



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

October 2022

## 41 for the Lord

PTF staff, board members and volunteers this summer celebrated as we witnessed 41 men profess their faith in Christ publicly through baptism. It was another breathtaking event to witness transformation in the lives of our men. We are thankful that Coach Barry Lunney Sr. of Northwest Arkansas, one of our board members, was able to join us in baptizing all 41 men during this momentous occasion. Prior to the service, one of our members, Christopher Mundell, was prompted to request the microphone and during this time, he renounced his gang affiliation of 11 years prior to his baptism. We thank God for all our partners and volunteers who invest in PTF to make it possible for prisoners and formerly incarcerated individuals to experience life changing freedom through Christ.



*Christopher Mundell: Behold the new man!*

## And the gang-banger became a disciple

**By Christopher Mundell**

Life in my household was anything but easy. The son of a prostitute and crack addict, I became a ward of the state at an early age. Foster care created a whole new set of challenges as I was physically abused and abandoned. At 2½ I was adopted, but I was subjected to an environment of chaos, hatred, abuse and open displays of drug use and sexual immorality. Needless to say, I was completely confused.

As I grew into my early teens, my experiences at home caused me to look for love and acceptance in all the wrong places. I got my significance from others and by the age of 11 I became a member of the Gangster Disciples. My normal was abnormal to everyone else. I was in and out of juvenile detention for arson,

breaking and entering and random shootings. To numb the pain and deal with my depression, I began taking Xanax and quickly became addicted, which led to further acts of violence and robbing people at gun point. My behavior continued to become more and more reckless and careless.

I finally was arrested for three counts of aggravated robbery and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Feeling hopeless, I quickly fell into the prison lifestyle. I fought all the time and smoked K-2 to escape the reality of being locked up. I truly thought there was no saving me until one day God touched my heart. I actually listened to Him and applied for entrance into Pathway to Freedom. It was the best decision I've ever made. Finally at the age of 21, I didn't have to run and hide any more. God provided me with

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# Wal-Mart arrives with a second chance



July 11, 2022, couldn't come soon enough for Walmart Corporate representatives to visit PTF at the prison in Wrightsville. PTF Board of Director's, Staff, Members, including Arkansas Department of Corrections Staff welcomed Walmart as they spent the day touring the PTF program and classes. Walmart representatives joined us during our daily community meeting to address everyone, and particularly our 200 members about the unique partnership that had been established with PTF as a Second Chance Hiring partner with Walmart. What a great opportunity we have been afforded with several other select non-profits across the country to participate in such a unique partnership with Walmart. This day was all about our members getting recognized and encouraged to stay on the path to recovery, life transformation from a life of criminal activity and criminal thinking.

PTF staff on October 25, 2021, completed the Second Chance Workforce training offered as part of a



*Group 35 with counselor Ramone Woodall, celebrates pre-release phase completion*

partnership between Walmart and select nonprofit community partners. We are currently in the process of referring members released from prison through Walmart's hiring process. We are grateful for this opportunity, and we know that employment is another factor in lowering the risk of formerly incarcerated individuals returning to prison and further reducing the prison recidivism rate.

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**'I truly thought there was no saving me'**

everything I always wanted -- love, acceptance and family.

While at Pathway to Freedom, I not only earned my GED but I was baptized. This open display of accepting Christ has allowed me to be a light to my family that was broken.

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

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