



*Serving Men Paroling from Prison  
and At-Risk Youth*

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 1990, Carl Gunn, the founder of Living Water Ministry Network (LWMN), authored a "Home Run Club" Bible study curriculum. He joined a group of men who went into Muskegon Correctional Facility weekly discipling inmates for Christ.

Fourteen years later at age 89, God prompted Carl to pass the "bat" in 2004. I became Executive Director and my wife, Linda, became Secretary/Treasurer in 2005. God opened the door for LWMN to expand by providing four ministry homes for men paroling from prison.

Now again, fourteen years later God is opening new doors for us to continue doing the work He has laid out for us. As Linda and I transition into new positions with the ministry, we ask you would pray for us and continue to support the ministry through your faithful prayers and giving.

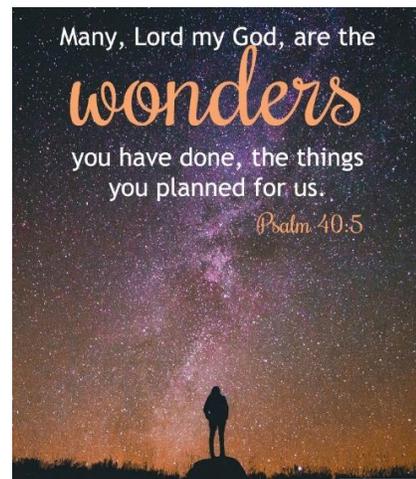
At the end of September, I will pass the "bat" to Greg Oliver who will be the new Executive Director for LWMN. God has prepared Greg for leadership, *"a man in whom is the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 1:8a) Greg has worked alongside me for three years sharing wisdom and counsel on many facets of LWMN. Please keep Greg in prayer as he assumes the new responsibilities God has laid on his heart.

I pray God will continue to transform lives for Jesus with the current and alumni residents and with all those who provide accountability and support. I pray God will continue to provide for all the needs of LWMN to share reciprocal blessings for His wonderful works.

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Jim Bright

# LIVING WATER MINISTRY NETWORK

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## GOD'S WONDEROUS WORKS

When I was five years old, my mom left me and my sister. After that things started to go downhill for me. "That is how I took it growing up." I went to church on and off because I thought of my dad as a role model. Even when I thought I hated my dad, what I really recognized is that you only get one dad and I really cared for him. I just did not like what he was doing. For example, when I said I thought of him as a role model, if he went to church, then I went to church too.

Growing up, we were pretty poor and did not have much money. I kept thinking to myself, "Why is this happening to us?" Growing up, I would isolate a lot because I was scared of what would happen next. I even thought it was all my fault growing up.

When I was from the age of 10-15 years old, I committed my offense. I got in a lot of trouble at the age of 15. When I went to the Ingham County Youth Center, I recognized I messed up big time. One day this guy I did not know came up to me and asked me, "Do you know who Jesus is?" I told him, "No, I do not know who Jesus is." He said, "Jesus died on the cross for not just my sins, but for everyone's sins." At that moment it hit me like a two-car

collision. I then broke down and started to cry. I said I would love to learn about Jesus.



Since then, my faith has gotten better. I just got baptized in June of this year. As for today, God is

still working on me like a potter works on clay.

Just recently, I went to take my driving test and I prayed to God to let me pass and I would be very thankful. I took the test and did very good. At the end, the instructor told me I passed and that put a big smile on my face. I'll be 21 years old in three weeks and now I'll be driving on the road as a man. I am very happy. Praise God!

I think that without Living Water Ministry Network and God, I would not know where I would be right now and how my life would look. So, I thank Pastor Jim and Ms. Linda Bright for putting me under their wings and caring for me. Also, I would like to thank the people in this ministry that makes it possible to be here. Current Resident Warren W.

### AN ALUMNI'S STORY

I have been reflecting on my fifth year being out of prison, the lows and highs. I am certainly glad Ms. Bright answers the phone! Without the support group I have with this ministry, nothing would have been accomplished. When I paroled, I was granted a stay at the hotel (halfway house) and Pastor Jim gave me a place to live, a Christian ministry home.

Every road I have taken I have asked the ministry for guidance and counseling. I have lost jobs, family and friends. The Bright's stood by my side. I have come from being homeless, no food, nor any idea of where I was going to go. Now, I pay a mortgage on my own home, own my vehicle and am employed as a Supervisor.



I have been blessed with an amazing wife that was set aside by God just for me. She has every quality I could ask for and is willing to work cohesive with me.

Certainly, God is great and merciful. Yes, men paroling from prison can become management and lead a successful life. Believe in God's works and believe in yourself. (Jer. 29:11) *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Alumni Miles S.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

LWMN was founded on prayer and continues to rely on God's plans and provisions. Prayer is spiritual nutrition for the soul. Please pray:

- Keep God at the center of our lives during the good and bad times
- Challenges balancing spiritual growth / work / school / fellowship / LW family
- Board of Directors seek God's direction for leadership roles and healing
- Forgiveness and restoration
- Make the road straighter and smoother
- Restore broken family relationships
- Smooth transition going off parole
- Supporters feel reciprocal blessings as they give of their time and talents
- God uses LWMN to restore lives in Jesus' name to disciple others

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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.