



Locked Down For The Lord Prison Ministry, Inc.
Larry & Kathy Medford
P.O. Box 1900, Hope, AR 71802
(870) 777-7528
Email: biker4christ@cablelynx.com
Website: www.lockeddown4thelord.com

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'Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil'. Ephesians 5:15-16

Where did 2013 go and are you ready for 2014? This was the question that a young man in prison asked us in his last letter. The new year is here whether we are ready or not. We were listening to a preacher on television recently who was talking about the evil that was in the world in Noah's day. No doubt you would agree there is a lot of evil in the world today. We need to make every minute count. Take every opportunity available to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We have been praying and asking the Lord where He wants us to go this year. We know if we are obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading, God will be glorified.

Larry ministered at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, AR three days during November. He also went to Texarkana Work Release and Dept. of Community Correction in Texarkana, AR. We were made aware of a need for exercise equipment for the handicapped men at the Ouachita River Unit. We put the request out on some social media sites and thanks to Mr. Stone the men now have a stationary bicycle. The coaches told us it is so popular they have to put a time limit on it so everyone has a chance to use it. Our brother Ken Burrow invited Larry to share his testimony at the Celebrate Recovery meeting at Jonesboro Worship Center in Jonesboro, AR on November 21. They had a meal and fellowship before the meeting. Larry shared his testimony and prayed with some of the people after the service. Larry was impressed with the outreach the church has in the community. They are getting outside the church walls and reaching out to people which is what God wants us to do. They put Larry up in a nice hotel that night and the pastor took him out for breakfast the next morning. Thank you for blessing us Jonesboro Worship Center!

The cold, wet weather put a damper on the toy runs in our area this year. We went on the Swamp Rider Toy Run on November 16. We all met at their clubhouse and rode to Prescott to drop off the toys. A woman from the Department of Human Services met us to pick up the toys. She was almost in tears when she saw the amount of toys that were collected. The best part of the day for me was joining in a circle of prayer for our friend Kathy who recently had surgery for cancer. She was at the toy run and counting the days until she could go back to work. Their next toy run was December 14 in Camden. It was such a nice day that Kathy decided to go in the car!

The weather tried to create problems for our Christmas Behind Bars outreach too. We didn't have any wintry weather here but the trip to Gentry, AR to pick up the Little Debbies had to be rescheduled and Larry wasn't able to go. The manager at the Save-A-Lot store in Texarkana, TX let us have the Ramen noodles for the same price we paid last year which was a huge blessing. The truck was supposed to be in the morning of December 12 so Larry was at the store in our Suburban pulling Darryl's enclosed trailer. The truck didn't get there until late afternoon because of a winter storm in Dallas and the manager wasn't sure we would get the complete order. It seemed we were running into obstacles with our Christmas goodies everywhere we turned. But, everything worked out and we realized that the delays actually helped cut down on the number of trips we had to make which cut down our gasoline expense.

The Christmas give-away at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, AR was December 16. Kathy took the day off from work so she could help this year. When we got to the unit, they had everything they were giving away sitting in the chapel. When they called out a barracks, the men came to the chapel with their laundry bags and got their Christmas goodies. We spent all day with some inmate volunteers from the chapel taking the goodies to men who can't leave their barracks. We went to the hospital and to the infirmary. We stood outside the hospital door and prayed for one man that we were told was dying. We heard a lot of 'thank yous' and 'God bless yous' that day. We also went to the intake barracks which is where they process the men brought in from the county jails. There were two inmates in one of the intakes barracks who were helping us make sure each man got their sack. When we asked if they got their sacks, they said no so we gave them each a sack. A couple minutes later, they both admitted they already had their sacks and returned the ones we gave them. One of them said he knew he couldn't have slept that night if he had kept two sacks. Larry had the chance to say a few words to one group that had just got to the prison that morning. Some of them look so young and then there were some who recognized Larry from one of the other prisons. They were back on parole violations or had got in trouble again; so sad to see this but we see it all too often.

On December 19 we delivered the sacks to the men at Regional Maintenance and the Work Release Center in Texarkana, AR. On December 20, Larry and our brothers John Coons and Gil Niemier went to the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in Camden and gave sacks to the 15 men there. On December 23, we helped hand out sacks to the 450 men at Dept. of Community Correction in Texarkana, AR. Then on Christmas Eve, we went to the Hempstead County Jail along with our friends Bill Davis and Shanna Fitch to give them their Christmas sacks. Shanna and Kathy visited with the women while Bill and Larry handed out the sacks to the men. One of the women said she probably wouldn't have had that good of a Christmas if she had been at home. To think that a pair of socks, Ramen noodles, cheese crackers, hot cocoa, a few Tootsie rolls, a Danish roll, Rice Krispy treats, soap, shampoo, and a calendar would make someone that happy made all the difficulties we had putting the sacks together well worth it.

When the recipients of the Christmas sacks thank us, we tell them to thank God because we couldn't do it without Him. We also want to thank all of you that helped make Christmas Behind Bars possible again. God has blessed us with some awesome supporters! Whether you collected bars of soap, socks or gave a donation, you are appreciated. We bought Ramen noodles, cheese crackers, packets of hot cocoa and Tootsie rolls this year. These items were handed out to 4,800 inmates housed at these units: Maximum Security Unit in Tucker, AR; Tucker Unit in Tucker, AR; Delta Unit in Dermott, AR; Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, AR, Dept. of Community Correction in Texarkana, AR; Texarkana Work Release and Regional Maintenance in Texarkana, AR; ALETA in Camden, AR; Dept. of Community Correction Women's Unit in Pine Bluff, AR; and the Hempstead County Jail in Hope, AR. We also had some Christian children's books sent to the prison in Malvern to give to children who came to visit a family member. We understand the children loved them. We received donations of Christmas cards and gave each inmate at ALETA 3 cards to mail out. We mailed 102 Christmas cards to prisoners this year.

We will be meeting with our board in January to make plans for this year. We look forward to another year of sharing the Gospel with the prisoners, bikers or whoever God puts in our path. We are grateful for everyone who supports us and believes in what we are doing. We know that everyone isn't able to support us financially but we would love to have more businesses, churches and/or individuals who would commit to give regularly. If you know someone who might want to do this, please share the newsletter with them or ask them to contact us. We would be happy to meet them and tell them more about our ministry.

Blessings,

Larry & Kathy