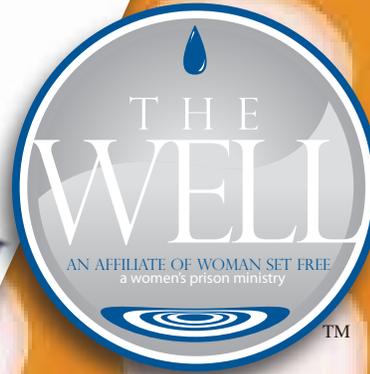


WOMAN SET FREE®

Summer 2008 Issue

THE LORD
SETS
PRISONERS
FREE...
Psalm
146 :7



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WOMAN SET FREE* CONTINUES TO GROW AND EXTEND THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO THE INMATES WE SERVE

We've been praying about and planning for the initial launch of an exciting new part of our ministry for quite sometime. After many hours of research, we are finally ready to launch Phase I of... The Well **. Please allow me to introduce you to this new aspect of our ministry.

The Well is named for the time our Savior met the sinful woman at the well (John 4) and helped her discover a new life through Him. The Well, in its final phase, will be a resource center where a woman who has been a part of Woman Set Free classes inside the prison walls, and who is now released, can come and "dip into The Well," drawing out what she personally needs in order to begin a new life. The Well will offer computer classes, adult literacy classes, financial skills classes, classes on interviewing for a job, completing resumes, personal hygiene and everything else that goes along with living day to day life in a respectable way. Above all, and most importantly, she will attend Bible studies and grow in her relationship with the Lord. We believe that her personal relationship with Christ is the only way she can truly be free.

The reason for the excitement around The Well (in all its stages) is very simple. The team of Woman Set Free has witnessed the scared faces and the concerned eyes of the inmates who truly want to make a new life on the outside but really do not have the skills or knowledge by which to do so. Their choice most of the time upon release is to either live on the street or return to the neighborhood where they got into trouble. The reality is for many, while locked up, a heart change truly occurred when they met our Savior but their lack of life skills did not. Woman Set Free believes that with the life skills training and solid Biblical teaching offered at The Well, the Lord truly can set prisoners free! Woman Set Free also believes that the Lord can use us to be the bridge that our precious sister needs, taking her from unskilled and scared ex-inmate to skilled and confident daughter of the King.

While we are not yet at the final phase of The Well, we are certainly thrilled about Phase I. The Well team (a committee within Woman Set Free) has been conducting research for over one year regarding The Well. They have now completed an extensive and exhaustive informational resource list for the current inmate to receive about 10 weeks before being released. This many-paged resource list contains such things as where to find clothing, recovery classes, local churches, shelter, housing, employment, educational and legal services to name a few. Of course as with everything we do, this list will be offered free of charge to the inmate. She can make contact with the resource(s) listed that suit her particular needs before being released. Phase I brings her hope for a future outside the walls.

I hope you will join the team of Woman Set Free in praying for The Well and its Phase I launch. The Lord has great plans for The Well and I would love to share more with you if you are interested. Please feel free to call me if you have questions.

214-840-9095

~ Susan ~ President



INMATESPOTLIGHT

In this edition we are excited to share several inmate spotlights with you...

First we'd like to share some pictures with you... As you can imagine, it is very difficult to get pictures of inmates inside the walls. There is a lot of paperwork involved: disclosures, inmate approvals, warden approvals, state approvals, WSF approvals – you get the idea. However, we were so excited to find out we could take our camera inside earlier this year.



SALVATIONS & REDEDICATIONS
from January 08 thru June 08:

Salvations - 54
Rededications - 252

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come!

Second, there were several sisters in white who shared their gift of song. They all have God given talents; strong, soulful, beautiful voices. You can hear the emotion, you can see the emotion, you can feel the emotion, and you cannot stop the tears from flowing. Simply stated, it is an amazing experience to hear these beautiful voices inside the prison walls, what a blessing.

Lastly, there was one lesson that sticks out in all of our minds. It was April 22nd and our lesson was on dropping our society given "labels" and replacing them with the only one that matters – "Daughter of the King". Our sisters in white were given a stoma strip of paper and were asked to write down all the labels that they had received in their lifetime. Once they did that, one by one they were led to drop that piece of paper into a bowl of water and stir it. Their eyes were full of wonder then filled with tears of pain and tears of joy as they watched their labels disappear. A visual of letting go of all the past labels and replacing it with "Daughter of the King" will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

Praise God for His love, mercy and grace!

HOWTOGIVE

"HOW TO GIVE" just got 3 times easier!

Here are three great ways to give to WSF just by spending a little time...

Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they will donate a penny to Woman Set Free each time you search!

Shop major department stores at GoodShop.com and a percentage of each purchase will go toward Woman Set Free!

Your local grocery stores, Kroger and Tom Thumb, have Good Neighbor programs that donate money to Woman Set Free just by using their discount card! (This does require you to fill out a form to take to the store and we have them available if you are interested.)

If you would like to make a tax-deductible financial donation to WSF, please make your check payable to:

Woman Set Free, P.O. Box 2003, Rockwall, TX 75087.

If you have any questions about any of these giving opportunities, please call 214-840-9095.



TEAM MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Heather is an inside the walls team member who has been with Woman Set Free from the beginning. She is a group leader and she ministers to our sisters in white, as well as the guards, while playing her beautiful harp... Here's more about Heather...



Describe how the Lord called you to this ministry... *I began to have dreams of myself going into jails ministering to women in early 2004. These dreams not only became more and more frequent but I also started to meet people everywhere I went that were involved in prison ministries. I even hired an exterminator and a drywall contractor which both of their wives were involved in prison ministries! One day, as I was packing boxes during a move, I came across a business card of a lady that I had met several months prior and decided to go ahead and contact her. She told me that it was "perfect timing" because Woman Set Free was a brand new prison ministry in Rockwall. Because God's timing was so perfect, I was able to attend the first meeting!*

Describe your favorite memory from inside the walls... *My favorite memory was when the WSF team went to visit the inmates' sleeping quarters, called "pods", for game night. It was an amazing evening! We were scheduled to pick up some approved games at the warden's office that evening however; God had another plan because the warden's office was locked and we had no games to play. As we were on the way to the pod, we were warned not to go into a certain area. The WSF team immediately looked at each other and said, "Oh, that's where we should go." After the group said a quick prayer we all felt led and very confident to go to the very place we were warned not to be. We played Bible verse games using their Bibles! It was such a blessing to watch the inmates so engaged in activities that glorified the Lord. The inmates and WSF team were truly blessed!*



How have you been received by the women at the prison?

Every time the WSF team ministers to the inmates we are graciously appreciated. There are so many women that have been touched by WSF and have had changed lives because of their commitments to Jesus Christ. More important, being a member of this ministry has taught me how to be more accepting of others and see people for their potential and not as they are.

How has working with WSF changed your life?

The WSF team has brought me closer to Christ and helped me develop quality, life-long relationships with strong Godly women that have a desire to serve Jesus in great capacities.

What has been your greatest challenge in working with WSF? Have you had to overcome any fears?

The first time I went into Dawson I was quietly asking myself, "What are you thinking? Why are you going into a jail? Are you crazy?" However, I just turned my fear into faith and the Holy Spirit gave me so much peace that I became very confident to go and minister to the women there.

Has there been a particular inmate or group of inmates that has touched your heart and how? *All of them have touched my heart. I have learned that we can live in bondage anywhere we are whether we are in jail or spending a week at the most beautiful beach in the world. Until we let the Lord completely take residence in us and believe that we are set free we are rendered powerless. It is only when we act on our faith and rely on Jesus that we can achieve greater things. It is energizing to spread the truth.... we will never live up to our true potential if we place our confidence in ourselves instead of Christ! God wants to do great things through us if we will just let him have control!*

FUN FACTS ABOUT HEATHER

- Favorite Verse-** Rom 8:28
- Favorite color-** Blue
- Favorite Candy-** Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Haystacks
- Favorite Movie-** Facing the Giants
- Favorite Hobby-** Playing the Harp

Our nickname for Heather's harp is "Shamu" because it is like maneuvering a whale through the prison hallways...

WISHLIST

VOLUNTEERS

We need VOLUNTEERS to help with:

- Office administration duties
- Cleaning the office
- Simple costume sewing
- Stringing WSF necklaces

PARTNERS

- Prayer Team Partner
- Partner for book giveaways inside the walls (One giveaway is approximately \$800)
- Gasoline fund Partner
- Postage
- Utility Partner (electric, gas, water)
- (All donations are tax-deductible.)

OTHER NEEDS

- (2) 15 passenger vans
- White and colored copy paper (regular size as well as legal size)
- Plain black ball point pens (has to be all plastic, no metal working parts like "click" pens)
- White 9X12 envelopes
- Laminator and supplies
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies (Windex, 409, Comet, Pine-Sol, etc.)

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH ONE OF OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS JANET

As you may or may not know, we perform drama skits inside the walls after our Bible study lessons to reaffirm the Biblical principals taught in prison that evening. Our drama team does a great job and the costumes certainly make the skits more realistic and believable thanks to one of our Good Neighbors, Janet. Janet is the official costume designer for WSF and she has brought a wonderful and much needed dimension to our ministry.

Janet has been making costumes for WSF for almost a year. She lives in Rockwall, Texas with her husband of 37 years and she has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. Janet moved to Rockwall 2 years ago from Los Angeles, California, where she worked for 20 years as a graphics designer for a very large church. She moved in order to stay close to her family who was involved with planting Cornerstone Community Church, in Rockwall. Other than making costumes for WSF, Janet enjoys playing with her 4 beautiful grandchildren, gardening, sewing, other crafts, photography and scrapbooking.



If you are interested in helping Janet sew for WSF, she would love to have your help!

Janet is also currently seeking fabric donations for our costumes. If you have any solid color cotton or linen type fabrics, even old tablecloths or drapes, she can use them.

She also accepts financial donations to buy the fabric, some costumes don't cost much,

however some can run up to \$35. If you are interested in donating time or fabrics to Janet please contact Susan@womansetfree.org.

Q&A WITH JANET

How did God lead you to WSF?

I was at church one day and a lady there told me about a ministry that needed costumes and she asked if I could help. I've been sewing forever and I've made all sorts of things from wedding gowns to curtains... So I thought that was something I could do.

What was the first costume you made for WSF?

The first costume I made was a Satan costume. I thought it was ironic that here I am sewing for a Christian ministry and the first costume they need is Satan. I knew if that was the first costume I had to make then the next one had to be Jesus!

Have you faced any costume challenges because of prison rules?

Yes, the first time the Satan costume was going to be worn, it wasn't quite finished and I'd brought a large safety pin to hold it closed. I found out no metal of any kind is allowed in the prison, so the costume was used with the wearer holding it closed with her hand. Since then, I've added a fabric "frog" fastener to the costume. Other fasteners include fabric loops, and I may try Velcro for some of them as well.

How has this ministry work blessed you?

The first time the Satan costume was used, it didn't have the red lining in it like it has now, but that night 19 women came to know the Lord and that was a blessing. I thought, Wow, here I've been sewing all these years and it's the first time I've heard anything like that!

What is your favorite costume you've made for WSF?

I like the Jesus costume the best.



Janet - The WSF team and our sisters in white appreciate all of your time and hard work; your gifts are such a blessing.

Thank you for all you do for the Lord.