

# Acts of kindness

All across the country, every day, good people perform acts of kindness for strangers. Only rarely do they receive recognition for their selfless work. In our ongoing series, The ENQUIRER will put the spotlight on those who care enough to make life better for those around them.

**E**VERY Sunday morning for nearly 40 years, Ruby Hall and her husband Rayborn have waited to be admitted to a North Carolina prison.

Known to inmates as Ma and Pa Hall, the down-home couple – Ruby, a sprightly 85, and Rayborn, 97 years young – have preached the good word to hardened cons.

“We get such joy out of giving hope to these prisoners,” Ruby told The ENQUIRER. “The good Lord preached compassion, and we care for all folks.”

**OVER THE DECADES, HUNDREDS OF** prisoners like Terry Dumas have been touched by that compassion.

“They’ve had a great spiritual impact on my life and the lives of many others,” Terry, 62, said from Randolph Correctional Center in Asheboro.

“Thanks to them, when I get out next year after eight years here, I’m going to be the best husband and the best father because they taught me how to give and know love.”

Prison Chaplain William Thompson turns his congregation into a choir when Rayborn gets out his harmonica to play gospel music with Ruby singing in her crystal-clear voice.

“They’re here every Sunday morning whatever the weather. We’re blessed to have them,” Thompson told The ENQUIRER.

“Age doesn’t mean anything to them. Papa Hall just got his driver’s license renewed, so he’s looking forward to driving when he’s 100 years old!

“And if they see somebody missing on a Sunday, Mama Hall shouts, ‘You better tell him to come on up – you don’t want me to come



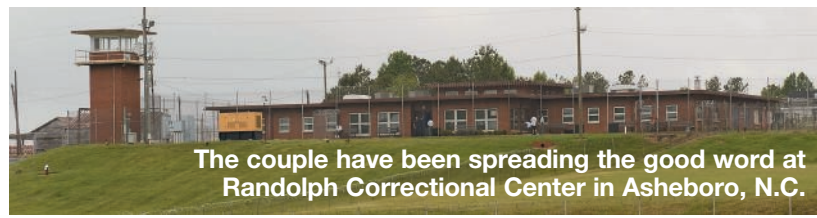
They’ve taken many of these men under their wings,



Ruby and Rayborn Hall

# PREACHERS HAVE CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

Ma, 85, and Pa, 97, Hall have treated prisoners like family for 40 YEARS



The couple have been spreading the good word at Randolph Correctional Center in Asheboro, N.C.

get him!’ And the guys show up like little kids – because they make inmates feel just like family.”

The couple even dishes out a special meal for the prisoners at Christmas.

“All the family helps out, and I know from prisoners how deeply my parents have touched their lives,” said their daughter Sandra Phillips, 59.

“They’ve taken many of these

men under their wings, and let teenagers they’ve taken in live with them.”

Added Ruby: “We get so many letters from men after they leave telling us how well they’re doing, and thanking us for our help. That’s the kind of thing that keeps us going, and we’re going to keep going for as long as the good Lord allows.

“We look for goodness in the hearts of these men, and we find it. That’s our reward.”

Tell us about **A KIND PERSON** : If you know of someone who deserves to be honored for acts of kindness, please let us know by e-mailing us at: [letters@nationalenquirer.com](mailto:letters@nationalenquirer.com). Or write to us at: Acts of Kindness, National Enquirer, 1000 American Media Way, Boca Raton, FL 33464-1000. We’ll pay you \$250 if we use your submission.