



GOLDEN KEY
PRISON MINISTRY

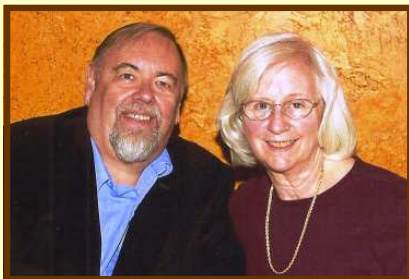
Pastor Curt Carter—Executive Director
PO Box 536, Newark Valley, NY 13811
Telephone: (607) 659-3108
Serving: Broome, Chemung, Tioga & Tompkins County
Jails and Elmira & Southport Correctional Facilities

40th Anniversary for Golden Key!

Joseph Stowell, former President of **Moody Bible Institute**, penned the January 18, 2017 devotional thought for **"Our Daily Bread"** entitled **"Long Shadows"**. He was reflecting on a trip to England where he was asked what he did by some travelers in a bed-and-breakfast. When he mentioned Moody Bible institute, he was surprised by their response which included their admiration for a hymnal written by **Ira Sankey**, the musical director for **Evangelist D.L. Moody** who had visited England more than 120 years earlier! Mr. Stowell concluded by saying *"I left the room that night thinking of the ways our lives can cast long shadows of influence for God - a praying mother's influence on her children, an encouraging coworker's words, the support and challenge of a teacher or mentor, the loving but corrective words of a friend. It's a high privilege to play a role in the wonderful promise that "His love... continues through all generations" Ps 100:5.*



Pastor Doug & Carol Smith



Pastor Curt & Nancy Carter

The *"long shadows"* cast by **Pastor Doug Smith**, the founder of **Golden Key Prison Ministry**, are still being felt as we move into our 40th year of service for the Lord! It is amazing to think that **Pastor Curt Carter** has been directing the ministry for nine years since Pastor Doug's passing, continuing to extend the reach of those same *"long shadows"*. The ministry's team of faithful volunteers, financial supporters, prayer partners, and ministry colleagues are also active partakers in casting a shadow for those impacted by incarceration. It is thrilling to hear your name called out in a grocery store or while pumping gas at a filling station by someone that was impacted by the ministry while they were incarcerated. Often inmates in the state facilities will give testimonies of having met the Lord through the witness of a volunteer at a county jail and how that important encounter had given them the courage, grace and strength to face their state incarceration. Supporting and mentoring an individual once they have returned to their community also casts a huge shadow of remembrance for the person who receives the help. The prayers and financial donations of our faithful Golden Key supporters deserve a share in the collective shadow cast by the ministry. A resounding **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who has supported our mission for these last 40 years!

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Check us out at ["www.goldenkeyprisonministry.org"](http://www.goldenkeyprisonministry.org) and "like" us on Facebook!

Stepping Out in Faith

And Peter answered Him [Jesus] and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus." Matthew 14:28 & 29.

If you look for "stepping out in faith" in a concordance, you won't find anything because it is not a Biblical phrase. The idea most likely comes from this story about Peter stepping out of the boat to walk to Jesus. However we are encouraged to walk in the steps of Abraham (Romans 4:12) and Jesus (1 Peter 2:21) as well as to continually "walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). But walking by faith always requires a first step and not just when we first open the door of our hearts to Jesus. In the lives of all believers there will be many opportunities to respond to God by faith not knowing where the journey will lead.

In 1976, Pastor Doug Smith visited Elmira Correctional Facility for the first time and came away firmly believing that God wanted him to launch a prison ministry. As Carol Smith tells the story he told her, "I know what I'm doing", but she thought "he didn't have a clue how he was going to do it!" However Pastor Doug's firm faith conviction was the first step of the journey for the ministry.



Carol Smith 2017

During our lives as God's children, He will invite us to join His mission as witnesses to the power of the Gospel to save mankind. It will require faith to step out of our comfort zones to answer His call to service. I believe that at least one of the first steps is to meet and talk to the individuals that God wants us to serve as Pastor Doug met with inmates at Elmira CF. Perhaps your first conversation might be with residents of a nursing home, unwed mothers struggling with pregnancy, foster children, someone in a hospital room, or a family visiting a food pantry. Once you come face to face with their need you have already begun your "faith walk".

- ◆ **Pastor Curt Carter** stepped out in faith to carry on the leadership of the ministry after **Pastor Doug** went to his heavenly home. He incorporated his own experiences, training, and spiritual gifts to enrich the ministry. Every year is another blessed part of that faith journey.
- ◆ **Chaplain Dave Knuppenburg**, director of Team Chemung; **Don Brown**, director of Team Tompkins; and **Judy Eaton**, Woman's Bible Study leader at Tioga County Jail were all recruited by **Pastor Doug**, stepped out in faith, and continue their service to this day in their various facilities.
- ◆ **Bob Klock**, NY Upstate Rep for Celebrate Recovery and Golden Key team member at Broome County, has stepped out in faith to purchase, staff, and operate a Women's Residential Addiction Program in Sherburne, NY. Much more prayer is needed to turn this faith vision into a reality!
- ◆ **Chaplain Jesse Barrett**, Golden Key team member working in Broome & Tioga County, as well as Elmira CF is stepping out in faith to transition into full time Christian ministry. He is raising support, seeking part-time internship at a local church, and dedicating his life's work to the Lord.

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