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God bless you and Happy New Year! We do not know what this year has in store for us but praise God. His word says that He is the same yesterday, today and forever so we can trust the future to Him. I want to share a testimony before we bring you up to date on the last two months. Larry had a CT scan done in mid-November that showed stones in both kidneys with the largest ones in his left kidney. I went with him to the urologist on November 30. They did X-rays that we looked at with the urologist that confirmed the stones were there. We told the urologist we wanted him to remove the stones. He said the stones in the right kidney were small enough to pass but he would go in with the basket and remove the stones in the left kidney. Fast forward to December 8 and we are at the hospital waiting to have the procedure. Many of you were praying with us. I told Larry a testimony I heard of a woman commanding a storm to go around a stadium where a revival was being held and the storm did exactly that. He commanded the stones to be gone from his body. The urologist talked to me after the procedure and asked if I thought Larry passed the stones because he could not find them. I told him I did not believe he passed them but I believed in the power of prayer and that people were praying for him and Larry. He said the prayer worked and his kidney looked better than it has ever looked. God is good!

During November, Larry spent five days ministering at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, AR. He also visited Texarkana Work Release two times. Our brother in Christ Darryl Fox recently passed the volunteer training. He is a Certified Religious Assistant at the Ouachita River Unit and went to the prison with Larry a couple times recently. We went to the Swamp Rider's Toy Run on November 18. They had a good turnout and we enjoyed the fellowship. During December, Larry spent four days at the Ouachita River Unit. He was there on December 4 for the chapel dedication. A chapel has been in the plans since the unit opened so this was a special day for the chaplaincy and will be a blessing for the men.

The Christmas season can be depressing for the inmates and sometimes stressful for us as we try to coordinate everything. First, we thank God for taking care of our ministry needs as He always does and thanks to all of you who helped with our Christmas Behind Bars Outreach. We had some former inmates and some who are still in prison that supported the outreach financially. This really blessed us to see men who know what it is like, reach out to help their brothers. When we all work together, we can accomplish so much more.

We bought the usual items this year; ramen noodles, cheese peanut butter crackers, Starlite mints and hot cocoa. The manager at the Save-A-Lot store in Texarkana, TX made us a good deal on ramen noodles. The day we picked up the majority of our order, the employee who helped load the van told us he had been in prison at Malvern and he had no desire to go back. We had to order the cheese peanut butter crackers online from Sam's Club again. After our experience with this last year, we made sure we ordered early. Some crackers got damaged in shipping and they refunded all of our shipping charges. We had some socks and bars of soap donated and bought enough to add to it so each man at Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance and ALETA got a pair of socks and a bar of soap in their sacks.

Larry and our brother in Christ Gary Wise drove to Gentry, AR in our van on December 7 to pick up Little Debbie snack cakes for all the Arkansas prisons. In the past, they had donated

enough that each inmate got 2 packages of Little Debbie's. Things have changed and this year they could not donate as much but they gave us a good discount on what we had to buy.

This year we supported seven prisons (Ouachita River Unit, Malvern, AR; Delta Unit, Dermott, AR; Ester Unit, Pine Bluff, AR; East AR Regional Unit, Brickeys, AR; Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance, Texarkana, AR and ALETA, Camden, AR) and the Hempstead County Jail in Hope, AR. We gave three Christmas cards to each of the men at Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance and ALETA: 430 cards total. We mailed out 84 Christmas cards to prisoners this year, which was somewhat of a challenge since prisoners in Arkansas cannot receive cards of any kind now. I made copies of Christmas cards and mailed them instead of cards.

Larry and I delivered Christmas sacks to Texarkana Work Release/Regional Maintenance on Saturday, December 16. On Saturday, December 23 we met our friends Heavy and Alice Pennington at ALETA in Camden and gave the men their sacks. A few days before a young man we know who had a life sentence in Arkansas went home after serving twenty-six years. He was under 18 years old when he went to prison. Several of the men at ALETA knew Dustin and knew he went home. We used this as a testimony to them to always have hope and never give up. We are praying Dustin's release will open the doors for other lifers in Arkansas to go home to their families. A week or so before Christmas, we got a phone call from a woman in central Illinois. Her nephew is in the Hempstead County Jail and she is concerned about him. I asked how she found out about our ministry. She said she 'Googled' prison ministry in Hope, AR and our name came up. I told her we would be taking Christmas sacks to the jail on Christmas Eve. She asked if Larry would talk to her nephew and I told her I was sure that he would. We went to the jail the evening of Christmas Eve. Larry tried to talk to her nephew but he did not want to talk. Some of the other prisoners told Larry they had been trying to minister to him but he thinks everyone is against him. I talked to his aunt after Christmas and we agreed that we would continue to pray for him. Larry is also in the process of getting a badge that will allow him to minister at the jail on a regular basis. There were three women in the women's pod and I visited with them while Larry handed out the sacks to the men. They were thankful for the sacks but one was especially thankful for the socks. She did not have socks on when she was arrested and could not afford to buy them from commissary.

We invited Doug Crouch to eat Christmas dinner with us. Doug got out of prison a couple months ago. He worked in the chapel at the Ouachita River Unit. We enjoyed the fellowship and had plenty leftovers to send home with him. On December 26, we got a call from North Fork Correctional Center in Sayre, OK that our brother in Christ Tim Woods had passed away. Larry met Tim in 1999 when he was at the Pine Bluff Unit in Pine Bluff, AR. Tim was a good artist. We will miss the cards he always sent us. He has two daughters but he didn't know where they were so he asked us if we could be his emergency contact. It is sad what prison can do to families but he had been sick for several months and we know he is not suffering any more.

The Arkansas Assemblies of God used to provide socks for all Arkansas prisoners but discontinued this in 2016. We would like to challenge you (or your church) to start collecting socks for Christmas 2018. There are 1,732 men at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern where Larry volunteers. We would love to give each man there a pair of socks and we believe we can reach that goal with your help if we start now. If you have questions please contact us and remember, they can only have plain white socks. As we begin this New Year, we want you to know we are thankful for each one of you and your faithful support. Keep us in your prayers as we make plans for the year and remember to pray for our country and our leaders.

Blessings,

Larry & Kathy