

Berean Prison Ministries

DECEMBER 2018 | VOLUME 10 | QUARTERLY



The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek: He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

Isaiah 61:1

BPM HOST ROMANIAN GENERAL DIRECTOR

In October, BPM hosted a delegation from the Romanian National Administration of Penitentiaries. While there have been Romanian delegations that have traveled to Illinois in the past, this was the first time that the delegation included the General Director, Marian Dobrica, who is responsible for all 42 prisons in the country and approximately 30,000 inmates. The delegation included the second in command, Ms. Ioana Morar, and Adrian Luca. BPM's goals for hosting the delegation included an exchange of ideas with the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the execution of a new agreement to allow Berean Prison Ministries to continue to minister in the 26 Romanian prisons where our 60 volunteers are currently serving.

Berean arranged a meeting with the Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections and his staff to discuss a wide range of issues such as security categories, disciplinary measures for inmates, assessing reoffending risks, programs and activities provided to inmates, measures for facilitating social reintegration after release, and the building of new facilities. Both the Romanian delegation and the Illinois representatives found the exchange helpful. Additional days were spent touring both the women's prison and the men's prison in Lincoln and the high security prison located in Pontiac, IL.

Berean Prison Ministries received an early Christmas gift in the form of a new three-year agreement that was executed between the Romanian National Administration of Penitentiaries and Berean Prison Ministries. This agreement will allow our Romanian volunteers to continue

to share the gospel message of Christ's redeeming power in the existing 26 prisons we have open access to. As opportunity arises, we would like to place additional volunteers in the 16 prisons where we are not currently sharing the gospel.

Ms. Ioana Morar expressed her appreciation to Berean for serving in their prisons and noted the many benefits the prison system receives by having our volunteers ministering to the inmates. This was also confirmed by the General Director of Penitentiaries.

We thank God for how He has opened the doors of ministry opportunity in Romania and ask that you pray diligently that He will continue to provide those opportunities to Berean Prison Ministries.

ROMANIAN PRISON DELEGATION



BEREAN PRISON MINISTRIES RECEIVES AGREEMENT



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Various Jail/Prison Ministries
- Wisdom for the Berean Board
- The Ministries in Romania and Russia

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HOPE FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

It is said a person can go 40 days without food, seven days without water but not one second without hope. The Mission statement of Berean Prison Ministries says:

“A Ministry that seeks to provide the truth of the Word of God to those that are incarcerated and their families to help them find true freedom whether in bonds or free.”

True freedom brings a lasting hope. We are pleased to report hope has been found by many in this past year in the United States and Romania through the ministry.

We were pleased to host a Romania delegation that included a signed agreement to authorize BPM to continue its program of providing Gods Word in the 26 prisons it serves in Romania, with plans to expand to all of the 43 prisons in Romania.

Meanwhile, I would like to focus on inmate comments of the Bible Study program that BPM provides in the jails and prisons. At this time of year, we are reminded of the manger. Jesus was born in a manger. Later, at the end of His life, He rode on a donkey as “the King cometh unto thee, meek and sitting upon an ass”. From there, He would go to a Roman cross. This picture reflects a humble man who identifies with our hurts and forgives our sins. To the incarcerated the picture is easy to understand. He knows how we feel and understands and cares. Our Bible Study program reaches many people with the Word – the Bible.

The following letter reflects the work of our Bible Study Program:

I received your words of encouragement and I wanted to thank you. Thank you for showing God’s love. Thank you for not just being someone that checks to make sure that the answers are correct as a computer would do. Thank you for taking the time to read and try to understand the responses that I give. Thank you for your words and responses in my Bible study. I realize that this is my new addiction, learning how God loves me, a wretched sinner. Learning who God is and how important He is in my life. Wanting to do His will and wanting to please my Father. Though I still struggle every day because of my flesh and the world around me, I know walking with Him makes the struggle a little easier. This Bible study and your words of encouragement keep me hungry and because of this hunger I am constantly trying to fill up on the Bread of Life. I see the change in myself and how He uses this broken vessel to help others. Thank you for seeing a person behind that name and not just an inmate behind that number.

Our prayer and hope is that all of the people affected by this ministry will learn to lean on the Lord. Your financial gifts make it possible for Berean Prison Ministries to continue to share the message of hope to all the ones we encounter. Thank you for your support and prayers for the Word of God and His kingdom.

*Merry
Christmas*
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

