

WINTER 2025

Catalyst

MINISTRIES

Moral Rehabilitation:
Creating Hope & Purpose
within the Prisons of Florida,
West Virginia, & Mississippi



In 2024, we continued our work within the prisons of West Virginia, Florida, and Mississippi. Our calendar remained full as we served the incarcerated. It is always exciting to share our work with our friends. We have added new programs to train further and equip men and women to serve their peers and the administration's needs. We continue to grow our number of peer mentors, and the general response from the inmate population is such a blessing. Not only are peer mentors stepping up, but we also see increased hunger among our program participants. We are witnessing men and women working hard on their moral fiber.

In December, we hosted our first Christmas event with inmate fathers and their children at St. Marys prison. Catalyst provided the Christmas presents and food. Each father was able to wrap and give their child four presents. The visitation room was decorated, and the men could play games and give their kids presents. Santa was there as well. Also, at St. Marys, we were formally certified by Toastmasters International. Toastmasters is a nonprofit educational organization that builds confidence and teaches public speaking skills through a worldwide network of clubs that meet online and in person. In a supportive community, members prepare and deliver speeches, respond to impromptu questions, and give and receive constructive feedback. This regular practice empowers members to meet personal and professional communication goals. Learning to speak confidently is imperative in helping men prepare to reenter society.

We continued growing the Malachi Dads programs in Florida, and I was blessed to speak at one of their graduation ceremonies. Our Catalyst Certified Peer Mentor program finished its third year as we live-streamed our discipleship courses in both men's and women's prisons in West Virginia and Mississippi. In West Virginia, we celebrated increases in student rosters at Mt. Olive Bible College, inside West Virginia's only maximum-security prison, and the Bible Certificate program at Lakin Correctional Center for Women. The graduates of our programs will become peer mentors, serving the prison population and helping their peers make positive life changes, resulting in safer prisons and safer communities upon release.

THE FOLLOWING ARE STATEMENTS FROM OUR ONGOING PARTNERS.

J. TIMOTHY DIPIERO

DiPiero Simmons McGinley & Bastress, PLLC,
Charleston, WV

"I have been blessed to be a part of some of the prison ministry programs led by Calvin Sutphin of Catalyst Ministries. Last year, I assisted him as he led a peer mentoring program for about 20 men and women in four different state prisons. I was pleasantly surprised and moved to see prisoners, several of whom have lives with no mercy sentences, encouraging younger prisoners, quoting bible verses, and expressing heartfelt prayers for one another and their families. Calvin is largely responsible for establishing the Appalachian Bible College at Mt. Olive. You should see the pride on the families' faces as they see their sons, husbands, fathers, etc., wearing a cap and gown over a prison uniform to receive a college diploma. Equally moving is the annual Day With Dad, which I have attended at St. Mary's Prison, where kids are allowed to spend an afternoon outside playing games and sports with their dads."

MIKE BROYLES

Executive Director Lifeline Global,
Wichita, KS

"We have enjoyed ministry together with Catalyst ministries for over 10 years, and it is a delight and honor to work with them, teaching Malachi Dads and Hannah's gift in the prisons of West Virginia. Their president, Calvin, is an outstanding leader and a person of integrity, so I encourage you to join in a great mission of reaching men and women with the good news of Jesus Christ. Please consider partnering with them in prayer, volunteering, and financially supporting them. As they endeavor to reach out to the broken people inside prison and their families, I truly count it an honor to serve with them and this endeavor."

DANIEL ARBOGAST

Senior Chaplain,
Huttonsville Prison, WV

"The Catalyst Ministries Certified Peer Mentor program challenges men to think and act differently. The classes allow the men to learn skills that impact their lives and others. The Peer Mentors at Huttonsville Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (HCCR) in Huttonsville, West Virginia, have been a huge asset to our facility in many ways. The Peer Mentors at HCCR are challenged to be agents of change in our culture. The Peer Mentors: Conduct tier walking and minister/counsel individuals to address issues or situations, help individuals with special needs, minister to individuals who have lost family members, provide support for individuals in dorms after an inmate death, counsel individuals that are having a difficult time dealing with incarceration. Additionally, the Peer Mentors facilitate many classes aimed at helping our guys become better men. Without the support of Catalyst Ministries, the Chaplain's duties would be difficult. The Peer Mentorship Program has become a huge part of the foundation here at HCCR."



Building a Culture of
Safety and Forgiveness



VOICES

Malachi Dads Kid's Christmas Event St. Marys Prison – Participant Comments

"Thank you so much for the Malachi Dads event! It eased the pain of being away from my loved ones. God has truly changed my life with the help of Catalyst Ministries, the administration, and my fellow inmates. Thank you for everything, and may God be with you forever and always."

"Reflecting on the Malachi Dads Christmas event here at St. Marys, I feel like my son, mother, and I connected deeper than we would have had a chance to do on a regular visit. My son's eyes lit up just to be here! I have been incarcerated most of my son's life. As a result, I am more of a fictional character or distant memory. However, this event gave us a memory without shackles and chains, a brief view of the man before imprisonment."

"Being a part of the Malachi Dads event really made my little girls' day! To be able to watch her open gifts that she loved made my Christmas! Seeing the joy on her face and not just hers, as well as all the kids who were there, was an awesome experience! To be able to eat with my daughter and our families and to do arts and crafts is something that I will never forget! Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart, and I appreciate everything you have done for my family and me!"

"The Christmas event was a great experience! It allowed me to be a father to my daughter! It was great being a part of her Christmas versus being away. My daughter keeps talking about our "special" cookie! Thank you so much for giving us a memory. May God bless you and your families! Happy New Year!"

**"Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."**

Ephesians 4:32



DISCIPLESHIP

DINO

Mt. Olive Prison, WV

"Training and disciplining men in a maximum security prison is amazing. This is a command from Christ – not a request that we make disciples. Matthew 28 says, "to go and therefore make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

"I have noticed over the last seven years of being the lead facilitator that men have a lot of bondage in their lives. For the most part, these men could not attend Bible College for one reason or another. Education level is a big factor in not going to the Bible College, and we tutor anyone who needs it. These men tell me this is the only avenue in prison where they feel they can learn about Christianity.

We open every class with a prayer request, prayer and close with 2nd Chron. 7:14. We believe these men are seeking God. We believe God is healing their lives. So many call our class their church; this is where they are being fed. Have you heard of the no child left behind adage? We have adopted the 'no inmate left behind.' Discipleship is a blessing in all our lives. Teachers and students alike are always grateful to be allowed to do this here. We are also in gratitude to Calvin Sutphin. Without him, this would not exist. We praise and thank God for everything we can do for Him here in this prison."

PEER MENTORING

AARON

Huttonsville Prison, WV

"We started the peer mentoring training via Zoom. It was apparent that I was going to have to start speaking more. I have always been a great listener, but I never felt comfortable speaking in front of a group. The Peer Mentor classes helped me push out of my comfort zone and grow tremendously as a public speaker. In a year's time, I went from barely speaking to facilitating the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program consisting of 54 men. I also spoke at my vocational graduation before my family and nearly 100 attendees—one of the greatest gifts I received from the Peer Mentor program.

All the books in the program were excellent. Ruth Graham facilitated a class relating to her book on forgiveness. She is the daughter of the famous Billy Graham. I wondered how many people have worked through a book with the author. We discussed every chapter, hearing her thoughts and being asked ours. I could not think of anyone in my life who had done that, yet here I was in prison doing it.

I cannot say enough about the loving hearts at Catalyst Ministries. They treat us like brothers in Christ, not like inmates. Prison brought me back to God, but the Peer Mentor program cultivated my relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Calvin and Catalyst Ministries."

MALACHI DADS



GLENN

Malachi Dad, Putnam Prison, Florida

"When I first embarked on this Malachi Dads journey, I didn't know what to expect. I soon discovered the focus of the Malachi Dads books, Heart of a Man and Heart of a Father, was the heart surgery I needed to restore my relationship with my family. Our classes were filled with fellowship and difficult discussions that helped us grow."

FROM THE FOUNDER

We have all heard the quote, "Give a man a fish, and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." Since our beginning in 2012, we have provided a unique approach to prison ministry. Our mission is simple: we train and equip incarcerated men and women to shepherd their own flocks. We make disciples, who, in turn, make disciples.

We believe the largest untapped resource for prison reform is the inmates themselves. When incarcerated men and women are given opportunities, they embrace them. Responsibility breeds self-worth, hope, and purpose, which translates to positive behavior.

Our primary goal is to reduce future victims of violent crime, as ninety percent of the incarcerated in West Virginia have release dates. This reduction only occurs when a person experiences a change of heart. We believe that in Christ, any man or woman can change. We hear stories of transformation frequently. Many men and women feel a sense of self-worth for the first time in their lives and are excited to share the transforming power of Christ with their peers.

Every soul matters to Jesus. In the book of Matthew, Jesus is teaching about our upcoming judgment. He provides us with guidance as to who we should serve. Jesus mentions those in prison. He states, "The righteous will reply, Lord, when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will say, I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers or sisters, you were doing it to me" Matthew 25:39-40, NLT. We are all God's children.

As we begin our thirteenth year, would you pray about helping us continue? Catalyst Ministries' is fully funded by private donors. We receive no state or federal funding. Please help us by making a tax-deductible donation.

Calvin Sutphin II

Isaiah 6:8



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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to select, educate, train, and theologically equip inmates to become peer mentors. The peer mentors will counsel, comfort, serve and disciple their peers, thus serving as agents of moral change within the prison culture. The peer mentors will help bring evidence-based positive change to the prison system, reduce recidivism, translating to fewer future crime victims.

OUR PRINCIPLES

EVANGELISM

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to all who believe."

Romans 1:16

DISCIPLESHIP

"You have heard me teach these things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people, who will be able to pass them along to others."

2 Timothy 2:2

EQUIPPING

"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work, and build up the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:12

SHARING

"Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit."

John 15:5

**Once you read,
consider passing it
along to a neighbor,
friend, or family
member to help us
spread the good news!**