



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

November 2022

## 540 is Back!

The long awaited 540 Group from NW Arkansas and the River Valley area are back hosting transformational seminars to our men at PTF.



New Heights

Church of Fayetteville hosted our first 540 seminar on October 14, 2022, since our last seminar due to COVID shutting down the prison to volunteers in March 2020. New Heights Church was accompanied by other partnering churches from Central United Methodist Church - Fayetteville, and Cross Pointe Church - Springdale. Josh Foliart from New Heights Church shared an inspiring and compelling message on "Compassion". Numerous testimonies were shared as our members spoke about the impact of Josh's message and the input from other 540 volunteers. Our next 540 seminar is scheduled for November 18, 2022, and Heritage UMC of Fayetteville will be our host church. A 540 Events Calendar for the year 2023 was emailed to the 540 group. If you are a 540 member, did not receive the calendar and would like one, please contact our office.

## The Season of Giving is Upon Us



As we move closer to the end of another year, and you make plans for the Christmas Holidays with your families and friends, please remember those less fortunate, including prisoners and their families. Here at PTF we are committed to fostering hope and seeing prisoners' lives transformed with the help of our partners and volunteers. Thank you for partnering with us in making dreams a reality for those who may have stopped dreaming.

As our supporters plan year end giving, we implore you to consider the cost-effective work that our program contributes to our state from lower recidivism rates, reduced crimes, saving tax-payer dollars, and lives transformed. It's your giving that keeps us operational without the assistance of government funding. Our annual operating cost is \$550,000. It's through your support that we continue to serve prisoners and formerly incarcerated individuals and witness them transition back into our communities as productive law-abiding citizens and committed God-fearing men, husbands, and fathers.

We are planning our annual Christmas Banquet for our men without the presence of their family representation due to COVID concerns. This is a special time as you can imagine during this season. We're seeking donors to help cover the \$3,100 cost. All contributions are tax deductible.

Merry Christmas!

# Thank God for a New Start

By Chris Wells

I'm 27 years old, and I was born on the south side of Little Rock, AR. My mother was the sole provider of our family of six. Growing up without a father made life tough, so my brothers and I were pressured to become the men of the house while living in a gang, drug, and poverty-infested community. I wanted a better life; however, my role models became the drug dealers and gang bangers. I was first incarcerated at the age 14 for possession of a firearm, and I served only two weeks before I was released. The next time I was charged with simultaneous possession of drugs and firearms and received 4 years in ADC but served 8 months. Upon my release I went back to a life of crime and adding aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, and numerous other charges to my rap sheet. These new charges lead to me serving a 30 year sentence at the age of 19. While serving my sentence, I met a prisoner who expressed that PTF would be the perfect program, and he assisted me in filling out the application. Within weeks, I was transferred to the Wrightsville



*Chris Wells: The best me!*

Unit where PTF taught me six core values that would help set the foundation of my life and add much needed structure. Going through PTF prepared me to face the temptations of the world. I was released December 6, 2021, and secured employment, and reliable transportation. Three months later I was accepted into a trucking school called, Diesel Driving Academy. PTF assisted me in my enrollment and supported me through the duration of my schooling. After roughly four weeks of completing Diesel Driving Academy for my CDL, I was hired by Tyson Foods as a Truck Driver. I am grateful for the support I have been given by PTF. I would like to thank Scott McLean and all his staff for giving me a chance to be the best me.



*Group 36 with counselor Jon Justice, celebrates pre-release phase completion*

 **Pathway  
to Freedom, Inc.**  
restoring lives, families and communities

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