



God's 2020 Vision...

— *The Blessings of Hope* —



2019 Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

In 2019, Institutional Ministry chaplains, pastors and lay workers were privileged to make 18,366 touches in the hearts and lives of people in need. Your support made this possible. Together, we ministered to each of them with the Word of God and with love. What an honor to work together with you, to be the heart and hands of Jesus, touching individual souls 18,366 times! What an honor to be entrusted with the faithful use of your gifts!

The following pages are designed to give you both an overview and an accounting of our work. We are happy to answer any additional questions you may have. Below, are a couple of items which won't be on the following pages.

Having begun as an executive board member myself, I can testify that it takes time for a new board member to conceptualize all the moving pieces of this ministry. I want you to know how much the staff and I respect them. They have done extensive studying and planning to better understand and lead this ministry. Many of them are directly involved in this ministry in some way. They know how to direct without being overly controlling. We are thankful to our Board for all their hard work.

Secondly, I want to recognize Pastor Robert Sievert who has served us for many years. Some may think he is no longer active at all, but I continue to value his comments. An example: Our 2020 Vision theme was his brainchild before everyone else across the globe adopted it. It speaks well to our mission. We live in a world which has an increasingly blurred vision. Some walk in total darkness. We offer the 20/20 Vision of God and his love, which cuts through the fog, shines into darkness, and creates hope.

This week I told a school about our ministry. A teacher responded, "That's so awesome! You have the best job in the world!" I agree. Thank you for your partnership which makes that possible!

Serving Christ with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Henselin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Philip Henselin, Executive Director
Institutional Ministries

2019 Board Members

Mr. Mark Hoyord (Chairman)
Delavan
Mr. Joe Rogers (Treasurer)
Waukesha
Mr. Scott Krause (Secretary)
Watertown
Rev. Timothy Bauer
Watertown
Rev. Conrad Prell
Hillsboro
Rev. David Cooper
Beaver Dam
Rev. Joshua Kesting
Neosho
Mr. Carl Rudolph
Appleton
Mr. Bill Finn
Fond du Lac

God's 2020 Vision for His Church — Faith, Hope and Love

God's Blessings of Hope in 2019

A twentieth century proverb tells us that hindsight is 20/20, meaning that it's always easy to envision something after it has already occurred. God's vision, however, is not limited to mere hindsight, for His vision of the past, the present and the future is always 20/20. What's more, God's vision concerning His own (those who belong to Him now and those who will belong to Him in the future) is always crystal clear. God

envisions how and when His own will be brought to *faith*, and how they will be kept in that *faith* till he comes to call them home. God also envisions how the certain *hope* that they have in His Son, Jesus Christ, literally changes their lives, both now and in eternity. And finally, God envisions how the *love* of Christ burns in their hearts, moving them to reach out to others, wherever they may be, so that everyone who belongs to God is brought into His family.



In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul speaks of the spiritual gifts that God bestows upon the body of Christ, to nurture, bless and grow the Church. And, at the end of chapter 13, Paul highlights three of these gifts of the Spirit, which play a prominent role in the building up of His Church. He writes, "And now these three things remain: *faith, hope and love*. But the greatest of these is *love*."

Last year we began a 3-year countdown to the year 2020, using these three gifts of the Spirit (*faith, hope and love*), to help us stay focused in carrying out the work that He sets before us – reaching out to the institutionalized – so that God's vision for His Church is at the heart of all that we do together. Many of the stories we shared in 2018, highlighted the first of these three spiritual blessings – *faith*. In 2019, our stories highlighted the spiritual blessings of *hope* that God continues to bestow upon His Church through your partnership with us in this ministry. May the LORD continue to pour out His blessings on the Church through the work that we do together.

- Chaplain Joseph Radsek

Blessed by Those We Serve

When I meet with people in prison, whether it is in a Bible study group or in a one-on-one visit, I pray that the Holy Spirit will make me a blessing to that group or individual. However, they are a blessing to me, as well.

I recently met with Justin at Fox Lake Correctional Institution. As we were discussing the work of the Lord's Old Testament prophets, Justin asked, "Do you ever struggle with sin?" When I quickly and honestly answered "Yes," he asked if there was some sin in particular that I struggled with. I wanted to answer, "All of them," but I didn't. Instead, I told Justin, "Sins against the Second Commandment, because I so often fail to call upon God's name in every trouble and to pray, praise and give thanks to my God." And then I quickly added, "I know all of my sins are forgiven because of Jesus, my Savior, and for this, I am extremely thankful."

What a wonderful blessing Justin was to me! I thank our Lord for bringing Justin into my ministry, and I pray that our Lord will always make me a blessing to Justin and anyone else I serve.

- Chaplain Charles Iles



Stronger Than Samson

Adam was a teenage boy battling cancer for several years. On one of my hospital visits with Adam, I asked him to pick out a Bible story. The strength God had given to Samson appealed to this cancer-weakened boy, and so he chose the story of Samson. Without realizing it, however, Adam was becoming stronger than Samson. He told me he was afraid to die but that he found comfort in the resurrection of his Savior, Jesus. The more we talked about Jesus and the promises of God during our visits, the more Adam's physical weakness began turning into spiritual strength. Adam lost the physical battle at age seventeen, but today he enjoys the blessings of heaven.



During the final months of his struggle, Adam shared the comfort he found in Jesus with his parents, siblings, friends, and even the staff at the hospital. Like Samson, Adam impacted the lives of others, not with physical strength, but with his faith in Christ. In a special grief support group for the hospital staff after his death, I was able to expound upon Adam's faith and the comfort he found in Christ. I was also able to use Adam's understanding of Samson and his faith in Christ to bring comfort to his family as they mourned his death. What a privilege to serve as an Institutional Ministries chaplain and witness how God turns weakness into strength.

- Chaplain Ken Wenzel

God's Flashlights

They built their home in the country where they would have a quiet existence. However, a terrible accident happened at the end of their driveway. As a result, she saw things no human being wants to see. Every time she went to the mailbox, she relived the scene. This caused such ongoing anguish that the family finally moved to alleviate the stress.

This is moral injury – an injury which happens not just to the mind, but to the soul as well. It happens to police and firemen, to paramedics, doctors and nurses, to district attorneys and insurance adjusters, to victims and to pastors who support them. Yes, it may also happen to you.

Ongoing Support is needed when inmates return to society, when hospitalized people go to hospice or a nursing home, or when people have undergone a spiritual injury, like the example above. In every case, the prince of darkness will try to make life darker still. Institutional Ministries is one of God's "flashlights," shining hope into darkness, wherever it may be. Thank you for "providing the batteries!"

- Pastor Philip Henselin
Executive Director

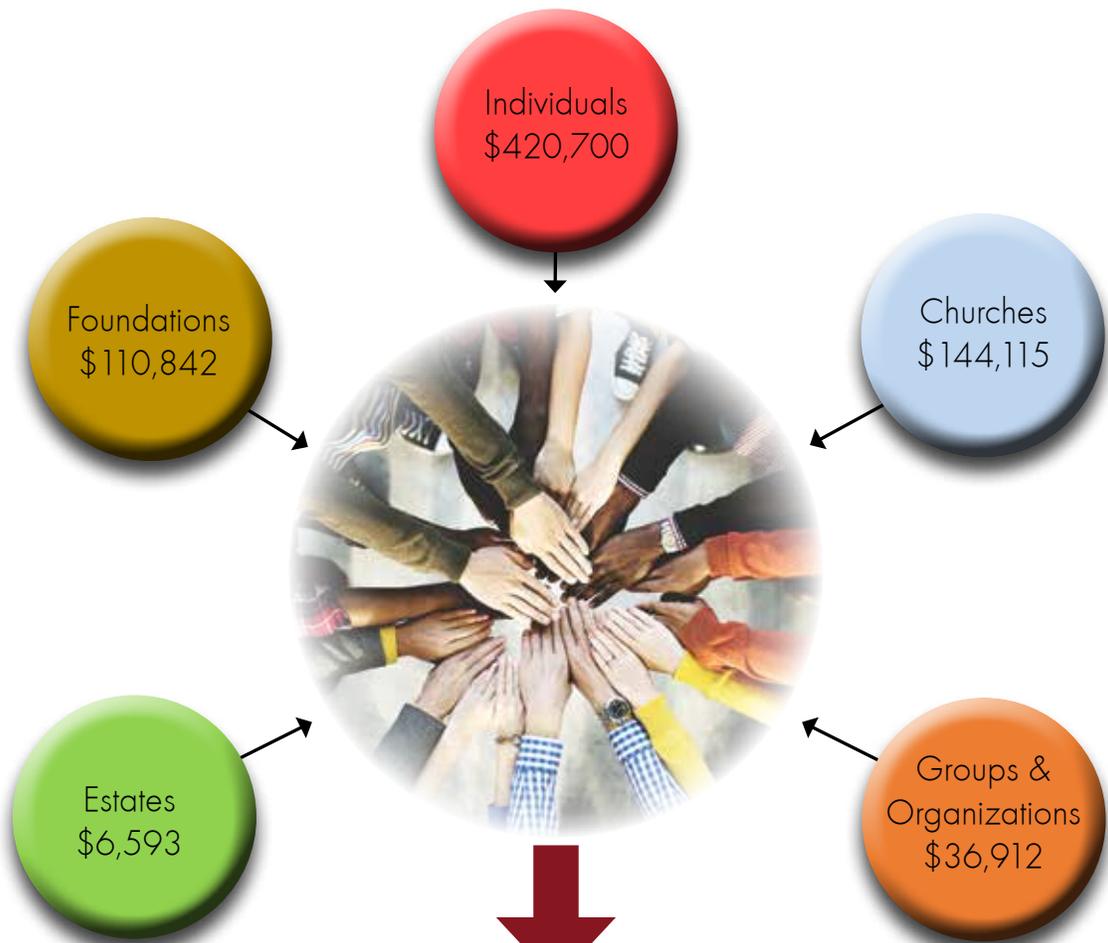


Working with God

Jim is dealing with a triple whammy: He's been physically and cognitively impaired all his life, and he's an alcoholic (a recovering one, thanks be to God!), and now he has a severe hip fracture that he may never completely recover from. For at least the next several months of his life, he's going to be in a rehab facility, working to regain whatever mobility is possible. When I visit Jim, I'm learning to expect very little in the way of physical progress. But I've also come to expect something else: Jim has the kind of optimism that comes from years of working with God, and with God's people, on staying sober. With all the problems he's up against, he doesn't try to manipulate anybody into sneaking him a drink; instead, he calls people and asks them to pray for him and to visit him. And when he gets a visit from one of his Christian friends, he asks, "Will you read something from the Bible?" Ministering to Jim is a long-haul proposition. But I always come away encouraged. I'm walking on two feet and I'm thinking with a functional adult brain, but this man in a wheelchair with a child's brain shows me what's possible when you're working with God on life's challenges.

- Chaplain Philip Merten





With 5 chaplains & 100 volunteers,
the Holy Spirit touched hearts
18,366 times in 2019



Correctional Facilities

- Jails
- Prisons



Extended Care Facilities

- Nursing Homes
- Rehab Centers
- Hospice Care



Ongoing Support Groups

- Drug & Alcohol (AODA)
- First Responders (PTSD)



Healthcare Facilities
(physical & mental)

Ministry Locations



LOCATIONS OF INSTITUTIONS BEING SERVED BY THE MINISTRY

Institutional Ministries is a nonprofit organization established in 1901 that ministers to people in the upper Midwest, who are living in correctional facilities, drug and alcohol treatment centers, hospitals, mental health centers and extended care facilities, as well as through ongoing support groups.

2019 Staff

Full-time Staff



Rev. Philip Henselin
Executive Director



Rev. Charles Iles, Sr.
Chaplain



Rev. Philip Merten
Chaplain



Rev. Mark Wenzel
Chaplain



Rev. Joseph Radsek
Chaplain

Part-time Staff



Sarah Guenther
Chaplain



Stephanie Burk
Office Manager



Michelle Storlie
Office Manager



Suzanne Krenke
Office Assistant



Catherine Meier
Development Assistant

Emeritus Staff



Rev. Kenneth Wenzel
Chaplain



Rev. Robert Sievert
Advisor



Rev. Robert Pasbrig
Advisor

In addition to our full and part-time chaplains, our ministry is also carried out by a growing number of volunteers who help serve the institutionalized in correctional, healthcare and extended care facilities, as well as in various ongoing support groups. We have been blessed with many dedicated volunteers who are committed to the ministry of **sharing hope with those who need it most!**

Our Mission

To provide direction, comfort and hope by sharing God and his love with individuals (and their families) who are, or have been, in an institution.