



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

August 2023

More Than Business



Joe Profiri and Bryan Sanders visit in the PTF Barracks

We were honored to have our First Gentleman of Arkansas, Bryan Sanders, and our new Secretary of Corrections, Joe Profiri, join us for their first visit and tour of Pathway to Freedom in late April. They were able to walkthrough, observe, and interact with the men during classes and in our regular community meeting with all 200 members. It was a special treat to have them there to encourage the men, answer questions, and even sing a “song”! Many of you who have visited PTF know the importance of singing a song in front of our members. It particularly makes you a part of the PTF “Family”. This was a significant moment for all of us, and particularly for our members in white, to witness our First

Gentleman and the Secretary of Corrections display a side of them other than business. We were all elated when I motioned for the First Gentleman when it came time for him to leave, but he decided to stay longer. The men erupted in an applause as he decided to join us longer. It was a great feeling knowing the First Gentleman and Secretary of Corrections enjoyed the fellowship with all of us at PTF.

Not only did we witness the transparency of the First Gentleman and Secretary of Corrections, but we were also able to hear the care and concern they had in advocating for more effective programs in the ADC that will foster rehabilitation and aid in reducing recidivism. We are thankful that PTF is one of those programs that is able to foster hope, see lives transformed, and aid in reducing recidivism. We know that none of this would be possible without God directing you all to partner with us. Thank you volunteers, partners, and donors for sowing into this ministry that is making a difference in the lives of prisoners, formerly incarcerated individuals, and their families. PTF is committed to restoring lives, families, and communities throughout Arkansas.

By Scott McLean

I was so inspired by the story you are about to read from our member, Walter Bryan. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for the seeds you have sown in the lives of our members. We can't truly calculate God's timing on the growth that's produced because of our obedience to Him. Whoever we encounter, let's present Christ in tangible ways that clearly tell His story. Thank you all for giving yourself to Christ to serve in the capacity that you do.

Attention 540 Members: Our next 540 seminar is scheduled for October 13, 2023. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact our NW Arkansas Re-Entry Specialist, James Dalton, at 501-487-8719.

Church Bus Driver & Child Rider Reunite

By Walter Bryan



PTF Member Walter Bryan & Frank Lofton meet again

Around the age of 8, I started creating bad habits for myself and influencing my friends and siblings. I grew up in the home with five siblings, my mother and step-father. My family moved from place to place, and I would often be split between homes. One Wednesday evening a Living Faith Church bus came through the Willow Heights Projects in Fayetteville picking up the neighborhood kids for Wednesday night services. This went on for several Wednesdays until I felt a need to know what it was about. The day I approached the bus, the driver, Frank Lofton, gave off a caring presence that other males in my life haven't, and he encouraged me to come to church and have a great time. I took the leap!

The next few years flew by as seeds were planted into my life about Jesus Christ. This environment created a safe place for me with reliable people I could trust. In 2011, we unexpectedly moved away. As I became a teen, I picked up bad habits and extreme behaviors like using drugs, joining a gang at the age of 13, and repeatedly getting arrested for the lifestyle I chose to live. At age 18, I was facing a life sentence and began reliving my past in a prison cell blaming others for my own reckless and careless behavior. I started to seek God and prayed for mercy. While facing the life sentence my Father passed away in 2020 and I burned with a desire to change, so I prayed. In 2021 I was sentenced to 25 years in prison fully understanding the chance that God gave me. I left my gang affiliation behind and began applying myself in college and other programs the prison offered. In November of 2022, I applied and got accepted into Pathway to Freedom (PTF). I was believing that PTF would be my next step in life, but unaware of the doors that God would open for me. I have invested my time learning my "True Face".

During a May 12, 2023 "540 Event", a group of volunteers from Northwest Arkansas came to worship and minister to us at the prison. I met and began a conversation with Pastor Steven Curtis. I asked Pastor Curtis where he pastored, and he stated, Living Faith Church. I replied, "That's my church"! I later reconnected with Frank Lofton, the bus driver who transported myself and the other neighborhood kids to Living Faith Church. Seeing Frank again with his consistent, serving presence from 14 years ago gave me all the hope and happiness that I needed. I give thanks to God for allowing me a second chance to show myself a new man in Christ to the same man and Church that loved me and sowed a seed with that first bus ride to church that left an impression.



Group 39 with counselor Ramone Woodall, celebrates pre-release phase completion



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