



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

April 2024

Satellite Partnership with The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI)

By Scott McLean

We implemented a new program curriculum in the Fall of 2023 targeted toward our In-Prison graduates. It's called Cornerstone, a high-quality training for Christian leaders who may not need or have the time for training that takes several years like seminary. This is ideal for our graduates who have time left on their sentence following the completion of our In-Prison, Pre-release program and feel a call to Christian Ministry. I am so thankful for our partner, Serving USA, for introducing and providing a grant for our members to participate in this extraordinary curriculum. This excellent training covers four major units. These units are Biblical Studies, Theology & Ethics, Christian Ministry, and Urban Missions. These units are designed to equip Christian Leaders to glorify God by serving Christ and His Church.



Inaugural Cornerstone Class

The Cornerstone Curriculum was designed by TUMI, a ministry of World Impact. World Impact is a missions organization that facilitates church-planting movements and equipping and empowering the unchurched urban poor. I went through several weeks of TUMI's extensive training before we were finally able to become a satellite partner and site coordinator. We received our letter of acceptance on July 13th, 2023, as the 363rd satellite of The Urban Ministry Institute!

The grant provided by Serving USA covers 20 graduates to participate in the Cornerstone Curriculum. We launched the first class of 10 students as you can see in the photo on September 14th, 2023. It was an absolute joy watching these men go through such an in-depth, demanding curriculum that will challenge them to minister the Word of God with accuracy and effectiveness, articulate and defend fundamental Christian truth, skillfully tend the flock of God, the Church, and represent Christ as an ambassador of his Kingdom. I am delighted to let you know that 9 of the 10 graduates completed the entire curriculum on March 12th, 2024. In order to earn the Christian Ministry Certificate, the student must complete all course requirements for each of the four units of the Cornerstone Curriculum and earn a total grade of at least 70% in each unit. They must also complete the Redemptive Poverty Work course.



Cornerstone Course Is Answered Prayer

By Michael Williams

My childhood was nothing extraordinary. I grew up in a dysfunctional household being neglected by my mother and father due to their drug addiction and left to be raised by my grandparents who could not help me with the hurt I was experiencing. This led me to a life of rebelliousness, crime, and drug addiction. By the time I became a teenager I was controlled by my emotions and operating in a self-centered belief system that was built off of street smarts, gang life, and my peers' definition of what a real man was. In 2010, at the age of 19, my decisions led me to committing a home invasion that cost me a 22 ½ year sentence in the Arkansas Department of Corrections. I continued my path of incarceration in the same selfish condition as a lost, broken, and hopeless soul. In 2019, I found myself deep in sin and conviction, on my knees calling out to God, and for the first time in my life I realized that the God of the Bible, who I thought had His "picks and choices", chose me. Living off of this newfound zeal for God didn't last long and I ended up turning back to the bondage that I once was delivered from.

Story continued on back...

Welcome Back PTF Rehire & New Staff Member



Anousack Vongphachanh - Program Counselor

Anousack Vongphachanh worked as the PTF Program Manager from 2019 to 2022. He left to go work as a substance abuse counselor with ADC and continued to volunteer at PTF. Anousack is registered as a Counselor-In-Training with the Arkansas Substance Abuse Certification Board and on track to receive his Alcohol and Drug Counselor certification. We rehired him on January 2, 2024, to fill our vacant program counselor position. It is a joy to have Anousack rejoin the PTF staff. He is a graduate from Arkansas Tech University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Anousack medical-retired from Fort Smith Police Department in 2012. Anousack worked as a detective in the Special Investigations Unit investigating sex crimes.

Deryk Pritchard is a graduate of Harding University with a degree in Youth and Family Ministry. He has served in the Kingdom as a missionary in both South America and in Asia; as a youth pastor in South Texas; and as a pastor in North Texas. In addition to those pastoral roles, he has also worked in the construction and home inspection fields. He moved to Arkansas so his son could attend the Arkansas School for the Deaf, and it was here that he learned about PTF through a presentation at church. Deryk had sensed a call to prison ministry for many years, and it finally felt like the time was right. After several months serving as a PTF volunteer teaching the Cornerstone curriculum, he felt the call was confirmed so he jumped on the chance to join the staff when the opportunity arose. We are grateful the Lord directed Deryk to us!



Deryk Pritchard - Re-Entry Specialist

Members story continued...

In 2021, I cried out to God for help again and the very next day I was told "You're going to Pathway to Freedom tomorrow." Nevertheless, I came to Pathway to Freedom needing spiritual surgery. I was tired of running from God and His call for me to make a complete transformation in my life. PTF's curriculum served as a mirror to expose my issues, and the staff made daily sacrifices to counsel, teach, and guide me through a culture that drew me closer to the Lord and assisted me in establishing godly disciplines. The Lord has worked through it all to deliver me from "self" and renew my belief system from criminal to Christlikeness. As a graduate of PTF, I was afforded the opportunity to enroll in and complete the Cornerstone course offered

here. I saw it as an answered prayer and I just knew the Lord was using this to help aid in spiritually equipping me for my call to ministry. This curriculum has taught me many things about Christian Ministry, Theology and Ethics, Urban Mission, and Redemptive Poverty Work. What I loved the most about this experience was how it enriched my walk with the Lord and the intimacy I developed with Him and His word through the long hours of study. I thank God for PTF and the opportunities they provide in helping men like me to become all that God has called us to be which gives us a hope and a future.



Group 41 with counselor Jon Justice, celebrates pre-release phase completion



Group 42 with counselor Anousack Vongphachanh, celebrates pre-release phase completion



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