

Being the son of two proud parents I will only assume I was their complete bundle of joy (or perhaps “at least” for one of them). Though like most teens that have unquenchable lusts, and burning, desire to be loved & accepted. I was told “you made your bed, now you must lie in it”. I started stealing money from my parents to take to school to a group of individuals I didn’t know just how to fit in. I just wanted to fit in, be accepted (perhaps) by people who didn’t love, like, or care for me. Maybe they tolerated me for the gifts and never entertained a genuine thought of establishing a real friendship/relationship with me.

Over time this corrupt behavior led to an even more sinister behavior. I began running away. Yet not to be on the streets but rather to go/be at Grannies house where things were a little bit more relaxed and laid back. Today they would call it child abuse (though now I do understand) Did I fail to mention my mom would constantly put that extension cord to my back side and every other side as well due to my disobedience & negative behaviors. Anyway over at Grannies I could fly under the radar therefore providing just the right atmosphere to permit the negative influences of a society going/gone bad.

After harvesting a dishonest, dishonorable, underhand, deceitful and destructive criminal seed I proceeded to bring to light an even deadlier and chaotic life style Mind you, as of yet I had not partook of any kind

of mood altering chemicals. They were soon to follow bringing my world as I knew to its knees. Nothing, absolutely not-a-thing could derail this roller coaster (perchance with the exception of death). I forged ahead. Unbeknownst to me the day we fashioned our mouths around the end of that marijuana stick our lives as we had come to know them would never ever be the same. Just as I graduated to more sinful behavior I also did in my substance abuse. Marijuana led to PCP, to crack, to heroin. Cigarettes, alcohol, and women with low self-esteem all came in between.

From nine years of age to thirteen my life had become so corrupt. The only reason I wasn’t dead or locked down was God’s amazing grace, a loving grandmother, and being underage but at the age of thirteen I would have my day in court. I was paroled then immediately back in to be released in 1987 which brought me to the end of my youth and was ushered into my adulthood to a five year sentence being released after four years in 1992. I had a couple of county bids between 92 and 97 until they laid me down again from 1997 to 2006. I was out three months and right back in. Then CHRIST moved upon my heart. It took two more stints before I realized I was actually tired and fed-up. I have a very hard head.

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LOVIN' LIFE CELEBRATION BANQUET

AUGUST 28, 2015 AT 6:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

FLUID EVENT CENTER

601 N COUNTRY FAIR DR.

CHAMPAIGN, IL. 61821



NEW LOCATION!

PLEASE RSVP @ 217-892-4044

This banquet is to celebrate the changes being made by the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry. Our ministry consists of two parts; 1) ministering in the male & female housing units of the jails and prisons and 2) the aftercare outreach. Our ultimate goal is to bring people to Jesus while training and empowering them to become productive and responsible citizens in our communities. Our aftercare currently serves the male population. This banquet helps us in supporting the mission of our ministry.

We will have a wonderful meal prepared by Nelson's Catering. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Pete Leonard, Founder of I Have a Bean in Wheaton IL. Pete has a great testimony of what God has done in his life and how he is being used to further God's kingdom. We are excited about what Pete will be sharing with us and are sure you don't want to miss it!

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Above: Residents Eric and Quentin playing a game of chess.

Below: Kathy going through the orientation process with a new resident.



Above: Scott & Quentin showing off their birthday cake.

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Moving forward to now brings me to the ten year sentence I am currently serving (completing). Your question "What makes this one different"? Well...redirection and commitment and an all out "fierce" determination to succeed and not to fall prey again to something I've been given power over. I've come to realize I am loved and didn't have to continue to live the way I've been living. So I've started letting go and letting God.

As part of my growth in CHRIST and transition back into society I decided to parole to the ministry with hope to rub elbows with good GOD fearing Christians who would love me and not judge me. I sought out Jesus Is the Way cause of the name, knowing our goal(s) are one in the same. Moving forward with the word of God, by the power of God, and for the glory of God hoping our Lord and Savior would use us both in a powerful way to catapult the love and compassion of the living God out unto the masses.

Ultimately to succeed: I'll need to incorporate at the very least two (2) major components in my daily life: patience and the ability to listen, (in which I have learned is an art). I've come to realize, most if not all, of my life's mishaps have come from the lack of them both. Plus I've never been a good planner which too has cost me.

I would love to get a job and start on my savings. I also have a knack for learning (school) so perhaps that will be on the horizon. I would also love to get my driver's license (something I've never had) and re-connect with family. But my ultimate goal is to "be still" and let God be my guide- Anything less than that is unacceptable. And, a very natural benefit to excelling is being open to outside suggestions. About which I am excited.

In closing I would love to leave you with this scripture. Psalms 119:93 "I will never forget thy precepts: For with them thou hast quickened me" Jesus can and will, if you let Him! Please Lord Amen!

Quentin Norris

NEEDS

For Resident Rooms

*Small trash cans 3 gal. size
Toilet bowl Brushes and cleaner
Small bed side lamps
Small alarm clocks
40 and 60 watt light bulbs
1 Shower Rod
Light weight blankets
Twin size sheets*

Basic Needs

*Men's disposable razors
4-slice toaster
5-shelf steel industrial shelves
Spiral notebooks
2-inch binders
Copy paper*

Founder
Jesse Mathes (1942-2008)



Executive Director
Dennis Daniel

Assistant Aftercare Director
Scott Krile

Prison Services Coordinator
John Henderson

Jail Service Coordinators
Darrel Dunnigan
David Nisbet
Women's Division
MaryAnn Bridges

Case Manager
Kathy Mayberry

Support Staff
Edith Mathes

Rantoul Staff
Brenda Krile
Vicki Schoonover

JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY

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More pictures from the Graduation last month! We are so proud of our graduates!



Left to right:
Daniel, Dennis,
Ray, Norman,
Bill, and Marvin



Daniel to the left
and his family after
the graduation
ceremony.



Norman after
graduation with
Bill Scott.



Edith with Ray
and Marvin 2 of
the grads!