

Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

December 2023 Edition

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

Quadruple Impact Night

Impact Night has always been a celebration to thank our volunteers and those who support us through prayers, giving, or more; and serve to raise awareness of the ministry and its impact. Last month's Impact Night did serve that purpose along with three primary others.

It was fitting to feature four purposes during a celebration of **40 years of ministry**—a second of our four objectives for the evening. The other two were to commemorate Leon Alderman's tenure of over 23 years as our second Executive Director who "retired" in October, and to introduce Dave Klooster, our new, and third, Director.

Though no longer our Director, Leon is still very much a part of APM as a volunteer, or better put, servant with a different title and different pay structure (aka continued heavenly rewards but no paychecks from APM). Leon informed the Board of Directors two years in advance of his intention to step down which was very much needed

to find a person like Dave to fill the position.



Space here does not allow for as much introduction to Dave as we need. Dave has been very gracious in honoring Leon with proper recognition but in the months ahead, you will be getting to know Dave much better.

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www.alphapm.org

- ♦ There is cause for double praise as our Impact Night was a great success and answer to prayer along with Leon doing very well given his heart condition.
- ♦ Please pray for Tim and his mother—both her health and his job situation, which have been difficult.
- ♦ Alpha House resident RJ has asked prayer as he trains for his CDL trucker's license and that he completes the course well.
- ♦ Timothy has requested prayer for his relationships with family, which have been very challenging.
- ♦ Dave, our new APM Director is settling into the role under "trial by fire" after Leon suddenly ended up in the hospital and the adjustment period of being entirely new. He is clearly called to prison ministry but circumstances put him on the fast track beyond anyone's expectation. Pray for Dave as well.

Prayer Requests

DECEMBER 2023

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

Alpha
Prison Ministries

ADVOCATE

Personal Sentiments from Leon

It was a sincere privilege, honor, and joy to serve our Lord, volunteers, and men as Director for over 23 years. During this time we served hundreds, perhaps close to 2000 men through our in prison Bible studies (one-one-one discipleship training) and 269 men as residents at our Alpha House transitional housing facilities.

Because of your prayers and financial giving, Alpha been faithful to God's calling "to evangelize and disciple men who happen to be prisoners and former inmates." It has been a pleasure to come under the leadership of our Board of Directors who are faithful to accomplish this purpose.

God has turned many of our residents into friends, and our volunteers into faithful heroes of the faith. Let us remember Bob Whitehead, Bob Veldman, Marv Wood, Elmer DeRitter, Rodney Raterink, Ray Chester, and other Alpha volunteers who are now in Jesus' presence!

Pamela and I will always be a part of our Alpha family through prayer, giving, and service. It is an important work God has called us to in a hurting world. May God bless the work of our hands for his glory!

Laboring with you,
Leon

Tribute to Chaplain Chad Markwell

Alpha pays tribute to Chaplain Chad Markwell who served at Central Michigan Correctional Facility for many years and was a true friend to APM and strong supporter of our volunteers there, Elroy and Ed. Leon describes him as a man with a "shepherd's heart" and one of the three best Chaplains he has ever worked with; someone who will be very much missed.

Leon, "This Is Your Life"

During Impact Night, a planned interview Leon was hosting with APM friends Tyler and Brad to describe what it's like to be a Christian former

inmate after release, what Leon didn't know in advance was their intention to shift the interview off of themselves to pay accolades not just to APM, but to Leon for his service to them as our Director. The first half of that interview served its purpose in enlightening attendees to some of the challenges former inmates face, but then came the chance for them to publicly acknowledge the impact of Leon and APM.

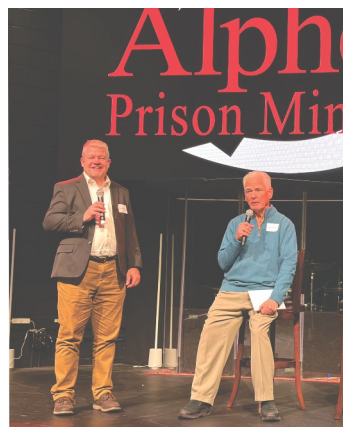


The accolades consistently included a great deal of words and terms to describe Leon: *authentic Christian, friend, brother, father figure, servant, mentor, role model, inspiration*, etc. And not just from former inmates, Board member and volunteer Bill Spurrier expressed appreciation for Leon's support to him, which could be echoed by many others.

As of this Impact Night celebration, I've been with APM for 19 of the more than 23 years Leon has served as Director. I am fully confident that although we showered Leon with the well deserved accolades, it served to bless his servant's heart without risk of puffing him up.

Our new Director, Dave, later shared with me his pleasure to see the night give so much back to Leon, which tells me a lot about the person God sent us to help build upon Leon's service to the ministry.

Shown here just a few minutes before capping off the evening, Leon shared the stage with Dave. It was a fitting way to pass the baton to our new Director. Welcome, Dave, and kudos to Leon!



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Newsletter written/edited by APM Board member Steve Chittenden

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

APM Financial Summary January-October 2023

Total Income: **\$74,786.57**

Total Expense: **\$107,940.72**

Net Income: **\$-33,154.15**

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PO Box 9216
Grand Rapids, Michigan
49509
(616) 538-4090
alphapm.org
info@alphapm.org