

Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

November 2015 Edition

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

Inmate Only "Appeals" for Mentor

I can't express my gratitude enough for having an opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful work of our Lord. Thank you. Please find my application and Resident Agreement to Alpha Prison Ministries. I'd like to give you a brief history of how I got here.

I was sentenced to Life in Prison after being convicted of 1st Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and Kidnaping in January of 2006. After calling out to God and being convinced that I had to live whole heartedly under the principles of God's kingdom, I was granted grace by the Lord after having fallen on my face and admitted that I'd violated God's purpose for my life.

I retracted all of my appeals and asked God to show me what to do and he did. I've been guided by God every step of the way and am in the final steps of completing an application for Commutation of Sentence to the Governor. This did not happen on a whim of my own efforts—God intervened. I was sent an application by the parole board themselves without me ever asking. Only God could have moved such a mountain.

I did not understand what was happening so I went to my counselor. I was informed that this was indeed rare and that I had a

very good chance of receiving mercy—praise God for such grace.

Every step that I've taken with regard to what I should do has been directed by God. This includes contacting your ministry. I have a sister in Grand Rapids but God told me that my home is with my brothers who would support me and be supported by me. I love the Lord. I've given my life to Jesus Christ and despite my shortcomings, he has blessed me beyond measure. I noticed in your letter you called your place of residence, an "environment." I believe in God's environment, it's the only way of success.

I attend church weekly and Bible study on Tuesday evenings. I also attend Celebrate Recovery and would love to be paired with a mentor from Alpha Ministries if at all possible.

I know I don't have a parole date as of yet but rest assured, God is working that out even as I write this letter. Please accept my application and connect me with someone from your ministry to mentor me while I prepare to reenter society.

Sincerely appreciative,
Brother Johnny

Visit us online at:

www.alphapm.org

- ◆ APM is currently in the red on 2015 finances. We continue to remember that this is God's ministry and not ours, and are confident that God will supply, but your prayers are instrumental in helping block the work of our enemy so APM can continue raiding his strongholds in prisons.
- ◆ Remember our Alpha House residents in your prayers. Current residents are: Al, Chris (actually two residents named Chris), Colin, Elmer, Ernest, Jeff, Rob, and Ron.
- ◆ This is the month for Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for. We have Josh as a new volunteer working at Central Michigan Correctional Facility, we have a God who supplies all our needs so we don't have to worry about our budget shortfall, we have been ministering for 32 years, and so much more.

Prayer Requests

NOVEMBER 2015

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

Alpha
Prison Ministries

ADVOCCATE

32 Years of Prison Ministry This Month

Bob Whitehead began Alpha Prison Ministries in November 1983 with only 3 volunteers and a vision to provide Bible studies and one-on-one mentoring of prison inmates. Thirty-two years later, the ministry certainly has grown but the purpose of APM remains the same.

Alpha House Resident Review of Ministry

Upon “graduating” from Alpha House, every resident is asked to fill out a review summarizing their experience. It’s been a long time since we published any of these so on the month of our 32nd Anniversary, here are a couple recent examples: one from Charles and one from Tim.

Alpha House has helped me spiritually since my release from prison in the following ways:

Charles: For me, APM has become the fulfillment of several promises as well as all believers; Jesus himself instructs us to no longer be concerned about what we will wear, eat, or live. Also, since my arrival at Alpha House, I have continually witnessed the power of God’s grace and protection to keep me and the other residents safe. Therefore, it has taught me how to make stronger use of the measure of faith that God has given me, allowing me to stand firm upon his promises in all areas of my life regardless of the circumstances. As a result, I have experienced a closer relationship with my Heavenly Father and better prayer life, while encouraging me to study and meditate on his Holy Word.

Tim: One on one Bible study with Leon. Making sure I found a home church to attend.

Alpha has helped me socially in the following ways:

Charles: Being the Christian ministry that Alpha is. Being placed in an environment with other believers has shown me true Christian fellowship that most places are in dire need of these days. Also, the testimonies of current and past residents have helped me to be more effective in sharing mine, and has given me a stronger desire to be a witness to the ones still living in darkness.

Tim: Set me up with a mentor—JR—to connect with. Has like minded believers stay at Alpha House.

Alpha has helped me financially in the following ways:

Charles: First off, upon arrival at Alpha House, not being required to pay while unemployed helped me a great deal by preventing me from incurring more financial debt. Second, being able to study and apply the princi-

ples from God’s Word regarding finances has helped me to continue to reduce past debts and slowly develop a budget. Though this may be my weakest area in my life, APM has encouraged me to remain in prayer and seek God’s wisdom to help me be more financially responsible.

Tim: Low monthly ministry fees. Requires a minimum of \$50 a week into savings (VERY IMPORTANT).

Additional Comments:

Charles: I would just like to express my thanks and gratitude to APM, Leon, JR, and all the other volunteers and contributors to the ministry, for without APM, I believe a transition back into society would not have been possible.

Tim: Leon is always willing to council with me, even now that I’m not staying at Alpha House.

Speaking of “Graduating”

For those of you who were at the APM banquet in September, Leon announced the graduation of Kevin Lounsbury. Kevin just received an AA in Electrical Engineering from ITT Technical Institute.

There’s more to point out about Kevin’s accomplishment. Leon has been Executive Director at Alpha House for 15 years. Many past residents have started school during that time but Kevin is one of only two to receive a degree. Way to go Kevin!!



By the way, Kevin “graduated” from Alpha House too—even purchased a home using funds he saved during his residency for a down payment.

Note on APM Finances

Besides the format of our financial reporting below being changed slightly to improve clarity, we wanted to add some important information on APM’s financial status as 2015 quickly draws to a close. The numbers show income below expenses which is only part of the story. We shared with you before that a parking lot had to be resurfaced. We recently had to replace a garage door. Expenses are part of ministry. We know God will supply for as long as he wants to keep this ministry operating, we’re just mentioning our financial needs in case he wants to do that through you.

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Newsletter written/edited by APM Board member Steve Chittenden

APM Financial Summary January-September 2015

Total Income: \$61,771.50

Total Expense: \$74,388.24

Net Income: **(\$-12,616.74)**



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