

FORCAST / FORWARD MARCH FOR GWINNETT CO.

*"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, **"Come over to Macedonia and help us."** After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."* Acts 16 : 9 - 10



For the past 20+ years, BTGM, and a multitude of volunteer ministers have experienced untold thousands of miracles in the pods of the Gwinnett County Detention Center, Diversion Center, and "Reentry" ministries. Our impact over those years has placed its earmark on Gwinnett County at large documented by our recidivism rate of **6 – 8.2%. That is unheard of nationwide.**

March of 2020 Covid pandemic hit our nation full force with **unprecedented FEAR.** That fear cut off our volunteers to our Detention Center for 3 years. Through prayer God reopened the doors **May 12, 2023 in ways only He could perform with our new Gwinnett Co. Sheriff Keybo Taylor.**

Pastor's Luncheon by newly appointed Sheriff Keybo Taylor

A great time was experienced by all of us that attended the latest event of the Sheriff's Pastor's Luncheon held this week at the GCDC building. There was great fellowship, presentation, and food prepared right there in the facility's kitchen by the kitchen manager, staff and inmate workers.

Sheriff Taylor made a point of the importance of the Sheriff's Department having a good relationship with the churches within Gwinnett County due to the impact that each can have on the culture of justice and service in our communities, and the interaction that the churches and the Sheriff can have with each other. He asked for the churches' support as his office moves forward with various programs related to the justice system and mental health in the community.

The evidence that training of police personnel can result in far fewer violent confrontations with the mentally ill. Virtually no beds or shelters exist in Gwinnett County for mental health care needs.

Dr. Dana Tatum presented an eye-opening overview of the mental health crisis in every community, including Gwinnett County, as the state's support of mental health accommodations and services has waned over the years and the need has increased.

The history decades of (mis)treatment of mental health patients while in jail often experience a gap in health care once they leave the facility. This results in far greater recidivism over those who do receive prompt ongoing care. The fact that jails have become the repository of mentally ill persons as the mental health hospitals have been closed.

The Gwinnett County Detention Center, for lack of other facilities and services, has become the defector mental health residence swamping our justice system. With over 500 inmates receiving mental health care, GCDC has become the largest health care 'hospital' in the state!

The Sheriff's Department can address these increasing mental health needs, but will need the support of the County Commissioners and the Gwinnett County residents.

The Sheriff's Department will continue to interact with community and church leaders by a continuation of these invitational luncheons and other outreach efforts.

For myself, and those I have discussed this with, we appreciate the time spent with Sheriff Taylor and his team, the great hospitality and fellowship, and the exposure to the topics the Sheriff and Dr. Tatum introduced.

We Jail Ministers have had a long and robust relationship with the Sheriff's Department at the Jail over the years. We look forward to resuming services to GCDC now that covid restrictions have been terminated.

Thomas O. Trueb,
Exec. Director Second Mile Ministries, Inc.

"MARCH FOR JESUS"

Attendees had an awesome time Saturday May 13th at The Jesus March - Lawrenceville. Outside The Box Ministries in conjunction with Joshua Transformation Project promoted this event that brought together worship from 4 churches in prayer, and marching for God. The Holy Spirit showed up in a big way bring together people from different walks of life in the Name of Jesus. Daniel Flagg, the organizer of the event, estimates 120 people participated. Thank you for those who participated.

Attendees had signs and music and flags to march publicly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ ushering in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our police car guided us and cars on the street stopped and waved and gave a thumbs up sign. Restaurant patrons along the walk gave enthusiastic support as the participants marched by. Thank you David Burgher for joining us for this community event. Daniel Flagg – President : Outside The Box Ministries, Inc.

