

Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

July 2010 Edition

"I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:36b

Spiritual Journey

The following is a testimony from Greg, a current resident at Alpha House:

Prior to getting saved, I grew up going to church with my family, but after church, I would do what I wanted to do. Pleasing my own flesh, this life I lived led me to prison. In prison, I went to church, but after service, I went back to my cell to do what I wanted to do.

While I was in prison, I was told about Keryx—a four-day Christian walk with the Lord. After this weekend filled with the love of the Lord, I turned to Christ. I saw not only that my life hurt the family I loved, but I needed to put to death my flesh.

After my Keryx walk, I started to follow Christ. This was a true blessing. I would serve the Lord by helping others. I used my spiritual gifts of helps and giving. In doing so, God has blessed me; I grow deeper into God's Word and love daily. Before I would get revenge on those who did me wrong, but now I leave it all to God.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

When you trust in the Lord with all your heart, you will start to see the Lord doing a change in your life, and not lean on your own understanding. What you think is right may not be God's way, so before you lean on your own understanding, seek the Lord. He is the Light of this world, and he will not steer you wrong.

Meet Greg, other Alpha House residents (past and present), and many other friends of Alpha Prison Ministries at our Annual APM Banquet:

Annual Alpha Prison Ministries Banquet

When: Monday, September 27, 2010 at 6:00 pm

Where: Resurrection Life Church - Grandville

See us online... www.alphapm.org

- ◆ Please pray for our banquet on September 27, 2010. Pray for good attendance, for more people to connect with APM, for additional volunteers, and for the generosity of God's people for support.
- ◆ Please continue to pray that Christian inmates and volunteers will provide a calming influence in prisons as prison closings are causing serious problems and overcrowding.
- ◆ Thank the Lord we are able to have this ministry, the opportunities, the volunteers and supporters, and that he always meets the needs. Thank him that as believers, we are children of the Most High God, and not beggars!
- ◆ Pray that God's people involved in ministry will not get discouraged and that no attack of the devil will undermine their confidence.

JULY 2010

Prayer Requests

Please cut around these prayer requests and use this as a bookmark in your Bible.

lph
Prison Ministries

WELCOME

The Annual APM Banquet

Our annual banquet is a special opportunity to thank our supporters with a great meal, provide information on how much of a difference you are making, allow you to meet other people involved with APM, meet former inmates whose lives have been impacted, and raise awareness of what APM does.

If you've attended in past years, you know what a blessing it is to be there. If not, we invite you to experience it. Better yet, bring someone with you. You can print extra copies of this newsletter from our web site so people you invite can check us out in advance.

Our guest speaker this year is Chaplain Harris, a long time friend of APM. We also have a special surprise planned which you will want to be there to see.

Please join us:

Monday, September 27, 2010 at 6:00 pm
Resurrection Life Church in Grandville
RSVP before September 15, 2010

Challenges a Prisoner Faces Upon Release

The following is a letter we received back in June:

Dear Leon,

I hope this letter finds things going well for you, and the Lord is blessing all you do. I am about to wrap up my stay here and return to community. I want to thank you for putting me in touch with Living Water for a place to possibly go to when I leave here.

I finished up my first level of New Creations Bible Study and I'm eagerly awaiting my Bible. I also started my second level.

I have been praying that I am able to leave here on the 2nd or possibly the 1st of July. My reason for concern is transportation from here to there. They do get you there if you are without transportation, but that can take an extra 2-3 days. The reason I say July 1st or 2nd is due to whether my parole agent is taking a four day holiday weekend.

I am having some apprehensions about my return. I need to get myself some spiritual support and I want to get involved with AA. There is also getting caught up on the way things have changed out there in the last 18 years.

I know there will be many challenges out there and I will have to remain strong in the Lord, and He will allow things to fall into place in His time. I need to resist myself wanting to take charge, for I feel it will just create problems.

Well, I'm going to close with asking you to pray for me in regards to my return.

Thank you and God bless,
Steve

This letter outlines concerns and challenges many prisoners face upon re-entry, challenges that APM seeks to help these men deal with successfully. Please pray for men like Steve (he was paroled this month) and pray for APM to have more mentors, volunteers, and supporters. Be sure to attend our upcoming banquet where you will see some of the men whose lives have been transformed by Jesus Christ.

**Print this
newsletter
online**

We now offer easy access to an identical version of this newsletter so you can print extra copies. Please feel free to make as many copies as you need. Now it's easy to pass on the word about APM, supply a resource table, or make these available at your church. Get it at alphapm.org.

Alpha Prison Ministries is an **undenominational Christ-centered ministry** to prisoners and ex-offenders.

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49509

PO Box 9216
Prison Ministries
The logo for Alpha Prison Ministries features the letters 'Iph' in a stylized font, with a circular arrow-like element around the 'h'.