



# Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

## April 2023 Edition

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

## Completion Certificates Again Being Sent

In December, we announced the reinstatement of One-to-One discipleship at Central Michigan Correctional Facility. Things are going well with weekly inmate participation of about 18-20 inmates and rising.

This is the only facility to have resumed secondary services (those that supplement Sunday church services). Also, Alpha is the only ministry except Keryx to be reactivated. That says a lot for us!

We do have an Alpha volunteer doing Sunday services once a month at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility under the APM banner. That is the only in person activity in prisons with no predictions for reopening other facilities, with significant short staffing issues being a major driving factor.

But there is good news and cause for celebration. The One-to-One discipleship Bible study training includes

sending completion certificates to graduate inmates. After only one month of having these studies reinstated we were sending out these certificates which hasn't happened in a long time. We sent out six of them in January alone and a few more since!

This means more inmate Bible study leaders in either official and/or unofficial capacity. Inmates who complete these studies are trained in how to study the Bible and share their testimony and faith, among other skills.

Other good news is that our transitional houses remain at or near full capacity and vacancies get filled in short time frames. And Alpha is still filling inmate requests for Bibles on a regular basis.

We thank our volunteers for their patience, they are eager to resume. We thank everyone for their support and prayers. That is certainly making an impact.

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MARCH 2023

- ◆ It's great that One-to-One discipleship Bible studies have resumed at Central Michigan and we are issuing completion certificates to inmates but we need to pray on two fronts to see ministry being resumed at other facilities. First that the Dept. of Corrections will get the staff they desperately need and second, that a number of other factors within the system will be prioritized and resolved to reopen for effective prison ministry to resume.
- ◆ Our search for a new Executive Director continues and interviews are again being planned after stalling the last couple months other than still actively accepting applications. We need to find the person God has called and chosen for us and your prayers help activate and move his power.
- ◆ This year is also when we expect a new roof for our main Alpha House. Please pray for good timing with the market and God's provision.

Prayer Requests

Alpha  
Prison Ministries

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

## Inmate Tracy Responds to Application Questions

Editor's note: When we get inquiries from inmates seeking residency in our Alpha House transitional houses, part of the process is to get their responses to some questions. This is a sampling of that process. Tracey begins with an apology that he doesn't consider himself to be good at writing or explaining himself. That's okay. He did plenty well enough.

### Describe my spiritual journey

My journey in 2019 began when I was accepted in the Fellowship program at Muskegon Correctional Facility. Before that I had tried to read some of the Bible for a couple of years but never understood it. After going through the program and accepting God in my life, my life has changed in so many ways.

Now I do my best to live a better life. I try to treat people how I'd like to be treated. I know if it weren't for going through that program and accepting Christ my life would still be in torment.

I don't have all the answers nor do I have it all figured out but I do feel I'm headed in the right direction. With Pastor Mark's guidance and what I've lived and learned on my own, my life now has meaning and I have faith that God is in charge and has a plan for me.

### What is the gospel?

The gospel is the good news of what Jesus Christ has done and continues to do for us today. He gave his life for our sins so our life would be better. The gospel is the truth.

### What is Jesus doing in my life?

Jesus has turned my life around in so many ways. I wake up every day with **hope**; something I've never had. I know he has a plan for me, and people like you, Pastor Mark, and so many other brothers and sisters who have come into my life are proof to me that there is a better way. And because of Christ I do all I can to take it with my head held high and keep one foot in front of the other daily.

### My favorite Bible verse

My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11 because I believe God has a plan for my life and it does not involve me being an inmate.

## Do I attend Bible study and/or services?

For quite a while I did Crossroads and New Creations Bible studies. Between being moved 4 times in a year and not being able to afford the postage, I have stopped. Now I have 2 friends that I study with on a daily basis. Before COVID I went to services for a year and a half. We have COVID here now so I do not attend. I've had COVID 4 times and God has gotten me through it. I don't think it's wise to keep catching it.

We'll I've tried to answer the questions. I'm not going to quote Scripture and what not trying to impress. I've written from my heart and I hope that's enough. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

God bless,  
Tracy

## Executive Director Search Status

APM is still getting responses and planning Board of Director interviews with applicants to select a new Executive Director when Leon steps down this fall and becomes an APM volunteer instead. The interview process has stalled since January due to Board member absences but fully resumes again this month. This is a big decision for us and your prayers are appreciated.

We have an A+ Executive Director now and we're counting on God providing his selection of a new A+ Executive Director. Thank you for praying.

## Returning Citizens Initiative

Lansing lawmakers will hopefully move forward after discussing the Returning Citizens Initiative in late March to help parolees get a drivers license or state ID upon their release. Being in prison ministry we've seen how discouraging of a problem this can be for newly released former inmates trying to put their lives back together while being thwarted by the system.

The process of getting a drivers license or state ID after release can take months. Rep. Graham Filler, whom we've had as a guest in the past is a strong advocate for this bill. Support on both sides of the aisle is strong and we hope to see this much needed removal of barriers for parolees.

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Newsletter written/edited by APM Board member Steve Chittenden

### APM Financial Summary January-February 2023

Total Income: **\$18,231.03**

Total Expense: **\$18,805.34**

Net Income: **\$-574.31**



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