

And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.
Ecc. 4:12

T.E.A.M. Mentoring, Inc.

Spring 2017



Montana ReEntry Classes

On April 24th, T.E.A.M. Mentoring will go into Montana State Men's Prison Deer Lodge for our 44th session of Montana ReEntry. This all started in 1998 while I was serving Prison Fellowship as Area Director and continued on under T.E.A.M. in 2000. That is 19 years ago and we have volunteers who have been going in with us all these years!

Other volunteers have been praying for us and supporting this effort financially all these years, as well. Many others have been willing to give of their time by being a friend (mentor) to one of our brothers or sisters we meet during these Montana ReEntry sessions. Thank you to all of you! Without all of you this would not have been possible. God has been so good to us to allow us the privilege of serving in this ministry.

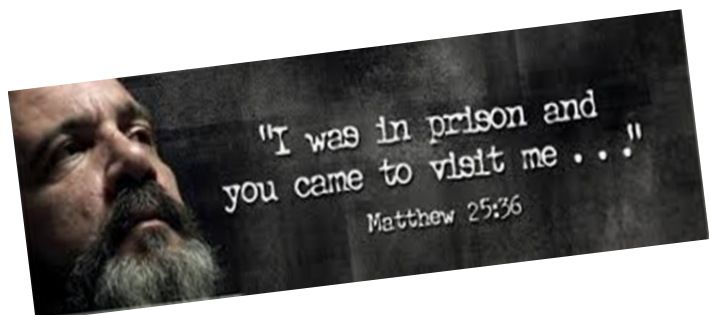
I ask that you pray for the volunteer team going into the prison, that the love of Jesus Christ would flow through us to these men. Pray for the participants that have signed up for this week. Many of them attend at the invitation and encouragement of past graduates. And yes, your financial support is critical to make this happen!

I also want to mention that First Baptist Church and T.E.A.M. Mentoring have launched a weekly support group called an "Eagle's Nest" for the men at Alpha House, (prerelease center) especially for those who graduated MT ReEntry at MSP. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact us. We need volunteers willing to be a friend (mentors) to these guys and a great way to get to know them is to attend this meeting.

Thanks to all of you who pray for us and support us with your donations!

Larry Gaalswyk,

Executive Director



Volunteers— Our Greatest Asset

As a friend of T.E.A.M. you already know that the general perception most people have of prisoners does not match up with reality. When you meet former inmates, it's not likely you would guess they've been in prison. Well, some you would, but not most. They're just ordinary people who got into trouble for one reason or another.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like volunteering inside of prison? Some of you reading this already know because you do volunteer. But for most of you, what it's really like is a complete mystery where the reality would take you by surprise.

First of all, the men who come to T.E.A.M.'s MT ReEntry Classes in prison **truly want to be there**. The men who attend genuinely appreciate that someone would take time to volunteer in prison.

These in-prison ReEntry Classes are the epitome of Jesus' words about *the harvest being plentiful but the laborers being few*. We have more opportunities than we have volunteers to seize them. And these men are VERY hungry for the truth.

One of the most common reactions we hear from volunteers is how it's not like they expected. They thought they were just going to be a blessing and found they got as much or more blessing in return. We warn potential volunteers that this ministry is addicting and that's one reason why.

You may also wonder what qualifications are required, or what kind of a commitment you'd be getting yourself into. We gladly accept people who are just curious and want to see if maybe they could do this. It's hard to commit when you've never had any experience, so yes, you can stick your toe in the water first.

We have volunteers that go into the men's prison twice a year for ReEntry Classes. Others go in once a month for what we call "eagles nest"..... You can join them for a one time visit. Contact us to inquire about volunteering.

YOU Can Make the Difference

As we head into the spring/summer season, we ask that you would remember T.E.A.M. in your financial giving.

Donate

T.E.A.M. is totally dependent on how much you and your church are financially able to help and we rely on your giving. Without your prayers and financial donations, T.E.A.M. would not exist.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to see incarcerated men and women, their children, and their families experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Montana ReEntry Graduates' Comments

Everyday I have the opportunity to make a difference in my life.



That opportunity was shown to me by Larry and the members of T.E.A.M. Mentoring. I have fully given my life over to Christ. My old life has ended and now my new life begins. I am doing well and working a strong program with T.E.A.M. since my release.

I hope to one day return to prison with the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life.

When you let Christ into your heart, anything is possible. All you have to do is break down and surrender. He will be there to pick you up. He is your strength and your guiding light. Christ forgives you. Christ loves you. Just take that first step. He's waiting.

Josh N.

I cannot express how many times the Holy Spirit has ministered to me through scripture since I have been following the "Eagles Nest" reading plan since October of 2012 when I attended my first ReEntry week.



I just want you to know how thankful I am for this ministry and your willingness to answer His calling. God bless you richly as you continue serving Him.

Noel F.

How Would You Explain TEAM?

Many of you receiving this newsletter would have very little difficulty answering that question, but we feel it is important to outline our mission and purpose regularly. For the benefit of those who are new, or to help you pass the word on about our ministry, this will serve as an informal guide to briefly explain our purpose and how we achieve it.

Our Mission is...

To equip mentoring teams for ex-offenders and their families, providing friendships that Teach, Encourage, Assist, and Model a Christ-centered life.

There is probably no better basis for prison ministry than the words Jesus spoke in **Matthew 25: "I was in prison and you came to visit me."** In the context of that statement, Jesus was declaring that he himself is the person who is in prison. God places great value on every person, and his word is very specific in mentioning prisoners.

What is the value of one person or family? One man who is transformed can become a real father, raise his children to follow God, work an honest living instead of being a burden to taxpayers, and even minister to others so they don't fall into the same trap that sent him to prison.

So How Do We Do It?

TEAM sends volunteers into prisons to present a relationally based ReEntry program.

TEAM has mentors who provide discipleship for those reentering community, with emphasis on developing strong Christian character, to help them make a successful transition back into society.

TEAM encourages former inmates to become involved in the ministry.

TEAM is a decidedly "Christian" ministry that believes only Jesus Christ has the power to truly transform the human heart.

