

# Proclamation of the Word

Quarterly Newsletter

April 2017

## Collateral Damage

*by Darryll, Director*

When a parent is in jail or prison, it creates an unstable environment for kids. The majority of parents jailed are younger fathers, but nearly half of women in federal prison are mothers. Approximately half of incarcerated parents provided primary financial support. About 65% of families with a member in prison couldn't meet basic needs. Facing child-care and work conflicts, housing instability and risk of homelessness significantly increases. In 2014, a PBS documentary noted that in Louisville's Beecher Terrace, nearly 1 in 6 people will spend time in jail or prison, costing the state \$15 million a year. An incarcerated parent is a stressful, traumatic experience of the same magnitude as abuse, domestic violence and divorce; family bonds are weakened, depression, anxiety and academic achievement suffers. Is there a solution? As a non-profit, multifaceted ministry, POTW is making strides to make a difference, changing lives one at a time. Children's Bread is the newest out-reach ministry for the mentees' children. It uses the Confident Kids curriculum helping children identify their feelings, develop healthy coping skills, grow in self-esteem and make wise choices during turbulent circumstances. Alongside Children's Bread is Water from the Well, a parenting class that offers insights and wisdom on navigating through various issues such as single parenting, budgeting tips and time management. While these classes are geared toward the guardians and children of the incarcerated, anyone is welcome to sign up for the classes beginning in the fall.



Darryll D. Davis  
Director POTW



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## "From Ruin to Rehab to Regeneration"

*By Adam Garrett*

**The Ruin**...My name is Adam Garrett and I'm a child of God. I was born on February 14, 1984 and it took me a quick selfish 33 years to ruin my life under my control. In my senior year of college, I underwent shoulder surgery where my battle with pain killers began and gradually birthed into a heroin addiction. I don't use surgery as an excuse; there were always underlying issues for drug use as well as always a perfect time to use drugs. Whether I was happy, sad, angry, mad, depressed, whatever the emotion or circumstance, it all called for drug use. For the past 10 years, I managed to destroy careers, relationships, my health, finances and any good character value I possessed were shattered and compromised. God was always giving me second chances, continued to pull at me and draw near. The day God brought me to my knees, I had just enough sense left to take hold, pray, listen and follow. At this point my unbelief became faith, fear became strength; I asked for help.

**Rehab**...Through a series of events, I willingly entered Faith Farm, a 10 month faith based rehab. I completed 5 months daily studying the scripture, learning who is the God of the Bible, the gospel and identifying personal issues that I unknowingly struggled with. It all clicked when I found my true identity in Christ, putting it into practice and living through it. Regeneration was the game changer—my mind, body and heart became a new creation transformed by God.

**Regeneration**...After I found my true identity, something I searched for my entire life in all the wrong places, I made the decision to believe it and live it...maybe easier said than done being in the crosshairs of satan and the lies he wanted me to believe. My worth, significance, acceptance, forgiveness, love is given to me through Jesus and not one person can take what they did not give me. I say that to say this—people and circumstances will no longer control my decisions, behavior or attitude. I will continue to strive to live as Jesus walked; no shame in life, no fear in death for now I have been baptized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. My salvation is sealed, my recovery is secure because I have a Lord and Savior and in Him I am healed.

## Hidden Figures

*By Ron Kelley*

In a recent movie, aptly titled, Hidden Figures, we learned of a group of black women with extraordinary math skills who played an enormous role in getting our NASA astronauts into space. Most Americans were not aware of these women or their contribution until the movie was released.

There is another set of 'hidden figures' that you may not be aware of. In Kentucky, 48% of offenders released in 2013 were back behind bars by the end of 2016.

135,000 Kentucky children (13%) have an incarcerated parent. We could continue to spend \$24,000 per year to incarcerate these men and women again. Makes no sense, right?

And the children are as much in prison as their parents suffering emotional trauma and separation from their family unit. Okay with that? Or we can do something about these staggering statistics that represent real people. These 'hidden figures' should make us feel compassion and be so moved to open our hearts and give generously to support the work of POTW striving to break the cycle. Please help us provide these men, women and children with a chance at a future where hope is real and redemption is possible. Please donate to POTW today. Your contribution can change lives. Forward this to your friends and family. Even a small contribution can make a big difference.

Donate at:

[www.proclamationoftheword.org/donate.html](http://www.proclamationoftheword.org/donate.html)

## Unexpected Blessings

*by Jan Antos*

A few weeks ago a friend of mine 'volunteered me' to be a mentor to correspond with a young lady in prison. She told me there was a great need to minister to the many men and women in prison and that letter writing was a valuable tool in their recovery. I reluctantly agreed, but remember thinking, "This is crazy—I know nothing about this sort of thing."

I agonized over the first letter to my mentee, but the Lord was faithful and helped me out. I wondered if I would even get a response. I was thrilled when the first letter came and she expressed her gratitude to have a mentor and seemed eager to build a relationship. She shared the good, the bad, and the ugly pieces of her life; it touched me that she was open and vulnerable to me, a complete stranger. It amazed me that one little card and note from me could mean so much to someone in prison. It was clear to me there is a hunger to have someone who cared to reach out to her.

This new relationship with my mentee is just in the beginning stages but I continue to be amazed at how much our care, direction and encouragement means to someone who is struggling to survive in prison and desiring help to make wiser decisions when they are released.

## New Direction

*by Bobby Holland*

In 1985 I went to prison with 2 life sentences plus 60 years. In 2010, after serving 25 years, I received a 5 year deferment. In 2015, I was granted parole. I met Darryll while in prison and have been affiliated with POTW since my release. I have been blessed to speak at re-entry meetings, Halfway Houses and attend weekly Support Groups.

During my incarceration I earned my GED, AA and AS Degrees, certification in Network Cabling and Microsoft Office and completed numerous Christ centered self-help programs. As a former inmate, I understand the importance of having the proper tools to reintegrate into society.

My wife and I are approaching our 2 year anniversary of my freedom. It has been an adventure and like a dry sponge in water, I take it all in. I never forget the Lord's purpose in my life; to share where the Lord has brought me from. God's goodness brings a person to repentance. How do they hear of His goodness unless we share what the Lord has done for us in our lives? POTW continues to fulfil the Lord's purpose for me through mentoring. I recently received my ordination enabling me to do jail visits with one goal in mind; to bring a hurting soul to Christ.

As a member of the POTW family, I long to see what future adventures the Lord has in store for us knowing that the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few.

## Giving Back

*by Steve Hirschauer*

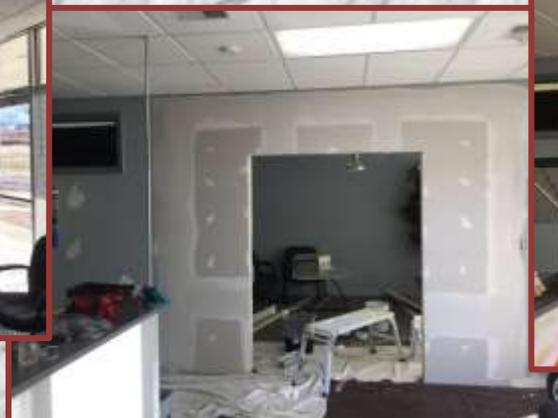
In 2002, I was sentenced to 15 years for robberies I had committed to support my crack cocaine habit. While serving my time, Jesus invaded my life and began to change me from the inside out.

After some years into my sentence, I met Darryll and began to study with him and allowed him to mentor me. I got involved with the ministry while still locked up by overseeing the accountability groups and writing men in the segregation unit.

In June of 2013, I was released after doing 11 years of my sentence. Immediately, I got involved with Proclamation of the Word ministry. I was ordained and started doing all the jail visits and studying with and mentoring the men in Jefferson County jail.

I look back at when I first went in; a young man with no hope for a future. But Jesus opened my eyes and showed me I have a purpose in life. Now, I am a husband and a father to five awesome kids and part of a great ministry; a man with true hope. Not just hope for myself but reaching out to bring hope to others.

Three years of prayers were answered when God paved the way to a new facility to house Proclamation of the Word ministry. Renovations began in September 2016 and were completed March 2017. Watch for the Grand Opening TBA





Thanks to all the helping hands that labored on the kitchen and office buildout...Amos Martin Builders, Overflow Plumbing, David Bryant, Cornerstone Kitchen & Bath, Jeremy Curran, Andy Yocum for hours of IT work, POTW volunteers for their labors of love, Stan Keen Infotech and Jacob Julius' softball teams who came out and blessed POTW with a community Volunteer Day with over 20 volunteers working hard to help us prepare for the upcoming Grand Opening date!