

## LIVING WATER MINISTRY NETWORK

## COLD WATER

"LIKE COLD WATER TO A WEARY SOUL IS GOOD NEWS FROM A DISTANT LAND." PROVERBS 25:25 NIV

Volume 28, Issue 7, July 2019

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day, has been a Federal holiday in the United States since 1941. From 1776 to present day, July 4 has been celebrated as the birth of American independence from Britain. Our country's independence came with a price of war and death.

Truly, our independence happened over 2,000 years ago with the birth of Christ. Our true independence comes from our acceptance of God's free gift, salvation through Jesus Christ. For Christians, the death of one man at the cross secured our true freedom. This was freedom for all, not just one nation.

*"And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again."* 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIV

**Pastor Jim Bright**

### PRAYERS AND PRAISE FOR RESIDENTS

- Praise God an alumni resident purchased his own home this month and will have one of the current residents move in with him. (This process has been replicated several times in the past 12 years.)
- Pray for two new residents adjusting to living outside the walls—finding their way around Grand Rapids using bus routes, staying in the Word through daily devotions, having patience to slow down and wait on God's timing for employment.
- Pray four residents find a place to live as they have found a home church, have stable income, own a vehicle, and are ready to move out allowing for new residents to have the same opportunity.
- Pray residents find balance in life (work, devotions, LWMN, leisure) and develop healthy routines to be successful.

### REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Homeowners know there are always ongoing repairs and maintenance, some are minor, and others are major and costly. God has provided for LWMN to own four ministry homes, debt-free. Three homes have needs—two major needs and one minor:

Estimate on replacing 30 year-old boiler	\$10,800
Estimates to replace rusted out galvanized plumbing with PVC, address electrical issues, and shore up sagging kitchen floor	\$7,500
Repair of a small leak in a bedroom and replace trim and stair railing	\$1,500
<b>Total estimated cost of repairs</b>	<b>\$19,800</b>

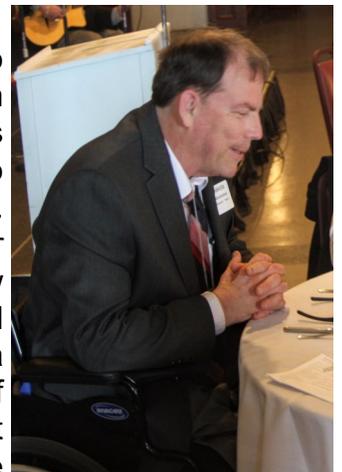
Praise God, to date, half of needed funds have been donated **\$9,900**

**Remaining need \$9,900**

LWMNs goal is to have these serious issues completed by the end of August. Can we count on your help? See below for how to donate. LWMN is thankful for the skilled labor of some of our residents and alumni residents who do these much needed repairs.

### MEET DAKOTA

Dakota was asked to define what freedom meant to him. Freedom is the ability to go and do what needs to be done. We take freedom for granted and do not know how badly we miss it until it is taken away. When a person comes out of prison, they are free, yet they are not free, because they are still on parole. It is a strange freedom.





## MEET DAKOTA (continued)

Since leaving prison, I received some much needed health care. Previously, I was distrustful of the medical profession, and as a result, let my health deteriorate. Since

coming out of prison, I have found a doctor who holds me accountable and I am willing to do what I can to improve my health. I have seen a cardiologist for blocked arteries. The doctor will try medication before putting in stints. I was able to get an electric wheelchair so I can get around easier. I have been fitted with prosthetics and am learning to walk with them. I began with one-inch legs, then progressed by two-inch increments over the past couple months. Since walking, I have grown seven inches. I was able to get a knee installed. I still struggle with visual impairment and am learning to accept this. In the picture I am helping another resident shovel snow from the neighbor's sidewalk.

I am still coming to know what freedom in Christ is all about. It is great to be able to confide in someone that makes me feel good inside. I had no belief in God before going to prison, and I still have questions. I have trouble with trust and surrender and am working on my faith walk. If you have God, life is not easier, but you can live life with God who gives you strength. Without God, I could not have handled all I have endured.

I am not perfect, nor can I be. I am determined and persistent to make things better for myself and others. My advice to you is to trust God and abide in Him—no one else can give good results or answers.

**Resident Writer, Dakota M.**

## NEW LOOK TO THE WEBSITE

Have you looked at the Living Water Ministry Network website lately? Go to [www.livingwaterpmn.org](http://www.livingwaterpmn.org) and see the changes to the site. There is new information: access the application, learn how you can get involved, get to know our Board Members, check out how LWMN is unique, and read a moving testimony. Once you have visited the website, share it with others.

## FREEDOM

**Freedom means different things to different people.** Some think they should be free to do anything they desire. This could lead to anarchy. Some use freedom of expression to break God's moral law. Others realize that freedom needs to be restrained by boundaries.

Jesus came proclaiming freedom to prisoners. This does not mean he opened the doors of prison and let law breakers go free without paying the consequences of their behavior. Jesus came to give freedom to us from the consequences of our sins—the consequences are death (Romans 6:23). If we confess that our actions and thoughts fall short of God's perfect standard and believe that Jesus took the penalty for our sins and forgave us, we have freedom from living as a slave to sin. We have been set free!

But what happens next? Do we say, "Since God forgave me, I can live as I want."? In Galatians 5:1, 13, Paul tells us, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of sin. Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather serve one another."* A person may have the right to do anything but not everything is beneficial, and some things entrap us back into slavery. An example of this is addictions.

**So, what about you? How do you define freedom? Are you truly free?**

**Editor, Carol V.**

*"If you hold to my (Jesus') teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*  
John 8:31, 32, 36 NIV

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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.