



P.O. Box 1694 ❖ Tahlequah, OK 74465 ❖ www.christforme.org ❖ (918) 431-1981 ❖ Freida Goossen, Director ❖ 2508

A coolness is in the air even though the trees haven't turned. Soon leaves will rain upon the lawn covering it with the yellow, gold, red and brown colors of Fall. Squirrels scamper about among the trees, gathering acorns. They are preparing for the coming winter. They know the signs of the times, the cooler breeze means it is time to gather. Watching them reminds me that we also need to be aware of the signs of the times.

This world needs Jesus more than ever before. Everyday, the news reports of mass shootings, domestic abuse, and many other crimes. It seems worse than ever before. The Bible speaks of the last days being filled with violence, *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"* (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV) When I think of the way the world is now, I realize that our time is short. People need the Lord, now, before it is too late.

One of my favorite mission songs is, "Work for the night is coming." It is a good reminder that we need to be sharing God's Good News with others because the time is moving fast. That is our purpose for the ministry. We want to share the way a person can be saved from sin and then disciple them so they can be strong in their faith and able to share the Lord with others. Just this week, we received a letter from a woman who had been taking our courses in the Cherokee

County Detention Center. She had been transferred to the Adair County Detention Center in Stillwell, OK. Jenn wrote, "I was telling these girls about how it taught me a lot about the Bible. Would you please send me and these girls lessons. God bless you." She is being discipled and witnessing to others. It is exciting when you hear how God is changing lives in prison and jail through these lessons.

Not all our students are in jail. We have several students who are taking lessons at home. Joe penned, "Thank you for sending your latest Bible exams! I am enjoying some Bible exams at home, during work. May you experience the joy of the Lord, as He shares His whole Word through you, to us!" He is studying God's Word, becoming established in the faith. *"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."* (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV) The Lord changes hearts and lives through these courses.



Over the last several months, I've explained that we needed to look at new ways to get lessons into the hands of our students. One of the ways is through the EDOVO app that is set up for over half the prisons in the United States. In September, we received enough funds to allow us to set up 15 courses on their learning platform. Now comes the part of setting them up so that they will be ready for learners. We are looking for a few computer-savvy individuals who want to help set up the courses on the EDOVO site. It is a matter of copy/paste and format in their editor. This is a volunteer position that can be done from either your own home or at our office if you are close to Tahlequah.

Establishing the Individual in the Word of God since 1978!

Ministry Report...

Last month, I requested prayer concerning a change in mailing procedures in Arkansas. I was hoping that the state would lift the page limit (3 pages and an envelope) to allow us to send lessons again. I called one of the prisons only to find out the page limit was going to remain intact. Please continue to pray that we would be allowed to send courses to the prisons in Arkansas again.

Although we have future plans for reaching students through the online learning platforms, I'm still very concerned for the places where we are limited by mailing procedures. In these situations, we have set up accounts through the email program called Econnect by securus and JailATM. At this point, we only have around 20 students utilizing this method. A few are in other states, but most are in Arkansas. The cost of sending emails varies between states. The range is from .20 to .50 cents. Only five attachments can be sent at a time,

so we have to send at least 3 emails for one lesson. The cost is about the same as sending it by regular mail. Pray that we will be able to maximize the use of tools already available through the prison system.

Mailbox Stats

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	Sept*
Total Students	839	766	812	268
New Students	142	146	128	35
Lessons sent	3872	3741	3600	1131
Lessons graded	3093	2933	2909	920
Certificates	255	241	249	72
Salvations	0	1	0	0
Bible Sent	3	0	0	0

*September numbers are reflected in the 3rd Quarter.

Jail Ministry Report

*Pastor John, I want to thank you. I have been going through some dark times. I have been living in sin for a few years, but have just come back to Christ and was locked up in the SHU and I was trying to get a Bible. And God sent you. I have a ways to travel in this mess I have made for myself, but I know God can deliver me out of all this **, God proved to me again that He is real and He does love me. Thank you for the word you gave and the Bible. I am encouraged after speaking with you. You was and are a blessing. Thank you for everthing. -Freddie.*

John continues to speak truth to the inmates at Jess Dunn and Wagoner County Jail with the ability to bring Bibles to them. Lives are touched with God's grace through the Gospel. At this time, he is not able to visit the woman for safety reasons. John visited with 104 individuals and gave away 8 Bibles.

Finance Report

The remodel project is complete and the building looks FANTASTIC! Everything is back in order. Thank you for praying for us during the construction. The project cost was \$18,390.15. Of that 8,680 was raised for the project and \$9,710.15 came from savings.

	August	September
Beginning Balance	48,123.79	43,909.53
Income	14,473.58	13,743.81
Expenses	23,187.84	18,058.61
Transfer(from Savings)	4,500	2,500
Ending Balance	43,909.53	42,094.73
Savings	40,118.54	37,703.61
Petty Cash	\$25	\$25
Total Balance	84,053.07	79,823.34

Praises...

- that Lyndia's surgery went well and she has returned part time to enter student records.
- that God sent the funds for the EDOVO project and we were able to begin the process of putting courses online.
- for our students who are diligent about sending in their lessons even when there are obstacles.
- for John and Patty Stucky who are working on the next set of Firm Foundation lessons - Acts. They have more than half of the next course complete.
- for the volunteers who serve the Lord grading, working on the computer setting up lessons, putting in grades, processing students, pulling lessons.

Prayer...

- for the staff and volunteers of the ministry:
 - ▶ Lyndia Land - she still has unresolved health issues.
 - ▶ John Hoverson - Health issues and favor at jail/prison.
 - ▶ Janet Tannahill - for a person to help do her job at the ministry. She has been our bookkeeper since 2013.
 - ▶ Bob Crank - his wife (Camy) health due to cancer.
- for the graders, Jerry, Nancy, and Kathy, as they comment on the lessons and encourage students. Pray for their health as well.
- for Paul as he pulls lessons. For continued strength and health.
- Patty and John Stucky - for continued ability to work on the Acts lessons in English and Spanish.