



THE Grace Insider

A quarterly newsletter of Virginia's Prison Chaplain Service



From The Executive Director

We've had an exciting and eventful first quarter at GracelInside. In January, we signed a new contract with the Virginia Department of Corrections. This contract gives us much more flexibility, as well as a significant and much-deserved hourly increase in pay for all our chaplains. We are grateful for the opportunity to better support those who give so much.

In February, we took a group (pictured above) to Wallens Ridge and Red Onion State Prisons, located in the far southwestern corner of Virginia. These are the two highest security prisons in the state. Wallens Ridge has been on lockdown since last May, but even though religious programming is often on hold, our chaplains continue to faithfully visit and distribute materials.

While at Red Onion, several of us did have the opportunity to attend a small worship service and hear testimonies from the inmates about how their faith has grown in prison. It was refreshing and hopeful for all of us!

With the help of a major gift late in 2025, we've hired JT Clark and Andrew Fleming as Special Assignment chaplains, and hope to continue expanding our reach in creative ways.



Prison can be a dry and weary land, but there is joy and fruit. Please continue to pray for us.

To Him be glory in the church forever!
~Chaplain Nick Meyer, Executive Director

Chaplain Spotlight: *Chaplain Vera Rhyne*

Chaplain Rhyne has worked with GracelInside since 2001 at multiple facilities. She is currently a chaplain at State Farm Correctional Center and the Secure Care Unit at VCU.

Favorite Movie:

The War Room

Favorite Bible Verses:

Lamentations 3:22-24

Favorite Place She's Traveled:

Seoul, South Korea

Family/Pets:

Beloved dog Sugar, trained at

Fluvanna and

died three

years ago



By The Numbers

Revenue Year To Date: \$282,936

Expenses Year To Date: \$356,668



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Thank you for your generosity!

Welcome

to our newest chaplains:

~**JT Clark** as Special Assignment
Chaplain at River North

~**Eldridge Frank Smith** at Deerfield
and Greenville S2

~**Andrew Fleming** as Special
Assignment Chaplain at State Farm

~**Silvia Hill** as Chaplain at Lunenberg &
Halifax Centers

From The Director Of Operations



In January, I began my new role with GracelInside as the Director of Operations. The Director of Operations is responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly in our organization behind the scenes. From payroll to onboarding of new hires, my goal is to give our Executive Director and our chaplains the necessary support to do their jobs well. Prior to GracelInside, I was a pastor in Virginia Baptist churches for over 20 years.

Over the last several months, I have been privileged to visit nine different prisons across the state and I have seen firsthand the good work our chaplains are doing. Prison chaplaincy is a difficult and sometimes lonely job, and I carry with me into this work a desire to deepen relationships and care for the caregivers.

For now, I give thanks for being part of GracelInside and look forward to more good days ahead!

In Christ,
Rev. Aaron Brittain

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Join with us in celebrating our staff
& chaplain birthdays this quarter:*

April 20 - Eldridge Frank Smith

April 28 - Ashton Brock

Andrew Fleming

April 30 - Tommy Armstrong

May 3 - Steve Law

May 21 - Janice Broadie

May 22 - Ron Applegate

Lee Hargrave

May 23 - Shari Allen

May 25 - Luis Medrano

June 11- Daniel Mensah Awuah

June 12- Carl Melvin

CONGRATULATIONS



Chaplain Doug Huff at
Green Rock Correctional
Center received the
"Outstanding Chaplain
Award" from Prison
Fellowship