

BUILDING JOB SKILLS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

By Scott McLean, Founder/CEO

New opportunities are taking shape at Pathway to Freedom (PTF) as members prepare for life beyond incarceration through hands-on Virtual Reality (VR) Technology Training powered by Transfr Inc. This innovative training allows PTF members to explore career pathways, develop practical job skills, and strengthen their readiness for successful reentry into the workforce and their communities.

We are deeply grateful to the Arkansas Office of Skills Development (OSD) for making this opportunity possible through a grant and partnership that supports our Workforce Readiness Training course. This initiative has also led to a valuable partnership with the Arkansas Correctional School District (ACSD).

We extend our sincere appreciation to Tracy Dowell, Superintendent of ACSD, for strengthening this partnership and helping create opportunities for our members to earn academic credit and industry-recognized credentials prior to their release.

Under this partnership, participants must complete a minimum of 20 hours of Manufacturing & Construction Training, 10 hours of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA 10) – General Industry training, and at least two additional elective courses totaling a minimum of 20 hours. Elective course options include Automotive, Aviation Maintenance, Diesel Technology, Electrical Construction, Culinary, and Hospitality & Tourism.

Participants who successfully complete the required 50 hours of training and pass all required skills tests will receive a Career and Technical Education (CTE) certificate, along with one unit of academic credit. The OSHA 10 training also prepares participants to take the OSHA 10 exam and earn their OSHA 10 certification, further enhancing their employment opportunities upon reentry. The program includes both foundational and elective simulations designed to provide participants with hands-on experience and exposure to real-world workplace skills.

We are grateful to the Arkansas Department of Corrections and Director Dexter Payne's Office for approving this project and allowing this training to help members prepare for purposeful reentry.



PTF Members Engage in VR Technology Training

HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR REENTRY

By Cody McMorris, PTF Graduate

In my prior experiences with Vocational-Technical Programs, I took four different courses that were more informational than practical. I was given textbooks to read and then told to take a test on safety training or how to use certain tools. I wasn't able to absorb the information in a way that lasted.

With the Virtual Reality course I'm taking at PTF, it's different. I have a virtual assistant demonstrating and assisting me with each skill. It explains the skill itself and why it needs to be done safely and properly.

It feels like on-the-job training, almost as if I am in an apprenticeship alongside a professional. It helps me retain the information much better because hands-on experience is how I learn best.



Cody McMorris Learning Job Skills

36 PUBLIC DECLARATIONS OF FAITH



Baptized Members Gather After Service

By Jeffrey Gibson, Marketing and Project Specialist

In December 2025, 36 Pathway to Freedom members publicly declared their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism, each stepping forward as a visible expression of the transformation taking place in their lives.

PTF CEO/Founder Scott McLean led each baptism, while Jim Garbison, a devoted member of our Northwest Arkansas Volunteer group, stood beside the baptismal pool offering prayerful support. Before each man was baptized, Scott asked a simple but powerful question: "What does this moment mean to you?"

For the men who stepped into the water, the moment represented faith, surrender, and a new beginning through Christ.

A PROCLAMATION OF FREEDOM

By Chase Erickson, PTF Graduate

I was one of the 36 men baptized that day. For me, that moment in the water was more than a public step of faith. It was a proclamation to honor He who set me free. On my journey to take back control, I gave up control and received freedom through Jesus Christ. Addiction no longer has hold of me.

My parents divorced when I was eight years old because of my father's drinking and abusive behavior. After the divorce, my mother and older half-brother left, leaving me with my father. Home became even more difficult, and I bore the brunt of his anger alone. I spent much of my time with other families, and one even asked to adopt me. That was one of the first times I felt seen and valued.

After serving 10 years in the U.S. Air Force, life may have looked successful from the outside, but beneath the surface, I was using drugs heavily to escape pain I did not know how to face. On August 12, 2022, I was arrested for first-degree battery. Almost exactly two years later, I came to Pathway to Freedom seeking something different.

On November 13, 2024, during a Wednesday night service with Christ Church, I gave my life to Christ. Through PTF, I learned the importance of healthy relationships and began to see life from a different point of view. It was not about what I wanted anymore. It became about what I could do to help from a Christian point of view.

That transformation is why I believe programs like Pathway to Freedom are needed here in Arkansas. What stands out most is the time and effort PTF staff and volunteers invest in our lives through in-depth programming and relationships. That kind of support helped me grow in my relationship with God and begin seeing my life differently.

These moments in my life here at PTF would not be possible without people like you — faithful volunteers, partners, and donors who invest in changed lives like mine through Pathway to Freedom's Christ-centered mission.



Scott and Jim Garbison baptize Chase



Group 51 with counselor Anousack Yongphachanh, celebrates pre-release phase completion



Contact Us:

ADC- Wrightsville Hawkins
Unit for Males
P.O. Box 1010
22522 Asher Road
Wrightsville, AR 72183

Mail Donations to:

Pathway To Freedom
17200 Chenal Parkway
Suites 300-319
Little Rock, AR 72223

Phone: 501-897-0764

E-Mail: info@ptfprison.org

WEB: www.ptfprison.org