



Christian Jail Ministry Newsletter

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CJM website: <http://www.christianjailministry.org/>

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Change Is Coming

CJM began in July 1979 when the Howard County Detention Center (HCDC) Director appointed Dale Pace as HCDC chaplain. For its first couple of years the ministry was known as the Task Force on Christian Ministry at the Howard County Detention Center. The name changed when CJM incorporated and received IRS recognition as a non-profit. In the early years, Chaplain Pace coordinated and conducted Sunday worship services, led Bible classes, counseled inmates, and did personal work with inmates at their housing areas in the old HCDC facility near the Howard County court house (it was built in 1878 and did not have program facilities like the current jail – for example, ministry teams for Sunday worship were in the kitchen and ministered through a barred opening to inmates in the dining area).

Pace planned a more extensive ministry and recruited volunteers to help in the ministry. One of the first volunteers was a neighbor of his. One evening Pace walked two doors from his home and invited his neighbor to go to the jail with him that night. That began Guy Nichols involvement in CJM, either in late-1979 or early-1980. Guy soon became the first male volunteer involved in one-on-one discipleship training. As time passed, Guy became involved in many aspects of CJM's ministry and God used that to call him to full-time ministry. He returned to school for theological, ministerial, and counseling education. After he completed that he was ordained and became a part-time chaplain with CJM and part-time associate pastor with Covenant Baptist Church. When Chaplain Smith change from fulltime to part-time as he approached retirement, Chaplain Nichols became a fulltime chaplain with CJM and assumed the position of Lead Chaplain. It had been his plan to continue in that role for many more years, but God had other plans.

Christina, the Nichols' daughter, was diagnosed as an infant with cystic fibrosis. Guy and his wife, Jackie, were told she probably would not live far into her teens, if that long. They committed themselves to helping Christina have as normal a life as possible. The doctors who originally diagnosed Christina's illness and told the Nichols their grim predictions about her life expectancy would be surprised that she has grown into an adult and is the mother of two precious children, Alexys and Andrew. That has been possible in part by the extensive help Guy and Jackie have provided over the years and continue to provide now to Christina with the children.

Christina's husband, Stephen, has been transferred to Florida. Guy and Jackie feel they must move to Florida to continue to help Christina and their grandkids. Consequently Guy will be leaving CJM at the end of the year. Please keep them in your prayers as they make this transition.

This also means changes in CJM's ministry. The CJM Board will be meeting May 20th to make plans for this transition. Please be in prayer for us as we seek a replacement for Chaplain Nichols so that this ministry may continue to be as fruitful as it has been in the past. Ask God to guide the Board and to continue to provide the funds and volunteers needed for this important and fruitful ministry.

CJM Volunteer Orientation and Training



The Howard County Detention Center (HCDC) requires all volunteers who are involved in programs inside HCDC to receive specified training and orientation. This training and orientation is provided once a quarter. Christian Jail Ministry (CJM) couples its training for volunteers with the HCDC orientation and holds it the

afternoon of the day when the HCDC orientation is presented in the morning. Shown here are Capt Baldwin, HCDC Training Coordinator who teaches the part of the session dealing with HCDC and how it operates, Chaplain Nichols, and the four who attended the May 3rd session.

The next orientation and training session will be **9 am – 3:45 pm Saturday, September 13th**. This training is free, but advanced registration is required (by September 10th). We need time to prepare the handout materials. To register, give us your name, contact information, and that you wish to attend the September 13th session by calling CJM (410-997-0253) or sending an email (cjm@christianjailministry.org). This early notice about the orientation and training gives you an opportunity to mark your calendars now so that you keep the date free from other commitments.

The training presents Biblical principles and practical guidance that will help volunteers to be more fruitful and effective in ministering to inmates. Chaplain Nichols or Dale Pace teach this part of the training and orientation

The orientation and training is not only free, it also does not impose an obligation on those who take it. Some attend because they want to become part of the ministry to prisoners at HCDC. Others attend merely to learn more about ministry to inmates. We welcome both kinds of folks.

You can help us to let others know about this training. Please share this information with your friends who may be interested in ministry to prisoners.

Help the CJM Board

The first page of this newsletter tells of Chaplain Nichols' plans to leave the area and CJM's need to replace him. You can not only pray for the Board and support CJM as it goes through this transition, but you can also share your advice, suggestions, and information about possible candidates for Chaplain Nichols' replacement by contacting any member of the CJM Board, or by sending an email to CJM (cjm@christianjailministry.org) with your comments. The Lord can guide the Board in many ways, and He may want to use you to provide some information and insights that will be helpful.

Send your contributions to:

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