

CPO Ministries

Chicagoland Prison Outreach P.O. Box 63 South Holland IL 60473 708 331-3301
www.cpominstries.org

02/10



From The Director's Desk

A primary responsibility (more of a privilege) I have in my ministry at Cook County Jail is to oversee the *Life Learning Program in Division 11. I require participants in the Program who want an NIV Student Bible to read Colossians 3:1-17, and write an essay describing what it means to them. Over the 12+ years of the Program I have received hundreds of essays. In one I received recently from

Rich B., he concluded his rather lengthy essay with an incredible application of the passage – as well as a pretty good testimony about the heart of and impact of the Life Learning Program. An excerpt follows:

Inside!!!
Vocational Students'
Testimonies

He becomes
the object
of our love,..

“As the process of sanctification continues in our lives, we come to adore Christ; we come to appreciate all he has done in us and for us. Our fellowship becomes greater. We then become true disciples of Christ and come to know His purpose in our lives. We come to know Jesus in such an intimate way that all we want is to fulfill His assignment that He has given us. He becomes the object of our love, just as we have always been the object of His love, and this is an amazing transformation in our lives.”



As our love for Jesus grows, we come to a place such as this, the Christian Life Learning deck. This is a place where our walk with Jesus comes to consummation. We fellowship in Christ day and night. We sing songs of praise to honor and glorify God. We have Bible teachers come in daily. We admonish one another, we forgive one another and we walk together as one body in Christ. We come to know this is the place where God has ordained for us to be for such a time as this. We thank God with all our hearts for all He is in our lives, for giving us His son Christ Jesus and we live on forever in the power of His love and glory.”

..a place where our
walk with Jesus comes
to consummation.

I certainly couldn't have said it better!

Only with God's help and your partnership through prayer and financial support are this and the many other *CPO programs made possible. Praise Him – and thank you!

Dan Swets

*You can learn more about these programs on our web site at www.cpominstries.org.

Three former students say

Thank You CPO

“First of all, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for my instructor, Darlene Rhines, and for the founders of the CPO program.

I entered the program as a last option, but I quickly realized that this program could, and would, actually change my life. I’ve had problems trying to find employment so I decided to enter the CPO program.

I completed the 14 week carpentry pre-apprenticeship class at CPO and received a first place trophy for outstanding achievement. I also passed the Union Carpentry Aptitude Exam on September 30, 2008. I am currently waiting to attend the Carpentry Union Training Program.

Completing the CPO program and passing the Union Exam inspired me to attend college. I am currently enrolled in a Business Management course at Kennedy King College. I hope to one day return to my community and inspire young adults to also choose a career path. I hope to one day open a program on my own, that will help guide people to pursue life changing or life altering chance.

Once again, I would like to thank Darlene and to all the other employees of the CPO program. I would recommend this program to anyone who needs a new outlook on life.”

M.R.



“I’m writing to you about the CPO Outreach Program. I’m letting you know what the program did for me, it’s a good program. Most programs I did not finish until I found this one. I finished the whole fourteen week program. The teachers, Darlene and Corey, they really care about the students. The things they taught me I’m using in the working world as far as carpentry. It will be a shame for this program to end and it’s a good program. A lot of ex-offenders need this program. The second chance programs don’t accept some ex-offenders due to their cases. So as far as working with the program it benefited me greatly and if people give the program a chance it will also benefit them. As I said before, I truly enjoyed the program and it showed me a different way of a working life and it kept me out of the streets. I wouldn’t be the man that I am if it wasn’t for the CPO Outreach Program. I hope this letter helps the CPO Outreach Program as much as it helped me.”

Sincerely, L. M.



“I just want to say that the carpentry pre-apprenticeship program changed my life. This program kept me intact with my math skills as well as hands on skills. The program also had wonderful instructors such as Ms. Darlene. They were a blast to be around. They kept me laughing and at the same time they taught me the meaning of hard work. The greatest thing about the program was that it was based on Faith. To be honest, before the program I didn’t have any belief in God. The mandatory Bible study, at first I thought I wouldn’t make it through because it all sounded foreign to me. After a few Bible studies I began to be enlightened with the word of God in which it gave me a sense of Faith. Good things started to fall in line for me so I cherish that segment of the program. All in all I would recommend this program to anyone who needs a sense of responsibility and who need God in their life.”

M.M.

Announcing

CPO'S Computer Repair/Remanufacturing Training For Ex-offenders!

CPO recently began providing training for ex-offenders in computer repair and remanufacturing.

We believe that God led us to this new venture for our vocational program through the new government mandates for the reuse or disposal of older computer systems beginning Jan. 1, 2010 and the introduction of some friends who are involved in the computer industry

The very first project our students work on is to remanufacture a computer which will become their own personal system. The textbook material is supplied to them on a CD. It is our expectation that in about 5 months our students will be prepared to take the examination for CompTIAA+ certification.

During classtime the students are taught the structure of various types of systems, the disassembly, repair and reassembly of a computer to become operational; and methods for disposal of materials which are no longer useful. These materials must be disposed of in ways which meet mandated specifications and are monitored very closely.

We are very excited with the addition of this program and we would be pleased to give a tour to anyone who might be interested in seeing our program in action.



Another Shed...

One more shed, built by our Cook County Boot Camp carpentry class, has been delivered and set up. This shed was purchased by Dave & Jody Eylander. At their home the shed was reassembled under the supervision of Carl, Rich, & Tom - our CPO volunteers who teach our students at the Boot Camp.

The shed was built in class at the Boot Camp and then dismantled and reassembled on location. Special permission to have power tools and sharp instruments had to be obtained to have this class in the first place. When students assemble the shed on location they are accompanied by C.C.D.O.C. staff and transported in county vehicles. Taking all of this into consideration it really is a blessing from God that we are able to do this.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF:

Mildred Eriks

Laura M. Rieley

Arn Stallinga

Kathleen Clausing

Gertrude Stallinga

Jeff Stallinga

Tom & Terri Stallinga

Rick & Deb Stallinga

IN HONOR OF:

Garrett Eriks

Laura M. Rieley

Jen VanDerAa

105th Birthday

Roger & Geri Triemstra

ANGELS OF HOPE



Christmas of 2009 was a time of struggle for a lot of families. This was especially true for the families of many of the inmates that are involved in CPO's programs at the jail. Once again, several local churches partnered with CPO to provide Christmas gifts and food and household items for particularly needy families. This year we were able to provide for 148 families, which included 444 children.

One of the families sent a card expressing gratitude for the gifts. The card read, "Bless you for giving of your time, your energy, yourself. Many Thanks." Barbara added a note that said, "To our donors thanks so very much for all you did for us. I greet you in Jesus name. I truly thank and praise God for all of His many blessings and for his grace and mercy. May God bless each and every one of you. Truly God is a good God."

May God bless each and every one of you.

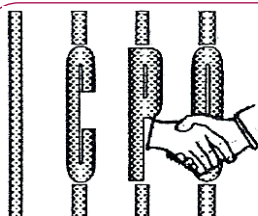


The Barren family

On behalf of CPO, the inmates and their families, a big thank you to the following churches that participated in this outreach

Angel Academy/1st Reformed Church (Lansing)
Bethel CRC (Lansing)
Canaan Baptist Church (Chicago)
Cornerstone PRC (Dyer)
Cottage Grove CRC (South Holland)
Faith Church (Dyer)
Fellowship Baptist Church (Chicago)
First CRC (South Holland)
Vision Nehemiah (Chicago).

Grace Reformed Church (Lansing),
Misseo Dei (Mokena)
New Hope Church (Chicago),
Oak Glen URC (Lansing),
Orland Park CRC,
Pathway CRC (Cedar Lake),
Peace Community Church (Frankfort),
Thorn Creek Reformed Church (South Holland),



Matt. 25:36

**Chicagoland
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If you would like more information on CPO or would like to be a CPO volunteer, please call or write us.

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