

Ministry Update, 1/29/24

Dear Avalon Community Church,

Hello my home Church. I hope this finds you well even in this time of grieving the loss of our dear Pastor Ron. May we remember also to celebrate his beautiful life honorably lived to the glory of God. Ron was a strong mentor in the ministry to me and fatherly presence when this much needed influence was few and far between. He will truly be missed this side of eternity but we eagerly anticipate that glorious family reunion that has been prepared for all who are children of the King.

A lot has happened since my update in September. The culture of the Colorado Department of Corrections as a whole has taken a regressive turn. And in particular this facility has felt this shift the most since Sterling was previously tasked with setting pace for the rest of the state for progressive corrections practice. So the impact of impact of adjusting the way we hold programs, prepare for them or even if some of them will be permitted any longer has been hard felt. As expected our ministry team has responded well to these recent challenges. Humility paired with the confidence of God's calling to Gospel ministry has been a powerful heart safeguard in the effort to stay positive. Even though the world at large seems to be derailing, we do our best to live in the truth that our good God has not for one second abandoned His post on His throne.

I am proud to report that our work with The Denver Dream Center is going great. I just finished up my Maturity in Focus class. I will be transitioning to the Better Man: Core curriculum (previously: The Quest for Authentic Manhood) for my next class. Journey Christian Church has a lot of partner churches and ministries in Colorado that utilize the same curriculum. The goal is to connect our class graduates with these ministries upon release to support a continuity of care for these men who are desperate to continue the transformation that they started within our ministry. Please pray for the fruition of this endeavor.

Lastly, I'm happy to share that I will be married next month to my wonderful fiancé Virginia Fleck. The date is not fixed since many factors are beyond either of our control, but most likely a day between March 11th to the 16th. We covet all your prayers since this is no small step.

Thank you for all the support your supply. I am humbled and often moved to tears by your kindness and generosity. I miss you all.

God Bless,

Pastor Jon Willis