CONNECTIONS
PRISON MINISTRY

Thanksgiving 2025

Dear Family,

How in the world is this year waning so quickly, waxing like the Harvest Supermoon, soon to dip behind the horizon of another year. We hope this letter finds you and your families well and blessed beyond measure, even amid the turbulence in our world, this nation and our cities. Is it fair to say that there are many distractions today, every crisis vying for our attention, our 'Yes' and our focus? For just a moment, I invite you to turn your gaze to something Jesus is doing, of which you are a part. You directly are helping make these testimonies happen, and you, vicariously, are meeting needs that many of us cannot comprehend. But they are real, nonetheless.

There are encounters with Jesus happening many days at Kindness, in the Café, as well as on the Closet side. In addition to, daily, the many moments spent fellowshipping with anyone who stops by, we are experiencing a great deal of traffic from one of the halfway houses, or Community Corrections Facility, known as Embrave, mentioned in our previous newsletter(s). For those of you who do not know, we are partnering with Embrave to provide clothing and basic essentials, like under-garments, hats/gloves, socks, belts, in addition to the pants, shirts, shoes, coats, etc., to its residents, both men and women. Embrave has just purchased a second round of 100 vouchers from Connections (Kindness) for $5/per voucher, which is worth $50 of clothing to each Embrave recipient. A $50 voucher seems like a lot, however, when you walk in with nothing but the clothes on your person, <u>often borrowed</u>, the voucher goes rapidly. This is why we give much more beyond the value of the voucher (closer to $100), because who shouldn't own their own clothing and undergarments and belongings?! It is about our deep passion to help dignity to be restored to these men and women we greatly care for. Each person is directly tied to the justice system in one way or another whether halfway home from a prison sentence or a direct sentence from county jail to complete a parole or probation requirement. Many of these ladies and gentlemen do not have families who are able to help or want to help. You are essentially who Jesus was speaking to in Matthew 25:35-36, where He says, "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me in. I needed clothes and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you looked after Me; I was in prison, and you came to visit Me." Truly, *God bless you*!

BUT, we need more! Of course. Therefore, we are asking, in addition to all you already do for CPM, would you prayerfully consider helping provide (brand new) basic essentials (underwear, socks, hats, gloves, belts). We need both male and female items and all sizes. Used jeans, shirts, jackets are great and easy to wear but used underwear, bras & socks are a little tougher. Or, if you are unable to shop for these items or have your own needs because life is tough lately, would you have a friend or relative that is looking for a place to donate to? Or possibly, would the church you attend consider doing a 'Basic Essential' Drive for us (relatively soon)? These basic essential items I have referenced aren't terribly expensive—UNLESS you need like many dozens of all sizes of each item for both men and women since most of us like to have a clean pair most days.

Since beginning this partnership with Embrave in July, we have given away over $7,000, in clothing and food. Our last newsletter shared we had given $2,600 and since that time, we have been able to help that much more. In advance, I thank you! Please read the testimonies below and enjoy the snapshots of the people you are helping, who you are also being Jesus to. You are also for some, the only Bible they have read, and in many ways, you help us provide the kindness and compassion many have not experienced too often in their lives as we pray and share Jesus with them.

May God bless you and your own concerns richly this Thanksgiving. I hesitate, as I write this, to ask all of you for even more, as the abundance of your kindness is already humbling and overwhelming to us and the many individuals we are all serving. However, the needs are tremendous, and I am reminded of something I heard a pastor say recently. "It doesn't take a village," he said. "It takes the church." A village...the church...all of us. Let's be that to those who wander without, alone, and in darkness. And may the needs of your own families be met fully also, and may His peace dwell in your homes and all the places you travel during this season.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Michelle

From Drea...

I walked into Connections Kindness with nothing. From the first moment I introduced myself, I felt a connection and the kindness from Peter and Michelle. Everything I was wearing was borrowed, they provided me with clothes, fed me and listened to my story. I felt seen and heard. I enjoy giving back to the store by volunteering. I am so grateful for Peter and Michelle and Connections Prison Ministry and the Kindness Café & Closet.

From Sammy...

Hello, family! My name is Samuel Kase White and I have been looking forward to writing these words to you for 18 years! I was recently released to Community Corrections on October 15, after serving 18 years in CDOC. I had the clothes on my back. I believed I would have $100 in gate money when I was released, but that doesn't get issued until the following month when you are sent to Community Corrections.

I am on a 4-week restriction and have no money...but I had prison issued clothes, housing at the halfway house, and a phone call. God is so good, and Connections Prison Ministry immediately opened the floodgates with hygiene, clothing, food, laundry money, and the love of God. They didn't withhold help with a closed fist, but rather an open hand that embraced me.

I set up a budget with my case manager to begin when I can obtain employment. I requested that I donate 10% to CPM and they asked me "Why?". My response was this. "Because I will not ever think that this is my money. God owns the cattle on a 1,000 hillsides, and I haven't out-given Him yet. My question to my case manager is, "What will you do with your first fruits?!"

Thank you, CPM donors, for an abundant life in the name of Christ Jesus.

Faith, hope and love,

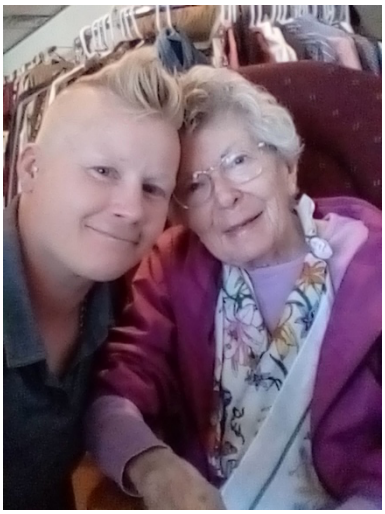
Sammy

Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.

~Jesus, Matthew 25, The Message Translation

From Jennifer...

When I first walked through the doors at Kindness, I was just trying to get back on my feet with nothing to my name. The things most people take for granted—clean socks, warm gloves, a decent belt—felt completely out of reach for me. But the people at Kindness saw me, really saw me, not just as someone in need but as a person with dignity and worth. Walking away with those basic essentials wasn't just about having clean underwear or a warm hat; it was about feeling cared for and remembered as a human being. What started as receiving help has grown into what I believe will be a lifelong friendship. Today, I'm doing so well, and I carry that kindness with me every day. Now, I hope to give back and show others the same compassion that was shown to me when I had nothing.



Jesus...
Ridiculously KIND!

Financial support

As always, thank you for your financial support!
Your generosity continues to meet needs and provide support for those in need.
We can't do this without you!

There are several ways to give listed below.

Financial donations can be made via the following money transfer apps using the CPM contact number (720.579.5122)
Zelle, PayPal, & CashApp.
You can also send a check made out to Connections Prison Ministry.

*Check it out...A new convenient way to support Connections.
Scan the QR code to set-up a monthly gift or give a one-time gift.

All gifts are tax-deductible!

Connections Prison Ministry 501c3
PO Box #64261
Colorado Springs, CO 80962
720.579.5122

connectionsprisonministry@gmail.com

To see more go to...
www.connectionsprisonministry.org
FB: KindnessCafe&Closet
Instagram: kindness_café_and_closet