



Pathways to Freedom Ministries



FREE THOUGHTS - Newsletter

Edition 3 v.1

WINTER 2015

Mark your Calendars:

3RD Saturday of each month – PTFM prayer, 9 am @ the Rock Church Chapel 222 Sackville Drive – all welcome

March 7, 2015 PTFM Annual General Meeting, 10 am – 12, Sackville Public Library, Fenerty Room 1,

March 27 – 29, 2015 - PTFM Booth Jesus to the Nations, Mount St. Vincent University

April 21, 22, 2015 - Pastors & Leaders, Prayer Summit, Atlantica Oak Island Inn

Date to be determined - PTFM Spring Breakfast - Location TBD



From the Editors Pen

New Year's, already, where did 2014 go? New Year's is a time of resolutions and we serve an awesome God. Let's resolve in this New Year to continue to serve HIM and stretch into new things. The New Year is also a time of reflecting on times past. Jesus calls us to live victorious lives in HIM. This October Pathways will celebrate its seventh full year in operation. It seems only yesterday that a fledgling board came to my house and I shared my vision of what this ministry would look like. We have solidly moved forward with that vision over the past seven years. A new ED in 2014, a whole (mostly) new board over the last couple of years. An active Community Chaplain as Ron joined the ranks. The clients come and go, same with mentors but we continue to put one foot ahead of the other. Chaplaincy has changed so much in seven years. Things remain challenging, prison ministry is one of the toughest things we do for our Father. Everyone is busy, travel to the institutions is long and time consuming. The people we work with suffer discouragement and are at the mercy of a system that is not about rehabilitation. So many of the inmates have learning disabilities or other mental health issues they need so much support and love. Many more never had a chance right from the start with the circumstances they were given. For some the poor choices they have made have affected so many people beyond the offender. The time that a mentor takes to write a letter or travel to see their client, or to meet with them upon their release; those are precious moments. Join me in resolving in 2015 to maintain our contact with those inside, whether it is by mail or visits. These are his precious children, if we do not GO who will.

AS we ask you to Go, we also ask you to come, "TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING". I admit we all hate meetings but they are required by the societies act, they are also a great way for us to share how the ministry is doing, celebrate our successes and communicate the ministry's needs. We heartily invite you to COME, celebrate with us. Saturday, March 7, at 10 am at the Sackville Library, Sackville Drive, Fenerty Rm .

I will close with a short story of how what we do affects our clients. About a year and a half after we started going the CNSCF and Springhill, I was in a local mall downtown doing some banking. As I turned and came out of the bank, a man I recognized but could not remember the name of, rushes up to me, he calls me by name, breaks into a great big grin, and then hugs me. It shames me that he knew my name and I didn't know his. He had met me inside, I was a familiar face on the outside. He shared how much our visits at the institution meant to him. He was doing well but hardly knew anyone in the city. We met a couple times for coffee; it meant the world to him. Such a small gift by many standards but not by God's standard.

In Christ, Nancy Hynes, Founder and Newsletter Editor

MAY THIS NEW YEAR BE A STEP FORWARD, IN LEADING YOU TO NEW ADVENTURES, NEW ROADS TO EXPLORE AND NEW SUCCESSES TO REACH! MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU IN YOUR COMING AND GOING AND HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Happy New Year, greetings in the name of our wondrous & precious Savior Jesus. Here we are in 2015, my hope and prayer is that this year will be one filled with abundant blessings for everyone. Here at PTFM we are standing believing for a great year as we set out to do what He has called us. We have a strategic vision in our sights, and together we will strive in meeting the goals set out before us.

If you are someone, who is involved in our ministry, or one of our great sister ministries, thank you for the work you do for those who are incarcerated. Prison ministry is not for the faint of heart. Your commitment and dedication means the world to those on the inside, and is pleasing to Him. I pray you enter this New Year revitalized and with a fresh sense of purpose.

If you are a person the Lord has been speaking to about participating in this area of ministry perhaps, I can encourage you to take a step out in faith. As you pour yourself into a relationship that will affect change, it will also change you in so many ways; maybe you would just like to help us out with projects or events. We would welcome that just as much. Contact us for more information about areas where your time and talents may be needed. PTFM also meets for prayer on the 3rd Saturday of every month in the chapel of Rock Church, 222 Sackville Drive, Lower. Sackville at 9:00 am. Feel free to join us!

We are always in need of support financially. PTFM does not receive any public, government, or grant support. We are funded by the goodwill donations of others that believe in the work we do and want to partner with us. We are a registered charity with CRA, and donations can be made to us directly or through Canada Helps. Your one time donation is always welcome, yet a monthly partnership will allow us to plan and budget accordingly. The Word calls us to be cheerful givers and those who give will be blessed. Please prayerfully consider a financial partnership with us.

In closing, I hope this is a year full of great things for you, your family, and your home church. May He be with you In all that you do and that He bestows upon you grace, discernment, good health, and His protection over you. Always keep an eye on our website www.pathwaystofreedom.ca for news, events, and our blog – Free Thoughts. Have a great 2015!

Rev. Bob George
Executive Director, Pathways to Freedom

Reference website: <http://pathwaystofreedom.ca/what-we-do/how-can-i-help/>



ACTIVE CLIENTS	8
CLIENT WAITING	3
HALFWAY HOUSE (Halifax)	2
TRANSFERS OUT OF REGION	1
RELEASES BEFORE MATCHED	2
TRANSFER TO RECOVERY PROG.	1
TRANSFERRED TO LONG TERM CARE	1

Since the age of 13, I wanted to be a counselor. I had seen a few as a teenager and always thought I could do a better job (until I became one) and saw how challenging it was to work with youth at times! – though often rewarding). Through a series of events, God introduced me to the field of clinical social work and it was through this route I became trained as a social worker.

Over the past few years, I have gained experience in shelter work, halfway houses, mental health hospitals, and now addiction services. Working in the secular realm is not always easy, especially as there are often strict policies surrounding expression of religion and/or self-disclosure in the workplace. It is fascinating to me that with the countless amounts of professional development that explains how the world believes people can and should be healed, we are not seeing the victories. Unfortunately, more and more times the theory of the hour is dropped for a new and 'better' one when discovered that the efficacy is not applicable to everyone or long lasting.

I have been in the field for a similar amount of time as I have been a Christian. I give this timeline not as the time I began to believe in God but rather the time I chose to surrender myself and dedicate my life fully to Him. Honestly, I have seen more miracles, healings, and deliverances in the spiritual community than I have at all my places of work combined (which includes clients of fellow employees). Why is this? It is because God is the one who does the changing, not manmade techniques. Don't get me wrong, I am not saying that there is no value in social and health care professions; if I believed that I would not have dedicated my life to doing this kind of work. God uses people to touch other's lives in all occupations even when they are not Christians themselves! However, what I am saying is that the world has a tendency to look toward treatment plans first and only use prayer and fasting as an emergency tactic or back up plan second.

Prison ministry is an excellent vehicle and opportunity to express God's love to a population who gets very little attention, both in terms of social services and spiritual guidance. It does not involve many years of school or training in order to be involved. The world places a great deal of importance on certificates and courses tricking people into thinking they cannot be helpful without these. However, you can! You would be amazed how meaningful fellowship, prayer, and spiritual counsel really are. Research shows therapeutic rapport holds the most weight in positive client change compared to any technique used.

Just think, if you volunteer to mentor; a client will never throw the words "You're just paid to care" in your face. I challenge you to get out of your comfort zone and give it a shot today!

Jessica

Jessica and husband Ken live in Antigonish, NS and serve in various areas of Pathways ministry.



Keep an eye out for upcoming Mentor Training... more information available @

www.pathwaystofreedom.ca

November 2011

"Hello N;

My reason for writing is My mentor hasn't been coming out to see me at the correctional facility. I received a letter from him about a week ago, and he said the chaplain does not work here anymore but he would try to get out to see me anyway.

I really look forward to my mentors visits and I have great talks with him. I wait for him to come. He really helps me get through this time of my life. He's done so much for me spiritually as well as psychologically. My attitude was always above par, with his visits. It is beginning to go below par now. That maybe good in golf but not in the institution. Perhaps he is upset with me. I do appreciate his friendship.

Please let him know will you? This is important to me. I've been abandoned so many times in my life. It really hurts. I just want to get back to a righteous life with God and need help. Thank you N for everything.

Christian Brother

R"

At the time this letter was received by the ministry, the mentor was available to meet with the client but due to chaplaincy staff changes at the institution, mentor access was disrupted .This letter demonstrates what it means to our clients when mentors GO. This letter is edited to protect privacy- Editor

Do you want to get involved in mentoring or letter writing? It's a New Year- time for new things.

Email bob@pathwaystofreedom.ca or phone 902-441-5019 today; training is coming up soon! Be a part of something big that God is doing.

You won't pour out as much as gets poured in to you!



ANNOUNCING A NEW PROGRAM IN 2015!

I am so excited to have been asked to contribute to the Newsletter this quarter. Pathways to Freedom (PTFM) has been very close to my heart, not only because the Executive Director is my husband, but because I was a client of this Ministry a few years ago. I appreciated the love, care and support that was given to me by the mentor who was matched with me.

Everything I have gone through in my life I fully believe has prepared me for this moment in time. PTFM is more than just a "Prison Ministry", those of us who are involved carry the individuals we meet and mentor with us in our everyday lives. We continually pray for the ones we know and the ones we have yet to meet. We are a "Jesus hands extended" ministry.

With this in mind, I believe that God has laid it on my heart to start a program called "Letters to Inmates". This program will allow our mentors to focus their time and prayers on their clients and ensures that all our clients will receive some form of communication within a month. Communication is so lacking in our world right now, so I have decided to tackle this within the ministry.

As you read our newsletter and you feel something tugging on your heart, don't hesitate to ACT on it. Whether it is mentoring, event planning, letter writing or even simply coming out to our scheduled prayer times, please contact us. We would love to have you involved!

In His Humble Service,
Sherri George

PRAYER TIMES

3RD Saturday of each month – PTFM prayer, 9 am @ the Rock Church Chapel 222 Sackville Drive – ALL WELCOME