



Rev. Al Lewis, Jr.
Executive Director
PO Box 556, Monroe, NC
28111
704-283-3573

Greetings in His grace and peace;

Our 26th Anniversary Banquet was a great Holy Spirit-filled night. We had a totally different format this year as six folks shared their testimonies about what God has done in their lives. Bill Price followed Dan Marshall and Chris Ammons whom I wrote you about previously. Bill admittedly had been warming a pew for many years when God took him out of his comfort zone and he is now a leader in training with the Addiction Recovery Ministry every Tuesday night. The amazing thing is he has never suffered under addictions but he has discovered that a 'Fathers Heart of Love' is a real asset in the Kingdom of God. Bill is now mentoring a young man using "Men at the Cross" material.

These six people had never written out or given their testimonies to a crowd in their lives. So Diane, Jody, and Lynn were a little nervous in front of over 264 people at the Banquet. You would have really been blessed to hear how Diane had the courage to call the authorities to come lock up her son when so many times before she had helped him out of trouble. He has some prison time to do but he thanked his mama. He said he was not ready to give up the drugs yet. She might have saved his life?

Jody had never been to jail. She had been a hard working professional who was also an alcoholic. Her 3 year old son came home from Christian day-care and said "MaMa why don't we say the blessing." That little boy brought the gospel into that home and even though the marriage did not survive (the husband was also an alcoholic), Jody and her high school age son now are on fire for God.

Lynn, in her professional career, had lunch with law enforcement officers and judges. So it was a shock to find herself addicted to drugs and in jail. Her husband was having an affair and the other woman killed him. Someone offered her drugs to ease the pain. After being in Sharon's Life Skills Class at Union County Jail she learned a new set of coping skills and has put God first in her life.

Our key note speaker, a former police officer, was so anointed as he shared his journey of healing and restoration from the pain and heartbreak of losing his daughter Carrie to a drug overdose.

Living Proof travels with us as we conduct New Life Crusades in prisons four times a year. God anointed their message in song. When they sang "He's Somebody's Son" it brought tears to our eyes.

Many thanks to our sponsors. Never have we had 33 sponsors. They were:

**Jeff Andler Ministry Curtis and Audrey Blackwood American Burglar Alarms
BLDS Handyman Service Blue Crystal Pools Coca Cola Company Cornerstone
SS Class – Wedd. UMC Crossroads Re-entry Ministry Diamond Pawn Entech
Automation F.A.V.A.R Ministries Craig and Lorraine Horn Keller Williams
Realty Larry Helms Insurance Mary Ross Realty Gene and Nancy McDorman Darryl**

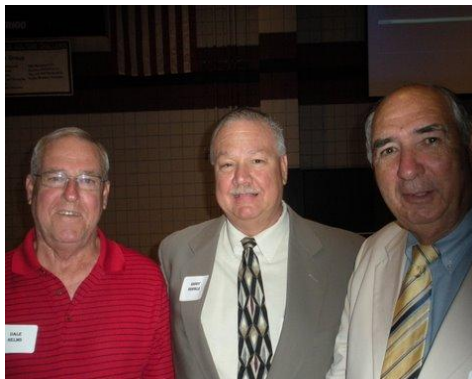
Prayer Concerns: Inside and Outside Eagles, Total Care and Support Program, Our Nation and Leaders

and Alice Mabe Dan and Lynn Marshall Melvin and Dianne Pace
Norkett Store Fixtures Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church-Locust, NC
Chuck and Donna Schermerhorn Wesley Chapel UMC The Wing Team

John Hurley, Chairman of the Board for SCM, founder and partner of the Addiction Recovery Ministry(ARM) (and my close friend), and I honored our wives as Female Volunteers of the year. There is no way we could have ever accomplished what we have in decades of ministry without their help and their prayers. But the award is for all that they have done this year week after week working with the hurting families dealing with loved ones struggling with addictions.

We have discovered that when we reach out to the families and friends of the addict we reach the addict as well. We meet every Tuesday at 6:30 pm-----302 East Windsor Street-----Monroe NC 28112.....God will heal, deliver, and transform anybody who has godly sorrow and repents.

Dan Marshal is "Volunteer of the Year," – Male, Chris Ammons is Eagle of the Year-Ex-offender who is giving back. Sid & Myzelle Fletcher were honored for 35 years ministry with the Gideons on Saturday mornings at the Union County Jail. Lt. T. J. Goforth and Chief Deputy Ben Bailey received our "People Who Make A Difference" awards.



*Left to right: Retired Captain Dale Helms, Monroe City Police Department;
Pastor and Retired Policeman, Randy Shankle-Keynote Speaker;
Former Police Chief and Current Mayor, Monroe, North Carolina, Bobby Kilgore*

It was a great evening. I will have to give you the offering over expenses report next month. It is offering time at Safer Communities Ministry. This is good ground to sow into. We are looking for a few good men and women who want to make a difference in these last days. Are you ready?

In whose life is your life making a difference? If you had to think about that answer, perhaps you should ask God about getting out of your comfort zone. The Body of Christ is alive and active and rewarding to those who participate. If not in this ministry somewhere either inside the church or outside the four walls. Ask God to direct you and He will.

In Christ,

al

Rev. Al Lewis, Jr.