



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

VISION in ACTION



Sandy

Recently, Sandy Gehman was on a tour of Jubilee Ministries at the 12th Street location in the City of Lebanon. Tours are a common occurrence at Jubilee, and provide an opportunity for volunteers, donors, and members of the community to see “behind the scenes” of the thrift store operation and the Aftercare Program. Sandy has been a prison volunteer with Jubilee for nearly 30 years, serving alongside Chaplain Marilyn Nolte in the Lebanon County Correctional Facility. But, this was the first time that she was able to participate in one of Jubilee’s official ministry tours.

Sandy and her guide ventured to the third floor of the brick warehouse that formerly housed the Upton Motor Co. in the early 1900s, several textile manufacturing mills in the decades that followed, and Jubilee Ministries since 1999. As they walked across the creaky, wooden floors of the processing department, the guide explained to Sandy how all material donations to Jubilee’s thrift stores make their way here, to be examined, sorted, priced, and prepared for distribution to the stores for sale.

Given her experience serving behind prison walls as a Jubilee volunteer, Sandy knew well the importance of what was happening on the third floor. Without the many staff on this floor sifting

through used clothing, children’s toys, electronics, and household items, Jubilee would not have the necessary financial resources generated by the sale of this merchandise to serve those affected by incarceration.

Sandy’s guide paused at the end of the clothing line to explain some details related to the many moving parts whirling around them that together made the operation work efficiently. At that moment, a woman who had just been examining a piece of donated clothing, spun around and locked eyes with Sandy. She exclaimed, “How are you? I am here because of you!” It was evident from this woman’s words and facial expression that Sandy had impacted her life. The woman approached Sandy, and they shared a hug.

Michelle Neal seemed to have all that the world could offer. Born and raised in Lebanon County, she was married and part of a successful business. However, access to all that the world could offer landed her in prison for the first time in 2011. It was there that she met Chaplain Marilyn who told Michelle, “God has a purpose for you!” However, Michelle continued to struggle, and was in and out of jail for several years, while wrestling with an addiction.

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Jubilee Ministries 27th Annual

Golf Tournament

MAY 10, 2023

starting at 1:00 PM

at Fairview Golf Course

*For sponsorship
and registration
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**[www.jub.org/
golf-tournament](http://www.jub.org/golf-tournament)**

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Each time that she found herself behind bars, Marilyn and Sandy were there to encourage her, speak Truth into her life, and stand with her when the darkness was overwhelming. Michelle recalls walking through a diagnosis of stage 4 breast cancer while incarcerated. It was Marilyn and Sandy who stayed by her side and continued to point her toward her Savior, Jesus!



Michelle continued to struggle with her addiction, despite the cancer, the cancer treatments, and the birth of her daughter Hope. During this time, though unrecognized by Michelle, Jesus was in pursuit of her heart. At one point, she became part of a community Bible study where her eyes began to open to God's love for her. The seeds planted by Sandy and Marilyn were beginning to grow. Then, as part of the Women's Shelter on Willow, a ministry in the City of Lebanon, Michelle started to volunteer at Jubilee.

As her healing continued, she knew she needed a place to work where her faith journey could continue, and the temptations of the world would not be at her fingertips. Over time, Michelle transitioned from Jubilee volunteer to Jubilee employee. While sorting clothing as a Jubilee employee, her story came full circle when Sandy came in that day for a tour.

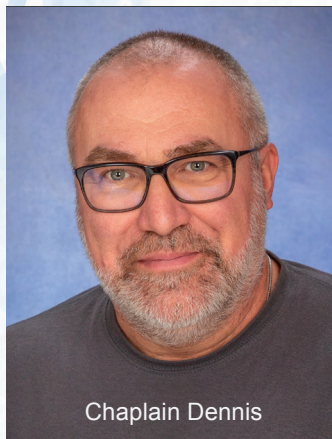
Admittedly, Sandy had no idea of the impact her time spent with Michelle in prison had made. But, Michelle made it clear that day on the third floor that she was working at Jubilee because of Sandy's influence in her life. Sandy and Marilyn, as volunteer and chaplain, are living out Jubilee's mission **to serve those affected by incarceration by being ambassadors of life change through the Gospel of Jesus Christ**. Furthermore, this story embodies Jubilee's vision that **the men and women we serve will be ambassadors for Jesus in prisons, their homes, churches, and communities, leading others to Christ and making the Kingdom of God visible to the world**.

If you are interested in taking a tour or becoming a volunteer at Jubilee Ministries, please contact John Balderrama, Jubilee's Volunteer Coordinator, at JohnB@jub.org or 717-274-7528 x153.

JUBILEE IS HIRING!

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Chaplain Dennis

LIFE *from* DEATH



*By Chaplain Dennis Dibert,
Bedford County Correctional Facility*

One evening, as I was passing through booking where new inmates are processed upon arrival at the prison, I saw a young man in distress. I had not seen him before, but one glance at his face indicated that something was terribly wrong. He had been placed in an isolation cell and was wearing a “turtle suit” designed to keep him from self-harm. In addition to the pain on his face, there were many noticeable cuts across his forearms. When I saw him, he was on a 15-minute suicide watch. I had 10 minutes to share with him about the Lord while a corrections officer (CO) was there observing.

This young inmate shared that he used to be close to the Lord and had exposure to Christianity and Jesus while growing up. I asked him, “Where would you say you stand with the Lord today?” While sobbing and trying to get the words out, he said he was now very lost and didn’t know what to do. With limited time, I shared a few sentences about his identity in Jesus and value in God’s eyes. We spoke quickly of forgiveness and forgiving himself. I was able to offer him a Bible. He had another book with him that he had been reading. The CO asked if he wanted the Bible or the other book. The man said he wanted to finish the other book first. I told him I would be in the next day to visit him and departed his cell.

I arrived the next day too late to lead him to the Lord. During the night, he knelt down and had a long conversation with God, fully recommitting his life to follow Jesus! When I saw him, his face was beaming, a complete turnaround from the day before. He had tried reading the other book, but told me after five minutes he had asked the CO for the Bible. He had been pouring over the same page in John for four hours! He kept rereading it to fully understand its meaning in his life. God's Word sunk into this man's willing heart! He is now regularly attending classes in the chapel. **Our God speaks to those with a broken heart and brings life from death!**

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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Clair Weaver SERVICE AWARD

In 2021, Jubilee established the Clair Weaver Service Award to honor Jubilee's longtime CEO. In its first year, the award was presented to Clair and his wife, Betsy, for their unwavering commitment to the mission of Jubilee Ministries. In December 2022, we added two additional names to the recipient list of this award.



Darlene Nolen

(Lebanon Clothing Store Manager)

Darlene set the standard for store leadership during her 30 years with the ministry. She served her customers and staff with daily attention to the details of store management, and her ability to bring encouragement to them through prayer and the Gospel. Darlene gracefully blended the business and ministry of Jubilee into a seamless whole, living fully her phrase that "It is ALL for Jesus!"



Art Bomberger

(Prison Chaplain)

In his pursuit to serve those affected by incarceration by being an ambassador of life change through the Gospel of Jesus, Art touched the lives of many on both sides of the prison walls. Over his 32 years with Jubilee Ministries, Art could be found working retail, in the prisons, and any place where there was a need. His soft-spoken words of Truth have impacted the hearts of those within reach of his ministry, and encouraged them to "stand firm" in the Gospel!



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WAYS to GIVE!

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