

Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

June 2024 Edition

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

Mid 2024 Alpha House Report

We're still getting a steady flow of inmate letters, especially residency acceptance requests for our Alpha House transitional housing. Our new Director, Dave, handed me a stack of four this month, all of them for Alpha House and three of them hand written. He did share with me the trend is shifting to electronic communication from inmates but hand written letters are still substantial.

Of those four, space only allowed to feature two but the longer one represents how important Alpha House is since men in prison face demoralizing losses and reenter society with nowhere to go and no one who cares. Or, they cannot see themselves succeeding by returning to the environment that served to help create their incarceration. These types of inmate letters have dominated our 2024 newsletters.

We've also experienced a wave of inmate mail from military prison facilities in Fort Leavenworth, KS. I don't know how our reputation became known there but it's still happening and those who've served in the military and made mistakes

are reaching out for help. These inmates also tend to possess a quality that is crucial to being truly rehabilitated; that is taking ownership of their mistakes.

Those in prison who blame everyone and everything but themselves for their situation are also the ones who quickly end up back in prison when released. There's no denying the impact of dysfunctional homes and serious life trauma that pervades prisoner experiences and would push anyone to, or even past, their limits, but the realization that all of us are still responsible for our own choices is the first step in healing and an important marker for the success of so many men we've reached over our ministry history.

But at the end of their incarceration, when human dignity has been essentially stripped bare, options for many are few, and past relationships are barely or non-existent for most, Alpha House offers a hope that former inmates need but is a rare find. Your partnership with Alpha is a life changing ingredient to those we are able to accept. Thank you!

Visit us online at:



www.alphapm.org

- ◆ Please pray for Freddy's family and many friends as Freddy himself is now home with the Lord as of May 9th after a long battle with lung cancer. Freddy was a very special friend to APM as noted in this June newsletter.
- ◆ Praise God we are able to help former inmates make a successful transition back to society through our Alpha House transitional housing. As Leon used to say, it's harder to get into Alpha House than Harvard as our acceptance rates are lower. But for the men who are accepted, it makes a huge difference!
- ◆ The Board of Director's recently approved Bill Heyes unanimously as our newest board member. Offer God some gratitude for sending Bill to us.
- ◆ Our other, and long time, "Bill" on the board, Bill Spurrier, suffered a fall that was significant enough to put him in the hospital for a brief period. Please pray for him as he continues his recovery.

Prayer Requests

JUNE 2024

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

Alpha
Prison Ministries

ALPHA HOUSE

Freddy Is Home Now



The picture above was taken two years ago and published in our August 2022 newsletter. Freddy, a long time friend of Alpha, former inmate and in prison Bible study member, former resident, and even special music provider at past APM volunteer celebration banquets had been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and this group of volunteers and alumni had driven to Traverse City to support and encourage Freddy.

Thanks to the Apostle Paul, we know that for believers, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Freddy made that journey home last month on May 9th. He now joins many others over our 40+ years of prison ministry who are in heaven but will be missed here on earth. Prayers for Freddy's family are welcomed and appreciated.

Nowhere to Go and No One to Help

My name is Mike and on my expected parole date of April 3, 2025 I will be 78 years old and imprisoned for six years. I am exploring the possibility of paroling to the Grand Rapids area and, being a devout Christian, your ministry was recommended as a source for temporary housing in this area.

I am originally from Jackson where I made a home for 47 years while married to the most wonderful woman in the world. Together we raised four kids, three biological and one adopted, and are now the proud grandparents of two wonderful boys.

During those years I was employed at Consumers Energy for 42 years

and, after retiring, worked for a company headquartered in Cleveland, OH for two years. This was one of only eight companies nationwide commissioned by the Federal Energy Department to perform physical and cyber security audits at electric utilities across the country.

While employed at both companies, I was given and maintained a secret level information security clearance with the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to all these blessings, I was active in my community serving lead roles on various boards. All in all, God has blessed me abundantly.

When I was arrested for the horrible thing I had done 16 years earlier, all that was lost.

I am now divorced from the only woman I ever loved, three of my four kids will not speak to me and ask that I not contact them; my two brothers no longer reply to my letters or calls from prison, and the cadre of friends I once enjoyed is not to be found. So here I am on the eve (relatively speaking) of parole with nowhere to go and no one to help.

While in prison I have had the pleasure of getting to know and grow in spirituality through Keryx, church services, and weekly Bible studies. I have dear brothers in Christ who are the best that prison allows.

I am in relatively good health and active mentally. I'm sure you'll want or need to know more about me when considering whether I'm a good fit for your services and will be happy to provide that information. Thank you for taking the time to read my mini bio and for the opportunity to be considered for housing through your organization.

Respectfully,
Mike

More Inmate Mail from Kansas

Unfortunately, I have to let you know the Naval and Marine Corps Parole and Clemency Board has denied my request for parole this year. Thank you for your assistance that you have done for me. I will continue to do my best to achieve parole as soon as possible. I am eligible for parole each year until 2028. Hopefully, you will have room next year and are able to send me an acceptance letter for 2025.

Respectfully,
Daniel

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We also 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. Get it at alphapm.org.

Newsletter written/edited by APM Board member Steve Chittenden

APM is an **undenominational Christ-centered ministry** to prisoners and ex-offenders

APM Financial Summary January-April 2024

Total Income: **\$36,421.25**

Total Expense: **\$31,782.10**

Net Income: **\$4639.15**



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