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It's a Small World After All!

By Rob Fogel, Missionary-Athlete
 Reporting from the Gateway to Florida Crusade

Saturday morning on this crusade we were operating a split squad: while most of the team went to Florida State Prison to play whiffle ball, I joined a small group that went to Union CI to host a chapel service. This doesn't happen often, but we had a large team and being able to accommodate an extra invitation appealed to all of us.

Saturdays are always the toughest day to visit a prison because it is also visiting day. Friends and family come from all over just to spend a couple of hours with someone they love who is behind bars. Seeing the visitors lining up early to be admitted inside always impacts me, for both the sacrifice they make to be there and the truth that this is their reality - the inmate's role in the family is reduced to being an appointment.

While waiting to be processed, my teammates and I witnessed an older woman and a young girl also waiting...but not at all happy about it. A teammate jokingly commented that *"they are so unhappy they could be from Jersey."* When their turn came to enter, I overheard the conversation and their surname...Stadt. Then it was our turn and the entire scenario left my mind as we focused on the chapel service to come.

We were delayed yet again after getting through security and spent some time waiting in the visiting room, where I once again saw those two - but this time with a smiles on their faces as they spent time with their guy. I was left with a nice picture in mind when we headed out of the room to be about our Father's business.

As we approached the chapel, a man welcomed us who I have met at least two other times in past trips, a guy the Saints only know as Walker. When I mentioned I recognized him, he acknowledged that he had seen the Saints team often at another facility and was excited

we were willing to do this chapel service. We were disappointed to find only 4 guys showed up at the chapel, but the Saints Prison Ministry has never worried about how many come to an event - those who do come are obviously who the Lord needs to reach on that day. We also later found out that the service was being simulcast to 230 men waiting on death row!

After we concluded our part of the service, we opened up the floor for any inmate testimony. Walker immediately stepped up and offered a fiery, five-minute testimony to being on fire for the Lord and knowing that Christ died for all of us. He did a fabulous job of giving all the glory to God, despite his circumstances.

After the service, Walker shared that he is being released on July 11 (after 41 years!), and he has multiple ministry partners lined up to help him make a difference for Christ when he gets out. After seeing what he meant to that Chaplain and the men we spoke with, I felt compelled to ask him; *"who is going to take your place in the chapel?"* His response was priceless... *"It's a new guy from New Jersey that is on fire for the Lord - his name is Stadt."*

And with that statement, my entire day came full circle! Who says God doesn't have a sense of humor!

Crusade Season Starts Early

The snow was still piled high in parking lots all over the Northeast when a team of 14 men left PHL airport in mid-February to kick off Crusade Season 2026. This team, predominantly from Landmark Church in Ocean City, NJ was heading to Louisiana for a few days of sunshine, softball, and sharing God's love.

Despite the enemy's best efforts, the Gospel was preached, the Word was handed out, and 61 men made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ in just four days of ministry!

Just two weeks later, two other church teams joined our Church-Crusade Partnership pro-

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The Inside Story

The Final Word

By Frank Zeidler, Executive Director



By now you are likely weary of the long saga of the Federal Team. I know this because I am weary of writing about it! If you've read anything I've written over the past five years, you already know the story - so I offer you...the final word.

For those uninformed, a brief recap: the Bureau of Prisons, which oversees every federal facility, enforced a policy forbidding any individual from volunteer-

ing at multiple prisons within the same year. We were unaware of this policy until five years ago - but once discovered, it dealt a crippling blow to our ministry in federal prisons.

We questioned the regulation and, without my knowledge, those questions escalated all the way to Washington, DC. After many conversations and much prayer, we were told the BOP itself recognized the policy was inconsistent with its stated commitment to volunteer engagement. But in

government, words are not enough - only what is written stands.

Last month, while in Louisiana, I spoke with the Volunteer Services Coordinator at FCI Pollock. She confirmed what had once been spoken is now written - official, established BOP policy.

The Bureau of Prisons has created a new volunteer designation: Information Service Provider. It applies to those serving in any federal prison for a single day - which means that any athlete, on any of our teams, can now visit multiple federal prisons in the same calendar year. Because of this decision, our Federal Team - as a dedicated, stand-alone unit - is no longer needed!

This has been an extraordinary journey - one I will not mourn ending. Thank you for your prayers through it all. And now, as promised, the final word to mark the closure of a five-year sojourn we have walked together:

God used a small ministry in New Jersey to reshape Bureau of Prisons policy, opening the door for the Gospel to move freely into 122 federal prisons from this day forward. To God be the glory!

Crusade Season Starts Early

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gram to minister almost 2,400 miles apart! Fayetteville First Baptist Church (Fayetteville, GA) took 22 men on their trip to Florida. Visiting 7 prisons in 4 days, this team witnessed 47 men turn their lives over to Christ and handed out almost 1,200 Gospels of John!

At the same time, yet another church team, comprised primarily of men from Calvary Baptist Church (Little Egg Harbor Twp, NJ) flew all the way across the country to continue SPM's efforts in California, visiting 4 prisons between San Diego and Los Angeles. California prisons are so large that a single yard houses more inmates than an entire prison in most parts of the country! The team visited 8 different yards in 3 state prisons, as well as 2 federal prisons, and played softball in front of more than 1,000 men. Despite a logistics challenge that culminated in most of the Gospels never arriving, they preached the Gospel boldly and saw God move as only He can. 146 men had their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life in those 5 days!

If you are keeping score at home, that is 254 professions of faith in 3 different states in just 3 weeks!

As churches around the country continue to partner with SPM to conduct crusades, it is to God's glory that the ministry is able to accept more invitations than ever before, reaching more prisons than ever before with the glorious news of the Gospel!

If your church has a basketball, softball, or soccer team that would like to share their love of the sport with their passion for serving the risen Savior, contact the Saints Prison Ministry at crusades@saintsprisonministry.org to join the fun!



Gateway to Florida Crusade Results March 2026

Facility	Attended	Stayed for Gospel	Gospels Distributed	Total Cards Collected	Professions of faith	Games Played
Madison CI	300	80	410	91	14	0-2
Cross City CI AM	150	100	210	79	7	0-1
Cross City CI PM	180	150	199	36	2	0-1
Putnam CI	200	80	180	76	8	2-0-1
Tomoka CI	28	28	28	28	1	0-2
Union CI	8	8	60	8	1	chapel
Florida SP	40	40	40	37	6	0-1
Lawtey CI	50	50	50	38	8	0-2
TOTALS	956	536	1,177	393	47	



SoCal Cape Atlantic Crusade Results March 2026

Facility	Attended	Stayed for Gospel	Gospels Distributed	Total Cards Collected	Professions of faith	Games Played
Centinela SP Yard A	140	80	0	67	17	1-0
Centinela SP Yard B	75	25	0	25	5	0-1
Centinela SP Yard D	80	68	0	66	21	1-0
RJD Yard A	108	88	210	80	17	1-0
RJD Yard B	100	35	127	56	9	1-0
RJD Yard D	70	30	170	77	14	0-1
CIM Yard C	73	46	129	53	3	0-1
CIM Yard A	110	92	0	96	14	0-1
FCI Victorville	80	75	81	73	22	tie
USP Victorville	200	126	67	104	24	1-0
TOTALS	1,036	665	784	697	146	

*Literature never made it to a couple of the facilities due to service provider issues.

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Correspondence from behind the walls

Today I received the birthday card ya'll send me every year. I want to say thank you! Ya'll are appreciated. The birthday card always makes my day. I was reading Hebrews 13:3, "Remember those who are in prison as if you were with them. Remember those who are suffering as if you were suffering with them." It made me think about the Saints Prison Ministry. I'm 52 years old and have been in prison since I was 19. God and members like ya'll help me through. Thanks! - Anthony H.

Thank you all so much for remembering me on my birthday. I turned 57, praise Jesus holy name. My heart was really tough because I have been locked up in prison for about 17 years. My own brothers and sisters never write me and really really hurts. So thank all of my brothers and sisters in Christ for remembering me. My heart was really touched. I will keep fighting for Jesus. He is all that I have. I will keep fighting the good fight and turning to the Lord for my refuge and comfort. I will not give up on Jesus. Thank you for caring. - Patrick W.

Peace my sisters and brothers in Christ. I'm writing to give you all my thank you for my 74th birthday card. I have been receiving a birthday card from you guys since I met ya'll at McCormack C.I. in Ohio. I will never forget you guys. You brought the Word and a ball game. God bless the Saints Prison Ministry. Thank you for the birthday card. - William E.

A Letter To YOU

by Rickie Richburg

Tryin' to figure out how to put my heart on paper,
sittin' here wishin' my darkest days I hurt you turn into vapor.

I had no control over myself,
none what so ever.
Living two lives like I was so clever.

Doing things that was so displeasing to you, Lord Christ,
knowin' someday I would repay that price.

Now I'm in prison, thinkin' how did I allow my actions to be so **BOLD?**
I was in complete darkness, heart so cold.

I was in deep distress and the tempter started tempting,
saying, you got all this time,
just hang it up so your soul could be mine.

But God had a plan,
the Devil couldn't understand.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one & only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish,
but have eternal life,
so that means I'ma be alright!

I just have to live by the truth, so it comes into the light,
so it may be seen plainly in God's sight.

So that night, as I laid in my bunk,
and my celly was fast to sleep,
I cried out to my Lord with tears runnin' down my cheeks.

Forgive me father for I have sinned,
cleanse me father white as snow again.

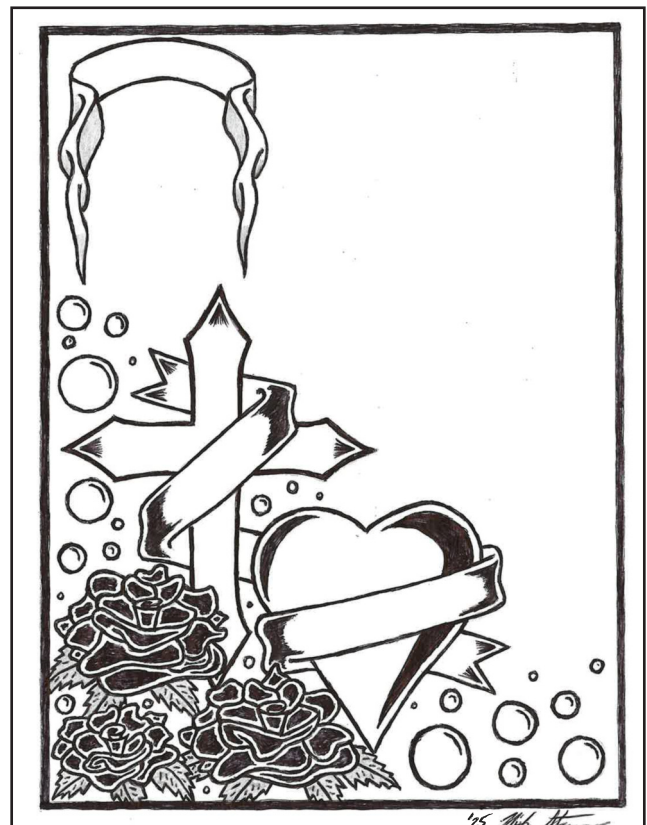
For we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
and all are justified freely by His grace.
Yes, by the redemption that came by Jesus Christ who took our place.

So remember walk by the spirit & you will not gratify the desires of the flesh,
so we don't end up into **DEATH**.

And Jesus will do the **rest**.



Joshua M.



Nicholas John S.

“Great Expectations”

By Tom Gibson, IL Saints Softball Coach

People like to put expectations on everything. There are all kinds of expectations that go into being a missionary athlete with the Saints Prison Ministry. I've been waxing poetic for years about travel, sharing the Gospel, playing softball, and all of the things that go into what we do. It turns out that everyone has an opinion or some expectations on what kind of results should be delivered.

Here are a few thoughts from some of the folks involved, reflecting on how a Saints trip must go:

What my church thinks I do in prison:

“Why, Tom must be delivering a well exegeted homiletical three-point expository sermon to the incarcerated men!”

What my teammates think I do in prison:

“There is no way he’s going to hit another weak ground ball to the shortstop...oops, he just hit another one!”

What my employer thinks about the prison trips:

“There is no way Tom has enough vacation time left to make another trip to Louisiana!”

What my wife thinks I do on prison trips:

“Snoring.... Tom is probably somewhere snoring!”

What my high school guidance counselor thinks about me going to prison:

“Tom makes an even three dozen kids from the class of ‘97 who are now in prison!”

What Google maps thinks I’m doing:

“This guy is constantly looking up prison softball fields...he is clearly up to something...get the black Suburbans and the SWAT team ready to go!”

What the supporters think I do in prison:

“After all of the stories about broken buses, compromised vans, and delayed airplanes...we really aren’t sure if Tom has actually set foot in a prison.”

What I think I do in prison:

I think I’m delivering an epic sermon about the love of God, then hitting a game winning home run while Harry Caray is announcing and massive fireworks are going off!

What I really do in prison:

I am grounding out to the shortstop and then looking for somewhere I can snore for a while!

Well, there you have it - expectations are part of life, and they are most certainly part of the life of a missionary-athlete. Hopefully the person editing this month’s issue has some low expectations!

Crusade

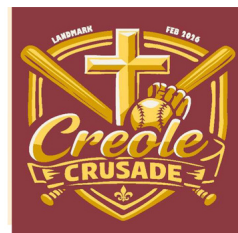
By Joe Morgan, Missionary-athlete

I'd love to share my experience from the Saints prison softball trip to Louisiana in February 2026. It exceeded all my expectations, especially since I wasn't sure what to expect. It was truly a blessing to see and feel the response from the inmates when we shared the word of God with them. I was so humbled and grateful to go on this trip, which meant so much to me after 20 years of struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

Less than three years ago, I was on a path of personal destruction, likely leading to an arrest and imprisonment. Instead, I was walking in voluntarily, serving the Lord, spreading the news of His grace, love, mercy, and healing. I feel like this trip was a year's worth of fellowship, prayer, and worship all condensed into five wonderful days.

I think I can speak for myself and the others on the trip when I say there was significant spiritual growth throughout each day. Being able to share my testimony and hopefully prove how the Lord changed my life, and showing that if He did it for me, He will do it for you, and anything is possible

through Christ, was truly rewarding. I feel we were very successful in planting seeds that softened hearts and transformed minds, as many of the inmates decided to commit or recommit their lives to Christ that day. The personal time I got to spend with some of my brothers in Christ on the trip was priceless. Getting to know new ones and getting closer with current ones is something I wouldn't have gotten to do otherwise. I would say this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip, but I can't wait to go again next year



Landmark Creole Crusade Results 2026

Facility	Attended	Stayed for Gospel	Gospels Distributed	Total Cards Collected	Professions of faith	Games Played
FCI Pollock Work Camp	50	50	78	33	8	1-1
USP Pollock	54	54	183	92	21	2-2
FCI Pollock	165	50	282	81	21	3-1
FCI Oakdale I	120	80	240	80	11	1-1
TOTALS	389	234	783	286	61	