

## *The Purpose:*

As a servant of Jesus, you have a desire to go and teach the Gospel, as our Lord and Saviour has directed us to do. If you are like me, finding the right opportunities to do this is a challenge. Imagine if God arranged for you to meet a lost person who comes from a background of broken homes, debauchery, and crime. This person has lived it up, drowning his misery and guilt with drugs and parties, until one day those things are gone and he finds himself in jail with nothing left but time to think. Now imagine you have an hour and a half with this person by their own choosing to share with them whatever God lays on your heart, albeit in a group setting. Volunteers have privilege to staff two Bible Studies each weekend on a regular basis at the Lehigh County Jail.



### *Committee*

Dean Boll- Chairman  
Curt Nolt- Assistant Chairman  
Shawn Martin- Pastoral Advisor  
Earl Horning- Pastoral Advisor

Gene Plett- Secretary  
Darrell Good- Member  
Bryan Weaver- Member

### *Contact Info:*

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# *Hope Fellowship* **Prison Ministry**

**Lehigh County Jail**  
38 N Fourth Street  
Allentown, PA 18102



## *The History:*

### HMF Prison Ministry

In 1992 the Clarence Kreider family from HMF who lived in Lehigh County, was involved in a prison ministry sponsored by a non-denominational group called Yoke Fellow. They were helping with bible studies in the Lehigh County Prison in both men and women's facilities. In addition to that they went into the Juvenile Detention Center. They were quite involved and ask HMF for help. We responded by offering to our congregation the opportunity, and it was decided that we would get involved. We served under the Yoke Fellow organization until 2013 when Yoke Fellow wanted more control of our bible studies by using their approved studies. At that time HMF discontinued going to the juvenile center. Interest in prison ministry grew to the extent that a committee was put in place and James G. Weaver became the contact person with the Lehigh County Prison System for the HMF committee holding that office till 2010. We obtained permission to go into the Lehigh County jail conducting bible studies in the men's prison one night a week. Soon we also took on the bible studies in the women's one night a week. In the late nineties we built a staff of volunteers totaling 80 people, conducting as many as 10 bible studies a month . The volunteers came from 3 congregations in HMF; namely Schaefferstown, Muddy Creek and Rehrersburg.

## *The Program:*

Volunteers from four Hope Mennonite Fellowship churches are involved with staffing Bible Studies at Lehigh County Jail each month.

On the second, third, and fourth Friday evening of each month between 8:30 and 10:00, two brothers hold a Bible Study with inmates from two different housing units in the men's prison. Attendance varies from 1 to 15 participants.

Each Saturday evening between 7:00 and 9:00, two couples hold a Bible Study with inmates from two housing units in the women's prison. Usually, twenty inmates attend. Bible Studies are also held on the 5th Saturdays and Sundays when they occur.

A typical Bible Study includes a time of prayer with the inmates, two Bible study periods planned and led by the volunteers, and a lot of discussion on issues and questions brought up by the inmates who attend. Lamp and Light correspondence courses are offered as well. May these Bible Studies be an encouragement to many to seek the Lord and to do what it takes to continue in His ways when they are released!

