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Our Mission:

Our Mission: "Ministering through the heart of Jesus to the broken hearts of those impacted by the criminal justice system, both those incarcerated and re-entering and their families."



KINGSWAY BANNER Fall 2019

Contributing Editor Wayne Berman

Apple Tree Needs 2019

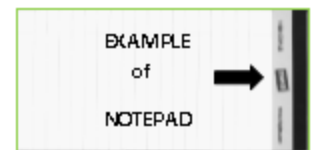


For Kingsway's fast approaching Apple Tree Program, our project to make Christmas special for the children of inmates, we rely on the kindness and

generosity of people just like you. We need monetary donations, unwrapped gifts for boys and girls appropriate for ages one month through 18 years old. In addition, Kingsway needs volunteers to wrap the presents and help with many other tasks associated with Apple Tree. Anyway you can assist us is much appreciated!

Inmate Christmas Needs 2019

Around the Holiday Season, Kingsway also conducts our Inmate Christmas Program to provide those incarcerated with gifts. We need donations of small, yellow or white notepads size must be 5" X 8" with a **wide binding strip at top.**



Cash donation for chap-sticks, 6 Oz plastic tube of toothpaste and yellow, #2 pencils. We cannot accept twin packs or colored pencils. We will also need volunteers to fill paper bags with these items, as well as help to count and sort everything. Your kind donations and time are greatly valued!



Life's Pathways

The old man stood at the end of the road, and one veered toward the right and the other one to the left. He couldn't quite figure out which way to go. One seemed straight and smoother, the other full of curves and dips. Did he decide to go on the straight road? Which of these roads has your life been? Most people would say one full of curves and dips. Life is not always easy, and making the right decisions can make or break you. People try to the best of their abilities to choose right. Others become confused and lonely on life's pathway.

The ones who choose Jesus eventually reach their destination. He gently guides and encourages you along your pathway. Jesus sends people and situations to lead you down the road. At the end of the way, there awaits a glorious reunion with those who have already gone before you. Then we will see how we were never alone on this earth, though it seems like it at times.

Kingsway's Encourager Program



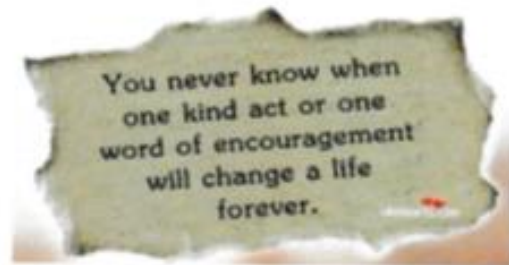
2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.

Probably most of you reading this would say “I could never get up in front of a group and preach.” But did you know that “preaching” is much more than standing in front of a group of people and expounding the word of God. Rather, it is living your faith and always being ready to “give an answer for the hope that is within you.” (1 Peter 3:15)

Kingsway has developed a program that allows you to do just that. The Encourager program enables almost anyone with a willing and compassionate heart to reach out to inmates who have made a profession of faith or are seeking to know more about Christ and the scriptures. It is done through letter writing, and you can be the Encourager. We currently have more inmates who have requested an Encourager than there are people available to write. Are you interested?

While it is impossible to explain all the details in this short article, please pray and ask God if this is an area where you can serve. If you feel the slightest nudge to participate, contact Kingsway at 540-433-5658 and leave a message or email dpl915@ntelos.net and put *Kingsway Encourager* in the subject line. We'll explain the program to you in more detail.



Right Versus Wrong

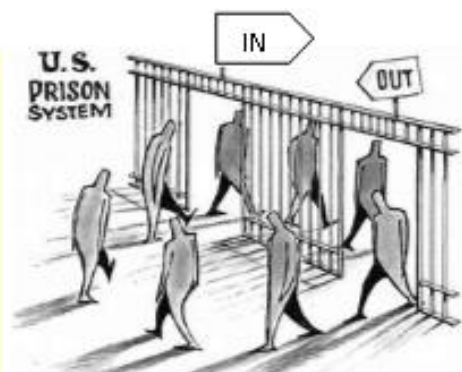
*For society to function individuals need to understand the difference between right and wrong

*Citizens have a duty and responsibility to not break the law otherwise there would be chaos

*If parents and schools don't educate young people between right and wrong, young people will not respect others and may even get involved in crime

*Many people believe in 'conscience', which is an inner voice that tells an individual between right and wrong

*But if an individual has no awareness of moral standards, it is doubtful their conscience will make them feel guilt or remorse for bad actions



PRISONS WILL NEVER PREVENT THE REASON FOR CRIME



Response to a Request

Several months ago I asked some inmates to tell us what prison was like for them and this is a response letter I received.

Prison accomplishes very little. Mostly it reinforces the negative feelings and behaviors that lie at the heart of criminal behavior it does not, for instance, heal the wounds caused by broken families. It does not; repair one's sense of self-worth. It does not teach honesty, dependability, responsibility, motivation, or discipline. It does not extol love, compassion, morality or virtue. Prison is a monolith under which the condemned are crushed. It possesses no feelings, only solid indifference. And all who live beneath its influence are oppressed by its massive burden.

Many prisoners have little or no contact with anyone outside of prison. For us, life consists of working a menial job, picking up trash, cleaning our pod, washing laundry, teaching literacy, or working in the kitchen for \$.23 per hour. Others have no job at all. Our day begins with the blow of a whistle and ends with the blow of a whistle. We cannot hug our loved ones every day or tuck our children into bed. Mostly, we try not to notice the time passing purposelessly by. Many of us have no community to rely on when we are released. We will go to halfway houses or jail work release programs.

Many people believe that because we are felons, convicts, or prisoners we will never be seen again or that the state will take care of us forever. The truth is that one day regardless of what crime we committed, we will rejoin the community and attempt to build lives again. We will not be hidden from your eyes by miles, bars and high walls. We will shop for groceries, visit malls, and find employment in your community. We may even live right next door to you.

It is true that broken families, broken hearts, addictions and diseases are the main reason we became criminals and came to prison. But with community support for us and our families our futures do not have to be as dark as our past. Please be the ones to show the world what God's love, compassion, and mercy can do. Do not look the other way! See instead that we are people with needs, feelings, families, goals and dreams - just like you. And we need your help to realize them.

In Darkness there is despair

But in the light there is hope,

You can make a difference.

Mark



⁹Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (KJV)

Can You Tie a Man's Hands Even After He Is Free?

The answer to the question posed in the title is a resounding YES! Society at large and the laws as currently written mean ex-offenders are punished for the rest of their lives, even after serving their "debt" to society (i.e. incarceration and probation). For example, because most employers do background checks that are not limited to a set number of years in review, even an offense that occurred ten or even twenty years ago can be used to deny ex-offenders of gainful employment. In the same vein, adequate housing can also be denied to them. Factors like these can make it almost impossible to reenter society and thus prevent ex-offenders from becoming productive members of their community. As a direct result of these stigmas and punitive laws, many of them end up incarcerated once again. Laws and society's preconceived notions need to change to prevent this recidivism from occurring, often times over and over again. One small way that shows how laws can be changed for the better is a new concept in Virginia that now does not take away the driver's licenses of low level offenders, which used to cause people to lose their jobs or risk getting caught for driving on a suspended license. But more still needs to be done to help ex-offenders regain meaningful employment opportunities and decent housing, therefore unbinding the ties that currently keep them shackled for the rest of their lives even after they are set "free."

Think About This!! WORK

- **The advantages of a working ex-offender**
- Tax credits are available when you hire an ex-offender.
- The ex-offender pays taxes when he/she works
- He /She can give back to their community
- They feel better about themselves
- They can pay their fines, child support etc.



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In This Issue.....Helping Others

Louise's Corner

God takes care of me. People are always asking how I can work 40+ hours a week and not get paid. My answer has always been God takes care of me. Sunday, September 1, 2019 was a good example. The prior Sunday I had visited a large church. I sometimes go and visit a church that I feel does not know me or much about Kingsway to see how I am received so I can feel good about referring people to their church. After attending my church on Sunday, I decided that instead of going out to eat I was going to go home and have a sandwich. When I got home I didn't have any bread. I have a bread maker so I decided to make a loaf of bread. I got all the ingredients in and started the bread maker. Everything looked and smelled good. Uh – Oh, the bread machine stopped – broke! As I was trying to get it started again, to no avail, the phone rang. It was a lady from the church I had attended the week before, asking if she could come by; she had a loaf of bread for me. God took care of my need. When I visit other churches I usually get a form letter, but God knew my need.

The Banner is published as a bridge between you, Kingsway's supporters and the hands-on prison and family outreach ministry of Kingsway. The Banner welcomes your comments, suggestions, and questions. Is there something of interest you would like to know about? Let us know.

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