



# Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

## May 2013 Edition

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

## Plundering the Enemy Camp

Sometimes I wish everyone receiving this newsletter could sit in on our monthly Board meetings. Those of you who minister inside the prisons already have a good sense of the pulse of this ministry. Our meetings are not just to discuss the business of the ministry, but to stay connected to what our volunteers are doing.

Randy has recently shared some tough moments from the front lines. He has sat across the table looking into the eyes of an inmate who after surrendering his life to the Lord has had some of the worst trials of his life, including the death of a child. The decision to follow Christ invites trouble from the enemy and the men we minister to live daily in an enemy stronghold.

Randy also shared how he has been studying the Bible with an inmate named Cory. Cory is not a believer but he is seeking to understand the Bible. Pray that God will make the lights come on for Cory because only God's Spirit can make his word come to life in the human spirit.

When you read Guy's testimony on the other side of this newsletter, it serves as a vivid reminder not only of the horrible cruelty the devil unleashes on people's lives, but that delivering a

message of hope is literally raiding the enemy camp. Although your problems probably pale in comparison to what some of these men have gone through, your support of prison ministry means your trials are just evidence that you're doing something the enemy doesn't like.

There was some discussion at the Board meeting about the content of Guy's story and publishing something that will be very unsettling because of the cruelty that Guy endured as a child. But such stories are sadly too common among inmates. Your support is changing lives and Guy's story demonstrates the power of God to deliver even from the worst experiences.

This is the message that needs to be heard, and it's the takeaway value we want you to receive. It is heart wrenching, but you are helping to supply a happy ending.

It's true we oppose a vicious enemy, but that's not the right focus. If God is for us, no weapon forged against us has any chance of success. Jesus went so far as to say the gates of hell cannot prevail against us. We can plunder the enemy camp with no fear of evil and your support will not go unrewarded. Thank you.

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- ◆ As mentioned in this newsletter, pray for Cory who is yet not a believer but seeking to understand the Bible. Pray that God through his Spirit and his word will enlighten Cory.
- ◆ Pray for inmates who deal not only with unimaginable difficulties in prison, but have often been through horrific circumstances. Praise God for the changes his Spirit makes in their heart and life. Pray for their witness and bold faith as they share with other inmates.
- ◆ Pray for volunteers and Bible study leaders to remain encouraged, strong, and wise as they accurately train and teach from the Bible.
- ◆ Pray for Bob, a long time friend of APM and key man at the Boyer Road facility who has been moved to another facility.

Prayer Requests

MAY 2013

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

Alpha  
Prison Ministries

ADVOICATE

## Every Pet I Ever Had This Man Killed

Growing up for me was fast and hard. I grew up in a brutal home where I endured physical and mental abuse from my stepfather.

The physical abuse was often severe beatings from the buckle of the belt, a fist, or a swift kick from a steel toed boot. The physical abuse was almost tolerable compared to the mental abuse! For years I had to listen to this man beat and sodomize my mother, and often the sodomy was done at gunpoint.

Every pet I ever had this man killed. He once made me hold my pet cat while he decapitated it telling me, "You let go of that cat and I'll do this to your mom and make you watch." I was around 8-9 years old. Later I learned that he would threaten my mom with making her watch him kill me if she ever left him.

Just shortly after my 13th birthday I was at a friend's house and he showed me his dad's 38 pistol. When I left his house the gun went with me! I kept it under my mattress for 3 days trying to get the nerve to kill and all I needed was for him to hit or rape my mom and I'd have the nerve.

I came home from school to find him sitting at the kitchen table with this 38 and it was easy to see that it was still loaded. He asked, "What's this?" and I still don't know how I did it, but when I pretended to sit at the table I grabbed the gun and had it cocked and pointed at him. Then I said, "To kill you the next time you hurt me or my mom." He never tested my nerve.

With him at gunpoint, I called my friend and he came over. I told him to go into my room and pack me some clothes. While he was doing this I was telling this man in graphic detail how I would kill him slowly and painfully if he ever put his hands on my mom again.

Thirteen years old and out my own! I quickly got into drugs and by 14 had worn out my welcome at friends houses where I stayed after leaving home. Fourteen years old, out on the streets, sleeping in abandoned buildings, and eating out of dumpsters. By age 16 I was a full fledged crack head and the streets had hardened and frozen my heart. I was doing anything necessary to support my habit, stealing and other criminal activity.

I tried getting and staying clean a few times but was never successful. I moved in with my mom only to end up maxing out her credit card at the ATM and forging personal checks to support my habit, stealing from other family members until I'd lost all trust and confidence from my own family.

I've been in prison since May 1998. Fifteen years of prison combined with a bad childhood and being a drug addict has been a long, hard road. For the first 13½ years, I did my time as if I had no out date, and experimenting in the deep, dark world of homosexuality looking to fill the void I've always had in my life.

I've taken full responsibility for my actions and am starting to get answers to why I did it from this Christian book called *12 Steps With Jesus*. It deals with all addictions, not just drugs and alcohol. In the past 6 months I've undergone a tremendous change after **sincerely** asking Jesus to come into my life, and started putting him first.

Yes, I still struggle but... I faithfully believe that because God knows the intent of my heart and my real passion to change, I have been being blessed abundantly!

It was no coincidence for me to be chosen out of 700+ men to be in this faith based program. It's by no accident that you went from not being able to get me into Alpha House until 2014 to August of 2013, my early release date.

This is nothing but God working in my life opening doors of opportunity that otherwise would be closed to me.

Our new Alpha group here at Muskegon is going well, THANK YOU!!

I'm confident that if it's God's will, I'll be there at the end of August, and if not, then this just means that God has something better for me later. If I do not get a parole, I will contact you expeditiously so you can offer my spot to someone else. If this occurs, please be advised that I would want to remain on your list for coming to Alpha at a later date.

I hope this will give you a little insight into my story and I look forward to advancing my relationship with you when I arrive at Alpha House. Please feel confident of my passion to get out and become part of your success rate, and to become a productive citizen of society.

Respectfully yours,  
Guy

NOTE: The new Alpha Bible study Guy mentioned at Muskegon is the same one mentioned in our March newsletter. If you would like to be a part of this exciting ministry, additional volunteers are very much needed. We've had to limit the attendance because the demand is greater than we have the volunteers for.

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#### APM Financial Summary January-April 2013

Total \$ Expense:  
26,941.31 (actual)  
29,325.70 (budget)

Net \$ Income:  
27,328.50 (actual)  
30,689.64 (budget)



PO Box 9216  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
49509  
(616) 538-4090  
[alphapm.org](http://alphapm.org)  
[info@alphapm.org](mailto:info@alphapm.org)

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