



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

November 2021



*Former Gov. Mike Beebe, with wife Ginger; Gov. Asa Hutchinson, with wife Susan, and former Gov. Mike Huckabee*

## It's governors wild at a celebration of transformation

By Scott McLean

PTF celebrated its 10-year anniversary at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion with the release of compelling evidence of our program's effectiveness.

Governor Asa Hutchinson and former Governors Mike Beebe and Mike Huckabee (via video) delivered tributes on September 30 as we honored former Board of Corrections member Drew Baker for his leading role in bringing our predecessor program, InnerChange Freedom Initiative, into existence.

I launched that program in January 2006 and led it until Prison Fellowship shut down IFI in 2011 due to a lack of funding. Drew Baker and other Arkansas Board of Corrections members saw the value of the program and gave me time to bring it under a new non-profit. I established PTF in 2011 to continue to provide services through a partnership with the Department of Correction. We are grateful for our partnership with the DOC and its leadership's show of strong support at the anniversary celebration.

**Tis the season to be generous**

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Secretary of Corrections Solomon Graves couldn't have stated it better: "We are celebrating salvation tonight; we are celebrating the hundreds of men who have graduated over the last 10 years." He emphasized that government is not the solution to all problems and the DOC's gratitude to partners like PTF which meet a need that government can't.

A DOC study this year tracked people released from prison in 2016. It revealed that 47.5 percent of inmates released that year returned to prison within three years. Of those who completed PTF the corresponding number was 22.7 percent. This study offers tangible evidence that PTF is producing the best results among all programs in the DOC that aim to reduce recidivism.

Governor Hutchinson presented a letter commending PTF's achievement and contribution to this state for the past 10 years. I am in possession of this letter addressed to me and framed in my office.

# 'I thought I had it all figured out, then I hit PTF'

By Joseph Enkoff

When I first arrived at PTF, serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery, I thought I had it all figured out. I had been the head tutor in the Cummings Unit PAL program and I believed I knew it all. That pride resulted in the barracks leaders informing me I didn't have it all figured out. I soon discovered I had to confront and overcome my "thinking distortions" so my conduct would reflect the man I truly needed and wanted to be. For example, in our class "Relapse Prevention," I learned what my "triggers" for relapse would be and how I would handle those temptations upon re-entry. I am thankful I had the opportunity to complete the Pathway to Freedom program

## Tis the season to be generous

As our supporters plan year-end giving, we implore you to consider the cost-effective quality of our program. We require \$550,000 a year to maintain our work at the level of excellence our donors have come to expect. We think it's a bargain. We receive no taxpayer funding. Every cent comes from you. If only it were possible to calculate the dollar value of PTF to our state from lower recidivism rates and reduced crime resulting from your dollars and the labors of our staff and our faithful volun-



*Joseph Enkoff & mentor at graduation*

because everything I was taught has come into practice in the re-entry phase of the program and as I have transitioned back into society. I realized I had to "Trust in the LORD with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding;



*Group 32, with counselor Gerren Frazier, celebrates completing pre-release phase*

teers. Yet the eternal worth of those labors is far greater. We are unable to present our annual family banquet on the unit again this year, but we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with a special meal for our members. We ask your prayerful consideration of a generous gift to help us cover the \$3,000 cost and to meet ongoing expenses.

In all my ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct my paths" (Prov. 3:5-6).

I believe that Jesus Christ used PTF to mold me into who He wants me to be. Recently, I have been able to purchase two vehicles, rent my own apartment, pay all my bills on time and not have to look over my shoulder.

I have learned that accountability from each member and staff was a driving factor for what helped me change from the person I was into who I now am. I still ask for accountability because I want to be the best me. I want to thank all the individuals that didn't give up on me and believed the best of me. Thank you PTF! To God be the glory!



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