



# Alpha Prison Ministries Newsletter

## February 2024 Edition

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

## Plenty of Recent Inmate Letters

On the other side of this newsletter are four inmate letters that vividly reveal the need for transitional housing as they wrote to us seeking a safe place to reenter society. This theme dominates our recent queue as word keeps getting out about APM's solution to this need.

One letter in particular that our new Director, Dave, gave me stands out in a different way. The handwriting, and even by self admission, spelling, is "not all that," and challenging to decipher. At six pages, there's no room here to cover it extensively but a brief summary is worth sharing.

Death row inmate, Mike, who sent us this letter, isn't someone looking for transitional housing or escape from his inevitable death in prison, but offers a candid assessment of his situation, complete with brutal reflection on his lack of deserving any kind of compassion, even from God.

His expressed thoughts of self loathing were further exemplified by the concept that his stage 4 cancer and his excruciating pain were fitting punishments, some may say

from God, for his "unforgivable" transgressions.

Mike does not actually expect to face his pending execution since he has already lived longer than expected and anticipates the cancer will take him out first. He's in a special ward with others kept alive only by medical means and receiving minimal pain medication.

Despite his dismal circumstances, the last page and a half of Mike's letter ends in true ecclesiastical fashion with this and much more:

God is merciful and forgiving, ask for forgiveness and all the help God can give you. God is one way and one way only. Don't be a cry baby when life happens. Stand on your faith, claim that faith and ask God for help; work it and pay attention to your inner self and what is being said, is it right or wrong? And remember God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the greatest of the great, they are beyond the greatest of the great and then some. Get in the fight and don't give up.

Visit us online at:

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

- ◆ Please continue to pray and thank God for Dave, our new APM Director. He is adjusting well to his role and presenting very good ideas to the Board of Directors for moving this ministry forward. Pray he continues to receive strength and guidance meeting with both Alpha House residents and others as he presents and represents APM.
- ◆ Pray for Mike on death row and others like him, especially with his cancer and state of mind with all he faces. Thank the Lord that in spite of it all, Mike has found, and models, peace with God.
- ◆ With special emphasis in this month's newsletter on our Alpha House reentry care (transitional housing) for former inmates integrating back into society, pray for these men, both current residents and those who wish to become residents. Praise God we are able to meet this need for as many as possible.

Prayer Requests

FEBRUARY 2024

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

Alpha  
Prison Ministries

CAUTION

Inmate Seeking Mid 2025 Residency

I am writing to seek a place in your transitional housing. I'm presently involved in the Alpha service here at Central Michigan Correctional Facility. My lifestyle here is that of a model prisoner and it is also a reflection of who I've become as a person. I am willing, able, and ready to abide by all of the rules and requirements of your housing program, and I'm also willing to help with the chores.

My early release date (ERD) is May 2025 and I so wanted to introduce myself to you now so that you will be aware of me and I can hopefully be added to your list for a bed. I look forward to going to work when I'm released, and doing all that I need to do to gain and maintain a good, healthy, and prosperous life.

I am eager to become an asset to society and to give back to my community by helping others as I can. Thank you for your time and your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,  
Myron

US Army Vet Inmate Could Soon Be a Resident

My name is Johnathon and I am a proud veteran of the United States Army. Unfortunately, following a stressful deployment, I made a poor decision for which I accept full responsibility.

Over the past year, I used my time wisely to better myself as a whole person. I have attended every class available to me including *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

I have decided to begin searching for living arrangements after I leave here and your facility is highly recommended. I will be seeking parole in April 2024 and I feel confident of an early release. I am ready to start my new life. Most importantly, I want to establish myself as the kind of person everyone knows me to be.

Although my time here was an unplanned detour in my life, I have used it to better myself. I believe I have more discipline to accomplish any task and I have adjusted my priorities to focus on being the best person I can be. I have found my true self.

I hope that your facility can provide me with the first step toward my independence. I hope to serve as an example to all of what can be

accomplished through hard work and a positive mind set. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope to hear back from you soon!

Best regards,  
Johnathon

Potential 2026 Resident Planning Ahead

I want to first congratulate you on being the new APM Director. Leon and I have been in constant contact over the past couple years. My pastor has also been kind enough to reach out to Leon on my behalf.

I want to take this opportunity to express my interest in being accepted to Alpha House. I am very excited and hopeful about the Jesus environment that you offer.

Christ is my Lord and Savior and it's only by his grace that I am new today. My hope has always been to build a relationship with Alpha. If there is anything I can do to help my relationship with you and further improve my chances of being accepted, please let me know.

I am two years from my ERD which is February 2026. I understand a decision can't be given at this time. I pray all is well with the ministry and with your family. You will be in my prayers daily and I hope to hear from you soon. God bless you.

Kind regards,  
Latwan

Christian Inmate Desires Fresh New Start

I am serving a prison sentence right now after a conviction in Huron County but hope to release to the Grand Rapids area. Two factors are at play: I don't want to return to the same problems I had when I came to prison, and living in the Grand Rapids area would provide many more employment opportunities.

I have been focused on my Christian faith throughout my incarceration and would enjoy participating in your faith-based reentry program. It would be great to have that kind of foundation on parole.

I hope you will send me an application soon and consider providing a housing option so I can release to the Grand Rapids area.

Sincerely,  
Drew

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-December 2023

Total Income: \$110,321.56

Total Expense: \$124,061.31

Net Income: \$-13,739.75



PO Box 9216  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
49509  
(616) 538-4090  
[alphapm.org](http://alphapm.org)  
[info@alphapm.org](mailto:info@alphapm.org)

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