

PMA news *RELEASE*

Share the light

Never too late by Joe Campos

Cornelius spent 23 years incarcerated in a state prison. While there he missed the graduation of most of his kids, his marriage suffered terribly; so many things happened while he was shut off from the world. But, *it was in prison where he learned how to be free*. It was there he learned Jesus had died for his sins and wanted to have a relationship with him.

After serving his sentence, he left on parole and was determined to live life differently. However, in a short time he found himself back in the local jail for breaking his parole terms. At that point I had the privilege of meeting Cornelius. Interestingly, he talked to me like we were meeting in *his* office, which is understandable since he was so familiar with that environment. He attentively listened to everything I had to teach from our Grace Life Training and actively engaged in our discussions. I noticed that each week I visited the jail Cornelius was more and more excited about the Grace teaching and was taking a leadership role among the other inmates, encouraging them to pay attention, and engaging in discussions with them.

A few weeks into the lessons on Grace Living we talked about our dying to self before we can experience the resurrected life of Jesus. As I was explaining the process, I could sense that all of the guys were feeling touched and convicted by the Holy Spirit to give up all of the demands of their old lives and cloth themselves with Jesus. It was such a surreal experience for me to see these tough looking men broken by the power of Jesus Christ!

Six weeks later Cornelius was released, and two weeks after being released he gave his testimony in front of many church people, and his emphasis

was on his surrender experience from that specific session of our Grace Life Training. It has been eight weeks since his release and he is now working a full-time job, living in peace with his wife, and desiring to invest his remaining years in his kids and on sharing God's grace with everyone around him. Praise God for the true freedom Cornelius found!

Friends, I wish I had more opportunities to recount all that God is doing through the ministry of Prison Mission Association. I feel I could write a book! But I hope Cornelius' story will convey to you the power of God that touched the lives of so many inmates.

Although we are rejoicing about the present ministries of PMA there are some concerns about our future. This last quarter was a very difficult one for our ministry. Of the budgeted \$25,000 for this quarter only \$16,000 came in gifts leaving us with deficit of \$9,000. Our hearts are saddened, but at the same time confident that the Lord will lift up individuals who will commit to supporting this crucial ministry. *We humbly come before you to ask you to consider participating in our end of the year campaign "SHARE THE LIGHT" by giving towards our budget deficit.*

We believe in the ministry of PMA, and our prayer is not only to meet budget this year but to have a margin for the next fiscal year so we can continue to *Share the Light* through our various ministries. In the rest of this letter we want to share with you some of the goals we have accomplished this year by God's grace, and new goals we believe He has for us. Please, join us by praying and taking part financially in God's vision for our ministry.



PRISON MISSION
ASSOCIATION

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
— John 8:36

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Fall/Winter 2012

Goals Accomplished in 2012

2 visitation teams (80 Men and Women bi-monthly) in the Kent County Jail, MI; Grace Life Training in Ottawa county, MI (15 men monthly); partnership with C.L.E.A.R. (Coalition, Leadership, Education, Advice, Rehabilitation) for accountability of inmates (20-25 men); 930 new students enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Fellowship, 3,030 lessons corrected; 12 students completed the whole program; 90 new Spanish students; 337 students processed per month; 45 Hispanic men weekly being reach with the Gospel in Pasco Largo county, FL; movie "Courageous" was shown in the jail; and new jail ministry in Hernando County, FL (ministering to 36 men, weekly). Praise God for all He has done through PMA! And these are just some of the highlights.



Exciting future goal

We continue to ask you to pray in regards to two very strategic partnerships. We are very close to an agreement with both *Grace Bible College* and *Berean Bible Institute* to award credit hours to those who complete our lesson program in its respective online programs. We feel this would boost the interest of prospective students and also create a new motivation for our students to finish their studies with us. We want to provide opportunities for our students to continue their education in order to break the cycle of crime. We are very excited with this opportunity and very thankful for the leadership of both schools, for considering such partnership.

Other goals

Encourage and coach 4 more church groups to start jail and prison ministries: develop mentoring programs and partnerships with Grace Churches in Grand Rapids, MI, to help ex-offenders on parole with food and clothing; increase by 20% the number of students enrolled in our Bible Correspondence Fellowship courses; continue to update lessons in English and Spanish; increase funding to create a margin to be able to expand and develop these ministries and more appropriately fund the existing ministries. Please join us in prayer for the accomplishment of these goals in the year ahead of us and consider participating financially in our ministry.



Lolamae correcting lessons



Sari sending corrected and new lessons to students



Karen processing students

Office Manager Karen reports: *Prayer is powerful! Christopher writes: "A while back, I asked you to pray for my mom; who had been ill for some time. I am happy to report she is much better now, and has quit smoking." Thank you for your prayers and may God be praised!* We have 4 faithful ladies and another women's prayer group that prays for our prayer requests from the inmates. You too can be a part of this prayer ministry. Just e-mail the PMA office at pma@pmabcf.org.

Thank you so much for your involvement, without which it would be impossible for us to impact the lives of thousands men and women during 2012! We praise the Lord for all He has done this past year and believe His desire and goals for PMA are greater and beyond anything we can imagine for 2013. Because of this we ask you to join us with your prayers and your giving. Partner with us as we SHARE THE LIGHT of Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas from the PMA Family