



Serving Men Paroling from Prison  
and At-Risk Youth

# LIVING WATER MINISTRY NETWORK

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Seasons of the year and seasons of life change, but one thing remains consistent. Jesus calls us to stay in His Word, to walk the walk and share the love of Christ with others. LWMN provides hope and encouragement and spreads the Gospel. Living in a LWMN ministry home provides a healthy routine that can be continued throughout life. Daily devotions, prayer, church involvement, men's breakfasts, supportive accountability groups, and mentors are essential. This consistency contributes to a resident's success. Also, by serving God through YOUR prayers and financial support, men's lives are changed. *"There is one body, but it has many parts"* 1 Cor. 12:12. YOU are appreciated.

A mother of an alumni resident, who recently purchased his own home, spent a year hand sewing this quilt as a gift for Pastor Jim and Linda.



The attached card dated August 2019 read: "Thank You so much for all the love and comfort you have given to our son, Paul D. By doing so you have brought great comfort to us, his mom & dad. I hope this quilt and pillows let you know how much you are appreciated! They are our way of giving you hugs & comfort. Always in our hearts, Kandy & Dan B." Pastor Jim and Linda's response: "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!"



## CONSISTENCY

We have been challenged. Is there enough evidence seen that shows we are followers of Jesus Christ by our actions and words? It is a struggle to maintain a consistent walk as sin entangles us so easily and wants to pull us back into its clutches. Our hope is found when we search scripture for the secret to a consistent life. Paul writes to Timothy to flee from quarrels, to learn contentment, and to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. This is how we can live consistently.

The writer of Hebrews shows the example of many people who walked the faith-walk and stayed focused on what God had planned for them. The writer gives this encouragement: "Throw off what entangles and run with perseverance." By fixing our eyes on Jesus, we will not grow weary and lose heart.

The word "perseverance" indicates this will be a struggle—we will want to quit. But we need to endure. The best reward we will ever be given will be the one we receive for being a faithful witness. We will reign with Christ in the new heaven and the new earth. God will dwell with us and call us His very own children. We will be a pillar in God's kingdom and will never leave it. We will be dressed in white. God will write a new name on our foreheads showing we belong to Him. If we keep this focus, with the Holy Spirit's help, we will have the strength to run with endurance the race set before us. How about you? Carol V.

## A RESIDENT'S STORY



My name is David W. and I have been a resident at a LWMN home since Christmas 2017. I feel very blessed and loved that I was selected to

live in such a wonderful supportive environment while I am on parole. For that I am grateful. I love the accountability that each man provides for the other. We do not just want to do everything legal so we can do our time on parole with no issues, but we at LWMN hold each other to a higher standard that is well above the legal limits of the law. We proudly bear the Christian name.

In my past I put on the act of looking like a good Christian man by doing all the right things. I was deeply involved in my church by being on the board. I often helped usher when needed, I was in the choir, and sometimes I played my guitar for Sunday services. I was the driver in my family to make sure my wife and children all attended church services Sunday morning and we participated in Sunday school/Bible Classes. We, as a family, participated in many church activities. It was not uncommon to spend three or four days a week involved in the church or school activities in some way. I was doing all the right things, but there were things I was doing that I did not want to stop doing even though I knew better. I had the head knowledge of the Word of God, but it was not in my heart.

Addiction had a sure foothold on me. I could relate with the Apostle Paul when he said in Romans 7:15, *"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."* and again in vs. 19, *"For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing."* (NIV '84). I wanted to stop what I was doing, but I felt all alone. No one would understand my problem...certainly not my wife. I thought I had to do this alone and the more I felt that I had to control it, the deeper I dug my hole. It took that arrest to get my attention, but that was not enough. I had to get out of my situation and maybe prison was the right option for me to break the addiction cycle.

Going to prison is like witnessing your own death. Oh, I got to make phone calls and I received many letters of support, but it also showed me how others are living their lives now and how they have moved on without me in their life, all the while sitting helpless, far away, and all alone knowing I cannot help them in any way. But there was some very good news out of this ugly situation. Even though I was locked up I felt free. I was free from the sin of addiction. No more secrets, no more hiding or twisting the truth. It was a great feeling knowing that I am a free man in my mind. The walls could not contain the freedom I was feeling.

I surrounded myself with good men on the inside and we prayed and sang together, and we walked laps to encourage each and talk it out.

Therapy has really helped me to identify all the little baby steps of my thoughts, actions, and beliefs that brought me to the bottom of the slippery slope I made for myself, but that is not enough. My heart is free from addiction now and I choose to stay in the Word of God daily along with many daily prayers, so I do not let sin consume my life again. I am growing in my relationship with my Lord now. I strive for honest living. We are in a battle in this world and the ways of the world say, "If it feels good, do it" and I believed it. As part of my battle plan I realized that I can control my thoughts, so I chose Philippians 4:8 as my life verse which says, *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honest, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think of such things."* I figure if I can do this, then the rest will fall into place.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

This ministry was founded on prayer and continues to rely on God's plans and provisions. Prayer is spiritual nutrition for the soul.

- Pray residents and alumni residents find God's purpose for their lives. Several residents have moved out of the ministry homes and new residents are moving in.
- Pray the Board of Directors seek God's direction for leadership roles and staffing.
- Pray maintenance costs for ministry homes are provided for water leak repairs and a new boiler installed soon.
- Pray supporters continue to find new life in Jesus Christ as they bless LWMN.
- Pray volunteers step forth in faith to serve LWMN and enhance the Kingdom of God.

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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.