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MENTORING MINUTES

VOLUME 2 , ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

PATHWAYS TO FREEDOM MINISTRIES

Welcome to Pathways to Freedom Ministries' second newsletter. It was our intention to publish this newsletter approximately every 3-4 months to help keep you informed. The reality is, with the busyness of life, that just hasn't happened but we will keep trying. Inside this edition you will find our "Year in Review." This will replace, for this issue, our "On the Road" feature. I want to share a word about what we have been doing and where we are going in 2011. We have a great article from one of our mentors who had no previous experience in prison ministry until he answered God's call. This is a must read for anyone who is not sure if they can mentor an incarcerated individual. We continue to receive applications for mentors from a variety of institutions so there is great need for mentors. In this issue you will also see our unaudited financial statements for 2010. It is our wish to remain transparent as an organization so we are setting the tone early for this. Please feel free to contact our treasurer or me if you have any questions with regard to these statements.

Blessings, your servant in Christ, Nancy Hynes, Executive Director & Founder

Isaiah 61:1 "The spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me (us) to preach good news to the poor. He has sent us to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. "

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To mobilize, train and equip churches and individuals to care for incarcerated inmates and ex-offenders as they reintegrate into society by using their gifts and talents from God. We facilitate one-on-one friendships as the mentor helps the offender to grow spiritually and become a full disciple of Christ.

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Executive Directors Report 2010

by Nancy Hynes

I wish to thank our board members, our mentors and supporters from all areas for their hard work and support this past year. You have helped launch this ministry, getting us off to a flying start. Your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support have made a difference in the lives of the men in the institutions we serve. We have been able to support the chaplains and other volunteers by giving encouragement and letting them know they are not forgotten. Meeting other volunteers makes us feel we are not alone in what we believe God can do in the lives of the inmates. Working along side the chaplains and other prison volunteers we bring the light of Jesus to those in dark places. Later in this newsletter you will see our year in review. I pray you will be encouraged in what God is doing and the doors He is opening.

This year has been a year of growth for me as a leader. God is growing and shaping me in ways I could not have imagined in January. At times I have felt that He has me on fast forward and at other times it feels like He has a rope on me holding me back. So I am learning patience at the feet of my heavenly father. I know that through the Holy Spirit he is in control and that I must lead this organization with His prompting and anointing. God saved me by grace for such a time as this.

One of the highlights for me this year was the relationship we were able to build with the chaplains in all three institutions. I feel that they are like mentors to me as a new leader in this area. They have shown God's grace to Pathways and to me as a leader. They gently and kindly allow us to be part of their fellowship times, working with us to break new ground in the area of mentorship inside the prison walls of Atlantic Canada.

They call now wondering if Pathways can help in this area or that. I continue to seek God and know our limits of what we are able to do for them and for the inmates. It keeps me humble and focused on the Lord knowing that what He first showed me 3 years ago, was truly a vision and plan from Him. It could only be HIM because we could not make any of the things happen as they have.

Moving into 2011, I will continue to seek God, pray for His favour on my life and for His plan for this ministry. I am looking forward to getting out to the churches seeking mentor volunteers for those that are waiting. I pray God's anointing will go before me to many places of worship and with their leaders, so they may catch the vision of what God can do in these people's lives as they are released. Not to mention what God will do in the lives of the volunteers.

We pray for a financial overflow for this ministry to meet the needs of travel costs, program costs we incur when we provide assistance to the chaplains; being able to meet the needs of those they serve. The last cost is to be able to build the scholarship program for the ex-offenders.

So many needs but God is more than able. As we see offenders give their lives over to Him, I can just imagine how our Father feels looking down to see their shining countenances. I thank Him daily for the opportunity to work for Him and for His Kingdom.

In God's great blessing, I remain, your servant in Christ,

Nancy Hynes



Pathways to Freedom Ministries (PTFM) has been founded to act as a bridge between volunteers, the church and inmates incarcerated in local corrections facilities. This ministry has been modeled after other mentoring ministries in Canada and the US. These have been successfully supporting inmates and their families along with their matches for over 40+ years. We exist to provide guidance and support to the mentor, the inmate and their families.

PTFM matches volunteers with inmates for visits and coordinating such visits with the chaplains in each institution. We provide on-going training to our volunteers and local churches to assist in prisoner aftercare, thereby helping ex-offenders reintegrate back into society and form positive attachments in a local church in the community.

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A NEW MENTOR

by Alan Blyth

I'd like to share my early experience as a new mentor for Pathways to Freedom Ministries. Until recently I had never been exposed to any programs or ministries that work with inmates. This past summer, I had listened to the Executive Director being interviewed on the radio and she was seeking volunteers to participate in one on one mentoring with inmates. It sounded important and I remember thinking that *somebody* should be doing that...or to be honest, *somebody else*.

I was asking myself *why me?* Why would I get involved in something like this? I was mulling this over until the light went on and the question changed to *why not me?* I honestly had no answer. Why shouldn't I get involved? It's only an hour or two a month. I'd be meeting with one person and have a chance to get to know him and hopefully influence his life for the better. I'd be offered the training I need to be well prepared. The role is simply to volunteer to spend time with one person on a regular basis and encourage them to make wise decisions that will lead them out of the problems of their past and give them hope for a brighter future. How hard could that be? So, the decision to get involved was actually quite simple.

The big unknown factor for me was wondering what the individual would be like and how we would get along. I have realized that if you show a little concern for someone and are prepared to spend some time with them, talking and getting to know their heart's desire for the future, you won't have any problem getting along.

In this program, the mentor's goal is to be a positive role model, working to help the inmate they are matched with to change their life by encouraging him, praying with him, reading scripture together and fulfilling the instructions of our Lord when Jesus told us to remember those in prison.

My early experience inside the institution has not been what I expected. I didn't hear the loud clanging of steel doors slamming behind me or any of the other expectations that TV version of prison life offered. Instead, I was surprised at how I was welcomed.

I was welcomed by the inmates. I sat in on an open worship service in their Chapel and it was clear that the inmates were thankful that these people took time out to lead them in worship, singing and prayer.

The person I've been matched with regularly says how much he appreciates my interest in spending time with him. We meet for about one hour about every 3 weeks and when we get talking, I almost feel like we could be meeting in a Tim Horton's, because it's just like two friends having a normal discussion about life, the challenges we need to deal with and our hopes for the future.

I was welcomed by the Corrections Officers, Sheriffs and other staff. It's clear that staff see these relationships as a positive influence while the inmates are inside and they support what we are doing.

I was welcomed by the community of faith. My home church and others are all very supportive of my role as a volunteer mentor. They encourage me and support me in prayer. Even though I can't reveal any personal information about the man I am meeting with, I have prayer partners who are holding this man up to the Lord regularly.

One other surprise is that in my times inside the institution, I have never felt at risk; partly because of the staff and the security involved, but also because the individual I am meeting with sincerely wants to make changes in his life and is grateful that someone has shown interest in him.

So, what am I expecting from this ministry? It is simply to be a friend to someone who could use one. What do friends do? They listen to each other, support each other, challenge and encourage each other, and spend time together. To me, that's what mentoring is all about and why I'm excited to be a part of this program.

STATISTICS 2010

Visits to Institutions:

Westmorland 3

Springhill: 7

Waterville: 1

MENTOR VISITS:

Westmorland: 5

Springhill: 5

Dartmouth: 4

Applications Rec'd: 9

Mentor Matches: 5

Mentor Applications
Rec'd: 6

Pathways to Freedom
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PATHWAYS PRAYER EVENT by Bob George

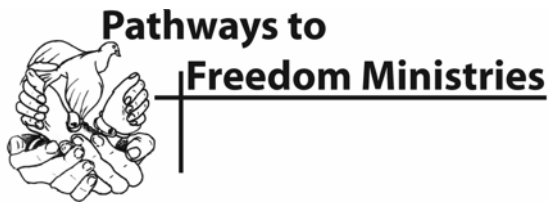
Pathways' first prayer event was held on November 3, 2010 at Faith Tabernacle, Halifax NS. This was the first time we really did something in the public eye. Our event was titled "We Care for Justice Prayer Meeting." We welcomed the public in the doors at 7:00 P.M., for the 7:30 P.M. start time.

This was an amazing evening. We wanted to promote the ministry, but also we wanted to address the violence that has been occurring in our city. Our hope was to draw members from different communities in HRM to speak out against the heinous acts that really have some communities on edge. While we are a prison focused ministry, it is important that we are conscientious of the victims and all others affected by crime; and we fully believe in restorative justice and the benefit it has on all involved.

We had a turnout of about 50 people, with different faiths represented. The worship was led by Rickcola Slawter with a worship team of volunteers from Rock Church. Nancy welcomed the attendees and opened in prayer. We outlined a format where selected people would pray in 10 minute intervals, and the public could take the microphone in between. Gail Baurle prayed for corrections staff, Chris Starrett prayed for law enforcement, Pat McIver for victims, Ron Sullivan for the chaplains and staff, Bob George for inmates & families, and Alan Blyth rounded things out by praying for prison volunteers. Nancy closed us in prayer at 9:00 P.M. We had our booth set up and our greeting cards on display. It gave us a great chance to network and fellowship with those who came out.

First & foremost, all the thanks, glory, and praise belong to the Lord for guiding us. Thanks also to everyone who attended; you made our very first event a great success. Thank you to Faith Tabernacle for providing your wonderful facility. Thank you to those who gave donations. Many thanks to those who gave their time to assist us in this event. Blessings to all!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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Executive Directors year in Review

- January 2010 — Final preparation and submission of Application for Charitable Status, submitted January 18, 2010.
- We continue to visit CNSCF approx. every 2nd week alternating either the Sunday services, or Monday fellowship, In early spring two young men give their heart to the Lord during Monday night fellowship and show interest in having mentors. They become our first clients.
- March 23 — Charitable status received from Federal Government; the estimated wait time was 6 -9 months, but we received charitable status in 2 months.
- March 2010 — First visit with Chaplain at Springhill Inst. to introduce Pathways.
- April 17 — Prison Ministry Conference in Dartmouth at New Covenant Ministries, guest speakers from Chaplaincy and Monty Lewis, Keynote Speaker.
- May 4 — Meeting with Monty Lewis in Fredericton; he gave his vote of confidence for the need for this ministry.
- May 27 — First radio interview at CJLU – Christian Radio Station. The interview was aired in NS, NB, PEI. We received two mentor applications from this interview and one of our current mentors is from this original promotion.
- May 29 — CSC federal training - 3 attended.
- June 1 — First visit to chapel and fellowship at Springhill.
- June 29 — First Mentor Interview.
- End of June — First meeting to plan website.
- July 25 — First Westmorland visit.
- August 16 — Pathways leads fellowship at CNSCF.
- Early September — Radio interview with 96.5 Joy FM in Fredericton
- October 1 — pathwaystofreedom.ca is launched on the Internet.
- October 1 — Harvest House Ministries Moncton, MCC, 30th Anniversary celebration.
- October 2 — Executive Director attends 2nd Annual Prison Ministry Conference in Moncton, hosted by CCR.
- October 10 — First booth at a Christian event.
- October 23 — First Pathways client released to a half way house.
- November 3 — PTFM sponsors interdenominational prayer event at Faith Tabernacle, with about 50 people in attendance.
- December 5 — Pathways' Christmas with the men at Springhill and Westmorland; Executive Director takes services at both institutions. We bring in Tim's Coffee and 40 dozen donated homemade cookies for the staff and inmates. Merry Christmas to all.

PLAN FOR 2011 FOR PROMOTION:

Volunteers for Pathways are available to provide any of the following:

- A booth at your Christian Event, Conference or Church
- A Speaker to come to your fellowship service, men's, women's or other group event
- An information session with interested parties from a variety of locations.
- Any of the above mentioned in combination to reach volunteers and raise awareness.
- Our focus for 2011 will be following up on packages that have been sent to local and regional churches.
- The need is great as God continues to reach into our corrections facilities. The men and women recognize their need for positive relationships and Christian growth.

2010 Financial Statements:

Balance Sheet

Assets:

Cash at Year Ended Dec 31, 2010	\$ 76.62
Scholarship Fund	<u>\$149.11</u>
Total Current Assets	\$225.73

Liabilities:

Retained Earnings	\$225.73
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Income Statement:

Balance Brought Fwd	\$ 144.47
Revenue:	2,030.00
Greeting Cards	<u>100.00</u>
Total Revenues	\$2,274.47

Expenses:

Bank Fees	\$ 73.40
Office Expenses	355.85
Travel Expenses	648.80
Fees, Misc.	264.48
Printing	300.96
Website Construction * Mtce	<u>405.25</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,048.74

Revenue Less Expenses (Retained Earnings) \$ 225.73

PROMOTION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord." Psalm 117 NIV