other chaplains who wish to start similar classes?

Chaplain Cash: Chaplains should be encouraged to develop their own class. A chaplain should never be coerced to teach a class with which he or she is not comfortable. But ideally, if a chaplain can feel excited about developing a class with which inmates can benefit and prevent inmates from being incarcerated again, something great is going on!

HBM: What was the inspiration for beginning this class?

Chaplain Cash: Our scriptural springboard might be Psalms 24:1-6, as well as other verses. "The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is his..." This [scripture] makes us all "stewards" of all that God has left in our care and management. We are

not being responsible if we get our paycheck on Friday night and then spend 30% of it at the "Happy Hour Bar" on the way home to a wife and kids who need clothes, food and last months' water bill, gas bill, car payment and house rent paid.

HBM: What is the most important lesson this class teaches?

Chaplain Cash: I believe this class can change your whole life! If you get your financial house in order, you will never return to prison. Please understand, however, that you will never get your financial house in order without changing your whole life - how you think and what motivates and moves you. We are but stewards of all that God gives us. So we are accountable to Him who owns "the cattle on a thousand hills." (Psalm 50:10)

This class teaches how to build financial security, to dream again, set goals and establish a plan to accomplish those goals. The first day of class I love to "dangle a carrot" to convince the inmates the class will be practical and continue to hold their interest. I show them how they might be able to retire on a cigarette smoking habit, based on 2 packs per day at \$2.50 per pack. That [savings] translates into \$150.00 per month that can NOW be invested. We assume a consistent 12% interest rate (in a good mutual fund). In 20 years (age 45-65) one would have almost \$150,000. Take 10% of this, divide by 12 months and ask the company to send you a check for \$1,250 each month and the balance will continue to grow because you're pulling off the interest. If you have 30 years (age 35-65), the fund will have grown to \$529,487, or \$4,412 per month. And if you are fortunate enough to be able to start at age 25 and have 40 years of growth, you might have \$1,782,363 or \$14,853 per month! Of course, this concept is demonstrated slowly and with more believable detail. Obviously it doesn't take into account taxes or a "bear market" as we had in 2001-03, but it remains a motivational tool to show what we can do if we dream, set goals and work out plans!