

WINTER 2023

# Catalyst

MINISTRIES

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



As this year nears its end, we want to provide an update on our work inside the prison walls. This year has been a busy year of both expansion and growth. We have established new partnerships with the State of Mississippi Department of Corrections and the State of Florida Department of Corrections. Additionally, we continue to celebrate growth with our longstanding partners, the West Virginia Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Appalachian Bible College.

Catalyst Ministries and TalentSmartEQ, the world's premier emotional intelligence(EQ) training provider, launched a three-year pilot program inside West Virginia, Mississippi, and Florida prisons. We also launched Malachi Dads in five Florida prisons while continuing our live-stream discipleship classes in both men's and women's prisons in West Virginia and Mississippi, led by our dear friend Ruth Graham. 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. Lastly, our Certified Peer Mentor program's inaugural class graduated this year, and a new nine-month program has begun at Mt. Olive, Huttonsville, St. Marys, and Lakin prisons. 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.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES BEHIND BARS

## THE IMPACT OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING IN FLORIDA, WEST VIRGINIA, & MISSISSIPPI CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Catalyst Ministries sponsored a unique pilot with TalentSmartEQ to foster rehabilitation and reduce recidivism rates. Florida, West Virginia, and Mississippi correctional facilities have embarked on a groundbreaking journey toward positive life change. The key to their success? Emotional Intelligence (EQ) training focuses on the four essential skills: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management. This innovative approach has already made a remarkable difference, with 26 justice-impacted male and female inmates becoming certified trainers of TalentSmart EQ's Developing EQ program across 11 prisons in these three states. Three key benefits highlighting EQ's transformative power on inmates and correctional facilities are noted below.

### EMPOWERING INMATES FOR REINTEGRATION

Emotional intelligence training equips inmates with essential life skills often missing from traditional correctional programs. By developing self-awareness and self-management, inmates better understand their emotions, impulses, and reactions. This newfound awareness allows them to make more informed decisions and manage their behavior effectively. Moreover, EQ training enhances social awareness and relationship management, teaching inmates to empathize with others, resolve conflicts, and build positive connections.

### CREATING A POSITIVE CORRECTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The impact of EQ training extends beyond the individual inmates to influence the entire correctional facility. As inmates develop emotional intelligence, they contribute to a more harmonious and cooperative atmosphere within the prison walls. Reduced conflicts and improved communication among inmates and staff lead to a safer and more efficient environment.

### REDUCING RECIDIVISM RATES

One of the most significant impacts of EQ training is its potential to reduce recidivism rates. Inmates who undergo emotional intelligence training are better equipped to cope with the challenges and stressors they may encounter upon release. They can navigate life's complexities with improved self-awareness and self-management without resorting to criminal behavior.

In conclusion, implementing emotional intelligence training in correctional facilities across Florida, West Virginia, and Mississippi has yielded transformative results for inmates and the facilities. By focusing on the four core EQ skills, these programs empower inmates for reintegration, create a positive correctional environment, and ultimately contribute to reducing recidivism rates. As these efforts continue to bear fruit, they serve as a testament to the potential of EQ training in reshaping lives and fostering a more rehabilitative approach within the criminal justice system.

Building a Culture of  
Safety and Forgiveness

# THE FOLLOWING ARE STATEMENTS ” FROM OUR ONGOING PARTNERS.

## RUTH GRAHAM

**Ruth Graham Ministries & daughter  
of evangelist Billy Graham**

“If someone had told me ten years ago that I would somehow be involved in prison ministry, I would have said, “No way”! I was a conference speaker and pro-life activist. I was mostly in women’s ministry.

I remember, as a young bride, I went with some ladies at my church to visit a jail. Afterward, I told myself I could never do that kind of ministry. But I had a life-changing trip to the Louisiana State Penitentiary. God changed my heart. I saw these men as men – people just like me. Yes, they were criminals in prison, but I saw beyond that. They were real people, just like me. I worshiped with them, I ate with them, I laughed with them – I saw their hearts. They had been redeemed just like me.

Now, through Catalyst Ministries, I am privileged to teach West Virginia and Mississippi prisoners via Zoom. Every week, they bless me as I hear them discuss the subject of forgiveness. I hear their transparency. I see them minister to each other. I hear stories of transformation.

They have a deep desire to make a difference – they want to mentor others. They will make a difference – they already have – in me.”

## ALAN HAMMOCK

**State of Florida Department of Corrections  
Director of Chaplaincy, Region Two**

“Region 2 Chaplaincy, Florida Department of Corrections has been blessed to form a partnership with Catalyst Ministries and Calvin Sutphin. Through this partnership, we have been able to develop a program for inmates in our Short Sentence Institution at Hamilton Correctional Institution. These inmates are incarcerated for the first time and have less than three years on their sentence. We have also been able to start Malachi Dads in multiple Institutions in Region 2. Our partnership with Catalyst Ministries has touched and changed many lives.”



## BETH MASTERS

**State of Mississippi Department of  
Corrections | State Director of Chaplains,  
Director of Seminary**

“Over the past few weeks, twenty-five ladies at Mississippi Correctional Institute for Women have had the privilege of reading and being guided through the book, “Forgiving My Father, Forgiving Myself,” by the author Ruth Graham. Ms. Ruth has been engaging with the men and women incarcerated at various prisons as she opens up about forgiveness and other difficult topics, especially for someone in prison. These ladies share light-bulb moments as Ms. Ruth teaches. We see moments of personal forgiveness sprout after years of covering up their emotions. This has been invaluable for our seminary students and church leaders as they grow emotionally and spiritually. I am excited to see the fruits of this as the ladies share what they are learning with the rest of the population.”

## STEVE RUSSELL

**Director of Mt. Olive Bible College | West  
Virginia’s only maximum-security prison**

“For two and a half years, I have been privileged to see obvious spiritual growth as I teach and advise Mount Olive Bible College students. Many of them grew up in broken homes, and some are products of the foster care system. Most of them have struggled with substance abuse; many have a history of sexual sin. Regardless of their past, these men gather daily, desiring to learn more of God’s Word and how to apply it to their lives. We now have 32 students, eight of whom will graduate in January. I believe that God will use them in the days ahead.

I often think of the demon-possessed man from Gadara described in Mark chapter 5. His community was afraid of him; his behavior was uncontrollable. Then, he met Jesus, who delivered him from spiritual bondage. I love the word picture of the changed man in Mark 5:15; he was “sitting, clothed, and in his right mind.” Most of our students experience similar transformations. Attending MOBC does not automatically change these inmates, but they are exposed daily to God’s Word and the power of the Gospel. The seed is planted, and God gives the increase. I am thankful to observe our graduates and current students as they are a testimony for righteousness in an extremely hostile environment.”



## VOICES

### JAMES "SMITTY" SMITH

Smitty was given a "life without mercy" sentence, meaning he would spend his natural life in prison. But God, after spending twenty-four years in prison, Smitty's sentence was changed, and he was granted mercy and released from prison. Today, Smitty works full-time, faithfully attends a local church, and lives independently.

"Catalyst Ministries has had more impact on my life than any other ministry I have been involved in. Without the obedience of the ministry's founder, Mr. Calvin Sutphin, I would not have had the opportunity to grow into the man of God I am today. From the Malachi Dads curriculum all the way to an accredited Bible College degree in Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Pastoral Studies, Catalyst Ministries provided the opportunity to do things in prison that many will never get to do. To say that Calvin Sutphin and the Catalyst Ministries have changed my life is an extreme understatement. This ministry's impact on men's lives is an absolute God-ordained miracle. Most people forget about you in prison, even if it is unintentional. This ministry has never done that. My re-entry into society has been made much less stressful by the help provided by Catalyst Ministries. I am thankful, first and foremost, to the Lord and, secondly, to Calvin Sutphin and Catalyst Ministries."



*Malachi Dads  
Graduation, 47 men,  
Tomoka Prison, Florida*

### EARL

#### Malachi Dad, Tomoka Prison, Florida

"I was blessed to be one of the men at Tomoka to experience one of the best classes this institution offers. The curriculum is very engaging and heartfelt. It speaks to the love of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. This class opened my mind and heart. It made me see where I hurt my kids. I always told them I loved them but never showed them. They ask themselves why daddy says he loves me, but I don't feel or see it. I was a bad dad and an equally bad example. I thought I would be a good father if I gave them money and bought them what they wanted. I was wrong; I wasn't spending quality time with them. I didn't even know my kid's favorite color or food. That, to me, is a poor excuse for a father. I'm a better father from prison than I ever was out there. I can credit this class for helping me to see clearly."

## FROM THE FOUNDER

As I write this, I am in awe of what God has done over the last eleven years inside the prison walls. I am thrilled that He has allowed me to be part of His work. I often think of the moment it all started as I sat broken on that park bench. I prayed a simple sinner's prayer, asking God for forgiveness and a life only He could give.

My prayer remains the same: Lord, equip and send me, and God continues to answer that prayer. In 2012, we started Catalyst Ministries(CM) by launching Malachi Dads with six inmates attending. Today, CM is disciplining hundreds, if not thousands, of inmate men and women throughout West Virginia, Mississippi, and Florida.

Since 2012, I have met thousands of men and women in prison, many of whom have committed horrible crimes. I have spent many hours thinking about the victims of violent crime. Crime affects not only the victim but both the victim and the offender's family.

Our primary goal is to reduce future victims of violent crime. We believe that in Christ, any man or woman can change. However, they must be introduced to the Gospel. Romans 1:14, NLT states, *"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"*

Our vision allows for expansion and growth as we train the men and women to shepherd their flock. We equip and train the men and women to facilitate our programs, thus creating hope and purpose throughout the prison yard. 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. He mentions visiting the sick and 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.

I remain energized and ready to walk through the doors God opens. I realize there are many needs in this world. If our work touches your heart, please help 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!**