

Sister Helen Prejean is Coming to Grand Haven!

Save the date!



HFP's dynamic Development Committee has done it again! Last September, Jennifer Thompson and Ronald Cotton! This September, Sister Helen Prejean!

Sister Helen Prejean is known around the world for her tireless work against the death penalty and her bestselling book *Dead Man Walking*.

She'll be in Grand Haven for a lecture and book-signing on September 19, 2016 - Watch for more details.

Driving Miss Daisy is Coming to Grand Haven!

Order tickets now!



Driving Miss Daisy, popular stage production written by Alfred Uhry and made famous on Broadway, is coming to Grand Haven as a fundraiser for Humanity for Prisoners!

Afterword Productions will present the show on Saturday, May 14, in the White Pines Middle School Auditorium, located at 1400 S. Grif-fin Street. There will be two performances: a matinee at 2 PM, and an evening presentation at 7 PM. Janae K. Dean will play the role of Daisy Werthan; Wayburn Dean as Hoke Colburn; and Brian Felten as Boolie Werthan.

Tickets are now on sale at \$25.00 each, with student tickets available at a discounted price of \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased at The Bookman, 715 Washington, in Grand Haven, or online at <http://www.humanityforprisoners.org/driving-miss-daisy.html>

From the desk of Doug: Where's the church?

What's the problem?

I was having an animated discussion with Lisa Blystra, Crossroad Bible Institute's personable new leader. The topic: How to raise more interest in prisoner advocacy and get more response from the evangelical community.

In her business of teaching Bible lessons behind bars, she gets a lot of support. In our business of acting out the teachings of Jesus as we try to help inmates with their day-to-day problems, we find interest among the church to be very ho-hum. I quickly qualify my statement with the fact that a few churches are doing a yeoman's job in supporting HFP. Right here in our own community, we count three churches that are strongly committed to supporting our work: Two are protestant, and one Roman Catholic. All three are attended by HFP Board members, which may be part of the explanation.

We chatted about the terrible problem of mass incarceration, the critical need for judicial reform, sentencing reform, Parole Board reform.

Asked Lisa: "How do we expect the world to lead the way?" She was pointing out that the Christian church has the scriptural mandate. We're the ones with the admonition in Hebrews to treat prisoners as if we were behind bars with them. We're the ones with the marching orders straight from the mouth of Jesus.

Eldridge Cleaver said, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

Every reader of this column cannot actually do prisoner advocacy...but you can support it. Wholehearted endorsement and support from the evangelical community would be a wonderful thing!



HFP: Dealing with in-prison issues that touch lives

Letter from an inmate at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility:

It's another sad day here. We received our new housing unit rules. We can NO LONGER do Bible studies outside our cell. We cannot bring our Bibles into the day room and read them discussing with our fellow believers. We can only wait for church services once a week. Or read them in our rooms. For example, if I do not understand something in my word and I want to talk to my friend about it, I AM NOT ALLOWED to go to the dayroom and discuss my question with her. It is against the rules and I will receive a ticket if I do so.

Response from the MDOC front office when contacted by HFP:

The new rule was intended to ensure that the dayrooms aren't used for group religious services that should be carried out in other areas of the prison since some prisoners may feel like they can't use the dayroom if another group is using it for organized religious programming. That being said, the intent was never to prevent prisoners from carrying their Bible to the dayroom or discussing religious matters with a fellow prisoner. *To avoid confusion, the rule will be rescinded.*

Did Posting Bond Cause Problems? We want to know!

HFP is asking for your help in seeking stories of people who were the victims of ridiculous bail/bond terms, with results that damaged their lives. For example, people who received very high bonds on minor charges, or people who had low bonds that they couldn't pay, forcing them to stay in jail and lose their jobs or families or causing some other damage. We are partnering with some others in this business, hoping to bring about change. These researchers are especially interested in stories from the faith-based community. Call our office at 616.935.0075 or send an email to info@humanityforprisoners.org.



HFP President Doug Tjapkes, shown with 25 Grand Haven High School seniors, all members of Brian Williams' PAY IT FORWARD class. Class members study local area charitable organizations, in the hope that they will be encouraged to make a difference in their own lives.



STAY CONNECTED!

Staying in touch with HFP online

HFP Executive Director Matt Tjapkes expands the manner in which you can be kept informed on what's happening in our world:

- Daily email dispatch
- Weekly email dispatch
- Monthly email newsletter

If you're not on our list, contact the office today!



HFP's Wish List

Frequently Humanity for Prisoners discovers needs in our office that a supporter with the right contacts may be able to get as a donation or at a reduced cost. Our wish list for May is **a new two-headset cordless office phone with answering machine.** A specific example of what we need is the Panasonic KX-TGE232B Telephone System with Answering System (http://www.staples.com/Panasonic-KX-TGE232B-Telephone-System-with-Answering-System-Cordless-Black/product_237686). If you can help us cross this item off our wish list, please call our office at 616.935.0075 or email matt@humanityforprisoners.org.