



At PTF the numbers tell the story!

By Scott McLean

Rehabilitation of the incarcerated is a complex undertaking requiring attention to the individual's body, mind and soul. Arkansas provides a number of fine programs that address various aspects of the person. At PTF, our approach is to begin with the soul, and we rejoice today over a new report validating what God is doing through us.

A just-released study that tracked persons released from prison in 2016 shows that PTF has produced the best results among all programs in reducing recidivism. We recorded impressive numbers in various categories, but the bottom line is this:

The recidivism rate of those who completed the PTF program stood at 22.7 percent at three years after release compared to a system-wide showing of 47.5 percent. We always aim to do better, of course, but the numbers offer tangible evidence that lives are changed here. To God be the glory!

Recidivism by Program/Class *continued*

Table 20b. Recidivism by Program Completion—ADC

Program / Class	Total Releases	6 MO. Return	6 Mo. %	1 YR. Return	1 YR. %	3 YR. Return	3 YR. %
Preparing for Success (ADC)	164	19	11.59%	53	32.32%	94	57.32%
Thinking For A Change (ADC)	260	32	12.31%	83	31.92%	147	56.54%
WAGE (ADC)	359	47	13.09%	120	33.43%	197	54.87%
Re-Entry Life Skills (ADC)	317	39	12.30%	94	29.65%	164	51.74%
Workforce Services Workshop (ADC)	382	43	11.26%	99	25.92%	181	47.38%
Communication Skills (ADC)	1,056	106	10.04%	246	23.30%	484	45.83%
Therapeutic Community (ADC)	199	21	10.55%	47	23.62%	90	45.23%
Stress Management (ADC)	1,228	103	8.39%	261	21.25%	546	44.46%
Substance Abuse Treatment (ADC)	935	55	5.88%	170	18.18%	406	43.42%
Pre Release (ADC)	127	10	7.87%	26	20.47%	55	43.31%
Domestic Violence (ADC)	663	61	9.20%	147	22.17%	286	43.14%
Substance Abuse Educ Prog (ADC)	803	69	8.59%	170	21.17%	336	41.84%
Parenting (ADC)	1,111	92	8.28%	224	20.16%	452	40.68%
Thinking Errors Group (ADC)	2,695	195	7.24%	466	17.29%	1,052	39.04%
Graduate Equival. Diploma (GED) (ADC)	497	26	5.23%	81	16.30%	183	36.82%
Anger Management (ADC)	4,159	243	5.84%	673	16.18%	1,505	36.19%
Victims of Domestic Violence (ADC)	72	3	4.17%	10	13.89%	23	31.94%
Principals of Applied to Living (PAL) (ADC)	41	4	9.76%	8	19.51%	12	29.27%
Reduce Sex Victm Pgm (ADC)	192	15	7.81%	25	13.02%	47	24.48%
Pathway To Freedom (ADC)	44	1	2.27%	5	11.36%	10	22.73%

In addition to the obvious benefits for our members, our Arkansas communities are improved by fewer victims of crime, stronger families, more productive members of society and lower taxes. Our Christ-centered approach works! Let us all – graduates, staff, volunteers and donors – rise together and offer a booming “Amen!”

We’re also in high spirits because

of our long-awaited return to normalcy and full effectiveness in the in-prison program. We got a boost out of our virtual learning program and now, better still, as of June 1 our volunteers are back on the inside!

We’re also finalizing plans to restart our 540 groups.

When we invite Christ to come in, godly men come out.

Some of the lessons he welcomed . . .

By T. J. Honey

We think we're conning the world. Then one day we look back and realize we were conning ourselves.

I finished school and worked for a living. I moved on from one job to a better one. I got high. Then I got high at work. I drank. My family told me to dial it back. I said, "I work and I keep the bills paid. And I don't have a problem."

Then I shot a man and there was no more hiding out. I knew I was living wrong. I never meant to push it that far. Prison gives a man plenty of time to reconsider.

PTF has been my prod in that process, helping in some ways I welcomed and in some ways I didn't. One key ingredient of the program is its way of redirecting peer pressure. Early on, I would read the Bible, all right, and I'd get excited about sharing what I learned. But I'd use the same foul lan-



T. J. Honey: it's the teacher who learns the most

guage I had used out in the world.

A couple of guys I hung out with told me when you try to represent God's word it's not received well when you coat it in filth. After a couple of days I was glad we had that talk.

I squirmed again when I was put into leadership and again when I was assigned to teach a computer class. That experience opened my

eyes.

We had students who were hardheads. It was frustrating. It had me thinking about when I was a teacher's pest. I see now what I put my teachers through. I feel like I understand the patience teachers and leaders have to have dealing with people. After some time with that I made adjustments in my life. All of these observations have had a lasting impression on me. I just don't admire the childishness or madness anymore.



Group 31 with counselor Gerren Frazier



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