



Pathway To Freedom, Inc.

February 2021

Praise His name! Virtual learning is on the way

By Scott McLean

Where there's a will God makes a way.

I submitted a proposal to the Arkansas Division of Correction last November for PTF to be allowed to implement virtual learning through a video-conferencing format at the prison. Our goal was to enable our volunteers and educators to resume classes and seminars remotely while interacting with our members. I am excited to announce that the ADC approved our proposal and by January 5 the entire funding, \$29,642, had been raised. I'm thankful for the efforts of the PTF Board of Directors and the donors who took part in this project and recognize the importance of our mission in transforming the lives of prisoners and ex-offenders.

The technology being implemented at the prison is the Meeting Owl Pro by Owl Labs Organization. The Meeting Owl Pro is an intelligent 360-degree all-in-one video conferencing device that centers virtual conferencing around remote participants. All seven rooms used for classes will be wired to accommodate the Meeting Owl Pro video-conferencing system. We also installed a mounted projector screen and projector in the community room for corporate seminars and services for our entire community.

Installation is under way and I anticipate completion in March. We hope



'Thank you for teaching me what it means to worship!'

to have our volunteers teaching classes virtually at the start of the new quarter, April 5. Thank you all for your ongoing support and prayers!

While the spike in COVID-19 cases resulted in another lockdown throughout the prison system late last year, we had not of course been stymied in our mission. Our daytime classes, taught by PTF staff, have continued. With precautions in effect, we have not suffered a case of the virus among either inmates or staff since we completed a 21-day quarantine last August.

And our most merciful Father has blessed us richly even during our days of affliction.

Our theme for this year is "Forsaking All for Christ." Our text is the story

of the widow's mite in Mark 12:41-44. We declared a day of fasting and prayer for January 7 and brought our members into the community room by barracks throughout the day for a blessed time of worship and prayer as we fasted.

I wish you all could have witnessed this magnificent encounter we experienced with God. There's nothing like being in God's presence and allowing him to transform us as we cry out to Him for our world, nation, state, communities, families, loved ones, PTF volunteers and donors. I will never forget the words of one of our members who came to me in tears following our worship and prayer time and said, "Mr. Scott, thank you for teaching me what it means to worship!"

It took a tragedy but a new life has sprung forth

By Robert Leavy

Three brothers grew up in a solid, middle-class family in North Little Rock, attending church every Sunday and Wednesday. All three of us walked out of the light and into darkness – gang-banging, selling drugs, partying all night.

For me, in the middle, prison changed nothing but my location. The first four years of my 25-year sentence went by in a drug-tinged blur. Then in 2009 my whole world took a mean twist. I found out that my younger brother had been killed out in the streets doing the same things he had seen me and my older brother doing. I battled with that for years. My life was broken so I said it's time for a change. I started praying again.

In April 2014, I got an answer. I was shipped to the Pathway to Freedom program. It was somewhat of a culture shock, as I was used to living on my own terms and doing what I felt was right for me. In the program I began to learn a lot of things about myself. I learned how to live by core values, having a new way of life, a different mentality and different values.



Truckin' on with a new life in a new way of thinking

In 2016 I graduated the 18-month program having learned skills that I'm now putting to good use. I was released from prison in 2020 and obtained a job with the City of Little Rock. I have obtained my CDL. I am currently attending barber school and serving as a deacon at my church. I have a wife and children. I thank God every day for a newfound life and way of thinking. God did it! And PTF sure helped.



Members of Group 30, with counselor Gerren Frazier, celebrate completion of the pre-release phase of the program.

 **Pathway
to Freedom, Inc.**
restoring lives, families and communities

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