

P.O. Box 1694 ❖ Tahlequah, OK 74465 ❖ www.christforme.org ❖ (918) 431-1981 ❖ Freida Goossen, Director ❖ 2506

uge branch piles littered the grounds of the office last week. We hired a tree service to remove two dead trees from our property and trim all the rest. One was an old tree that looked like a stick with no leaves. It didn't have purpose and was just taking up yard space. The other tree had been infested with wood ants. They also discovered a tree that had been severely damaged by the storms in May. It will be taken down in the next couple of weeks. But the rest of the trees were trimmed, and

dead branches were removed. Now the trees can grow and become strong without the weight of those branches. It reminded me of the passage in John 15 where Jesus tells the disciples that He is the vine and His Father is the vine dresser. The Father removes the branches that are not producing fruit so the rest of the branches can thrive.

In the same passage, Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." Abiding

in Him is the way to be fruitful, by staying in His Word, learning it and living it. Recently, we received a letter from one of our students who was changing facilities. Joseph wrote, "I thoroughly enjoy the lessons and puzzle pages you send, and I faithfully complete them. They have educated me greatly and grown me closer to God. Thank you for what your ministry does, and I look forward to continuing in these studies." God is using these studies to change lives, and it is making a difference for everyone who takes them.

Another student who was released at the beginning of June, sent us a note saying, "I want to thank you for all the Bible Studies you have sent me. They have given me a lot of insight and understanding of the Word of God." When we receive notes like these, it encourages us because

we see the benefits of what God is doing through this ministry. Each one of you who prays and gives enables these men, women and children to study in a systematic way through the Bible. Thank you for your prayer and financial support for the ministry.

ot long ago, I was thinking of how God provided so that I could learn the basics of typesetting. Ron had taken printing in high school where he learned layout and design. My instruction came through "on the

job training" when I worked for an architect and engineering company in Kansas City. At that time, typesetting was done on a huge machine with 9" floppy disks. Codes had to be placed in front of text to tell it what to do. Although it was limited in design, it was considered state of the art equipment. It wasn't too many years later when desktop publishing became the way to set up printed matter. At that point, a person still had to spend time cutting pictures out and pasting them next to the text. Now, design and

layout is all done through a program on the computer, tablet or even a phone. Times have changed and we have adapted with them.

ow the challenge is to move our printed lessons to our website and to an app that is accessible for our students in prison. We are at the preliminary stages of this process. We have shared with you the app platform we should use – EDOVO and the cost of that app which is \$1500 for 50 lessons. I have checked out other avenues, but EDOVO is the largest provider for prison facilities. Pando is another app that we can use, but it is set up more for videos. We will also put our lessons on our own website for anyone who wants to study God's Word through Bible courses. *Pray with us that we can find volunteers who are willing to work with this project.* 

# Ministry Report...

Currently, we have twelve courses which can be set up digitally. This will be a big project but once completed, many people will have the opportunity to study God's Word with these courses. *Pray for us as we set out on this path.* 

t breaks my heart when those who are behind bars can't access our lessons any longer. Those who are in Arkansas have been completely cut off from receiving more than a three page letter. Ministry has been stopped in that state. But I was reminded by a friend that when Paul was looking to minister to those in Asia Minor, God called him to Macedonia. Effectively, God closed the door on Asia Minor for Paul and moved him elsewhere. The online school is our Macedonia – the open door for us. *Pray as we move through this avenue, that God will continue to point us in the right direction.* 

# **Building Update**

ast month, I shared the desire to finish the remodel project. It entails two bathrooms, one office, the print shop and some minor work in the main area. Although most of our funds are reserved for special purposes, we do have savings that can be used for this purpose in the building maintenance fund. We have a bid from a contractor for \$8000 to be finished in 4 weeks. (If it takes him longer, it will cost more). Since this is such a good price, we have decided to hire him. He will begin on July 21, 2025. Since we have most of the supplies on hand, we hope that this will be finished by the end of August. Please pray with us for the completion of this project. If you would like to help with this project, just put a note for building maintenance/remodel on your donation.

# Jail Ministry



ecently, John received a letter from a woman he had witnessed to at Wagoner County Jail last year. She wrote, "I wouldn't be where I am without God, He changed me and my life through the troubles I went through and He used you in such a big way in my life." She has turned around. Now she is studying digital discipleship through Liberty University. She is taking courses in Theology and evangelism. When she graduates next spring, she wants to reach people with

the gospel. She has also been taking courses from Christ For Me as well. In telling her testimony to a friend, who was a witchcraft practicing, pagan, she led her to the Lord. She said when she goes by the courthouse, she sees John's car with the Jesus stickers across the windshield and thinks about how God used him. God is at work in the jail ministry. This past month John met with 106 individuals and gave away 14 Bibles. *Continue praying for John as he shares with men and women behind bars.* 

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

	May	June
Beginning Balance	58,918.89	40,612.10
Income	8,835.46	14,393.42
Expenses	12,067.15	13,693.60
Transfer(Check to Save)	15,075.10	0
Ending Balance	40,612.10	41,311.92
Savings	47,796.58	47,905.01
Total Balance	88,408.68	89,216.93

#### **MAILBOX STATS**

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	May	June
Total Students	839	766	213	262
New Students	142	164	52	50
Lessons sent	3872	8741	1043	1325
Lessons graded	3093	2933	866	972
Certificates	255	241	72	72
Salvations	0	1	2	0
Bible Sent	1	0	1	0

# Praises...

- ➤ for God's protection while the workers were pruning and removing trees this last week.
- > for students who are diligent to return their lessons.
- ➤ for our volunteers who grade, pray for, and answer questions for the students.
- ➤ for progress on the Firm Foundations Acts Course. John and Patty have completed lesson 7 of 16.

# Prayer...

- ➤ for students who have received lessons through Securus econnect. That this will be a good waydirection and wisdom in setting up procedures for online courses and econnect lessons (those that are sent through email).
- ➤ for volunteers to help with setting up websites and working with econnect students.
- > for health for our staff and volunteers. Many still suffer from different ailments.