



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

When people think of victory, images of winning a race or defeating an enemy come to mind. As Christians, we think about spiritual and physical battles that we face each day. These battles look different for each person. Whether it is addiction, illness, or finances, the only way to win is to turn it over to Jesus. He promises to give us a Spirit-filled, abiding, abundant, more-than-conqueror life.

But what does that kind of life look like? One of our new students, Rachel, shared her testimony with us. "When I was 17 in county jail and a Satanist, I encountered the NAME of Jesus. For the first time, I heard the baby Jesus grew up and died for me. I did not surrender until May 22, 2002. Shortly after, I encountered GREAT spiritual warfare and learned my authority. My hunger for the Word was voracious. I know I'm called to ministry. I also am a leader. I've been in prison for 23 years and KNOW Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Rachel has learned that God gives an overcomer life.

As a teenager, I was involved in Christian Youth in Action (CYIA). One of the books we studied in training was "The Victorious Christian Life" which had tremendous impact on my life. Verse after verse, the booklet pointed to Scripture to show how God wants each person to have victory. We had to memorize the key thought, "A victorious Christian life is victory over all known sin, victory over all suffering and trials, and power in service." I still remember that phrase today. God gives you victory to stand strong in the power of His might. The problem is when we try to stand in our own power, we fall HARD!

Today, as I look at the many battles confronting the ministry, I'm reminded that the battle is the Lord's. I've written about many different trials we are facing like changes in mailing, challenges of moving to a digital platform, and volunteers needed. But ultimately, these issues are all in God's hands. He will provide the right solutions if we trust Him. Currently, I'm researching different learning platforms. I'm learning that more than one will be needed as we plan to reach both those in facilities and those who have access to the internet. There are many obstacles, but God knows what they are and how to resolve them.

What is our response? To praise the Lord and count our blessings. For example, many of you know the story of how this building became part of Christ For Me, Inc. In May of 2001, the board at that time determined that Ron could raise funds to purchase the building. Amazingly, God raised \$140,000 for the purchase of this property in just five months. It was, and is, something that only God could do. Several times, God raised funds for different printers for the ministry. He provided each time in a big way.

In 2020, Ron determined that the building needed to be updated a bit. There were large tasks like replacing the spiral staircase, painting the entire inside of the building, replacing the flooring, and renovating the bathrooms. As I walk through the office, I see the blessing of a new staircase built by an engineer from one of the many work crews that we had in 2021. Most of the main area is painted and looks very nice. A bright and cheerful reception area greets our guests. God provided the funds and the workers for the project. In 2022, the office



Establishing the Individual in the Word of God since 1978!

Ministry Report...

renovation was moving along, then Ron became ill, and the work stopped. In early 2023, a water pipe developed a leak which quietly flooded the print shop ruining cabinets, flooring, and sheetrock, as well as adding to the renovation needs. Then Ron passed and the project was put on hold.

At the beginning of this year, the board decided to look for a contractor to complete the work. John Hoverson sought out bids and found one contractor who said he could do it in four weeks for \$2000 a week. That was an amazing price – a huge blessing. We met with the contractor before the last board meeting. Although the project had been approved, it was affirmed at the last board meeting to hire this contractor. We are using our building maintenance fund which includes the insurance from the print room flood. Again, a reason to praise the Lord!

Although we have most of the materials for the project, we have had to purchase a few things. But so far, God continues to supply the needed funds! God is good and to be praised for His provision. So far, the office next to the main area has been completed. The print shop has had the cabinets rebuilt, the walls repaired, new lighting and flooring. Next, two bathrooms will have the toilets and sinks replaced and new flooring installed. The third bathroom will become a shower room, so that when out-of-town volunteers visit, they can stay at the building. We plan to put a sofa bed in the upstairs area. Next, the hall will be finished, John/Janet's office will be painted and refloored. Finally, all the doors will be trimmed out and painted. I've included a few pictures for you to see the changes in the office. Praise the Lord for His provision of this building to be used for His ministry.

Jail Ministry Report

The letter reads, "There is this man named John who came to the segregated housing unit at Jess Dunn and he really helped me. Not only did he give me the best Bible I've ever had, but he preached to me - he didn't preach at me! He has a heart for God and he's all about helping his fellow man. I wanna go into the county jails when I get out and do what John is doing. Our talk changed me."

Many times, John has made a huge difference in these men and woman. He received one note which states,

"I've had a lot of talks with a lot of christians, but our talk changed me. He came when I was dead tired of being the old me." God has reached out to this man through John.

John's most recent report. "I'm still going two days a week into Wagoner County Jail and the Jess Dunn Correctional Center. On average, without padding the numbers, I speak with at least 85 to 150 inmates per month, often more. I gave away 22 Bibles this month and spoke with 183 individuals, mostly in small groups."

FINANCE REPORT

	June	July
Beginning Balance	40,612.10	41,311.92
Income	14,393.42	19,062.85
Expenses	13,693.60	15,737.53
Transfer(from Savings)	0	3,492.17
Ending Balance	41,311.92	48,129.41
Savings	47,905.01	44,519.96
Total Balance	89,216.93	92,649.37

MAILBOX STATS

	1st Qtr	May	June	July
Total Students	839	213	262	274
New Students	142	52	50	53
Lessons sent	3872	1043	1325	1344
Lessons graded	3093	866	972	1065
Certificates	255	72	72	98
Salvations	0	2	0	0
Bible Sent	1	1	0	0

Praises...

- for God's protection through the construction at the office.
- for students who are having trouble receiving lessons from us and other organizations.
- for our volunteers who faithfully answer questions and are willing to work no matter what is going on around them (the construction).
- for those who enter lessons and grades into our computer system.

Prayer...

- for direction as I research the different learning platforms and all the processes that we will need to do in order to be effective online.
- for volunteers to help with setting up websites and working with econnect students.
- for John as he goes into the facilities. His knees are giving him trouble.
- for health for our staff and volunteers.