

MINISTRY

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and prison ministries and to educate the community about the high cost of crime and violence in the area. The goal of \$30,000 will help fight crime in the community, as all proceeds will benefit the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries.

The Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries is a full-time ministry that involves chaplains, churches and volunteers serving the Forsyth County Detention Center and the Forsyth Correctional Center. This interdenominational organization receives no financial aid from any level of government and relies solely on the Christian community for funding and guidance. The ministry offers worship services, Bible studies, musical services, counseling of inmates and their families, Bibles, religious books, magazines, practical needs for inmates such as toiletries, correspondence with family members and ex-offenders after release and referrals to agencies that deal with drug and alcohol problems.

Chaplain Rodney Stilwell, of the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry, recognized Betsy Fulp Brown, director of the YWCA Project New Start, for their contributions to fighting crime in the community. Chaplain Stilwell presented slides from the personal and professional lives of Sweat and Brown and gave gifts to each.

As director of Project New Start, Brown coordinates the work of many volunteers who serve as leaders and resource developers for jail visitation, aftercare services and family activities. The program serves female offenders and the families of inmates. Her desire to serve in this area of ministry was shaped through Christian role models, including her mother, at Ardmore Moravian Church and later at First Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder and as president of Presbyterian Women.

Chief Sweat began his career with the Winston-Salem Police Department in 1970, was named "Officer of the Year" in 1971 and was appointed chief of police in 1987. Stilwell honored Sweat as a strong supporter and advocate of the prison ministry, a man of God and a devout Christian. "Our community is blessed to have him," Stilwell said. "If you meet him and his wife, Lenna, you will find what love still looks like after many years." Stilwell praised Sweat for the stand he took against more guns on the streets of Winston-Salem, and his service to New Friendship Baptist Church.

Sweat was the keynote speaker at Union Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Union Baptist Church, where the Cherry Street Ensemble sang during the morning service. "Giving to this ministry is something that all Christians should do because God told us to seek out those who have no hope. The prisoners have to answer for what they do, but they also have to come back into our community. If we give them the word, it can change their hearts and they can come back as different people," Sweat said.

According to inmate Chambers, many people do not believe that Christ can work in the lives of people who are incarcerated. "But I know," he said. "Punishment never changes anybody. Only the good Lord can change lives," Chambers said. He is involved in the discipleship program, a 34-week study of the Bible. Having graduated from Disciple I in May, Chambers is now involved in Disciple II, a more in-depth study. During his interview with Wanda Starke on stage, he shared his plans to go into the ministry after he is released.

Inmate Charlie Maines has been incarcerated for two years. He and Chambers had life-changing experiences behind prison walls. "It is a blessing to see what this ministry has done for me," Maines said. He appreciates the choir because it opens doors to go



The 300-voice combined choir came together to sing "The Lord's Prayer." News anchor Wanda Starke served as mistress of ceremonies. Senior Chaplain Rodney Stilwell recognized Police Chief George Sweat and Betsy Fulp Brown, director of the YWCA Project New Start, a program serving female offenders and families of



Chaplains on the staff of Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries include the Rev. Robert Wolfe, the Rev. Sandra Thigpen, Senior Chaplain Rodney Stilwell, chairman of the board Doris Chunn, administrative assistant Jone Reid, the Rev. Derwin Isaiah and the Rev. Michael Lee.



The Friedberg Moravian Senior Choir, under the direction of Debbie Foltz, often sings at the prison throughout the year on Sunday mornings in the McGee-Hedgley Chapel on the prison grounds.



Dina McGriff, director of the Mount Zion Baptist Church Inspirational Choir, and Senior Chaplain Rodney Stilwell addressed song leaders Laura Allen and Addie Jabbar as choir president Sharon J. Buford and director Edward Patterson made preparations for performance. They often lead the worship service in the prison chapel.

out into the community. The choir has performed at 10 churches already and other community functions. Maines plans to become a missionary upon his release.

Chambers and Maines clapped their hands and tapped their feet as each choir sang. They recognized volunteers in the choir who often come to the chapel to sing or perform skits. They love gospel music because it motivates them one step at a time to improve the quality of their lives. Organist Cynthia Conrad accompanied the audience as the Mount Zion Choir led the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The Mount Zion Inspirational Choir sang "Couldn't Keep it to Myself," led by Addie Jabbar; "He's Coming Back," led by Dina McGriff; and "I Love the Lord," led by Laura Allen. Their pastor is Dr. Serenus T. Churn.

The Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir sang "Assurance Medley," composed by David Clydesdale; "Thankful for the Change," fired up by trio Cathie Meyst, Cindy Hundley, and Sylvia Lingafelt; and "In the Presence of Jehovah," led by Takeeta Gordon. Their pastor is Dr. Mark Cortis.

The Union Baptist Church Mass Choir sang "All Day Long," composed by the Women of Worship; "O Magnify the Lord," composed by Glenn Burley; "Sing Praises," composed by Nubian Voices; and ended with a soulful rendition of "I Am Redeemed," led by Vickie Jackson. The pastor is Dr. B.A. Daniels.

Friedberg Moravian Senior Choir sang "Without Love It Will All Pass Away," composed by Mary Kay Beall and Lloyd Larson; "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice," led by Ramona Templin; and "Standing on the Promises," composed by Mary McDonald. The pastor is the Rev. Tom Shelton.

The Wake Forest University Gospel Choir sang "How Much Can We Bear," composed by Hezekiah Walker; and "Angels," composed by Richard Smallwood and led by Shakeela Rogers and Tammy Gatling.

Forté Sponsors of this event contributed \$1,000. They included Sarah Lynn & Dan Ackley, Ledford Communications Inc., Long Haymes Carr Advertising, NewSouth Printing Services, Rotary Club of Clemmons, Sam's Club, Sara Lee Corporation, Winston-Salem Journal, and Vae-Visual Aids Electronics.

Mezzo Forte sponsors contributed \$500-\$999. They included Doc Greenlaw, Molly and Steve Lineberger, Pfaff's Glass, Paint and Decorating Service and WBFJ-FM.

The "Hymns for Hope" committee members were Sharon Buford, chairman Marybeth Cornwell, Mike Davis, Debbie

Foltz, Bill Hearn, Addie Jabbar, Walteria Spaulding, Rodney Molly Lineberger, Barbara Miller, Stilwell, Ric Wagner and Larry Barbee Myers-Oakes, Jone Reid, White.



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