

## Alamance Orange Prison Ministry



***“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13:3***

**Thank you for your continued support! It is because of your prayers and generosity that we can help to meet the deepest needs of the incarcerated. Because of you, AOPM is able to provide a full-time chaplain to Orange Correctional Center, Josh LeRoy.**

Friends of Alamance Orange Prison Ministry,

I hope that 2023 has gotten off to a blessed beginning, and that you are finding new reasons every day to lift praises to our Creator. The Spring is always a welcomed reminder of the goodness of God, as God’s tenderness and power are revealed through the annual renewal of creation. Even within the prison fence, grass is growing, trees are blooming, and birds are singing. Take a moment today to gaze out of your window, or even to step outside, and to reflect upon the sheer abundance of provision that comes to us through the created order.

I am pleased to relay to you that there is a strong sense of renewed possibility at OCC, and not just because the flowers are blooming. Last month, we were able to welcome in our first church for a Sunday night service since the dawning of the pandemic. Summit Church brought in a group of volunteers to provide worship and preaching for the population. There is currently a plan in motion to bring in a different church twice each month. This bi-monthly worship service will be in addition to the two weekly Bible studies that we offer, as well as various other spiritually focused programs that take place throughout the week. The men were so happy to see the folks from Summit, and I know that reintroducing our Sunday night services will have an invigorating effect on the lives of the residents.

Regarding invigorating effects...OCC has recently received four Labrador retrievers as part of a special training program known as ABEL. The dogs are being trained by residents and will eventually be adopted as fully trained service animals. Most of us are keenly aware of the natural morale boost that comes with the presence of a dog. We’re so thankful for the folks at EENP for bringing this program our way!

Finally, I would like to share that we recently hosted our first Parent Day since 2019. Thanks to Melissa Radcliffe with Coastal Horizons and her wonderful volunteers (including Hillsborough mayor, Jenn Weaver), for providing this event for our men and their families. Below are some pictures from Parent Day.

These are things that couldn’t happen without robust community support from people like you. Thank you!

- Chaplain Josh



“A dog comes and lives with you in your own house, but you do not therefore own her, as you do not own the rain, or the trees, or the laws which pertain to them.

A dog can never tell what she knows from the smells of the world, but you know, watching her, that you know almost nothing.”

-Mary Oliver