



Pathway to Freedom, Inc.

October 2025

Building on a Firm Foundation

By Jeffrey Gibson

The room echoed with praise as two worship songs opened what became a deeply moving and hopeful day inside the Hawkins Unit at the Wrightsville Prison. On Thursday, July 10, eight men stood proudly as graduates of *Cornerstone*—a specialized Christian leadership curriculum offered through Pathway to Freedom. This marks the second graduating class of *Cornerstone*, a biblically grounded course developed by The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), a ministry of World Impact. The program is designed for PTF members who have graduated or nearing graduation who feel called to serve in Christian ministry, equipping them with the tools to lead with purpose. It offers a high-quality alternative focused on Biblical Studies, Theology and Ethics, Christian Ministry, and Urban Missions. Graduates earn a Christian Ministry Certificate — a milestone symbolizing not just learning, but transformation through faith.



Second Cornerstone Class

“We start where we are. We start now. Time is short,” said CEO Scott McLean, addressing the graduates after worship. His words served as both a challenge and an encouragement, echoing the program’s deeper message: transformation can begin today. Each graduate took the stage to share heartfelt reflections and declarations of purpose. Emotions ran high—there was hope, motivation, and a sense of divine calling. Although their families could not attend, the PTF community filled the room with support and celebration. As each man stepped forward to receive his certificate, Scott and Reentry Specialist Deryk Pritchard prayed individually over every graduate—a powerful moment that underscored the personal nature of each man’s journey. This group now joins last year’s inaugural class in completing the *Cornerstone* course, made possible by a generous grant by Serving USA. While their path forward may still lie within prison walls, these men are being trained and transformed as Christian leaders—equipped to serve, teach, and lead wherever they are.

Grounded in Grace, Moving in Purpose

By Jeffrey Gibson

At Pathway to Freedom, transformation is lived out every single day. For 14 years, the program has helped men leave behind destructive patterns and embrace a new way of living grounded in faith, accountability, and integrity. One of those men is Thomas Archey. After completing the program and returning to the community, Thomas recently applied for a position at Baxter Laboratories. When his background check raised concerns about his past, he responded with honesty — writing a heartfelt letter that shared the story of his transformation through Pathway to Freedom. That moment of transparency became a defining step in his new life. Please take a moment to read Thomas’s heartfelt letter below, where he shares how honesty, faith, and opportunity became the foundation for his new beginning.

To whom it may concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere interest in a position at Baxter Lab. I also want to take this opportunity to be transparent about my past and, more importantly, the journey I’ve taken to grow beyond it. In July 2021, while incarcerated, I made a life-changing decision to voluntarily join a Christ-centered, faith-based program called Pathway to Freedom. This program became the foundation for a complete transformation in my life. Through it, I took part in a variety of personal development and rehabilitation courses, including Anger Management,

Story continued on back...



Thomas with daughter and grandkids

Drug and Alcohol Education, Relapse Prevention, Effective Fathering, Victim Impact, and Boundaries. Being a part of this program taught me to live with integrity and accountability. More importantly, it re-centered my life around Christ and gave me the spiritual, emotional, and practical tools to overcome challenges without resorting to violence or substance use. With the support of strong mentors and a faith-based community, I have built a solid foundation for a new way of living.

Today, I am proud to say that I am a man of integrity. I face life with a clear mind, a strong heart, and a purpose rooted in faith and personal responsibility. I am deeply committed to making the most of the second chance I've been given. I believe I would be a valuable addition to the team at Baxter Lab. I am eager to work hard, go the extra mile, and contribute positively in any way I can. More than just a job, I see this opportunity as a stepping stone to building a stable, long-term career — and I am ready to prove myself. Thank you for considering my application. I would be grateful for the opportunity to speak further and demonstrate the positive changes I've made in my life.

*Sincerely,
Thomas Archey*

After sharing his story in that letter, Thomas reflected on how faith and accountability shaped the transformation he found through Pathway to Freedom — a change that continues to guide his life today. He says that kind of honesty was only possible because of the transformation he experienced through Pathway to Freedom. Today, we are proud to share that Thomas has been hired as a full-time employee at Baxter Laboratories. What began as a heartfelt letter to explain his past has now become a story of redemption, integrity, and grace in action. In his personal life, that same transformation has also brought restoration.

After years of separation, Thomas has been able to reconnect with his daughter and build relationships with his grandchildren. What once seemed impossible became reality through PTF. Those moments of restoration remind him daily how far God has brought him — and how PTF opened the door to healing.

Thomas's journey is just one story, but it reveals a greater truth: Pathway to Freedom works. It reduces recidivism, restores dignity, strengthens families, and prepares men to return as contributors rather than repeat offenders. Because of the faithful support of volunteers, partners, and donors, Pathway to Freedom continues to bring hope to men like Thomas — and to families and communities across Arkansas.



Group 48 with counselor Jon Justice, celebrates pre-release phase completion



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