

Syndeo Ministries

"Remember those in prison as if you were bound with them!" Hebrews 13:3 SYNDEO (Greek) Bound with them. This word has two meanings:

1. bound in chains; to a prisoner, as a prisoner
2. bound, connected in heart, as all believers should be



Christmas in White

What was your favorite gift this Christmas? I'm sure something came to mind! For over 2,000 women this year, their favorite gift was a plain plastic bag with hygienic products inside. Not Bath and Body Works, but Suave shampoo. Many of these women haven't had a gift this exciting in years. Some told us they hadn't received a gift their entire time in prison, over 25 years. This year, Syndeo Ministries was able to provide shampoo, lotion, chapstick, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, a Hershey bar and a coloring book to two Texas women's prison units.

These are all items that are not available to these women otherwise. Yes, shampoo can be purchased through the commissary, but only if someone sends them money. It was so amazing to watch the gratitude of these women when receiving the gifts. I bet you've never cried over shampoo! I have, but only because I've been there. Thank you to everyone who helped provide this gift. It has a much deeper impact than my words could ever express. If you were not able to be a part of this year's Christmas Outreach, or even if you were, you can still participate, because we are hoping to be able to brighten their Mother's Day. More to come on that soon. And, of course, we will be doing Christmas in White 2017.



Thank you cards and letters from the women at Mountain View, after receiving their Christmas in White gift. This was our first time at Mountain View. We will follow up with an invitation to join the next Bible Study.



The Overton family and guests.

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Looking back at all God's done this year

This year we have been blessed to share the amazing story of God's faithfulness at many churches all over the United States. Because of the release of "Until Proven Innocent: The Hannah Overton Story," and the wonderful producers of P&R Productions, Larry and I were able to do private showings, with a 'Q and A' to follow. I was also honored to speak at a number of women's conferences.



Hannah speaking at Calvary La Habra in

Our Bible study and pen pal ministry has grown to over 200 women, each receiving 4 Bible studies a year and a letter from their pen pal at least once a month. We visit prisons every month, write letters weekly and talk on the phone almost every other day to disciple and encourage the women. As needs come up, we have been able to provide finances for medical help, food and hygienic products. We were also blessed to be able to give money for Christmas for some in need.



Promotional photo for the documentary, "Until Proven Innocent: The Hannah Overton Story."

In June, my family and Debi Brinker, a friend I've known since I was eight, who is now our operation's manager, moved to the property that was donated to Syndeo Ministries. We have been renovating and working hard to get everything ready for a discipleship home. Tools were filling up the living room, so we built a pole barn to get them a new home, not to mention, providing a man cave for Larry!! We've done a lot of work on the property and the main house, which will include

offices, classrooms, a workout room, dining area and chapel. Larry built a beautiful and very large deck with the help of a work crew from Austin. Multiple areas where the woman can have quiet time were built into the deck. Remaining projects include a bathroom that needs to be gutted and redone, (all of the bathrooms need some fixing up), tiling, painting, landscaping and some minor projects. Our next huge project we are planning for is a bunkhouse, which we are hoping to complete next year. This will be a building



Larry building his pole barn, with the help of friends from Calvary Coastlands in Corpus Christi.



The top portion of the new deck. Larry has also added some soft lighting and hummingbird feeders. Staircases still to be added to access the gazebo on the roof. This house is built into a hill, where we can enjoy the beautiful view from a grassy rooftop.

that will house 16 women, with bedrooms, bathrooms and a living area. Even amongst this construction, God has continuously used this property to bless people. Those who come for workweeks have told us that God used their time here to give them a time of refreshing and new vision for ministry. Others have stayed with us, seeking a safe place of peace and healing.

There are four books in the works. One is a compilation of the letters I wrote in prison, another will tell the legal perspective of my case, paired with my personal view. The third is a more personal book of how God carried me through and made me more than a conqueror, and finally a workbook to help the women transition from prison to the free world. The transition is tough. Most of the women have no support. I have a lot of support, with family and friends who love me, yet still the transition is hard. Statistics say that most people who spend more than five years in prison, come out with post-traumatic stress disorder. This can seem daunting, but God is bigger.

God's grace in our lives is one of those aspects that I think we will never understand. Why God loved me with all my faults, shortcomings and sins is beyond my understanding. "But unto each one of us was grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ." (Eph 4:7) It's hard to believe Christ counted me worth experiencing the pain of life on earth. To go from heaven at the right hand of the Father, to having to be dependent on the care of a mother for every aspect. Learning to walk and talk, and on it goes, all the way to the cross! All for you and me, while we were yet sinners. In Matthew 5, Jesus spoke to his disciples after they chose to follow him, of the responsibility of sharing with others (Mat 5:13-17). His Grace in our lives should stand out as a city on a hill. My challenge to you, is to shine His light and not hide it, and to give to others the grace that you've been given by Him. This year when I am asked what my favorite gift is, that I received for Christmas, I will say, the same thing I get everyday...God's undeserved Grace...the best gift ever!
~Larry Overton

Join Us

Please contact us through email at syndeoministries@gmail.com if you would like to:

- Host a private showing of "Until Proven Innocent" at your church/event
- Invite Larry to speak
- Invite Hannah to speak
- Bring a group to help with work projects at Syndeo Ranch
- Sponsor the Bible Study efforts
- Make a donation for Christmas in White
- Train to become a volunteer for Christmas in White
- Donate time or resources to Syndeo Ministries
- Become a monthly supporter of Syndeo Ministries

Prayer Needs

Pray with us as we continue in the vision God has given us. It is only by the prayers of many that this ministry not only came about, but continues. Please pray that we show God's love to those we meet, touch, speak with, write to, and visit with. And that the words we say and write will make everlasting changes. We see a need for more land, as this current property is quickly filling up, especially considering the addition of the upcoming bunkhouse. All of the surrounding property has one owner. It would be such a blessing for expansion. We have been praying for God to supply this in His timing. Please also pray with us, that God would provide the finances to continue to do all that He has laid on our hearts to do. We appreciate your prayers so much. Please also continue to pray for the ladies inside, as they grow in His love.

Kids Camp

Syndeo Ministries will be taking some of the ladies' kids to Calvary Chapel's Youth Camp this year. If you are interested in sponsoring a child for this event please let us know. The cost is \$250.00 per child.

Ministry Needs

- Riding lawnmower
- Backhoe
- Land
- Small dozer
- CRV/mule
- Plumber to redo bathrooms
- Paper products (With all the people in and out, we go through a lot of paper towels, toilet paper, plastic cups & utensils and paper plates)
- Office supplies
- Hygienic supplies
- Men to work on the bunkhouse
- Towels and bedding