

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

Summer 2015



THE SIX "3"s

With federal and state corrections nationwide focusing efforts on reducing recidivism there are discoveries being made concerning the difficulties men and women face after being in prison. A couple that I am very intrigued by include the discovery that getting a job or employment raises the chances of going back to prison, unless four other factors are addressed and three of them are totally about relationships!

Another grant funded study discovered that "dosage" or the amount of time required for effective mentoring and peer support was as much as a whopping 600 hours in the first year! It was years ago that Linda and I began to see that for mentoring to be effective, it required a minimum of 6 hours per week or just over 300 hours in a year. Pretty obvious that one on one mentoring would seldom be able to provide that many hours of positive relational support. It takes a "TEAM" of 3 to 6 mentors giving two hours per week of their time as a friend to meet this need!

Recently I went through some mentor training that Prison Fellowship was offering which made a critical point. They talked about 6 very critical time periods that an ex-prisoner goes through and I am listing them here in order of priority. Number 1 is the first 3 minutes upon release. The second is the first 3 hours. The third is the first 3 days. The fourth is the first 3 weeks. The fifth is the first 3 months and the sixth is the first 3 years. Yes, it takes 3 years for most ex-prisoners to stabilize into a healthy lifestyle on the outside.

Last week I picked up a man who rode the bus to Billings from MT State Prison Deer Lodge and had dinner with him. Yes, I had missed the first critical 3 minutes and the first 3 hours, but he sure needed some understanding and supportive conversation to calm him down from all the stressors he had experienced that day. I am seeing that we from T.E.A.M. Mentoring need to gear up to meet our brother and sisters at the gate and walk with them through these critical "3"s in an effective manner.

Larry Gaalswyk, Executive Director

TEAM ENTERPRISES

T.E.A.M. Mentoring's latest initiative to provide employment opportunities to program participants in a mentoring/supportive context is called T.E.A.M. Enterprises and currently employs three program participants.

So far this has accomplished a goal of mine to be employed at home that allows me to be more engaged in discipleship of TEAM participants. A board subcommittee has been formed to prayerfully brainstorm what God would have TEAM Enterprises look like. To this point much of what T.E.A.M. Enterprises has been is a construction business doing home painting, siding, decks, and bedroom & bathroom remodeling, but for some time now I have sensed that God is pressing us in new directions.

I would ask you to pray and think about Christian business owners or managers who are in need of short term or long term labor that TEAM could partner with to provide a labor solution while providing a supportive, encouraging work opportunity for our mentees. If you know someone who occasionally needs some additional help but does not want to hire permanently they may make a great business partner for TEAM Enterprises. Please give us a call if you have ideas or leads!

Visit our website: www.teammentoring.org for scheduled events at Alpha House, Passages, and the State Men's Prison.

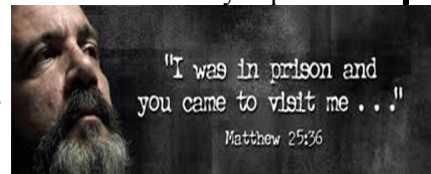
How Would You Explain TEAM?

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.

YOU Can Make the Difference

As we head into the 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.

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CROSSROADS CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Sunday, May 17th, at Chaplain Jamie Stiffler's invitation, Larry presented the Eagles Nest format at Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby, MT. Men there who had completed T.E.A.M.'s MT ReEntry classes in Deer Lodge, and then transferred to Shelby have been asking for the daily scripture reading and journaling format we call the Eagles Nest to be available there at Crossroads.



Steve Breck and his wife Karen of Kalispell were instrumental in setting up this event and attended the presentation. Steve has been a T.E.A.M. volunteer for over 16 years and will be meeting with the men at Crossroads on a regular basis to keep them in God's Word and discuss the accountability questions.

Montana ReEntry Classes

The 40th Montana ReEntry Class at Montana Men's Prison, Deer Lodge, was held in April with over 25 volunteers participating throughout the week and a graduating class of 49 participants.

TEAM is privileged to be on the front lines and see the power of God, and the gospel of Jesus Christ, at work in lives of prisoners. Our volunteers get to witness the light and life in the eyes of men who at one time had no hope, they get to hear first hand the stories of how God has done for them what no one else could do.

Mark Your Calendars:

**Montana ReEntry
October 19th thru 23rd.**



If you are planning on participating in October's ReEntry class, contact the T.E.A.M. Mentoring Office no later than **July 7th.**

Montana ReEntry Graduates' Comments:

Montana ReEntry has changed my life. The skills I learned will be paramount in my planning for my successful transition to parole. I feel confident going forward with what I have learned
Gary S.

A Wonderful Experience! Rick T.

A great rounded program that has a lot to give to anyone who wants to better themselves. Thanks for not taking Jesus Christ out of the program.

Kent H.

After over 20 years of being impassioned about the need for the church to come alongside of men and women coming out of prison, T.E.A.M. is thrilled to see efforts springing up all across Montana! There are Re-entry Task Forces consisting of organizations, churches and individuals concerned about recidivism coming together in key communities. **Don't miss David Young's note on happenings in Gallatin County below.**

TEAM has been involved in the Bozeman Community since 1999, and offers mentoring that is faith based and built on the belief that **only Jesus Christ has the power to truly transform the human heart for real and lasting change.** Recently there have been three applicants from the Gallatin County Jail for TEAM's faith-based mentoring. One of the approved mentees arrived this week in Billings and is at Alpha House. We have placed one mentor with him and are seeking others. **If you're ready to make a difference in someone's life, give us a call.**

Gallatin County Re-entry

In September of 2009, the Gallatin County Criminal Justice Council(CJCC) appointed the Gallatin County Reentry Task Force (RTF) with a charge to facilitate community reentry of inmates and to reduce recidivism. The RTF consists of 34 members and 9 affiliate/resource members representing a broad spectrum of community-based, municipal, county and state organizations and agencies. In April 2011, Gallatin County opened a state-of-the-art Detention Center with a capacity to house up to 180 inmates. In 2014, the average daily population of the Gallatin County Detention Center (GCDC) was 163. In addition to individuals from Gallatin County, the GCDC houses inmates from ten different counties (Gallatin, Madison, Park, Sweetgrass, Lewis & Clark, Sheridan, Dawson, Fallon, Carbon, and Custer), as well as DOC and federal holds. The uniqueness of the GCDC extends far beyond the state-of-the-art facility, as evidenced by the following examples:

Employs a full-time program director and full-time reentry coordinator;

Offers over 40 programs to inmates,

Utilizes over 160 volunteers assisting with programs and classes in general education, computer skills, health enhancement, health insurance coverage, money management, substance abuse cessation/recovery, in addition to traditional chaplain/pastoral visits (averaging 457 volunteer hours per month)

Offers two community reentry programs: FRESH Start and TEAM Mentoring

FRESH Start was launched by the Gallatin County RTF in the fall of 2014 with the hiring of Tiffani Pimley as the first reentry coordinator for Gallatin County. FRESH Start is a comprehensive community-based program involving over 20 agencies, non-profits and churches that offer services and resources to individuals returning to the community from incarceration. The overall goal of FRESH Start is to assist inmates returning to the community so that they can become productive, law-abiding members of society and thereby reduce recidivism.

Gallatin County is fortunate to have the following five faith-based programs working with offenders both inside and outside of the GCDC:

Bozeman Prison Ministry (BPM)

T.E.A.M. Mentoring (Teach, Encourage, Assist & Model Survivors Group)

Celebrate Recovery (CR) & Celebrate Recovery Inside (CRI)

Alive Again Life Recovery Mission (AALRM)

*Submitted by Dave Young,
Chaplain,
Gallatin County Detention
Center & TEAM Mentoring
Advisory Board*

