



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

February 2019

At PTF, Resurrection Keeps on Happening!



Behold, the new man! Shane Yates is among 38 baptized.

‘My Mom Gave Me Away’

Applause mingled with tears as a rapt audience heard PTF graduate Gregory Dillon relate his journey to freedom. Dillon told an audience of judges, preachers and civic leaders of a childhood fraught with physical and emotional abuse and his descent into a sordid life of using and selling drugs.

"I came from a dysfunctional family," Dillon said. "In a drug deal gone wrong, my mom gave me away. I dealt with

physical and mental abuse. As I grew older I followed my parents' footsteps. All I knew how to do was to sell drugs and use drugs."

And, he went on, finally to a life-saving transformation. "It was hope," he said of what he found at PTF. "Some of us never had hope."

Dillon spoke at the Marie Interfaith Civic Leadership Award ceremony at Temple

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I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live (John 11:25).

Easter means for all of us a time of rejoicing in the resurrection of our Lord. Here at Pathway to Freedom, Easter takes on even more significance. It applies the annual exclamation point to the resurrections we witness month in and month out!

On April 12 our 540 Group will gather here at the Hawkins Unit for Men for a program and a meal with PTF Inmates as they hear transforming life stories. The 540 Group is comprised mainly of faithful volunteers representing several churches from Northwest Arkansas. We are calling upon churches throughout Arkansas to join us in our resurrection campaign by sponsoring one inmate. It costs about \$2,400 a year to provide program services to one inmate. Consider sponsoring one or two inmates or give \$200 a month or what you can to help us reach our goal of \$25,000.

Please let us know if you, your church or organization will be able to participate in this event. We will start at 10 a.m. with testimonies, lunch, pictures and tour. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to stay for the remainder of the 540 Seminar from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

MARIE: There's More to PTF Than 'Kumbaya'

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B'nai Israel, which made PTF founder Scott McLean its 2018 recipient. The award, named for a former member who dedicated her life to making a difference, each year honors an Arkansas citizen who exhibits the qualities she demonstrated. From opening churches in Russia to conducting ministries in the inner cities of New York state, McLean said, he always felt called to help others move toward a brighter future.

"Your purpose will find you," he said.

McLean served as the InnerChange Freedom Initiative reentry manager in Kansas from 2000-05. He also served as the director of that program in Arkansas from 2006-11.

"Who would have imagined I would spend 18 years in prison with 200 inmates. Now I don't have any hair," McLean said with a laugh.

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Scott McLean (l) listens as Gregory Dillon relates his story

But it was Dillon who held the crowd spellbound with his account of a life transformed by the Lord, who used PTF as His vehicle. Representing the many who have found a new way through the program, Dillon told the assembly of his rehabilitation as a father to his children, a manager in his company and an associate pastor in his church.

"This was not just a program, it was a new way of living," he said. "I know I can't have a new beginning, but I

can start over and have a new ending," Dillon said as applause rippled through the room. It was left to McLean to explain that such profound change does not occur by chance. "We aren't just a Bible study," he said. "We don't just sit by the fire and sing 'Kumbaya.' We hold these guys accountable and address the risk factors."

It shows.



A job well done: Members of Group 23 gather to celebrate completion of the pre-release phase. They're shown with their counselor, Gerren Frazier..



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