

His Love Ministries

NURSING HOME, JAIL, AND PRISON MINISTRY

A Ministry Dedicated to Reaching out to those the World has Forgotten

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2009

In 2009 we saw many changes in our economy and the world around us. This affected the ministry; some changes were for the better and some set us back in areas in which we had hoped to progress, not regress. As we look back at 2009, there was a loss of two part-time ministers and a loss of services, but overall it was a good year. We lost Canas Blackston to a full-time job; we were not able to hire him full-time. Tom and I took up some of the services that the part-time ministers did, and God provided some volunteers in areas ~~that~~ where we were paying someone to go and minister. ~~However, -but~~ we still conducted over 900 services, saw 202 decisions for Christ, and ministered to over 22,000 people in 28 different facilities in 2009. We also prayed with at least 200 and gave Biblical advice to around 500. We handed out over 6,500 tracts, Discipleship Booklets, Creation Moments, and other Biblical Materials. We also conducted 50 Substance Abuse/Life Skills Programs and mentored some men just out of prison. In June of last year Coastal State Prison changed from a Diagnostic facility and was supposed to become a faith based facility, but it has not and will not as of the latest data. This has cut down drastically the number of people we minister to there and the desperate situation in which they found themselves led to more salvations as a general rule. Also, we may have had more people saved this year, but we don't know because many of our services at the prison were cut short and we never had time to give an invitation and see how many actually trusted Christ. However, we did begin ministering in the Youth Detention Center and Coastal Harbor Treatment Center for Kids in February, and Coastal Harbor for Adults in April. The last two are considered psychiatric facilities and it is a great open door for ministering to Children as young as 5 to 17 and Adults at any age from 18 up. When the Adult facility found out we were going in at the Youth Facility, they called us and asked us to come do Bible Studies there also. These are some of the things that happened this year and we did all of this with only \$92,000. I want to thank you for being such a blessing to us. We could not have done it without you. We hope you will continue to pray for us, volunteer, and give as you have in the past to help us expand and minister in greater ways to those the World has forgotten as God leads us in 2010 and beyond. Thank you and God bless you from Marty and Shelly, Tom, the Board and Ministry Leaders.

[We Need Your Help](#)

1. [We need a man or a couple to teach the Bible at the Coastal Harbor Treatment Center \(psychiatric facility\) for Adults on Sundays](#)
2. [We need men volunteers for the Correctional Facilities to teach the Bible.](#)
3. [There is also a need for help at Nursing Homes with music & teaching.](#)
4. [We also need \\$1,000 more a month to continue ministering at the current level](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [2009, We Need Your Help](#)
- 1 [Accomplishments, Coastal Harbor](#)
- 2 [Tom Stephens –YDC & Tom Keller Letters](#)

2009 Ministry Accomplishments



I would like to give praise to our wonderful Lord and Savior who has allowed this Ministry to be the instrument used in at least 200 professions of faith, we gave out over 400 Bibles, conducted over 900 Church services/Bible studies, and ministered to over 22,000 people in 2009.

Coastal Harbor Update

November 22, 2009 – We came on an “off” week, so we only went to the acute ward. We had 8 kids there—they were all seated and ready when we got there and very excited. They were eager to sing along with songs. Because they were all young (except for two teenaged girls), Jake turned the teaching over to Melissa. We talked about the first song we sang (Lord, I Lift Your Name on High), and why Jesus came from Heaven to Earth, from the Earth to the Cross, from the Cross to the Grave, and from the Grave to the Sky. We brought out the Bibles and Jake set up the new marker board—yay! The kids were really excited about the Bibles but a little confused so we had a quick lesson about what is in the Bible and how to find things that you are looking for. We turned to John 4—Mel talked about the Woman at the Well, what Jesus offered her and what He meant by “Living Water”—the lesson was followed by a quick explanation of the Gospel using the marker board and the cross diagram. The kids were starting to fade. We wrapped it up, and had lots of help putting everything away! Notable: as we asked for prayer requests, one girl expressed to me the concern that she didn't know how to pray, but she wanted to, but she didn't know what to say. Definitely think we should teach on prayer next week! Older girl really got into the lesson when we talked about the Holy Spirit meeting our needs. She started laughing. It was neat, she seemed to connect and be encouraged. Jake and Melissa Yellig

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ALSO...Check out our Podcast Sermon Messages At Hisloveministries.podbean.com, you can even subscribe to them in iTunes.

[Won't You Join Us! Check out the website at Hisloveministries.net to see how you can be involved or call Marty at 912-398-0573](#)

We would also like to pray for your needs, send them via email to MMcKenzie@hisloveministries.net

Letter From Tom Stephens YDC Volunteer

Bzzzzzz, clang. Bzzzzzz, clang. Bzzzzzz, clang. Bzzzzzz, clang. After passing through the fifth round of secured gates and locked doors I was beginning to wonder what kind of place I had just gotten myself in to. I could only remember being in any kind of jail once before, and it wasn't anything like this place.

The first time I walked into the Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center I expected hard hearts and mocking words. The first time I walked back out of the YDC gates, and into a beautiful summer day, I realized this was a place where God was at work.

I started attending His Love Ministries services at the Savannah YDC alongside Canas Blackston. While I have lived in the inner city and worked around urban youth for several years, it was a privilege to come alongside Canas as he opened up the Word of God for these young people sitting behind the walls of the YDC. As Canas taught through the scriptures I would pray for the young people. As I prayed for them, God worked on my heart. God's calling to lay ministry has been clear to me since He saved me. Still, as I prayed alongside these young people, locked up such at a young age, I unexpectedly began to see what fertile ground this place was. God was revealing to me what an opportunity the YDC was for these kids, and only because His Love Ministries was faithfully ministering with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Most 13, 14 or 15 year olds rarely make time for in depth Bible study, prayer, and reflection. Yet, here inside the YDC there is little time for the usual activities of a teenager. So, as God gave me the opportunity to begin teaching Bible study at YDC, He began to reveal young people hungry for more than this world can offer them. In the last 6 months I have seen young people return time and time again with new questions about the Bible. I have noticed some of the kids beginning to bring their Bibles with them each week I am there. Others have spent entire nights reading a book of the Bible so that they can be prepared for the next week's lesson. Still others have asked for prayer, for help overcoming the temptations of life outside the walls of YDC, and for Bibles to take home with them when they get out. And while I have not had the privilege of seeing one of these young people come to salvation, I know that this place is fertile ground that is being well watered with the Gospel. Without the ministry that His Love Ministries is providing, most of these young people would have no solid Biblical teaching, some would have no one praying for them, and even a few would have never yet heard the name of Jesus. In this country, at this day and time, that is still an unfortunate reality. Yet, I thank God that He is using me to share His Word and His love with the young people locked up at YDC. I thank God that He has called and is using His Love Ministries. And believe me, if God can use a guy like Saul to take his Gospel to the ends of the earth, just imagine what He can do with these young people at the YDC. Just as when the angel said to Mary, "For nothing is impossible with God." – My prayer is that the kids at the Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center would reply, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said."

For the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Tom Stephens

THANKS to everyone who helped out with our Annual Adopt a Nursing Home Resident Program; 58 residents without family got presents, many were visited and were blessed by having a little love and encouragement during the Christmas Season, the loneliest time of the year for some. Thanks again and God Bless you for Helping.

Letter From Tom Keller

I've always been concerned about many things as it pertains to the church. We are like children jumping from a diving board – we like big splashes. It is hard to get people to commit to the daily task of evangelism but we get all the help we need for the big events of the church – we like the big splash. Marty and I have been at it for several years and we've been looking for volunteers, people willing to commit to the everyday ministry of "reaching out to those the world has forgotten". I imagine it is hard because nothing about His Love Ministries is a "big splash". It requires a daily stick-to-it-ness that just simply is not a big enough splash for most people.

The economy is in shambles. People have lost their jobs. Many have foreclosed on their homes. Nobody is buying or selling. My house has been on the market now for over two years and I have yet to see anyone even look with interest. However when you have a 3100 sq.ft. home next door to you for sale at \$165,000, I'd have to give mine away to compete!! Times are tough and of course giving is down.

In the midst of it all we've witnessed perhaps the largest earthquake on record. The highest number I've heard so far is an earthquake measuring 7.8, a huge earthquake that leveled entire cities. How do you begin to uncover an entire city? The amazing thing is the amount of money given to charities for the rescue of the Haitian people, millions given when our economy is the worst it has been since the Great Depression. I was amazed at the giving at such a time. But then I realized that most people want to be a part of the big splash and less are willing to help out if it is a daily task. I was painfully made aware of the difficulty of raising money for the long haul.

One of the exciting things concerning His Love Ministries is we are depending less on grants and more on the Body of Christ, which means more and more people are becoming concerned and committed to the daily task of "reaching out to those the world has forgotten". If we can get a few more people to commit to supporting His Love Ministries, we will be self supported by the God's people and any grant money will be above and beyond our needs. I know this is Marty's goal and mine. We want to be totally supported by God's people, the Church.

Therefore we want to ask you to consider giving a little more this year and we pray you will talk with your friends and family and co-workers about what we do. It would be exciting if God would move His Love Ministries to reach the goal of being 100% supported by the God's people. No it won't make a big splash but it will help us to stay committed to the daily task of ministry. Will you make the hard commitment? Will you commit to giving to His Love Ministries with a faithful stick-to-it-ness that will one day make a big splash in Heaven when you see how your money changed the lives of so many people? We sincerely look forward to your partnership and fellowship as we reach the lost together. We can not continue without your support. Clinging to the Cross, Tom Keller

From A Friend

My daughter is the assistant director of an assisted living care facility here. It's so sad. They have had 2 suicide attempts just in the last month. I never realized just how sad and hopeless these places could be until my daughter started working there. Many of them get placed there and just sit by the door waiting for loved ones to pick them up or come see them and they never come. They have a specialty unit that really captured my heart - these are mostly Alzheimer patient's, hospice patient's or just mentally ill and they have to be locked in. Their faces light up when you walk in and they literally follow you to the door and try to go out with you when you leave. You just have to pull on the door until they let go, soooo sad. That's something people on the outside don't see, these people that are locked in and really shut off from the world.