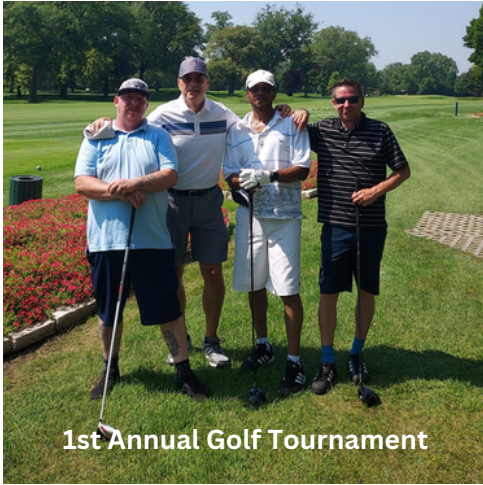


CHICAGOLAND PRISON OUTREACH

BASED IN CHICAGO, IMPACTING THE WORLD AROUND US



1st Annual Golf Tournament



Youth Camp



Leadership Summit

Old Message, New Venues A Year of Ministry Milestones

By Corey Buchanon, Executive Director

This year has been full of new ministry experiences for CPO. We have teams of volunteers leading Bible Study twice a week at Will County Adult Detention Facility. We started ministry at St. Charles juvenile prison, where we lead Bible studies and provide one on one mentoring to the youth. We had our first ever leadership summit, where we partnered with an organization in Florida and local Chicagoland leaders to inspire inmates to pursue God's purpose for their lives. We held our first summer youth Vocational camp where we taught carpentry skills to kids who have a loved one who is incarcerated. We also hosted our first annual golf outing in partnership with The Exodus Projects, a nonprofit organization based in Chicago Heights.

New things are fun, fresh, and exciting, but we never leave the old message. The message of the Old Rugged Cross. We take our old message into new venues and watch as God makes new creatures. New ministry opportunities and old ministries programs are only possible because of the support of partners who invest in the ministry of Chicagoland Prison Outreach regularly. As we look to the end of the year I would ask that you consider giving a generous donation to help us continue the mission of showing God's love to offenders and their families.

Thank You!

Dan Swets, Director of Ministry



Greetings! This is just a brief note to thank you all for your prayers and support and to let you know that I am still active in the ministry at Westville Prison in Indiana and discipling several men who have been released from prison. God has been good to me and I am still able to do what I've been doing for 37 years now. Next year we will celebrate CPO's 30 year anniversary.

I am so humbled to have been a small part of that 30 year history and am excited to see what God will do in the years ahead. Thanks again for your participation with us.



Solar Panel Training



Will County



Evanston Classes Begin

Opening a Door

Joe Carlson, Chaplain

As a staff Chaplain with CPO at Cook County Jail, my focus is on one-on-one meetings with detainees. When I visit a person, I try to have Bibles and Christian literature ready to hand out. But the best thing I can do is add their name to my prayer list. These brief encounters happen at a living unit door way or in chance conversation in the hallway. But this is just the beginning of a story.

Let me tell you about Fred, a detainee who was a "worker" I would see in the hallway when I would do my regular rounds. When he passed me, he would just nod and say, "Chaplain" as he walked by. Over time he would take an Our Daily Bread, then a New Testament and eventually I knew his next court date. Several months ago, I noticed how he would listen when I talked in the hallway with other detainees about the way Jesus walks with us in our difficult situations. He would let me in on some real hardships he was facing. One day I noticed Fred wasn't out doing his normal duties. I was able to locate in the division Fred was moved to and set off to see him.

When I was preparing to go, the Lord put in on my heart to take a book I like to hand out called, "Anchor for the Soul" by Ray Pritchard. I have seen so many detainees come to a personal understanding of Christ as Savior through this book. It seemed time for him to have it in his hands.

The other day I followed up with Fred and asked if he was reading the book. He was so glad to tell me, "I'm up to chapter 3. I don't have the book with me, but can you come back so I can show you my notes?" This was an incredible moment that was a long time coming.

I have seen other detainees bring me their copy of "Anchor for the Soul" with underlining and notes. These marked-up copies are evidence of God's Spirit at work in a person with a complex and unfinished story.

Fred is just one of hundreds of stories we are in the middle of at Cook County. It is a privilege to walk with people through hard situations over a long period of time. It all starts with prayer for the Lord to give us an open door. When we see the door open, it takes Christ's direction to walk with people and the power of the Spirit to keep walking through the complexities of their lives. Through prayer, you share in the joy of seeing a story of God's redeeming grace unfold as a person walks in a new direction for life.

Watch and Pray!
Chaplain Carlson

SAVE

the

DATE

**CPO'S 30TH ANNUAL
EVENING OF
THANKSGIVING**

May 21, 2024





One-Jack House

Richard Zekveld, Life Learning Community Pastor

Cook County Jail, Division 6, 1J. “One-Jack,” the officers call it. “One-Jack” houses forty men in twenty cells around a common living area. By God’s grace, “One-Jack” also houses CPO’s Life Learning Community. For six months now, seven committed Bible teachers and other faithful companions have walked onto 1J, Monday to Friday, to preach the gospel, teach God’s word, and love the men.

It has been a challenging six months.

One day, in mid-July, I could not go onto 1J to teach. The living unit was locked down, due to incidents. The men were confined to their cells for 24 hours. This was becoming a pattern on 1J. Each time this happened, a group of men were removed from 1J, and others replaced them. Of the forty men on the living unit, the number of Life Learning Community members rarely grew past twenty. By mid-July, most of our original Life Learning Community members were gone.

1J was gaining a reputation in Division 6 for trouble, chaos, and lockdowns: hardly the reputation we wanted. Clearly, Satan is opposed to what Christ is establishing on 1J.

And yet, from day one, Christ was at work in the chaos, building a community of men on 1J centered on him. From Day One there has been a core group of men seeking Christ together in his word and prayer, eager to learn from the Bible teachers who visit 1J, inviting others to join their prayer and study circles. They consistently prayed that the Lord would send the right men to 1J to help a supportive Christian culture take root and bear fruit.

The Lord has heard and answered those prayers. In late July, the culture on 1J began to shift. The chaos subsided and an atmosphere of greater peace and positivity began to prevail. More men joined the study and prayer circles. We all noticed the difference and praised God for it. Some have decided that 1J is no longer “One-Jack.” It is “One-Jesus.”

Last week, a newcomer to 1J exclaimed he was glad to be there. He had been told that 1J was the best place to be. How different from two months earlier.

Meanwhile, our teachers and other encouragers continually visit 1J to preach the gospel, teach the word, and connect with, pray with, and love the men. The number of men in our program is growing. Our peer facilitators have persevered in their roles over six months and have grown significantly as on-site leaders.

Pray that Jesus will continue to build his church on “One-Jesus”. Pray for the men as they deal with the stress and heartache of separation from loved ones and uncertainty regarding their cases. Pray that each man on 1J will know Christ as Savior and Lord and grow in him.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5, ESV).

Strategies for the Giving Season

November 8, 11 a.m. (Central)

Discover end-of-the-year strategies to support your favorite Kingdom causes and multiply the impact of your generosity!

Join Barnabas Foundation’s Lindsay Canan, J.D., for a free online event on November 8. Lindsay will discuss tax-wise strategies to maximize your impact, minimize stress and streamline your giving at the end of the year.

Learn more and register at
BarnabasFoundation.org/interactivelearning



Educate. Empower. Evolve

Latricia Alexander, Vocational Director

I started with Chicagoland Prison Outreach just over two years ago when Corey renewed focus on our vocational training program. The essence is to ensure that our participants are furnished with a high-caliber education capable of transforming their lives and aiding them in career building. Since the initiation of this journey, the developments have been quite remarkable. I wanted to take some time to share the triad of our approach: evolve, educate, and empower, which has been the beacon guiding our actions and initiatives.

Educate to Transform

The educational pillar stands as the cornerstone of our vocational training program. We've scaled new heights by earning accreditations from the American Welding Society and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) for our welding and carpentry programs respectively. Additionally, the inauguration of an electrical class has expanded our academic offerings, with the first batch having graduated on September 27, 2023.

Empower to Ascend:

Empowering our participants was the second phase in our triad approach. Our goal is to elevate them from a mentality of defeat to a level where they discern the control and authority vested in them to effect change. Not merely for their personal benefit, but in a way that radiates positivity and leadership within their families and larger community.

Evolve to Thrive:

The final pillar, evolve, is all about nurturing a culture of continuous growth, learning, and discipleship, enabling our participants to excel in their career and life pursuits. It's not just about professional growth, but an evolution that encompasses every facet of their lives.

Our transformation has been inspiring and, in addition to enhancing our vocational training program, we have launched additional programs.



We opened our second career center at the Evanston campus.

Our partnership with OAI Inc. has paved the way for our students to gain additional certifications at no extra cost, opening doors to more lucrative and fulfilling career opportunities. The revamped case management system, now more goal-oriented and streamlined, has immensely helped in aiding our participants to set and achieve their goals.

Our new literacy component, focusing on reading comprehension and writing, coupled with our trauma coaching initiative, has created a holistic environment for personal and professional growth. The summer of 2023 saw the inception of our first youth summer camp in collaboration with Good Heroes, where young minds were introduced to woodworking, marking the beginning of a promising alliance and the extension of our empowering hand to the younger generation.

With a strong foundation rooted in love for God and humanity, our mission continues to flourish, nurturing more community leaders, and seeing the ripple effect of positive change in many lives. Our dedication to building a robust vocational training program remains unwavering, and the journey thus far, incredibly rewarding.

HOW TO GIVE



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Visit www.cpoministries.org/support-us

\$100 gift \$250 gift \$500 gift \$1000 gift

COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW IF YOU WISH TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST OR WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Please send me more information on:

- Making a reoccurring gift on a monthly basis
- Becoming a volunteer or a partnering church with CPO
- Giving stock, real estate or business interests, which may reduce my taxes.
- Giving from my IRA, which reduces my taxes.