

# Mentoring Makes a Difference

## I CHOSE LIFE

“Today I set life or death before you.” These are the words Jesus spoke to me when I was sitting in a jail cell, after driving drunk with my son in the car. Jesus was telling me, “it is time today to stop riding the fence.”

That day, though I could not see it possible, I started to trust God, believe, and follow Him. It started with a commitment to Him and He has changed my life.

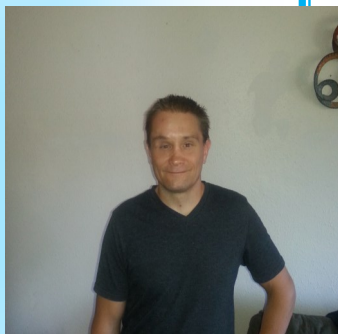
I chose “life” that day. It was a hard decision to make, because I was facing 40 years or more and the possibility of losing my wife and family.

This happened July 5, 2008. Through the grace of God I am now out of prison and back with my family.

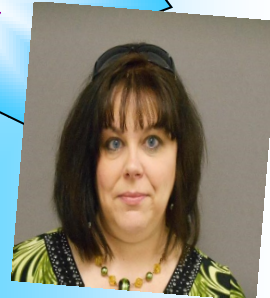
My wife Julianna has been a reflection to me of God’s patience and grace, by staying by my side after what I did and for waiting for me for five years.

My Mentors have been Timothy Hieronymus and Larry Gaalswyk

*Shawn Wallace*



WISHING YOU  
THE BEST!



Terri Wetzel graduated Montana ReEntry while at Montana State Women’s Prison and when paroled to Passages to enter into the C.A.P. (culinary arts program) she later became part of the T.E.A.M. Mentoring program with mentors Jodi Hart and Julie Whitbeck.

This year passed quickly and Terri has completed her year with TEAM!

*Congratulations!*



**Volunteer Training  
at Montana Women’s Prison  
August 21st  
@7:00 pm**

*Our Mission is. . .*

*To equip mentoring teams for ex-offenders and their families, providing friendships that **T**each, **E**ncourage, **A**ssist, and **M**odel a Christ-centered life.*

**T.E.A.M. Mentoring**

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**It's what we do for Christ**

**In the **HERE** and **NOW****

**That will make a difference**

**In the **THEN** and **THERE.****

**Over 42 of you have volunteered your time and energy as Montana ReEntry Volunteers and Mentors this past year.**

**TEAM is totally dependent on how much you, and your church are financially able to help and we rely on your giving. We ask that you consider donating on a regular monthly basis to ensure T.E.A.M. can maintain its current level of ministry.**

**Thank you to all of you who have generously supported T.E.A.M. to this point making it all possible!**

Statistics prove that unless a man or woman coming out of incarceration has positive support and role models around them when they are released, their risk of reoffending is highly elevated. When you become a mentor, you are in a sense becoming a “**relational bridge**” for your mentee as they transition back into the community by providing their greatest need....a constructive **friendship**.

TEAM has been building that relational bridge into the local church through faithful volunteers willing to provide “friendship with a purpose”.

Is there a surefire can't-fail approach to mentoring effectively --- probably not. But that should come as no surprise because, after all, we're talking about people. However, there are some principles that will help illumine your path to a satisfying and successful mentoring experience. **Be an Encourager.** Encouragement is one of the mentor's most powerful tools for leading another person to higher levels of personal growth. **Be Patient.** Mentoring requires a good amount of patience from both parties. **Be Trustworthy.** As a mentor you must exhibit integrity. The person you are mentoring will be open and vulnerable only after watching you live a consistently ethical life. Trustworthiness means being reliable, faithful, and unflinching. It means being open, honest and transparent.

**As a mentor your “job description” is simple:**

**Intentionally be involved in the mentee's life by being willing to take the time to get to know them and that starts by spending leisure time with them. We now know that it takes 6 or more hours per week on average to meet the relational needs of the ex-prisoners. That is one of the reasons we believe it takes a TEAM of mentors.**

**Be a godly role model and give godly counsel**

**Introduce them to other Christians**

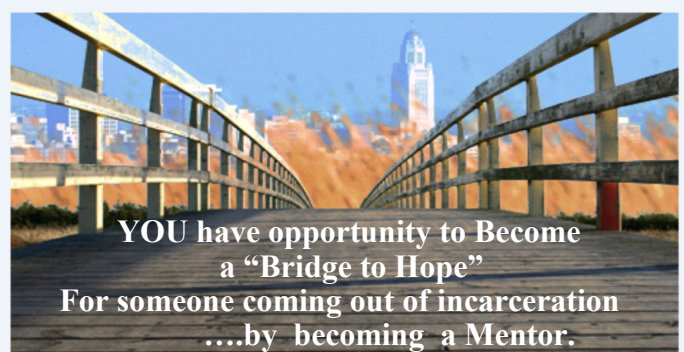
**Be an Encourager**

**Love unconditionally**

**Be a good listener**

As you and your mentee begin your relationship exploring values, interests and goals, you will find yourself making a difference and having a positive effect on their life. What you may also be surprised to see is that you will be learning more about yourself as well. Mentoring doesn't just affect the mentee, it is a shared opportunity for learning and growth. Many mentors say that the rewards they gain are as substantial as those for their Mentees.

TEAM is looking for more mentors and training is available. There are at least four men at Alpha House (the pre-release in Billings) that are waiting. Can you become a “Bridge to Hope” for one of them? Let's talk.....call the TEAM Office 656-8326.



**YOU have opportunity to Become a “Bridge to Hope” For someone coming out of incarceration ....by becoming a Mentor.**