

# AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES

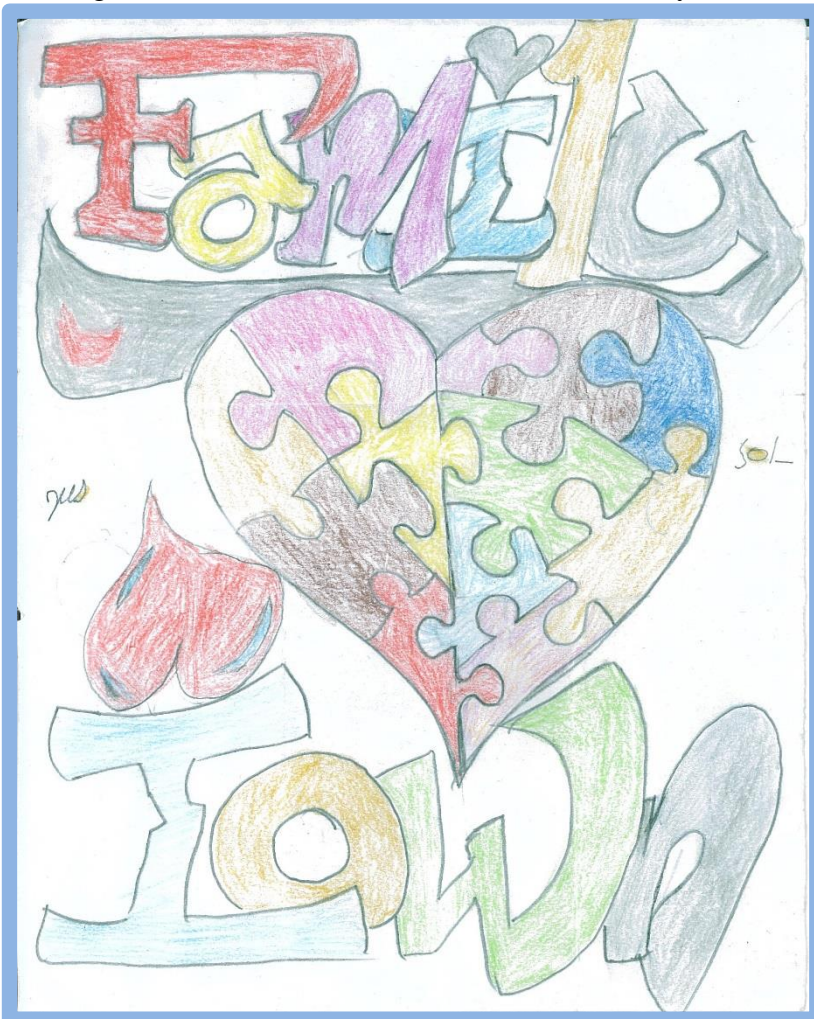


*Life is messy, but Jesus gives hope to all who need to be set free behind bars of steel and walls of bitterness.*

## February Newsletter 2015

### Changed Hearts on Valentine's Day!

Tradition tells us that St. Valentine was martyred in 269 AD for marrying couples that the emperor Claudius had forbidden to marry, because he felt his soldiers would fight better if their loyalty to the empire were not diluted by attachment to a wife. Valentine upheld the sanctity of Christian marriage, and a husband's devotion to his family, even though it cost him his life. Today, Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate romantic love. We speak of giving our heart to another, and that's just what Jesus calls us to do – to give our hearts to God, so that He can remake them in His image. When He does that, our affections, our loyalties,



our priorities, our demeanor, and our responses to others around us all change. Some things change immediately, dramatically, while others take time, even a lifetime, for our habits to catch up with our commitments. In the jail, I see men and women give evidence of that change by their love for others, by their remorse for having hurt their family and others, by the joy on their faces as they look forward to a future full of purpose, by the excitement of hearing God speak to them through His Word, and by the peace that carries them through every disappointment, giving them strength to keep going in spite of pain.

These pictures were given to me by an inmate in thanks for caring enough to come visit his pod with the gospel. They are as precious to me as the copper coins of the poor widow were to Jesus. They speak, not only of giving his heart to me as a brother in Christ, but first of transformation of the heart he gave to Jesus. He is the return on your investment of prayer, giving and service to ARM! **Thank you!** ❤️



*God, your God, will cut away the thick calluses on your heart and your children's hearts, freeing you to love God, your God, with your whole heart and soul and live, really live.      Mt. 30:6-7. The Message:*



### **“Would you visit my friend?”**

I got a call last week from someone whose friend was in jail for a week on an alcohol related parole violation. He wanted to know if I would visit his friend, who had come with him to church a few times. When I visited his cell pod, I called out his name. He was kind of sheepish and embarrassed, knowing that his friend had sent me. He felt like he had let his friend down, but he was glad to hear that someone cared, and happy to get a book to read. I invited him to stay while we studied the prodigal son in Luke 15, and he stayed and participated in our discussion. Then I took the guys through the Romans Road, the series of verses in Romans that describes how we are sinners,

deserving death, but whom God loves, and whom Christ died to save. Finally, Paul tells us that it is with our hearts that we believe and are justified, and with our mouths we confess Jesus as Lord, and are saved. When we were done, I asked this man if he was ready to trust Jesus as his Savior, and pray to receive Him in his heart as Lord. HE SAID, “YES!” As we prayed together, he gave his heart to the Lord, and turned his back on the bottle! Please pray for him, as he takes his first steps learning to walk as a believer, and for strength and real resolve to leave alcohol behind! Thank you for your prayers & gifts for ARM! This new believer is one of God’s answers!

And if you are praying for someone in jail, and you feel they would benefit from a visit, please call or email me!

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Praise God for more Certified Jail Ministers stepping forward, discipling inmates once a week in the jail. Thank God for His transformation in their lives and in the inmates they serve, and pray that He would raise up many more to carry His Word into the lives of new believers. Perhaps God is speaking to your heart? Call me!
- Praise God for the impact of visits on inmates’ lives. Many are missing family, and many have family who have given up on them, often for good reason! It means a lot when God’s people care enough to visit them in this time of crisis, and it gives them hope that God might give them opportunity to earn trust back.
- Please pray for donations of Christian books, concordances, and study Bibles for inmates who lead in their pods. Pray also for wisdom and workers to expand into the Juvenile Hall, and funds to make it all possible.

We pray that God would bless you all, and use you, too, for His glory!

*Jan and Roxanne Carlisle*

