

BRINGING DOWN THE WALLS

Walls are key architectural elements that serve society well. They provide security, strength and design for buildings and structures. But walls of fear and prejudice serve only to undermine the health and strength of our society. We want to challenge and "bring down" the walls that keep us from meeting the needs of people who desperately need our help.

Please consider joining us for an exciting day in Detroit, Michigan that is sure to open your heart and mind.

Prison Fellowship was founded in 1976 by Charles W. Colson, former Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon. After serving time in prison for a Watergate-related offense, Colson became convinced of the need for an outreach devoted to sharing hope with men and women in prison. Headquartered near Washington, D.C., Prison Fellowship is now the largest prison outreach and criminal justice organization in the world, operating in all 50 states and in 113 countries around the world.

Each day in Michigan, Prison Fellowship volunteers reach out to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families through mentoring, bible studies, support groups, seminars and life skills training and support. These volunteers cross the walls of isolation and provide a lifeline of encouragement, love, counsel, wisdom, and spiritual insight. The Michigan ministry of PFM seeks to serve as an umbrella organization that connects individuals, churches, para-church ministries and community organizations to address the spiritual and physical needs of those impacted by crime through the creation of communities of care — and further to raise up leaders and mentors among formerly incarcerated individuals. Prison Fellowship provides in depth training and strategic ministry planning for volunteer groups. An online resource database has been developed to connect the needy with available resources throughout the state. (www.rjcmichigan.org)

With 215 Michigan volunteers organized into 34 volunteer teams, Prison Fellowship ministers in 37 state and federal prisons each year in the state of Michigan. Given a total prison population of over 50,000 Prison Fellowship is reaching approximately two-thirds of inmates in Michigan. Ongoing Bible study groups account for most of in-prison ministry, but 130 inmates are currently in one-to-one mentoring relationships with Prison Fellowship volunteers. 577 volunteer pen pals reach out to 2,260 Michigan inmates through the mail. In addition, a growing network of approximately 80 ex-offenders throughout the state is being touched by the local ministry.

Angel Tree is a church-based ministry of Prison Fellowship to the children of prisoners. Michigan churches partnered with Angel Tree to bring Christmas gifts and the Gospel to 18,242 children of prisoners through the participation of 400 local churches. 120 Angel Tree Children are involved in a mentor relationship and nearly 500 participate in Angel Tree Camp annually.

The Campus ministry in Michigan has its base at Calvin College in Grand Rapids with over 50 participating volunteers. The campus ministry is in the process of networking with other Christian campus ministries and church collegiate groups throughout the state to train, equip and educate students to participate in prison ministry, mentoring and Christian world view.



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LOCAL SUCCESS STORIES



TERRY MYERS lived his life looking for acceptance. He felt that his father did not love him for who he was but only for what he did. He thought he could never be good enough. Moreover, because his family moved often, he learned not to let anyone get too close because it would hurt to say goodbye. All of this contributed to Terry landing in Jackson prison where he spent four years. During his time in prison, he recalls how Prison Fellowship would consistently come in to visit him. These visits impacted his life and now, 13 years later, Terry works with Prison Fellowship's aftercare ministry and is a minister with "Higher Ground Foundation."



As a young man **TOM WYMAN** was heavily involved in sports - often earning the rank of captain of the team. He loved the recognition he received but after graduation things changed. He soon learned that in the real world people didn't care about touchdowns or scoring baskets. All of the sudden he felt like a nobody. He learned that money gave him the recognition he desired and found that the fastest way to get it was to sell drugs. This soon landed him into prison. But prison was his wakeup call even though he didn't realize it at the time. It was there that God finally got his attention. He changed his life around and today Tom is a home builder and also a youth leader at his church.



STEVE MALEK suffered abandonment at age four when his father died. This brought on feelings of anger, resentment and rebellion. He searched for the things the world said would bring fulfillment and happiness. He thought that drugs and alcohol were the answer since they would mask the pain he experienced. He soon realized that these substances led to one of three places: jail, institutions or death. He ended up incarcerated in a California prison for seven years. He was a lost soul until he found Jesus who gave him true fulfillment in his life. When he was released he started going back to minister to the guys in prison. One day an inmate told him that when he was released, he would not have anywhere to go. Steve's felt burdened to start a ministry to help these men when they came out of prison. He and his wife founded "Gateway to Glory" two months ago in Mount Clemens. The ministry, which accommodates up to seven men, houses ex-offenders that are coming out of prison and that are in recovery. It also brings mentors alongside the men to aid in their recovery.



DAVID KALIVA served in the military for six years. His service included Desert Storm. He built a macho-man persona and learned to always suppress his emotions. But behind this mask was a hurt and troubled man. He was diagnosed with cancer at age 26. Once again, he attempted to suppress his emotions but found that he couldn't any longer - at least not on his own. He began using drugs to keep himself from feeling any type of emotion. Eventually, he escaped so far into drugs that nothing mattered anymore. He ended up in prison and his life continued to deteriorate. He even found ways to get drugs behind the wall. David had seen Prison Fellowship volunteers coming in to the prison to share with the men and saw some of the men's lives changing. On one of his lowest days he decided to attend an event and his life would be changed forever.

Today David is involved in Overcomers Outreach - a Christian 12-step group and is a drummer on the praise and worship team.



HAZELETTE ROBINSON was abused as a child and became a substance abuser. She suffered from self-esteem and erected walls that would not allow her to trust. One day Prison Fellowship hosted a workshop at the prison and the speaker shared a scripture from Psalm 139:14, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." This was life changing

for Hazelette. She thought that if this is what God thought about her, then she needed to think differently about herself and her life. She learned to trust God and began following Christ.

Hazelette has been married for 16 years and has a daughter age 14. She has been going back into the prisons for 15 years and will be graduating with a master's degree in Social Work at University of Michigan.



DR. SHEILA BROWN-BURRELL experienced abuse as a child. She came from an alcoholic family which contributed to her building walls of isolation and walls of rejection. She began associating with the wrong crowds which led to her using drugs and eventually landed her in prison. While in prison she built bigger walls of anger and rebellion. One day Prison Fellowship came into the prison to hold seminars. She attended one of the seminars and the volunteers showed her the love of God and gave her a sense of community which she had never experienced. Today, Sheila is the women's director of Life Challenge of Southeastern Michigan and also serves on the Prison Fellowship Leadership Team.



JERRY DASH built walls of personal gratification when he was working in sales in the 1970s. Materialism was very important to him. In trying to fulfill his life of materialism, he ended up becoming incarcerated in 1982. He left a wife and two young kids at home. He blamed others for everything that happened. One day Prison Fellowship offered a weekend retreat. Jerry, who jumped for the opportunity to escape his environment for a while, went on the retreat and experienced hope like never before. Today, he is the executive director of VIP Mentoring which provides support and resources to children who have incarcerated parents. He is also the chairman of Prison Fellowship's Michigan Leadership Team.



LARRY KLEMM grew up in a loving Christian home but he was proud and arrogant. He felt that what he did in his personal life would not affect others - especially his involvement in pornography. He soon found that what he was doing did affect and even hurt others. He received a degree in psychology and counseling and always thought he was a good counselor but he didn't follow his own advice. Larry ended up in prison and the time spent there broke down his walls of pride. While in prison he learned about Angel Tree. He signed up for the program and Prison Fellowship volunteers began reaching out to his family. This greatly impacted Larry's life. Today, Larry is a husband and father of four daughters. Because of the impact of Angel Tree on his family, he is now involved in Angel Tree and shares the program with churches and individuals whenever he can. A wise chaplain once told him, "You can either do your time or redeem your time." Prison Fellowship, he says, helped him redeem his time.



JOE GAUTIER's involvement with drugs led to arrest and in time subsequent imprisonment. Today Joe is a comedian and a platform artist for Prison Fellowship. He is the co-writer of "Videosyncrasies," an award winning musical played over 300 performances. He also wrote "The Menace of Venice" for Disney's Epcot Center. He lives in Texas with his wife and kids. His true enjoyment is performing and sharing the message through comedy.



MARTIN YOST suffered an abusive childhood. He was addicted to drugs at age 12. A life of crime followed that because he chose to find ways to fulfill that addiction by committing crimes to support a habit. He was in and out of prison 4 times and was institutionalized at a young age. He learned about Prison Fellowship through Angel Tree.