



*"To all who receive Him [Jesus],
to those who believe on His name,
He gave the right to become
children of God—
children born not of natural descent,
nor of human decision
or a husband's will,
but born of God."
John 1:12, 13 NIV*

What does it mean to be part of God's family? We have a close, intimate relationship with God, our Father. He not only calls us children, but He chose to adopt us as sons and daughters. As members of Christ's family, we are also members of His church. We are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts—we are called to peace. We are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, to bear with each other, and be quick to forgive. Above all, we are to love each other. John tells us in 1 John 4:11, that since God loves us, we also ought to love one another.

So how are you treating your family? Show them love as an expression of the love God has shown you.

Carol VanWyk, Editor

*"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I [Jesus] have loved you, so you must love one another."
John 13:34 NIV*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As Father's Day approaches, let us consider what it means to be a dad. According to Joe McGee Ministries, *fatherhood includes* being involved, behaving responsibly, being emotionally engaged, physically available, providing financial support, and having influence in child raising decisions.

Consider the statistics reminding us of the importance of fathers: children with fathers are 40% less likely to repeat a grade in school, 70% less likely to drop out of school, and are more likely to enjoy school and engage in extracurricular activities, and are more likely to make A's in school.

God, the creator of the universe, describes himself as Father. He also describes himself as love. Love is not just a feeling but an action. Love is what you do for someone, not simply how you feel about a person.

As fathers, God's Word should be our reference and guide. Proverbs 22:6 says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"*, and Ephesians 6:4 says, *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."*

God, through his creation, is the Father to all of mankind. The ultimate action and demonstration of His Fatherly love led him to give his Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. What greater act of sacrificial fatherly love is there than this?

As Christian men we have an opportunity to love others in a tangible and sacrificial way by becoming a mentor, a 'father figure' to one of the men in the ministry. Since we try and provide a mentor for every resident, it takes many "father figures" to make this a life impacting reality. If you would like more information, please contact me at: pastorjim@livingwaterpmn.org

Pastor Jim Bright, Executive Director

MEET CHARLES

I am holding the largest of three paintings of roosters which I was honored and blessed to paint, with God's help. Prior to Easter, LWMN residents were invited by First Christian Reformed Church to set up a display representing Peter's Denial as one of the Stations of the Cross.



Some men from LWMN did their part in helping. I was asked to paint three roosters, one for each of Peter's Denial. *continued*

MEET CHARLES *(continued)*

Recently, I was asked to describe what the word *family* means to me. Here is my answer without hesitation. The first and only thing that came to mind was Living Water Ministry Network. Then I reflected on my past family. Since being reborn into Christ's family in 2012, Christ has become my family example. But it has been a struggle, and I am continuing to grow daily.

First, I had to look at what Christ's family was not like. Some families call themselves Christian but at the same time are selfish, self-centered, abusive in every matter, neglectful, or one member intentionally disrupts the family. This was the type of family in which I was raised. By contrast, Christ's family means daily showing Christ's love for each other, with words and also with actions. This means being humble, serving each other, helping each other grow and heal in Christ, being stewards of what God has given us and holding each other accountable.

This is what Christ and my present Living Water Ministry Network family have been showing me. If, when I was released from prison, I had returned to a family like the one in which I was raised, I have no doubt that I would have returned to prison, never to be released again. It is my personal prayer and desire that my walk and talk reflect Christ's family lifestyle. There is no way I will ever be able to pay back what LWMN has done for me. It is my desire to pay forward, using my talents and gifts, to help my present family and other returning citizens to be successful in life.

**Resident Writer, Charles C.
Christian Serving Christ**

REJOICE!

One of our current residents, Paul, just completed his parole and is serving the Lord in the church and the community. A second resident, Warren, was baptized. Therefore, as a member of the body of Christ, he is a new creation. The old life has gone, and the new life is here! Who the Son sets free, is free indeed! Praise the Lord!

PRAY WITH US

*"I would never sin against the Lord
by failing to pray for you." 1 Samuel 12:23 NIV*

- Pray that the residents will conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.
- Pray that all would look out for the interests of others and not just their own interests.
- Pray for contentment because God will meet all needs.
- Pray for the residents who struggle with ongoing health concerns.
- Pray for guidance and direction for the board in the decisions they need to make.
- Pray that God will be exalted and lifted up in all things.
- Pray that the peace of Christ will rule the hearts of all those involved in LWMN.

IMPACT AND UNIQUENESS

You know the impact and uniqueness LWMN has on a man paroling from prison or a youth aging out of residential foster care, if you attended the 2019 Banquet. You learned a man arrives in town with no money and a duffle bag of belongings. What would Jesus do?

LWMN shows the love of Christ by providing a Christian home atmosphere and supportive services to disciple residents to become godly, contributing members of the church and community. LWMN takes a man as he is, a child of God, and shows him respect and true Christian love. A man is treated as an individual within a healthy family and his basic needs are met. Eating together, having daily devotions and praying together as a family is significant.

June 20, 2019 marks LWMNs 28th Anniversary as a non-profit ministry. The first Ministry Home was purchased in 2009. Since that humble beginning, the ministry has grown and has purchased four Ministry Homes, debt free. Over 100 residents have lived in the homes and grown spiritually. These residents have experienced a 90% success rate of not returning to prison and are contributing members of the church and community.

MINISTRY NEEDS

LWMN urgently needs your prayer and financial support. The homes currently have costly needs. Through donations, a roof was installed on one of the homes, but the inside walls need repairs where there were previous water leaks that crumbled the wood in some rooms. Another home has developed a small leak that needs to be addressed very soon. A third home must have a new boiler or furnace purchased and installed before winter.

We do not have the funds for these costs and are trusting God will move to provide for these needs. Our residents need a safe shelter in a heated home for the winter. Please pray faithfully and consider serving the Lord in this manner.

Linda Bright, Financial Officer

CONTACT US:

Living Water Ministry Network
PO Box 566
Comstock Park, MI 49321

Email: pastorjim@livingwaterpmn.org

Website: www.livingwaterpmn.org

Please consider making a generous gift to help support and encourage the men God has entrusted to LWMN. Please make donation checks payable to: Living Water Ministry Network (LWMN) or visit the web site. Your contributions are tax deductible to this 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry organization.

To be a volunteer Prayer Warrior visit the website or email us to sign-up.