



JUNE 2023



MISSION STATEMENT: We exist to serve those affected by incarceration by being ambassadors of *life change* through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



One day, Matt Heisey, the owner of MHP Industries in Lebanon, walked into the lunchroom at his business and overheard one of the employees praying for him. Matt remembers that being a tremendous encouragement to him that day. The person praying did not know Matt had overheard this blessing made over his life. The employee praying for Matt was a former Jubilee Aftercare student.

Over the years, Jubilee Ministries and MHP Industries have formed a Kingdom relationship that has benefited both organizations. When men advance through the Aftercare Program at Jubilee, their workplace shifts from the Jubilee thrift operation, to an outside employer. This is an important step for these students who have already transitioned from prison to Jubilee, and are working their way through Jubilee's program on their way back to their families and communities. Successful employment with Jubilee, and then outside of the ministry with an employer in the community, is one key indicator that they are able to make healthy choices for their future. To have the opportunity to do that under the leadership of a Christian business owner increases their opportunity for success.

One man who completed Jubilee's Aftercare Program a number of years ago is now in management at MHP, influencing current students on the job, and is able to lead them in devotions over their lunch break. Another former student, described by Matt as a "phenomenal worker," overflows with the joy of the Lord as his charismatic smile impacts those around him. This same employee is often seen having morning prayer with fellow employees.

In a recent conversation, Jubilee's CEO, Ryan Newswanger, and Matt were discussing the Aftercare students at MHP. Ryan said, "Thank you for providing a Christian business where our students can work and grow!" Matt replied, "Thank me? Thank you for providing these employees for us!" Matt's desire is to see more men who work for him come to know Jesus, grow strong in the Lord, pray for one another, and for MHP to be a place where light dispels darkness!

The expression of God's Kingdom through this partnership is evident to those at Jubilee and MHP. However, another reality exists that cannot be ignored. Not all of the men from the Aftercare Program that work at MHP walk the path that we know Jesus has for them. Some of those employed at MHP return to past addictions, unhealthy relationships, and at times find themselves back in prison. Both Matt and Ryan grieve these poor choices as they watch some men throw away opportunities for healing and life change in Jesus. But, the path to a new life in Christ does not go away, He is always in pursuit of these individuals!

MHP and Jubilee share one additional Kingdom resource. Daniel Miller, who works in Jubilee's maintenance department, also works at MHP as their company chaplain. Daniel has the opportunity to work with these Jubilee students on the job at MHP, to point them toward Jesus when they desire something other than the goodness of God, and when they are hungry to walk more deeply into their faith! It is clear, Jubilee and MHP have struck up a connection that is more than a business relationship! 🙏

Save the Date ~ September 28 or 29



**We are excited to celebrate our
2023 dinner in grand style!**

*This year's event will launch the public phase
of Jubilee's*



BUILD LIFE CHANGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*All proceeds from the dinner will fund the construction
of our new ministry campus, to include...*

- ♦ Improved and expanded Aftercare facilities for men and women.
- ♦ Increased office space for staff.
- ♦ A new processing facility for material donations to our thrift stores.

Digital rendering of proposed ministry campus



Featuring



Christian singer/songwriter,
Ben Fuller, will share his
testimony and music as
part of the evening.

September 28 or 29

LEBANON AREA EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Opportunities for individual and business sponsorships are now open for this special event! Host a table and invite your family, friends, and business associates.

*Call/email Cecelia Risser for details,
717-274-7528 x154, CeceliaR@jub.org.*

Visit www.jub.org.

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Chaplain Marilyn Nolte

30 Years and Counting



What made you first apply for your position with Jubilee Ministries?

Prison chaplaincy found me. Helen Hess, my predecessor, was looking to retire, and Jubilee needed a chaplain for the women. They called my seminary to see if they had any women graduating who might be interested. Coincidentally, I was at home reading a book about hospital chaplaincy when I received Jubilee's call. I went to

the prison once and fell in love with it. I knew this is where I wanted to be.

Do you remember what your first day was like?

I do not remember my first day. However, I do remember going in on a night when Jubilee volunteers played volleyball with the female inmates. I remember thinking, "I am glad that this is not an actual part of my job," because they were much better than I was at the game.

What is your favorite part of the job?

Helping people find hope in Jesus.

How has your life been impacted through your work?

That is a difficult question to answer. My life and work have become so intertwined to the point that my life influences my work and my work influences my life. Most of my friends and people I know in the community I met through Jubilee. I have gotten to know many officers and their family members. When I go places, I meet former inmates I knew when they were incarcerated. My late husband and my mom would come into the prison with me sometimes as well.

What does a typical day look like for you?

My predecessor told me to "expect the unexpected." There is a plan for the day, and the prison has a schedule, but we always have to be flexible. A typical day will usually include teaching classes, counseling inmates individually (this is a favorite part of the day for me), interacting with the staff, and leading worship services. As the chaplain supervisor, I also will meet with the warden and deputy warden, meet with the

Jubilee Ministries 27th Annual Golf Tournament Review



THANK YOU

to our 134 golfers, generous
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who allowed us to raise over
\$18,000 to make this year's
tournament a great success!



chaplains for prayer and work meetings, and meet with the prison counselor – who works specifically with the female inmates – to plan for next steps after their release. A combination of the list above is what a typical day looks like.

What is a core lesson God has taught you through your work?

Desperate people do desperate things. It is important to learn to be "un-shockable" when hearing life stories. Instead, I like to share what God did for me in my life as an example of what God can do for them.

What motivated you to become a chaplain?

A love for God and people, specifically those who are struggling with addiction. In the past, I struggled myself, and I think it is important to share my personal experience to show the connection to God's forgiveness and grace.

Has fear ever held you back in your job?

By the grace of God, fear has never held me back. I have felt fear, but it has never had the power to hold me back. I have been able to move freely under God's protection and have seen that situations can escalate quickly. However, I am amazed by how swiftly the prison staff will respond.

—Continued on Page 4



What advice would you give to an aspiring prison chaplain?

It is important to maintain your own spiritual health. You cannot give from an empty cup.

I decided at the beginning that I wanted to do this for a long time, and burnout is a very real thing.

Therefore, maintaining a healthy, strong relationship with Christ is essential. Also, love people lavishly and be gentle. There is an urgency in sharing Christ, but you need to establish a relationship with the person first.

In addition, you must love and respect the prison staff. There is a distinction at the prison between treatment and security. Chaplaincy is considered treatment, but you cannot disregard the security rules and regulations. You are modeling how to adhere to rules.

Finally, be prepared to meet people who are unchurched, and those who may have had bad experiences with the Church.

Can you share a story of life change in Jesus that stands out to you over your time as a Jubilee chaplain?

Lydia was selling drugs to support her habit. She knew Jesus when she was younger but had drifted in her walk with Christ. After being caught twice, she was sentenced to state time. While in the Lebanon County Correctional Facility and state prison, her faith was rekindled. She had learned construction while serving her time and was quite accomplished in her trade. Unfortunately, she had a stroke and was unable to go back to work. Instead, she returned home and got involved in a local church, sharing her testimony with the congregation, and walked alongside her parents in their last days. She is now looking forward to becoming a great grandma. She has come into the prison as a volunteer several times – once to share her testimony, and one Easter Sunday she and I handed out tracts with candy to the inmates. She continues to walk with the Lord and to grow in her faith. ☺

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Jubilee staff members are available for speaking engagements at churches, civic organizations, Sunday school classes & small groups.

SCHEDULE A DATE & SPEAKER TODAY!

Jubilee@jub.org or
717-274-7528 x151

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