

# Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

## November 2016 Edition

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

## God Is Big On "Small"

For those of you who attended our annual banquet in September, it was great as usual. The primary purposes were accomplished. At the top of that list is to say "thank you" to our supporters and volunteers. Another purpose is to demonstrate the difference you are making when you support this ministry. And yes, we provide the opportunity for everyone to give, but those other purposes do take precedent.

One of the things we've learned to emphasize is that APM is not nearly as big of a ministry as we appear. We've had people make statements that they thought we must have thousands of supporters. That is simply not true but it may look that way because we have dedicated people providing a standard of excellence you don't typically see in a "small" ministry.

We represent and serve an extravagant God and he deserves no less than our best. What we accomplish on a *small* budget is very impressive and anyone attending our banquet for the first time, a significant number of attendees, would notice how *small* we are and be surprised.

Attendance this year was the lowest since I joined APM 12 years

ago, but the giving did not reflect such low attendance. I attend a very large church where great things are accomplished in the Kingdom of God, but God is also a master of doing great things through *small* forces (think of Gideon among other examples).

With the demonstrations of God's blessing that evening, it's hard to center on only one highlight. But due to limited space and for showing how the seemingly *small* task of ministering to just one person explodes into several other lives being impacted, let me mention an Alpha House resident named Rob.

Rob is just now moving out of Alpha House and has purchased a home of his own with 5 bedrooms. Rob does not need that extra space, he wants to help others getting out of prison the way Alpha House helped him. How cool is that!?



Alpha Prison Ministries' 2016 annual banquet

Visit us online at:

[www.alphapm.org](http://www.alphapm.org)

- ◆ This month we're featuring handwritten inmate prayers for you to agree with:
- ◆ Lewis - God I pray that you will heal my father's face, protect Audrey's and my relationship and keep us safe. Thank you God for bringing love back into my life and blessing me with Audrey. Thank you for your son Jesus and the work on the cross.
- ◆ Sam - I Pray for Betty as she recovers from cancer surgery, thank you.
- ◆ Ben - Lord, I love you and thank you for all you are and do whether I realize it or not. I need you every day of my life to do your will. Help me to stay strong and faithful as your humble servant. Bless Zack and Luke, help them follow you. Help my mom and dad, help all of us to feel your love and forgiveness. Pour out your Spirit on all of us.

Prayer Requests

NOVEMBER 2016

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

Alpha  
Prison Ministries

ADVOCAATE

## I Was Raised to Believe There Was No God

As a young child, I grew up in a house that was filled with hate and anger. I was raised to believe that there was no God—he did not exist and we'd better not mention God in the house. I was not allowed to attend church. My mom wanted to attend church but my dad would not allow it.

I became my dad. Drinking all the time, not going to church, not believing in God, not doing good things in life. As I got older and kept on having problems in life, I thought, something has to change. But what? So I joined the Army. That was not the answer to my problem.

After the Army my drinking and drug use accelerated. I was still not doing good; I was doing what felt good to me. I was hanging out with the wrong people and still doing wrong.

My life was so out of control that on March 13, 2006 I was arrested and sent to prison for 10 years. When I arrived and was put into a cell, I found a Bible in there. After a couple of weeks I started reading that Bible and it changed my life forever.

My very first Scripture I read was Matthew 13:47-52:

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” (NIV)

On May 5, 2006, I turned my life over to Christ and asked for his forgiveness. After that day my life has been so much better. God has blessed me with so much. I still stumble, but God is in control.

He always was, I just did not let him have control of my life. With what I know, I will always keep God in my life forever. Giving my life to God was the best thing I have ever done in life.

Bob

## Satan Worshiper Gives His Life to Christ

It is 5 am. I have been up since 4 am studying for a test I have today for The Urban Ministry Institute's (TUMI) in-prison seminary training. Yes, I do enjoy the class. Not only because of the things they teach us about God and how to be leaders of God's flock, but the study habits and prayer life it has brought back into me.

This past week I was walking down the hallway. There was a young man who just got here standing in his doorway. As I walked by I felt God tell me, “Introduce yourself to him.” So I stopped and shook his hand and told him who I was.

I soon found out he was a devil worshiper. Well guess what happened in this last week. Yep, he gave his life to Christ and is getting ready to be baptized. I was able to sit with him and explain who Jesus is and what he has done for us by shedding his blood on the cross for us, how we are sinners and deserve only death, but he has taken that death sentence away and given us the opportunity for eternal life.

The greatest privilege I get is seeing someone who is so lost find life in Jesus.

Yesterday, he was approached out on the yard by some guys trying to get him to join their gang. He told them he appreciated it but he has given his life to Christ and that is the only gang he wants to be in.

When he told me this story I jumped for joy. Here is a guy who worshiped Satan all his life, proclaiming Christ to others the first week after being saved.

We prayed together and I told him how proud I was. I believe God has something really special in store for this young man. And I am so privileged God allows me to see this take place. I just wanted to share one of God's amazing things he has done with me this past week.

Your friend,  
Happy Jack

## Banquet and Financial Summary Note

Banquet donations topped \$5100 and with expenses at about \$1100 our net gain was about \$4000. Thank you to everyone who supports us through prayer, volunteering, and giving. As you'll see from our Year to Date (YTD) summary below, we're still behind budget but we know God is much bigger than any shortfall. We publish this information only for disclosure purposes knowing the Lord always supplies through his people since that's the **only** way APM receives funding.

### Easily print this newsletter from our web site

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](http://alphapm.org).

Newsletter written/edited by APM Board member Steve Chittenden

### APM Financial Summary January-September 2016

Total Income: \$67,383.00

Total Expense: \$74,156.87

Net Income: **-\$6773.87**



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