

PMUNY REPORT – For December 2020 EMP Meeting

The following is a synopsis of recent PMUNY activities:

1. As you well know, CoVid 19 has put a grinding halt on all of our jail and prison ministry programs. In addition our Upstate NYS correctional facilities, we are also providing financial support and volunteers for the 2nd Marana Arizona REC in 2021.
2. In light of recent events, PMUNY has developed 2 statements for posting on our website. One re: CoVid and the other is a Statement Re Anti-Racism Policy

"2020 has been a year like no other! If we have learned anything from the Co-Vid 19 pandemic, we have learned the importance of "community". Out of necessity, the virus has refused volunteers and visitors entry into correctional facilities. Prisoners have had little or no contact with loved ones resulting in even more fear, loneliness, isolation and despair than perhaps ever before. All of our standard jail and prison outreach efforts have been put on hold and will most likely remain so for the foreseeable future. Despite the new restrictions brought on by Co-Vid, PMUNY remains committed to help imprisoned men and women. We are communicating with pertinent prison and jail staff at each facility and are purchasing books to help incarcerated individuals welcome Jesus into their heart, enhance their prayer life and give them hope. PMUNY's mission remains constant... to share Jesus' message of hope and healing and to help inmates strengthen their relationship with Jesus, enhance their image of themselves and improve their relationships with others. We hope to remind those who are imprisoned that despite Co-Vid... they are not forgotten. We are all part of God's Community of Love."

"At Prison Ministry of Upstate New York (PMUNY) we envision a culture that embraces all of God's Children – especially our incarcerated brothers and sisters. PMUNY recognizes the inequities and injustices for our black and brown brothers and sisters in our country's past and present practices. These have in part led to prison populations that are an overwhelming black/brown majority. Given the recent events including the murder of George Floyd, we are more determined than ever to support our incarcerated black/brown brothers and sisters. Through our individual and collective work inside local jails and prisons, we build community, we listen, we show care and concern modeling the love of Jesus Christ. We share hope for a better future that includes justice for all. We strive to make whole where there are divisions and to share Jesus' message of love as we journey together to become more fully human and more Christ-like. As volunteers, we have been changed through our prison ministry experiences. We are compelled to look inward to uncover and confront our own biases, to discover what more we can do to extend compassion, grow in empathy, and bring our committed and renewed selves to our work with the incarcerated. We commit to do our part to embrace and encourage anti-racism policies and practices."

3. Due to our "CoVid Absence" within facilities, we are working with chaplains at each facility to identify preferred reading materials in hopes that PMUNY can purchase and deliver approved spiritual materials to chaplains for distribution to inmates.
4. We are working with personnel from the Monroe County Sheriff's department to hopefully begin virtual programming of the Houses of Healing Program after the new year.

5. On December 3, 2020 "Giving Tuesday" we sent an electronic communication announcing our new website. FYI...This is the content of the email.... "Hello To Prison Ministry of Upstate New York Volunteers, Friends and Supporters. This email is intended to share with you some news about PMUNY and encourage your continuing support. We have a new website! Though it continues to be a work in progress, we invite you to take a look at <https://pmuny.org/> and encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences with jail and prison ministry on our website's blog. Today is also Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is a day of global generosity which gives all of us the power to transform our world despite the many challenges we face today. Though CoVid19 has halted volunteers from entering jail and prison gates for the time being, we are continuing to PRAY for and striving to share the Light of Christ with our incarcerated brothers and sisters in the form of printed materials. Can we count on you to help us help our incarcerated brothers and sisters know they are not forgotten? Please PRAY for everyone who lives, works, visits or volunteers in our jails and prisons...And please visit our new website to discover 3 ways you can donate funds to support Prison Ministry of Upstate New York during this critical period. [Donate - PMUNY](#). We encourage you to share this information with others who may have an interest in reaching our incarcerated brothers and sisters in Christ. Though volunteers are currently not allowed to enter any correctional facility in NYS, we are eager to communicate with anyone who may want to learn more about our life altering and faith enriching volunteer activities. Please forward this email to anyone interested in knowing more about PMUNY's ministry. THANK YOU and May God Bless you and yours with faith, health and happiness. All The Best, Deb, Tim, Ray, Barb, Joyce, Marilyn, Guy-Kevin, Jean, Tom and Don Prison Ministry of Upstate New York Leadership Team 585-633-0184 PO Box 10106 Rochester NY 14610 pmunyorg@gmail.com
6. We have completed our 2020 Advent Mailing...look for your letter in the mail if you have not already received it.
7. We continue to focus on volunteer recruitment. We would like to develop a more diverse volunteer base from all ages groups. We ask all EMP Directors to help us in our search. Please encourage your friends, family and church members to visit our new website <https://pmuny.org/> If you are interested in holding a ZOOM meeting for members of your church community I would love to share PMUNY's story, answer questions and discuss ways to get involved. No group is too small. I'll talk with anyone!
8. If you have any corrections, suggestions/additions to our email list and our snail mail list which you would like to bring to my attention please contact me.
9. Attached to this email is our most recent Quarterly Financial Report prepared by Tom Treis, Treasurer.

THANK YOU for all you and PEM-EMP does to benefit this ministry and our world.

Most Gratefully,

Joyce