

A large, weathered wooden cross stands on a rocky mountain peak. The cross is made of two thick, dark wooden beams. The background features a vast mountain landscape with rolling hills, dense forests, and distant mountain ranges under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a rocky path leading up to the cross.

Wayside Cross Ministries

Annual Report 2014

THE GOSPEL MATTERS

Wayside Cross Ministries (WCM) is about to usher in an exciting new era. This spring, our construction team will be putting the final touches on our new 47,000 square-foot facility that will feature: a critically important Ministry wing, a computer aided Adult Learning Center (ALC), expanded space for various educational, counseling/mentoring opportunities, along with valuable energy and cost savings. The Lord has abundantly supplied our needs for a new building according to His riches in glory. We are deeply grateful to Him and to the numerous generous foundations and donors who made this vital endeavor possible.

But, as we prepare to plant roots in the new building, God has continually reminded us of its ultimate purpose. The new facility is first and foremost a “tool” that WCM will use to reach hurting and needy men, women, children and youth with the Gospel of Christ.

Archimedes of Syracuse was a Greek mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor, and astronomer. He is generally considered to be one of the greatest scientists of all time. While Archimedes did not invent the lever, he discovered the reasoning behind why it worked. It is said that he remarked, “Give me a lever long enough and a place on which to stand, and I will move the world.”

One of my favorite theologians, Dr. R.C. Sproul, commented on Archimedes’ above-mentioned remark: “A little over 200 years after Archimedes made that statement, a lever was found that was long enough to move the world. It was a tree, about 10 feet high. It was placed at Calvary, because the cross was the lever that turned the world upside down. And it was the message of that cross and the power of the Gospel of God that changed the world forever.”

Since the Wayside Cross Rescue Mission was born on June 10, 1928, the Gospel has remained central to WCM’s mission and its passion. Leading the powerless and afflicted to saving faith in Jesus Christ has always been – and always will be – our highest priority. In each of our six distinct divisions, we will continue to boldly and unwaveringly communicate to everyone we serve that life transformation starts at the foot of the cross. When our new facility opens its doors, the words of Romans 1:16 will drive us to share this hope with more people than ever before: *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.”*



James Lukose, Executive Director

As you read about the amazing ways that the Lord worked through WCM in 2014, may this year’s Annual Report convey, above all, the essential value of the Gospel to our Mission in Aurora, Elgin and the entire greater Chicagoland area. Thank you for joining us in sharing the love of Christ across our communities.



Building Progress February 2015

Last year at this time we were just beginning the construction of our new building; we've come a long way in one year. The characteristics of fortitude and perseverance were some of the traits we wrote about in 2014, something our Construction Team has shown all year long through all types of weather conditions. It is their steadfast attitude that has driven them to work hard towards the goal of completion, God willing, in April 2015.



Windows being delivered to second floor.



Second floor ready for paint.



Taping the drywall.

BUILDING WISH LIST

In order for us to finish well, would you please consider meeting some of our needs on the Building Wish List?

150 new pillows	25 new computers for	2 Blu-ray DVD players
150 new pillowcases	computer lab	115 bed frames (twin long)
150 new sheet sets (twinXL)	35 desk lamps	115 mattresses (twin long)
150 new blankets	2 flat screen TVs for TV	250 Cafeteria chairs
85 lockers (High School type)	rooms	12 Cafeteria tables

For more information contact Debbie Butler 630-723-3419, dbutler@waysidecross.org

MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS

Master's Touch Ministry

- 35 men graduated Master's Touch Program
- 23 men completed "Designed for a Work"
- 24 graduates found full-time jobs
- 32 men reconciled with wife or family
- 56 men made professions of faith in Christ
- 10 men promoted to full-time resident assistants
- 1 man promoted to resident staff
- 6 men resided at our discipleship house - Horizon

Lifespring Ministry

- 615 Bible studies and practical skill classes were taught by our volunteers this year
- 53 women and 43 children served
- 16 women graduated from the program
- 20 women and children made a profession of faith or rededicated their life to Christ
- 16 women showed remarkable improvement in their communications skills
- 19 of the 22 moms in the program showed remarkable improvement in parenting skills
- 34 women received professional counseling
- 16 of the 22 moms in Phase III obtained jobs

Urban Youth Ministry

- 4,095 hours of tutoring, mentoring and homework assistance
- 5,695 meals served to children of low-income families
- 4,760 hours of free summer camp experiences provided
- Free baseball leagues and training clinics provided to 165 youths
- Over 150 new coats provided for children
- 165 Christmas gifts distributed to low-income families
- Easter baskets shared with 78 families
- 123 total volunteers involved in our youth programs
- Approximately 1,000+ volunteer hours

Hope Outreach

- Up to 55 men at one time were provided daily, real-life work experience in our warehouse, transportation department, maintenance shop, and Hope Chest Resale Store
- 8 ministry vehicles maintained with an average of 5,479+ miles per month
- Scheduled, transported, sorted, and refurbished over 500,000 donated items including clothing, furniture, household

goods and other miscellaneous objects. These items were sold at the Hope Chest Resale Store or distributed to under-resourced men, women, and children in the community or within one of Wayside's ministries

- Provided 123 families in the community with furniture, clothing, and other basic needs through our Community Outreach program
- Assisted local churches with 44 referrals for clothing, housewares and furniture
- Collaborated with World Relief in Aurora to provide clothing and housewares for 57 refugee families
- 175+ winter coats were distributed to needy families and individuals through a partnership with the City of Aurora and the Aurora Public Schools
- 771 bales at 700 lbs. each of clothing and 1000+ bags of shoes at 50 lbs. each were recycled with the majority of those items going to third world/developing countries
- Partnered with 20 local churches to host Compassion Drives with the purpose of collecting clothes, furniture, and other household items that could be used in our Hope Chest Resale Store as well as other areas of our ministries
- Proceeds from our Hope Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Shop, along with our income from recycling clothing, shoes, and scrap metal totaled \$504,260, all of which went to fund the ministry efforts at Wayside Cross Ministries

New Life Corrections Ministry

■ God continues to bless us, allowing us to be His ambassadors on a weekly basis in a number of correctional facilities: Kane, Kendall, and McHenry County jails, Stateville Prison, Fox Valley A.T.C., and the IL Youth Center in St. Charles. In these facilities, we have Bible studies, one-on-one counseling, Dads Classes, and literature distribution. (You'd be amazed at the 10's of 1000's of Bibles & Christian books we give away, as well as magazines, Bible lessons and other printed Christian literature)! We were even able to hold a "completion ceremony" for 149 inmate Dads who have gone through our weekly Dads Classes at Stateville.

- Our Team Leaders: Dave Haidle, Mark

Hopkins, Kevin Krippel, Ed McCabe, Bob Milliman, Brian Polencheck, and John Rago, have been joined by two more: Mike Marks and Justin Obriecht. These leaders are responsible for more than doubling the outreach into Stateville NRC (which in turn reaches into the whole Illinois prison system), and increasing our 2-day in-prison seminars significantly. For those of you who know these men, you can appreciate the quality of men God has provided. In fact, God has blessed us with over 400 quality volunteers, many of whom are Team Leader material.

■ God sure has blessed our DADS CLASSES! We completed our 69th 2-day, in-prison Dads Seminar (26 in 2014), with over 3300 graduates (1050 in 2014). We added a second 2-day, in-prison seminar, FREEDOM FROM FEAR, which we also take into the female prisons.

■ Chaplain Rich Hines from Only Hope Prison Ministries in California continues to conduct our twice-yearly Chaplain's Training Academy and One-Day Training Seminars.

■ The "bottom line" is that God is using the New Life Corrections Ministry to bring the Gospel in a meaningful way to 10's of 1000's of inmates and Correctional Staff. Thank you Father, for choosing us and for using us.

Elgin Wayside Center

- Over 24 people placed into life change programs
- 182 monthly volunteers
- 252 new individuals served
- 421 total individuals served
- 9,411 guest sign-ins
- Over 14,000 meals served
- 28,170 cups of coffee served
- 1,719 loads of laundry
- 4,114 showers

DuPage Initiative

- Number of homeless served: 40
- Volunteers: 19
- Meals served: 381
- Miles of transportation provided: 8,918
- Articles of clothing distributed: 134
- Showers provided: 72
- Days in service: 28

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

* *Executive Committee*

Tom Boehne
Juan Diaz
Sandra D. Fulton
Tom Hartman - Vice
Chairman *
Linda Kennedy - Secretary *
John Long *
James Lukose - Ex-Officio
Michael R. McKenna -
Chairman *
Gary Meyer *
Mary Lou Molter *
D. Peter Pabon *
Jeffrey Roberts - Treasurer *
John Ross *
Tim Rueter *
Brad Van Horn
Ruth Wagner
William Wallbaum
Thomas B. Wells *
Craig Zimmerman *

Honorary Board Members

Ralph Brooker
George Clark
Ray G. Gonzalez
Darrrell L. Jordan
Ray M. Lidecka
James E. Miller
Roger K. Parolini
V. Allen Senter

Administration

James Lukose -
Executive Director
Diana Nelson - Accounts
Manager

Finance Committee

Tom Hartman - Chair
James Lukose
Michael R. McKenna
Diana Nelson
D. Peter Pabon
Jeffrey Roberts
John Ross
Thomas B. Wells

Construction Committee

Mike Adams
Kirk Albinson
Marty Frankis
Dave Lautz
James Lukose
Gary Martens
Michael R. McKenna - Chair
Anthony Oliver
Ken Van Kley

Development Office Staff

Debbie Butler -
Communications Manager
Homer Easley - Consultant
Bernie Harper - Annual
Campaign and Business
Development Coordinator
David Hiatt -
Administrative Assistant
Pamela Keith -
Grant Manager
Michael McClelland -
Administrative Assistant
Gabriel Weckesser -
IT Coordinator
Rebecca Monrean -
Church/Donor
Development Manager

Annual Campaign Committee

Yvonne Fawell
Wayne Greenawalt
Bernie Harper
V. Al Senter
William Wallbaum
Thomas B. Wells - Chair
Craig Zimmerman

Advancement Committee

Homer Easley
Bernie Harper
James Lukose
Joe Redd
Tim Rueter
Brad Van Horn

Elgin Wayside Center Staff

Chris Corsaut - Operations
Manager
David Fassett -
Elgin Center Coordinator
Ralph Livingston -
Resident Assistant
Phil Wood - Director

Elgin Wayside Center Steering Committee

Joan Couris
John Diasio
Dave Fassett
Marcia Geu
Gene Heckenberg
Peg Masching
Gary Meyer - Chair
Kathryn Odell

Hope Outreach Ministry Staff

James Brown -
Scheduling Coordinator
Michael Ciepley -
Maintenance Supervisor
Carl Loberg - Warehouse
Manager
Richard Wilson - Sorting
Supervisor
Steve Wise - Hope Outreach
Manager
Harold Wright -
Transportation Manager

Hope Chest Resale Store Staff

Steve Wise - Manager
Melvin Hinton - Team
Leader
Michael O'Kier - Staff
Cashier
Joseph Sova - Staff Cashier
Al Turner - Staff Cashier

Sweet Charity Resale Shop Staff

Rose Sommerville - Asst.
Manager
Valerie Wegehaupt - Asst.
Manager

Hope Outreach Steering Committee

Linda Kennedy - Chair
John Long
Mary Lou Molter
Steve Wise

Lifespring Ministry Staff

Marquerite Blitch - Case
Manager
Lynda Dorsch - Director
Wayne Hill - Counselor
Kim Johnson - Shift
Supervisor
Denise McGhee - Shift
Supervisor
Lavonna Towns - Shift
Supervisor

Lifespring Partners

Colleen Bente
Fernando Castrejon
Sue Stanley Castrejon -
Auction Manager
Lynda Dorsch
Mike Dorsch
Craig Hershey
Janet Hershey
Kristyn Krohse
Helen LeBeau - Secretary
James Lukose
Diana Nelson
Faith Risany
Tim Rueter - WCM Board
Representative
Kevin Trenkamp
Rachel Trenkamp -
Auction Chair

Master's Touch Ministry Staff

George Bavas - Kitchen
Supervisor
Melvin Hinton - Resident
Coordinator Team Leader
Blaine Thompson -
Resident Coordinator
Randy Tomassi - Director

Master's Touch Transformation Leadership Committee

Mark Cantey
John Downen
Ray Glinski
Tom Hartman
Jerry Kennell
John Long - Chair
James Lukose
Steve Madawick
Joe Redd
Drew Robertson
Keith Schauer
Randy Tomassi
Brad Van Horn
Carroll Wahl

Aftercare Initiative

Daniel Olson - Transitional
Services Coordinator

New Life Corrections Staff

Tom Beatty - Director
Mike McClelland -
Office Assistant
Joe Nuno -
Office Assistant

New Life Corrections Advisory Board

Wayne Greenawalt
Dave Haidle
Bob Milliman
Brian Polencheck
Larry Reckner
Jeffrey Roberts
John Schumacher
Joe Slawek

Urban Youth Ministry Staff

Jessica Bonifas - Camp
Counselor
Zac Bonifas - Camp
Counselor
Janeen Corbin - ANBL and
CHAMPS Mentor
Heather Christensen - Camp
Counselor
Samatha Dillon - Camp
Counselor
Jenn Kuryliw - CHAMPS
Mentor
George Roman - CHAMPS
Mentor
Emily Wood - Site
Coordinator
Robin Sterkel - Programs
Coordinator
Phil Wood - Director

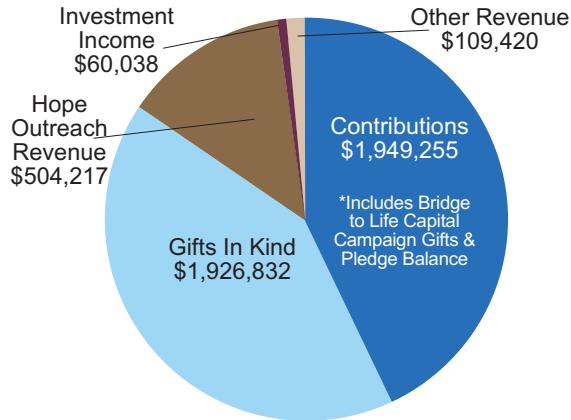
Urban Youth Ministry Steering Committee

George Acosta
Juan Diaz
Mary Lou Molter - Chair
Sylvester Pulphus
Michael Rhoades

Walk-A-Mile Committee

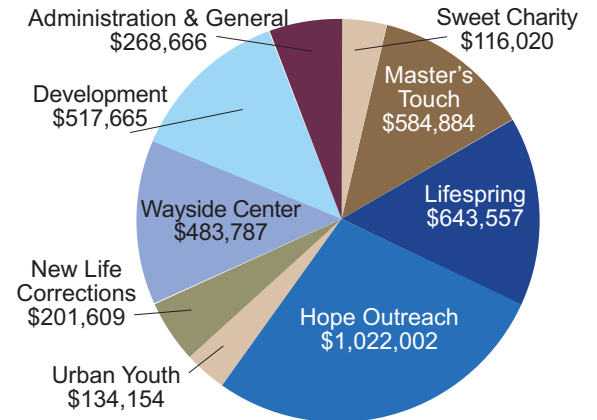
Debbie Swieca - Chair
Lynda Dorsch
Bry Lentz
Luke Lentz
Rebecca Monrean
Rick Roberts
John Ross
Robin Sterkel
Phil Wood

2014 Revenue Sources



Support & Revenue \$4,549,762

2014 Program Expenses



Expenses \$3,972,344

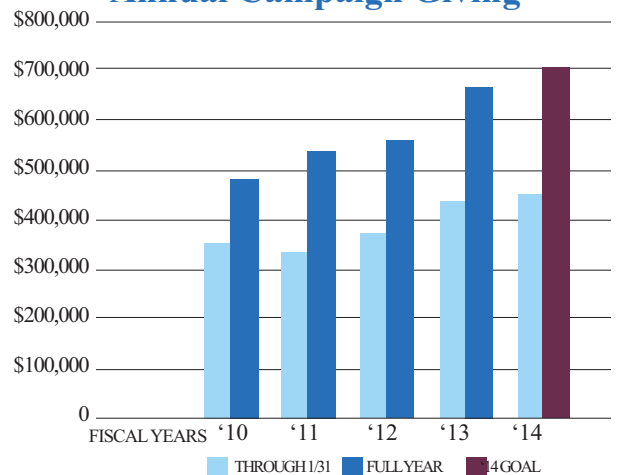
“Transforming Lives! What Wayside is always building!” was the theme of 2014-2015 Annual Campaign, the eighty-seventh annual campaign conducted by Wayside Cross Ministries. Through January 31, 2015, Wayside’s Annual Campaign supporters have contributed \$446,519. This is \$11,787 or 3%, more than the same period one year ago. Last year’s campaign raised a record \$669,070 and this year’s campaign is on pace to exceed that record.

This year’s campaign had 124 workers, most of whom have been working on the campaign for many years, some as much as 50 years. Wayside would like to have more workers for next year’s campaign. The role of a campaign worker is easy now, compared to what was required in the past, but the work and dedication of the workers is just as appreciated.

Over 1,500 individuals, families, businesses and churches supported last year’s campaign. Birnie

Harper, Annual Campaign Coordinator, stated “I continue to be amazed at the loyalty and generosity of the supporters of Wayside Cross Ministries. The Heritage Society members listed on page 14 and 15 of this report are a major reason for the growth and success of our ministry for over 86 years.”

Annual Campaign Giving



“I’m surprised by the ministry of Wayside Cross”

Wayside Cross was blessed to have an intern from Germany with us this year for a short while. Sascha Skowitz was sponsored by Pastor Rick Pierson, Compass Church, Naperville, IL. Our men enjoyed talking to him about his country and learning about his studies.

Sascha says, “I’m surprised about the ministry of Wayside Cross. I did not know what to expect. All the guys I met were very kind, respectful and

open. I can tell their deep wish to grow in faith and their seriousness about serving in the shelter. Many of them are studying also, and were interested in the life in Germany and my theology studies. Wayside Cross is doing a good ministry in Aurora.”



Sascha Skowitz, Theology Student at the Giessen School of Theology in Germany.

Walk a Mile 2015

The 2015 Walk a Mile in My Shoes winter walk event took place on Valentine’s Day this year, and although hearts were warm, the temperatures were not. Approximately 200 people came out to brave the below zero temperatures and walk in support of Wayside Cross Ministries. Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner served as Grand Marshal of the event, which kicked off at the Harkness Center. On the route, walkers enjoyed hot beverages served by The Warehouse Church and upon their return, participated in additional festivities that included prize drawings, top fundraising awards, photographs with a special visitor, the (Chick-fil-A cow), and breakfast provided by Chick-fil-A, Jakes Bagels & Deli, Panera Bread and Reuland’s Catering.



“I have learned, somewhat surprisingly, that God does not need my opinion on anything.”

A native of Scotland, Charles enjoyed global success as a business man until late 2013 when, while settled in the USA, his world unraveled in the span of two short weeks. He lost his job, his home, and his “friends” abandoned him. He was desperate. Although he was a professing Christian, Charles was spending little to no time in God’s Word. Then he heard about WCM’s Master’s Touch Ministry. He entered the program in November of 2013.

Charles discovered that Master’s Touch provided a community where, in his words, “I was able to live, breathe, walk and talk about the Lord Jesus Christ every minute of the day, without fear of being asked to leave or be quiet.” He also heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly articulated in the classes, chapel services, and “one on one” mentoring sessions that are part of the program. He was no longer confused about spiritual matters. “A fresh love of the Bible returned in full force,” Charles joyfully states. “God, by His Spirit, was teaching me something new almost every day. Romans 12:1-2 were no longer just a couple Bible verses; they became a daily way of life.”

Charles graduated from the program in June of 2014. Since then, he has served as a Resident Assistant within Master’s Touch, a position he plans to hold for the foreseeable future. Charles continues to see Master’s Touch, as a “safe place,” in large measure because of his relationship with his mentor, Frank Yonke, who meets with him on a weekly basis. Charles also receives shepherding and nurturing through his active participation in a Bible-based,



Christ-centered local church. “One of the most important relationships I have developed is with the Oasis Bible Church in Aurora,” Charles gratefully reports. “Each and every week, I am guaranteed preaching and teaching that is completely faithful to the Word. I am blessed by a Pastor and Senior Elder who truly walk in the Spirit, and who love their flock unreservedly.”

In short, the transforming power of the Gospel presented within the context of the Master’s Touch Ministry in partnership with the local church, has produced in Charles a deeper love for Christ, a genuine hatred of sin, and a strong desire to be obedient to God and His Word. “Above all,” Charles mentions in closing, “I have learned, somewhat surprisingly, that God does not need my opinion on anything. All he requires is my love and obedience. I strive to give Him those every day of my life.”

“I finally realized what I was missing all along...”

“In my 23 years of life, I’ve experienced love and kindness but I’ve also seen a lot of destruction. Growing up in an alcoholic home led me to think the only way to deal with problems is by escaping them. So, one thing led to another and I started using drugs. My mom helped me get into many rehab programs but none of them really clicked. There was still that gaping hole in my chest that needed to be filled. Then, God led me to Lifespring! This is my first time being in a Christian program and the longest I’ve been able to stay with a program.

With the help of God, the staff, other residents and volunteers, I have been made whole. I have learned to always put God first and realize now that this is what I have been missing all along. I am so grateful now and want to give back because I have received so much. Once I am in Phase III, I am looking forward to getting a job and would like to go to school for Animal Assisted Therapy. I know God will lead me where He wants me to go. I praise Him!”
Alyse



**“YOU WILL NEVER LOOK
INTO THE EYES OF
SOMEONE WHO
DOESN’T MATTER
TO GOD”**

LIFESPING

There is joy in heaven when a wandering soul comes to the Lord.

The restaurant we were sitting in was not unlike and not too far from the one where the brothers had been re-introduced. This time, however, it was the other brother who was facing a challenge. After many successful years in a corporate setting, he now found himself without a job.

Despite his circumstances, however, he was encouraged by the text he had just received from his formerly unemployed and homeless sibling.

Over five years ago these two brothers were re-united at the Wayside Center. One was a volunteer from a local church and the other was a homeless guest. Though they had not spoken for years, a staff member made the providential connection and set-up a breakfast meeting for the two to meet. During the meal, the volunteer brother was able to call a relieved Mom and Dad to report that the wandering and lost brother was safe. What followed was years of re-connecting, re-building, and re-storing.

The biggest challenge of homelessness and the biggest factor perpetuating it is not being without, but being alone. When someone loses their network, they are extremely vulnerable. With homelessness long in his rearview mirror and the family connection reestablished, when the restored brother learned of his brother's job termination, he was now the one reaching out. Immediately, he sent a text that reminded his stable and faithful brother that "God was in control," and that he was willing to forward a couple of hundred dollars per week if the help was needed.

God's sanctifying work does not merely result in employment or housing, but in genuine internal transformation. In God's economy, people do not just move out of homelessness, but from unproductive lives to productive ones, from takers to givers, from selfish to generous.

Both brothers are going to do fine. They have the Lord and they have each other.

There is a level of success and satisfaction every time the Wayside Center helps to place a homeless family in sustainable housing or helps an individual find gainful employment.



“THERE IS JOY IN HEAVEN, HOWEVER, WHEN A WANDERING SOUL COMES TO THE LORD AND IS TRANSFORMED ON EVERY LEVEL”

The Power of the Gospel!

In Stateville Prison, as I walk a l-o-n-g corridor, I pass a “cage” where inmates are often held, awaiting an Officer to escort them. I try to keep some tracts in my pocket to give to the inmates when I walk past. One day, I received a phone call from “Bill.” He told me he received a tract from me while he was waiting in the “cage,” and held it for two years until he got “on his knees

and repented and received Jesus Christ as his Savior” (his words).

He said he was just released and was staying with a family in St. Charles - just a couple of miles from my home. We made an appointment to meet for coffee, and when I picked him up, the first thing he asked was if we could please stop by the post office on our way to the coffee

shop. We did. I followed him into the post office, and observed him go up to the counter to talk to a lady postal worker. I heard Bill apologizing for the hard time he’d given her the day before. I also saw a huge smile on her face as I heard her forgive him. At the coffee shop, Bill took off his jacket, and I could see swastika tattoos on his neck and down both arms. Bill told me he had been a “white supremacist” and when he’d been in the post office the day before, he’d been stressed out and very rude to the lady postal worker, who happened to be black. I knew I’d just witnessed what Jesus referred to as “fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8). What a blessing God gave me, from just passing out a tract!



In a County Jail in which I was working, I met “Robert,” a very big man of very, very little intelligence, awaiting trial for molesting a young boy and assaulting the teenaged boys who had put him up to it and turned him in. Some of the other inmates in his “pod” (housing unit), were doing Bible Lessons which I made available to them. Robert asked for some, and although I thought he’d not be capable of doing them, I gave him some anyway. A week later, I saw

Robert again. He had all eight lessons completed, although his essay answers were little more than gibberish and very difficult to read. Robert told me he now had Jesus in his heart! I gave him more lessons, and this time they came back in just a couple of days. From outside the pod, I observed Robert, sitting by himself, with his Bible and

lessons. He didn’t appear to be making much progress. The other inmates told me that it was taking Robert most of a day to finish one lesson, when it took others 30 minutes. Robert struggled, but he went on to finish all 156 lessons in the course! I was able to see Robert many times over the next few years, and his child-like faith in Jesus proved to be authentic! He suffered much from the taunts and mistreatment from the other inmates (due to his mental capacity and child-molester charges), but he never returned evil for evil. He was a gentle giant, always telling the other inmates that Jesus had changed his life and they all needed Jesus, too.

Chaplain Tom Beatty,
New Life Corrections Ministry

“If a young person does not turn to the Lord, they will turn away.”

“We need to pray,” was the immediate response of one of our high school volunteers at Brady Elementary. Having grown up in the neighborhood and having gone through the after-school program himself, he knew as well as anyone the dangers lurking in the early evening darkness.



The situation was a missing child. Rather than going directly home after school, the first-grader wandered to a friend’s house. While she played safely, police and parents frantically searched. At the prompting of our young volunteer, the Urban Youth Ministry (UYM) staff and helpers gathered for prayer.

Thankfully, the story had a happy ending, but one blessing of the evening was to see a young man

who had learned that turning to the Lord is not a last resort, but a first response.

UYM exists to help youth find a relationship with Jesus Christ, to learn that He will never leave them, and to develop lifelong patterns of trust and faith.

We have witnessed that if a young person does not turn to the Lord, they will turn away. We have also observed that if a person does not accept Christ at an early age, there is a good chance they never will.

We will never know how much pain and loss is avoided when a young life is converted. Seeing a young person with the faith and trust to believe that God cares and can intervene in our daily struggles gives hope that God is raising up a generation who will have even greater faith than the one before.

“TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION TO TRUST”

“I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish any of this without Christ in my life.”

Michael is a Master’s Touch graduate. Here’s how Michael put it: “I came to Master’s Touch after a prison sentence, broken and in need of some help in my life after years of destroying myself and my relationships with my family through drugs and alcohol. Through the work that God does at Wayside Cross Ministries, He has transformed me spiritually and physically to be a more productive member of society and obedient disciple of Jesus Christ. Following God’s will has given me a second chance at life, not just saving me but changing me completely.”

Randy Tomassi, Director of Master’s Touch: “I praise our Lord for the work that He has begun (and will be faithful to complete) in Michael’s life. From his first day in our program, Michael demonstrated that he was serious about life-change, and his commitment to our Bible-based, Christ-centered program was evident in the classroom, in the workplace, in the chapel, and in his personal relationships. Here is a man who walked through our doors as a lost, broken, hurting man, and today, by God’s grace, has been

transformed into a God-glorifying, contributing member of society, and a very valued employee of WCM!”

Since graduating the program, Michael faithfully served in the staff position of Sorting Supervisor in our warehouse. Concurrently, this allowed Michael the time necessary to teach a Saturday men’s class in our program (P Phase). This gave him the opportunity to give back to our ministry, in the same manner in which he benefitted from the program. Since that point, Michael took on a key responsibility of Scheduling Coordinator, a vital contact between donors and our ministry. His excellent contribution to our team made him rise to the top of the list when the need arose at the Hope Chest Resale Store. He now serves as a Staff Cashier, Volunteer Coordinator, and many other vital tasks that help our store to be successful. His willingness to always go the extra mile in serving others is continuing evidence of a transformed life. In his own words, Michael says, “I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish any of this without Christ in my life.”



HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society was created in 1998. Membership includes benefactors who have faithfully and generously made yearly contributions to the ministry. We thank God for you, year after year, making generous gifts. You've provided a bedrock of support for our ongoing work.

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