

# Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

## March 2015 Edition

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

## Demolishing the Enemy's Lies

As Leon mentioned in our February newsletter, APM has over 200 men actively participating in weekly Bible studies. Although not in a single location since these are in the prisons we serve and in our Alpha Houses, to the best of our knowledge, this makes us the 2nd largest mens Bible study in West Michigan. Not bad for a "small" ministry like APM!

Most of the people receiving our newsletter already realize the importance of continually being in God's word to counteract the *stinkin' thinkin'* perpetrated on us by the world and culture, but the letters we received published on the back just further illustrate how our minds are the real battle ground that need continuous refreshment and renewal (Rom. 12:1-2).

In the letter from Steven, he asked Leon for his thoughts. Knowing Leon, he had plenty to offer in response. I believe Steven's primary dilemma is, he no longer has the formal one on one Bible study he was able to receive before being transferred to a different prison, where APM does not currently have one.

In that situation, the enemy would not want to miss an ideal opportunity to attack his mind. What I would say to Steven if he

receives this newsletter is **any** argument that sets itself up against the knowledge of God needs to be *demolished* (2 Cor. 10:4-5). The knowledge of God says that **nothing** can separate you from his love (Rom 8:38). The knowledge of God says how dare that liar the devil bring an accusation against those whom God has chosen (Rom. 8:33).

Ideally, APM would like to bring one on one Bible studies to more prisons. We have offers on the table to do just that. The only thing missing is volunteers. The invitation is open for you to help men like Steven use God's word to send the enemy running in stark terror when he tries to lie to them.

To our supporters, you helped Steven during his incarceration at Carson City. Your support means he can reach out to APM when the devil attacks. You also bring hope through the much needed Alpha House when he and others like him get paroled.

This newsletter also goes to many inmates. It not only gets read by recipients, it gets passed around inside the prisons. For those facilities where APM is not physically present, we're still able to have a ministry there anyway—all through our supporters.

Visit us online at: [www.alphapm.org](http://www.alphapm.org)

- ◆ Remember our Alpha House residents in your prayers. Current residents are: Brandon (new arrival), Charlie, Joe, Elmer, Kevin, Tim, and Charles. All residents are doing well but still face the challenges of reentry into society. Elmer had open heart surgery in January and still requires several weeks of "light duty" during his recovery.
- ◆ Pray for Steven and others like him who don't have the benefit of weekly Bible studies and can get discouraged.
- ◆ Thank the Lord for the success of Bible studies in prisons we serve, and pray for volunteers so we can seize more opportunities to minister to men in other prisons like the one Steven was moved to.
- ◆ Please begin praying for our next APM banquet on September 21, 2015.

Prayer Requests

MARCH 2015

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

Alpha  
Prison Ministries

ADVOICATE

## Inmate Letter from Steven

I was previously at Carson City when I first contacted you last year about coming to Alpha House upon my release in 2016 (I was unexpectedly transferred to a different prison). I pray and hope I am still being considered for residency as I believe the environment and focus of Alpha House is exactly what I need!

I am tentatively set for my release date in September of 2016 and wonder if you could update me regarding your consideration of my residency application. I am so looking forward to starting up a new life, based in Christ, and again, Alpha House is where I want to be!

I must be honest and also ask for your thoughts or suggestions. Over the past couple months or so, I feel sluggish and almost “depressed” over my current level of faith. I have recurring feelings and thoughts that my sins are too great to really be forgiven.

I study, I fellowship with other Christian brothers, but I still feel down. Are these feelings truly the work of Satan? I try so very hard to focus on Christ but lately, have been feeling that my efforts are not good enough. Do you have any thoughts? Any input would be greatly appreciated.

Well, I wanted to update you on my new address and just touch base. I hope all is well and the men at Alpha House are doing well and staying focused. Please give my best to all!

Sincerely and In Christ,  
Steven

## Inmate Letter from Jeff

God is good! WOW, 2015, what a year! I hope and pray that all is well with you. I am doing very well. I am learning to enjoy life more and more with Christ. Trials and tribulations come, but I do realize it's to help me grow, so I can welcome them with joy.

I thank you for all the newsletters you have sent me. I share them with the brothers and they also thank you. This year a lot of brothers are getting their paroles right on time. Praise the Lord for opening doors. We pray that they will continue to do the Lord's will so they don't come back!

Our meetings are getting larger than before and we are seeing results! We have a few brothers interested in the Alpha House transitional housing. These are faithful men who have a heart to serve others. Hopefully, they can have an impact there.

Tony has received his residency application and wants me to speak on his behalf. I have known him for over nine years and he has grown so much in the body—a huge impact on the compound! I really believe he would be a great fit at Alpha House!

We could use more study guide books. Thank you for everything you do because your passion brings out the true love of Christ to everyone!

God Bless You Always!  
Jeff

## EDITOR'S NOTES

While screening recent mail provided to me for possible newsletter material, some things stood to me about these letters aside from the obvious contrast. These were both received the same day (2/18/15) and have Carson City in common since Jeff wrote from Carson City.

APM conducts weekly Bible studies at Carson City. The facility that Steven was transferred to does not have weekly APM Bible studies so he no longer receives this benefit. While Steven has other opportunities to grow in his faith, there's just something special about studying the Bible with other believers.

It's apparent to me that the Bible studies at Carson City helped Steven grow and my life experience allows me to see the devil being the devil in his situation—a predictable opportunist. The answer to his question about this being the work of Satan is a resounding YES. It's classic devil all the way!

God's word trumps emotions. Emotions say, “Can I really be forgiven of any sin?” God's word says **absolutely**. Satan's lies say, “You need to put in more effort.” God's word says: God himself already qualified you (Col. 1:12). “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.” (Jesus in Matt. 11:28-30, The Message)

Your support of APM is helping men discover this freedom as Jeff's letter proclaims. It's also helping men like Steven recognize Satan's lies and live confidently under God's truth. This is accomplished through in-prison Bible studies, mentoring, and the Alpha House environment. Both letters above clearly demonstrate how important these ministries are.

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Newsletter written/edited by APM Board member Steve Chittenden

## APM Financial Summary January-December 2014

Total \$ Income:  
95,781.00 (budget)  
89,530.29 (actual)

Net \$ Expense:  
95,781.00 (budget)  
100,334.37 (actual)



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