

*Grand Opening Tour
at New Facility
in February:
11501 Plantside Dr.
Date & Time TBA*

JANUARY 2017
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Proclamation of the Word

Sara...A Success Story



POTW introduces Sara. Sara was incarcerated for four years, estranged from her children and all family ties had been severed. Drugs and alcohol shattered not only her life, but left many others shattered in the wake of crimes. Today she is free, proclaiming God's ability to deliver, that He is indeed a repairer of the breach. Sara is working full time, living in Louisville at a transition house. She is taking college classes through Sullivan College and amazed at how the Lord is repairing the broken relationships in her life, restoring to her all that she destroyed. Pray for Sara, that she be physically rejoined with her children soon and be successful in her pursuit of her college degree.

Vision for 2017

POTW will be hosting 3 monthly TCA (The Christian Advantage) roundtable meetings, a weekly support group for families of the incarcerated. Along with these: Our weekly "Children's Bread" ministry, weekly Parenting classes, Mentor training, monthly presentations with networking luncheons and board meetings.

Our short term vision is a build out for our facility kitchen, coming soon. Our long-term vision for the garage bay (per approval and God willing) is to do a build out that will provide space for sub-leasing for banquets, fundraisers, and large ministry gatherings. *Darryll*



POTW Welcomes Ron Kelley

In July 2016, Ron Kelley agreed to head up the POTW Fundraising Committee coming on board with his experience and involvement in this area of ministry. In this capacity, Ron oversees the fundraising efforts for the ministry guiding it to meet the goals set forth by the board. Before moving into this position, Ron worked at several high technology firms in a variety of management positions. In 1993, he formed his own software and professional services

company which he ran until 2014, at which time he sold the firm and retired from corporate life to devote more time to Kingdom work. A Christian since 1971, he has served as an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church and in various leadership and teaching roles in the churches where he and his wife, Rhonda, have served. in. Ron and Rhonda have three grown children and two grandchildren.

After 3 years of praying, and seeking what seemed to be endless possibilities "just beyond our reach," POTW has finally been blessed with the opportunity to place all of our ministry outreach under one roof.

Thanks to the partnering associates at "Go Ministries" as well as a handful of others that share the total vision for POTW, we have been given this unbelievable opportunity to utilize suites 10-11 at Blankenbaker Crossings at 11501 Plantside Dr., Louisville, KY.

After many weeks of work, IT, electrical, carpentry, and finishing touches, we will announce the February date by email.

A big thanks goes out to the craftsmen that came onboard to help make this happen: Andy Yocum, Stan Keen, Amos Martin, Scott Menefee, Meiners Electric and a few others that stopped in to volunteer services.. you guys were amazing and we could never thank you enough.

A special thanks goes out to Junior Bridgeman, Brook Brotzman, Jerry Woodcox and one very special "anonymous" couple. Thank you guys for walking with us along our sometimes broken paths.



More pictures on Page 2 & 3

Servitude as Ordinary People

One might say that I am just an ordinary person with frailties, limitations and weaknesses. Or I don't have great talents. How can God use me? I have come to see that God's cause in the world advances through ordinary people living out their calling in every area of life. As men and women trust in Christ for their daily work, they do good works. These good works are as good as any pastor when he preaches or a church elder who oversees the church. Martin Luther put it this way, "If he finds in his heart confidence that it pleases God, then the work is good, even if it were so small a thing as picking up a straw". A believer's work is not acceptable because it is church related or world-renowned; it is acceptable because it is done in faith, because it pleases God and because He uses it to His Glory. Our "ordinary service" becomes our worship. The prayers you raise up on Friday for someone in prison or for their family is just as important as the minister's prayer on Sunday. The letter you write to an inmate is just as important as the elder's visits to someone in the hospital. Even a small donation to a ministry cause can be multiplied by God for His glory. This is not to say that God has not ordained extraordinary people in His Kingdom. However, it is to say that He more often uses ordinary men and women whose worship and service is significant and whose work is acceptable to Christ. *Ron Kelley*



Tim Winters... on being a volunteer

Meet Tim, one of Proclamation of the Words (POTW) awesome mentors. Tim has served with POTW since June of 2015 and is currently mentoring 4 incarcerated men.

What was the first big call upon your life?

When I was in the 9th grade, I clearly heard the Lord tell me that I should pursue my dream of being an architect. After becoming an architect, I received a letter from an inmate, totally out of the blue, asking me to write him and advise on how he might become an architect. Our subsequent correspondence began my love of prison ministry.

Why did you get involved with POTW?

I was working with another prison ministry and again perceived that God was calling me to make a change. At lunch one day, I was told by an acquaintance that I should speak with Darryll Davis, the Executive Director at POTW. I followed that advice and felt led to come on board.

What do you wish everyone knew about POTW?

I feel we are called to love those in prison as we read in Matthew 25 by responding to them with a message of hope in Christ. It is my prayer that the incarcerated would not be viewed as outcasts to simply be warehoused away from society, but rather viewed as people just like us who have sinned and need redemption. These changes in thinking would reform our approach to preparing them to be integrated back into society.

How do you feel you are making a difference?

Being trained by Darryll Davis, himself incarcerated for over 22 years, has given me real world insight into mentoring incarcerated men. I feel I am better equipped by POTW to serve their needs and provide men with the best opportunity for them to be restored to a productive life after prison.

Tim's passion for the ministry is having a measurable impact on many lives.



Mentor Training

Success Stories...Antone



Antone Medieros, mentee and guest speaker on the night of our volunteer appreciation, stepped back from the podium after a very powerful discourse and exclaimed: "if you want to see a miracle, here I am, look at me because this is what a miracle looks like."

Two life sentences and 199 years.. sentenced to die in prison, Antone (now free) stands and boldly proclaims the power and love of Christ. After 33 years of

incarceration, Antone is functioning as if he were never in prison; The Lord is well at work in Antone's life and has granted him the ability to identify it each step of the way. "When you pass through the waters, I am with you; when you pass through the rivers, they will not overtake you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, neither shall flames kindle upon you." Isaiah 43:2



Inmates thankful for life and second chances...

I want you to meet Alex and Nannette. Two people whose stories may change the way you think about your freedom and your blessings this year.

Alex hasn't had many memorable Thanksgivings. He says he's missed so many Thanksgivings because of incarcerations they're really not that big a deal, but that doesn't mean he isn't thankful.

He is a convicted drug addict and has served several stints in the county jail and at the state prison. He says that while he is an extreme drug addict, his current incarceration is because of theft. He started doing drugs at age 12. And he says it is prison that he's grateful for. "I've been clean for nine months because I'm in here," he said. "It feels good to be clean."

Alex added, "These halls have saved me so many times. I'm thankful for my life. I've been clinically dead nine times on overdoses. I'm grateful for another opportunity to find peace with God." One way he is using his voice is to work with the Scared Straight program helping youth turn their lives around before they are inmates themselves. And he is grateful he can do that.

I'd also like to introduce you to Nannette.



Nannette said if she wasn't in jail she would probably be dead. She has tried five times to take her life. She broke probation and turned herself into the jail instead of attempting suicide a sixth time. She grew up going to church every Sunday and graduated with honors in dental assisting. She started doing drugs when her parents divorced when she was 18.

"I found the wrong guy and he introduced me to drugs," she said. Nannette says she is thankful for family, though she

likely will never see her children again. That is an emotional thing she hasn't gotten over yet and the amount of tears streaming down her face as she speaks of them tells volumes of heartache and bad choices. The father also is incarcerated but is on a work-release program.

"I have a 6-year-old daughter that has been removed from me permanently and a 4-month-old son living with his dad's aunt," she said. "He was taken from me right from the hospital. My children won't ever see me again." She also had another baby, who died in her arms when Nannette caught her foot on a too-long pant leg and fell down stairs while holding him. His skull broke in two places. She carries that burden with her as well. "I'm addicted to heroin. I've been here 15 times. I have a lot of things going against me. But I have a lot of hope," she said.

Nannette says she is getting the counseling she needs and is being helped to grieve over the loss of all of her children. She says the women she shares space with are great and help her through issues with their understanding and kindness.

POTW is always looking for new volunteers. Many volunteers who believe lives can be changed are working hard to help inmates like Alex, Nannette and their families to firmly grasp the hope and peace only be found in a relationship with Christ. If you believe we can change the trajectory of lives in bondage, visit us to see what we are doing and how you can be a part of the solution in 2017!

We're On The Web!

Come Visit Us:

www.proclamationoftheword.com
proclamationoftheword@yahoo.com



What About the Children?

13% Of Ky.'s Children have had an incarcerated Parent.....

An estimated 135,000 children in Kentucky have had a parent incarcerated, according to a Kids Count policy report released Monday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. That amounts to about 13 percent of Kentucky's children who have had an incarcerated parent, nearly double the national average of 7 percent and the highest percentage in the nation, Kentucky Youth Advocates officials said in a news release. "Policy debates about incarceration rarely focus on the impact on children," said Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. "Yet, we know that when a parent is in jail or prison, it creates an unstable environment for kids that can have lasting effects, like poverty, changes in living situations,

and mental and emotional health issues." The new report, "A Shared Sentence: The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities," highlights the lifelong obstacles facing children with incarcerated parents. It also focuses on solutions to mitigate the trauma children experience and ensure that they have the best assistance. The report said that an increased reliance on incarceration for what are widely considered nonviolent offenses put more parents in jail or prison. Several states, including Kentucky, have worked to reform justice systems in recent years. Secretary John Tilley of the Kentucky Justice cabinet was among those who led the criminal justice reforms in Kentucky when he was a state representative.

"In 2010, Kentucky was the epicenter of a national crisis of prison growth, as our state's population of inmates had increased nearly four times faster than the national average over the prior decade" Tilley said. "This wreaked havoc on Kentucky's most vulnerable families, leaving too many households in turmoil and far too many children separated from a parent. This year, Proclamation of the Word Ministry's rollout was; "the children's bread ministry." A ministry that works with the children of the incarcerated.. Thus far, we feel that we are making great impact, but the need for increased volunteers and financial donors are the paradigm for prayer at this point. If you feel the call to assist in any of these points: volunteering, becoming a financial donor or simply Praying for this ministry, please contact us...

POTW Answers the Need with Children's Bread and Water From The Well

"Children's Bread"

Proclamation of the Word Ministry is excited to announce our next upcoming "Children's Bread" classes - beginning in February. We are excited to hold our next classes in our new facility, located at 11501 Plantside Dr. STE's 10-11. This branch of POTW ministry is spearheaded by Dr. Ella Brunner, a veteran in working with children. "Children's Bread" employs the "Confident Kids" curriculum, which is authored by an international organization promoting Christian support group programs for children ages 4-12 (and their parents) since 1990.

Simply surviving can be complicated for children growing up in high-stress situations caused by fractured families, drugs and alcohol, family and neighborhood violence and foster care. These conditions do not provide wholesome environments for healthy child development during critical years. Children's Bread helps elementary age children to stabilize the emotions of anxiety, confusion and anger and to encourage a healthy outlook and learn to make wise choices during unstable times.

"Water from the Well"

Running concurrently with the "Children's Bread" classes are the "Love & Logic" parenting classes. It is an 8 week curriculum offered to each parent, grandparent, guardian and caretaker of the children participating in the "Confident Kids" program and is held at the same time. These classes are hosted by a trained facilitator in this curriculum to help parental guardians better relate to the children in their care.

