



New life is given to be shared

By **Indio Hendershot**

This is my story of opportunity. I have been blessed to have the chance to give my testimony to Celebrate Recovery groups and to go back into the county jail and talk to those who are where I was five years ago. It's not easy to tell someone who is at rock bottom that things are okay, that this is not the ending but the beginning of a new life if you want it. But if they're going to accept it from anyone they should accept it from me. I have been where they are -- unwanted, hopeless and tired of living.



Indio Hendershot urges men at the Sevier County jail to follow him on a new pathway — to freedom

Now that I give back instead of taking I get restoration in my life. I no longer cry about the pain and loss I brought my family and friends.

I was born in 1986 on a couch in a house that lacked electricity and running water but was well supplied with drugs. I grew up in that house addicted to drugs, hating myself for the life I had and who I was. It was not long until I found myself on the way to prison for the first time. I was 24 years old, sitting in the jail feeling sorry for myself and the situation I was in. Never once did I think

about the two people who got hurt by my crime nor my family who lost me to addiction years ago.

After doing my time, I was released and given a second opportunity in life. I had no excuses for failure. As quickly as it came, my second opportunity was gone. I gave it all up for drugs in the blink of an eye. On my sentencing day, the judge told me I had ruined lives and destroyed families. Those words have impacted me to this day because they were the truth.

Halfway through my sentence, I joined the PTF program. As we all know, the program is a real life-

(Continued on page 2)

Take it from Scott — and his friends

Sunday service, men's group, women's group, missions group, small group, large group. It's up to you. If you have a group, Scott McLean would love nothing more than the opportunity to share the story of what God is doing at PTF with you. He might even bring a friend, one of the graduates who are walking, talking testimonies to a transformed life.

Any group. For five minutes or an hour and five minutes. Scott has but one condition: He will only speak on a day ending in "y."

He found his dream job at PTF



Anousack Vongphachanh thought he had found his dream job. The Lord had other ideas. We're glad He did.

Born in Laos and raised in Fort Smith, Ark., Anousack has joined the PTF staff as our program manager. A graduate of Arkansas Tech University with a degree in sociology/criminal justice, he achieved his dream of serving on the police force in his hometown. A back injury forced him to take medical retirement in 2012.

He went on to start a real estate business and served on several non-profit boards. At his church, Harvest Time, he upped his involvement, including joining a team visiting PTF in March of this year. On that trip he received the Lord's calling to involve himself in the ministry. He began as a volunteer with us as he ministered in local jails back home.



Moving on: Members of Group 24, shown with counselor Gerren Frazier, have wrapped up the pre-release phase.



A job well done: Members of Group 25, with counselor Sid Turner, celebrate completion of the pre-release phase.

Anousack, after overcoming concerns about how inmates would respond to a former police officer, signed on full-time in June. "I thought the police detective job was my dream job," he says, "but I've discovered that working at PTF is my real dream job." He and Kimberly have two children. Be sure and welcome him.

Indio Hendershot: My third chance belongs to my Lord Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 1)

changer for those who want to change. During the two years I was there, I got a lot of life-changing values. The two events that hold the most value for me until this day came on the day I received eternal salvation and the day I learned about the ripple effect – the negative results of my actions for people, beginning with my immediate circle and fanning out. I graduated from the program and I went home in February 2018. I now have my third opportunity at life. I have used this one for more than just me. I have used it for my family, children and most importantly for Christ

Today I smile at the joy and love I bring them. Every time I give back, I receive much more than a handshake or smile. I get comfort in who I am. Thank you, Christ, for giving me another opportunity today.



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