



Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

September 2014 Edition

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

More Than Just Name Dropping

This month's newsletter is a little different because the reverse side is designed to double as a poster or flyer so you can help promote the APM banquet. If you need extra copies you may request them or simply print them from our web site.

Cornerstone University President and internationally recognized conference speaker, Dr. Joseph Stowell, has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker this year. Being able to name drop like this is sure to boost attendance, but it's Dr. Stowell's love of Christ and concern for the *poor and marginalized* that distinguishes him as a fitting guest to speak at our banquet.

As most of you receiving this newsletter are aware, the purpose of our annual banquet is mostly threefold: to show tangible appreciation to our volunteers and supporters, to raise awareness of the ministry so more people will want to be involved, and it serves as our biggest fund raiser of the year. It also provides an opportunity for you to "see" the difference you are making with your support.

As a Board member, I get to review all the pertinent information and financial status of the ministry, hear the names of residents in monthly reports, receive updates on in prison Bible studies, and other "business" of APM. But nothing compares to being at the banquets, meeting people we minister to, hearing testimonies directly from people who have been forever changed, and being

with a large group of people who heed God's call to help make it happen.

Among the many reasons I am proud to be a part of APM, there is never any pressure for you to give, no mind games or guilt trips, no assumption that we're any more or less important than other ministries you can give to. We're one of endless opportunities for you to serve the Lord. We trust and pray God will hook us up with those who need to be involved. The banquet is an ideal venue for people to check us out and for our partners to be refreshed.

With the banquet being our biggest fund raiser of the year, there are some things you should be aware of so you can pray and have the opportunity to help any way you can. In May, we advised you that Alpha House driveway and parking lot repairs were made costing over \$5000. In June, we paid our insurance premium which sticker shocks most people. It was over \$6000.

As you can imagine, our year to date finances were seriously impacted by these expenses. As of July, we were about \$5000 over our expense budget and income fell short by almost \$20,000. That is very significant to a ministry as small as APM but we serve a big God. We appreciate your prayers, support, and telling others about APM and inviting them to the banquet. Be assured that every "little" thing you do makes a "big" difference. Thank you!

Visit us online at:



www.alphapm.org

- ◆ Praise God for Chad and Dave successfully "graduated" from Alpha House in August and moved into their own house.
- ◆ Pray for laborers! The harvest is plentiful! APM has more opportunities than we can fill. There is a need for mentors, Bible study volunteers, and supporters whose lives can be enriched by partnering with this ministry.
- ◆ Please keep praying for the success of our banquet on October 6th. We need accurate attendance projections by having guests RSVP. We anticipate this will be our highest attendance in years, perhaps ever. We know God has great plans for APM and this banquet is important for helping fulfill those plans.
- ◆ As stated above, our income so far this year is falling short. "Many helpers make light work." Together in growing numbers will make great things happen.

Prayer Requests

SEPTEMBER 2014

Alpha
Prison Ministries

ADVOCAATE



Meet Dr. Joseph M. Stowell III

Cornerstone University President • Internationally known speaker and author



Dr. Joseph M. Stowell serves as the President of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. An internationally recognized conference speaker, Joe has also written numerous books including *The Trouble with Jesus*, *Simply Jesus and You*, *The Upside of Down*, and *Redefining Leadership: Character-Driven Habits of Effective Leaders*. Joe also works with RBC Ministries, partnering in media productions, outreach to pastors, devotional writing, and a web ministry called *Strength for the Journey* (getmorestrength.org). He serves on the Board of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Wheaton College and has a distinguished career in higher education and church leadership. Joe and his wife Martie are the parents of three adult children and ten grandchildren.

When Where and Why

info@alphapm.org

October 6, 2014 at 6 pm (RSVP by September 24)

The Ground Floor at Resurrection Life Church

Corner of 52nd Street and Ivanrest in Grandville

Society, even some Christians, view prisoners as getting what they deserve. Sometimes that's true. But God doesn't dispose of them. He changes them, sets them free, and yes, uses them. It's not glamorous work ministering to prisoners, but it is exciting. This annual banquet is your opportunity to find out why people in their right mind get hooked on seeing God transform broken lives.



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You may freely print as many copies of this poster/flyer from our alphapm.org web site as you need to legally and ethically help promote the event