

The Kingsway Banner



Our Mission:

“Ministering through the heart of Jesus to the broken hearts of those impacted by the criminal justice system, both those incarcerated and re-entering and their families.”

Chartered 1983
501 (c)(3) tax status



Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach, PO Box 2335, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
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Web: www.kingswayoutreach.org

OCT 2024

From The President of the Board of Directors

Before I get involved with what is going on at Kingsway, let me tell you about how awesome all of you are! Because of you, Kingsway had the best Annual Banquet in its history! Without your support, it would be very hard to operate this ministry! YOU are the reason Kingsway can do the things it does in “Is It Worth It”! Keep up the good work you all are doing for Kingsway, and we will keep moving forward as well!

Now, Kingsway is gearing up for Christmas!!! Are you familiar with our “Apple Tree Project”?

This is where we need your help again through your churches! We provide you with APPLES for the children of inmates so those children can have Christmas. Often, they live with guardians - usually grandparents - and Christmas is very slim for these children because of the incomes of the grandparents. This is where you can help provide them with Christmas.

We also give out packages to the inmates at different facilities. In the past, we have given out 6,000 packages, but this year we are striving for 7,000!!! Augusta Correctional Center closed its doors in June of this year, and we have been given the “thumbs up” for Buckingham Correctional Center and Dillwyn Correctional Center! We need your help as well here! We need toothpaste - preferably 4 ounce tubes only!! In the past we have asked for lip balm (Chapstick) and 5”x8” writing tablets. Now it’s just toothpaste! Yes, we are still giving the writing tablets and lip balm, but now we are only asking for the toothpaste. Most of the inmates prefer Colgate or Crest, but they are glad for any kind of toothpaste! I was honored in helping to hand out these gifts when we went to Augusta Correctional Center and one man delightfully yelled, “Thank you for the toothpaste! I haven’t had any since May!” So you can see what a big deal this is!

To each one of you, I give my heartfelt thanks from Kingsway for all you do to make this ministry possible and to be the light of Christ to so many!

Serving Him,

Vicki Barb, President, Board of Directors

From The Executive Director of Kingsway PAFO

Just A Simple Lunch...

As we prepared for Kingsway's Annual Fundraising Banquet, my mind went to another meal. I remembered the story of a little boy who packed a lunch of loaves and fishes, showed up to hear a popular speaker, and saw the simple lunch he sweetly offered become something AMAZING in the hands of Jesus.

That's our story here at Kingsway. Shel and Louise Jennings wanted to be obedient to God and to serve people lovingly. They opened a food pantry on their back porch and invited people to come and take what they needed. One day, Louise came home to find a \$50 bill stuck under a magnet on their refrigerator. Shel and Louise used that money to file their articles of incorporation to form Kingsway in Richmond. They didn't have the money themselves, but an anonymous person, prompted by God, gave them a \$50 gift. From that anonymous gift all those years ago, we have Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach.

Kingsway **needs your help** as we look ahead toward the Christmas season.

- ◇ We are gathering toothpaste (approximately 4 ounce tubes) to be part of the Christmas gifts we send to **7,000** inmates. For some of them, these gifts are the only Christmas cheer they will receive.
- ◇ We need willing hearts to pick "Apples" and purchase gifts for the children of inmates through our Apple Tree Program. Children often don't understand why their parent is gone; they just know that they feel abandoned. The Apple Tree Project helps them know that they are loved. Please reach out if your church is willing to help with this.
- ◇ Between October and December, our need for volunteers is greater than at any other time of the year! In October/November, 4,500 Thanksgiving cards need to be folded and hand addressed. In November/December, Christmas cards need to be folded and addressed. We need help labeling toothpaste and notepads for the inmate Christmas gifts. We also need help prepping and packing bags for 2,000 inmates in a prison we have never reached before. God keeps opening doors!

So many times, we are tempted to look at the time we have and inside our wallets and say, "Well, there's not much there. I don't see how God could possible use this!" I challenge you, that instead of seeing the lack of funds or the limited time, to see the seed that God wants to help you plant. And maybe, just maybe, God is waiting for you to sweetly offer your loaves and fishes so that He can do something **AMAZING!**

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the Annual Banquet. It was an amazing night. Thank you for your part in making our banquet such a success!! Thank you for your prayers!

"Just a simple lunch..."

You can reach us at 540-433-5658, or email us at info@kingswayoutreach.org.

Paula Ford, Executive Director



Louise's Corner

Well! I did retire as Executive Director of Kingsway and I am having fun as the Kingsway Board of

Directors honored me as Kingsway Director Emerita. I am now enjoying coming into the office 3 days a week, and being told what I need to and can do. For the last few years, Kingsway has celebrated my birthday with a fundraiser, and this year will be no different. I am really looking forward to celebrating my 89th birthday! One of Kingsway's contributors suggested that other contributors think about a donation of \$89.00 as a gift in my honor, but please don't let that be a deterrent in coming to the party and concert. We will have great music by Smokey Wilson, and this year we will also have The Roby Family. Allen Roby used to be with 3 In 1 Quartet, which supported us previously. It will be a great evening at Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church on Rt. 33 in Hinton. I look forward to seeing many of you at 6 pm Sunday, October 26th.

November 11: We honor all our veterans.

Thank you for your service!

Psalm 4:8

November 28: We wish you a blessed Happy

Thanksgiving!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

December 25: We wish you a joyful Merry Christmas!

Isaiah 9:6

TESTIMONIES

Dear Kingsway,

I will start by telling you that I have trouble explaining myself, just writing in general to be honest, but here we go. PRISON SAVED MY LIFE! Since the age of 13, I started with tobacco to marijuana to LSD to cocaine to pain pills to crystal meth - you get the picture. Since the age of 18 I've been in and out of jail, always just a couple of days. I come from an amazing family, I'm so truly blessed, and I've always had really good jobs. Six figures. So small town USA (Gate City, VA). Knowing the right people and a good lawyer would get you time served, maybe a little probation, worst case scenario. I was not brought up in church, but my mother worked at the Methodist Church for over 30 years. She would always go to different churches. She liked nondenominational churches, and would always ask me to go. I would decline 9 1/2 times out of 10. I never had anything against church, just felt it wasn't for me. Fast forward to 2016 and crystal meth. I had quit working and being around my family. Chasing meth and girls was my entire life. I had no time for anything else. So 2 years of that had taken its toll on me. In 2018 my life was completely unmanageable. And I got into a fight: someone fell down and broke their arm, and I was charged with malicious wounding, a very serious charge, plus possession and conspiracy charges which gave me 30 years with 23 years suspended, which gave me 7 years to do. While in Max at my county jail, I picked up a Bible study off the ground someone had thrown down - Life Key (Emmaus Road), and read it. I got to thinking about my life and all the times my mother had tried to talk to me but I

just didn't have the time, so I thought. So finally since I had the time, I would learn about this man they called Jesus and what He supposedly had done for me. So to answer your question, it started as it helped to pass the time, and a chance to learn about something I knew nothing about, but it has turned into so much more - a spiritual journey. It definitely gave me a new perspective on life. I've grown as a person, as a man, in every way possible. I've gotten to know my family, myself, and most important God. It's funny how you get these signs: a Bible study on the floor in a dirt pile and I pick it up and begin reading - definitely a sign. Going to church and the preacher starts his sermon and it's as if he is talking to you in particular. This has happened to me so many times - another sign. And the biggest sign of all was a prison sentence: the opportunity to sit down without the distractions of the world and reflect on your life and where you are at and better yet where you're headed and a chance to change course. I've wasted enough of my life looking in my rearview mirror (past). I'm ready for my future so I'm going to keep my eyes focused ahead of me and where I'm going, not where I've been. My past was with the devil; my future is with God. So as always, thank you, Vicki, Louise, and everyone at Kingsway for all that you do. I am truly grateful from the bottom of my heart. And the biggest thanks of all to Jesus for saving me and giving me this opportunity to get to know him. That's why I started, and will now end with

PRISON SAVED MY LIFE!

Bryan C.

Hello To All My Brothers & Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I really hope and pray that this finds everyone doing good. I want to thank everyone for being behind me all the years like you all have been. God's love is so great. I was looking back through my mail and cards, when I noticed that you all have been with me for 32 years. Yes, that is God's love, and I pray that God blesses you all very much.

I want to thank Ms. Louise, Vicki, Pam, Kim, Ashley, Bonnie, Mary, Carol, and Paula, along with everyone else.

I'm very interested in y'all's correspondence Bible studies. I need English. I'm looking forward on starting the Bible studies.

God bless you all and keep y'all safe.

Later on,

Tim

A lovely lady came to us last week to volunteer for community service. As we sat and talked with her and told her all the things that Kingsway does and is involved in, she told us how it warmed her heart, and she was so happy to be able to help us.

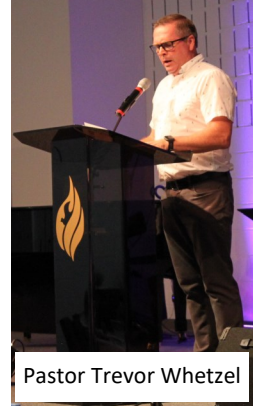
So many are finding out what Kingsway does and how we help those coming out. They want to be a part of all the good that Kingsway does, and especially in helping with the cards. They will cut and fold approximately 7,000 Christmas cards for the inmate Christmas, and they will put Kingsway labels on the same amount of toothpaste and note pads.

Because of these volunteers, Kingsway is blessed and they in turn bless others inside.

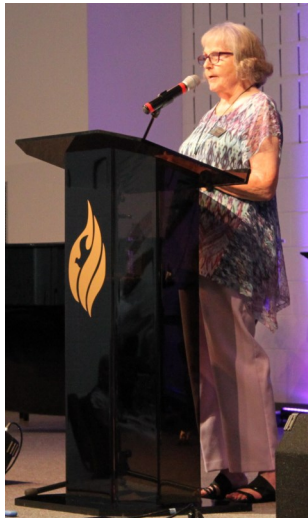
Vicki Barb

Annual Benefit Banquet

Kingsway's Annual Benefit Banquet was held on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at the Harrisonburg First Assembly of God.



Pastor Trevor Whetzel



Above, L to R: Alvin Yoder, Master of Ceremonies; Louise Jennings, Executive Director Emerita; Paula Ford, Executive Director; Vicki Barb, President, Board of Directors



Above, L to R: Guest Speakers: Costella Forney; Nathan Carr; Carol Kelley; Jamie Dyson

BENEFIT CONCERT & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATE LOUISE JENNINGS' 89TH BIRTHDAY!

JOIN US ON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024, AT 6:00 PM

FOR A BENEFIT CONCERT

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF

SMOKEY WILSON

&

THE ROBY FAMILY

MT. OLIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9148 RAWLEY PIKE, HINTON, VA

***FREWILL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE MISSION AND CONTINUING WORK OF
KINGSWAY PRISON AND FAMILY OUTREACH WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.***



Smokey Wilson



The Roby Family



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The Banner is published as a bridge between you, the Kingsway supporters, and the hands-on prison and family outreach ministry of Kingsway.

The Banner welcomes your comments, suggestions, questions, testimonies, and article submissions. If there is something of interest you would like to know more about or have included in this newsletter, please let us know.

Please send all submissions and communications for this newsletter to the Editor at kingswaybanner@gmail.com

The Banner provides a means of raising funds to carry on the work of Kingsway. Donations can be made by mail or online by scanning this QR Code.



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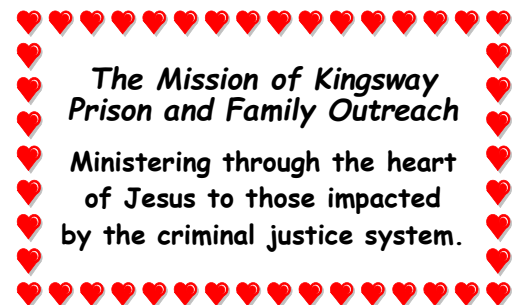
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*The Mission of Kingsway
Prison and Family Outreach*

*Ministering through the heart
of Jesus to those impacted
by the criminal justice system.*