

Ray

Ray wrote a note about the work of CID Pastor and Prison Chaplain Steve Southward in conducting prison Bible studies. Here is a portion of what Ray wrote:

“I met quite a few chaplains and volunteers over the past year [of incarceration]. But none seem as dedicated, or caring, or are as genuine as Stephen Southward.

“A lot of the people who come in to minister just seem to be going through the motions, almost routine. I believe [that] just like prayer, worship should never be just routine. . . . Mr. Southward goes above and beyond to make sure of this.

“He’s not stuck on the basics. He gets straight to the meat of the Gospel. That’s why I like him.

“He doesn’t just come in and spoon feed us warm milk. He doesn’t come in here to tickle our ears. He says exactly what we need to hear.

“Thank you, Mr. Southward, and may God bless you above and beyond your expectations. You are running your race well. I look up to your example.”

The Lord has used your congregation’s gifts to the Central Illinois District to put Pastor Steve Southward into Illinois prisons for more than a quarter-century. Thank you!

“I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel” (Phil. 1:3-5).

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