

Living Water Ministry News

August 2020
Volume 29, Issue 5

VISION

Every ministry should have a vision. This vision flows from the fount of the burden the Lord has laid upon hearts and the passion that naturally follows. However, Scripture just does not just direct us on every little jot and tittle of how to do things. We pray, make our plans, and trust that the Lord will direct the steps (Prov. 16:9).

Living Water Ministry Network (LWMN) is grateful for the prayers and support of the friends and partners of the ministry. We highly value your prayers, knowing that they are a means that the Lord uses to accomplish His plans. Additionally, we would appreciate your feedback on the vision that we are privileged to share with you in this month's newsletter.

As you know, LWMN helps returning citizens reintegrate back into society. This is done by providing Christ-centered homes, the basic necessities of life, and a myriad of services through our ministry partners. At the core is the love of Christ that flows through a community of believers, mentors, and supporting churches. We are inundated with requests to provide a home, but are hindered by the lack of homes to offer men a place to live in. A significant amount of these requests for help come from men in our communities and not just the incarcerated. Our burden is to increase our ability to help more men, whether just returning to the community, or having already returned or are just struggling to find their way.

*"Our help is from
the Lord who made
heaven and earth"*

Additionally, we are committed to accepting not only professing Christians, but any and all that are not hostile to the faith. We trust that the Lord will evangelize and impact through LWMN. So, how does a small non-profit, that does not take any state or federal money, increase its ability to serve more men? One avenue we are exploring is entrepreneurship. Our men are hard and gracious workers. We are praying and seeking the Lord to see if He would bless a small business endeavor that not only would provide employment, but also the resources to expand. There are a number of ministries that successfully embrace this model.

Another obvious option is to buy another home. But the housing market is extremely hot right now and unless a friend of the ministry can help us with something off the market, this will be challenging. Nevertheless, our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth, and it is to Him we look. We appreciate your prayers for, and welcome your feedback on, the vision the Lord has burdened us with.



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

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Board Secretary*

HOW DO YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM US?

LWMN desires to communicate with you in the most efficient manner. We want to make sure we are communicating with you in a way that honors your preferences. Please email info@livingwaterpmn.org and let us know if you prefer postal mail or email. If you don't have access to email, please call us at 616-425-2414. Thank you for your feedback.

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A BLESSED MAN

My name is Russell but my friends call me Tony. I am a very blessed man, who often thinks he does not deserve forgiveness. In 2005, I was forced to look at the man in the mirror. And in so doing, I became a broken-hearted person. I was given many opportunities to succeed in life, and because I served the wrong team, I destroyed many lives. I served 15 years in prison for hurting someone I loved very much. I will never be able to take that back. God found me in my misery and I responded to his calling in 2009. Though it took time and learning to forgive myself, I found peace and grace through God's Word. God revealed a side of me I never knew, a good man with much love in his heart.

I have found through Living Water Ministry Network (LWMN) a belief, that in society, there are men and women who love God and have such faith that they are willing to see through the clouded lives that once were lost, and help bring forth the true man that God wants us to be. To tell you the love I have for this ministry may be time consuming, but God has brought me here for a purpose and even when I leave this shelter—from many hateful, unforgiving, lost souls—I fully intend to be a helpful part of LWMN. Anyone who does not know true love for God, and what loving whole-hearted assistance in starting over really is, can find a “help-up” from this ministry.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

When something wonderful happens, you want to “tell all about it.” That is what LWMN was doing the last weekend in July—sharing. We want to make sure the good news gets out. As speaking opportunities arise, LWMN wants to be able to show a professional video that highlights the work that God is doing in and through the ministry. The Holy Spirit is at work and lives are being changed. God is about second chances and His work is alive and working in the prison system in Michigan.

The Application Committee prays for the leading of the Lord as we decide who to accept into the ministry. What especially touched my heart as we filmed this video was when one resident told me that he prayed for the Application Committee in the work they were doing. That was such a blessing to hear. We cannot wait to share this video with you—it will warm your hearts.



PLANS UNKNOWN

Who would have thought something as microscopic as a virus could stop the world? God was not surprised by this. What is He saying to us? Is He trying to get us to turn our eyes to Him? Absolutely, He is. Can we focus on what we have instead of what has been taken away? Can we learn to appreciate a slower pace? Can we see what is necessary and not run after stuff we do not need? Can we see God as a good and caring God? Absolutely, we can. None of us know what will happen tomorrow, but do we have the faith to see that God has plans for us that are so much better? So when we make plans, we need to say “If it pleases the Lord, we will do this or that.”

Due to the restrictions of government mandates, LWMN will not be holding the Annual Fundraising Banquet this year. Instead we are putting together a video to the ministry, history, vision, testimonies and needs. This will be available for you to watch soon.

LWMN appreciates your support. The ministry has many applicants seeking to house at one of our homes. Please pray that we will have wisdom as we accept men into the ministry. We need to find additional living space as the need is great. Pray for resources to come in to help with upkeep of our current homes. Pray for the spiritual growth of our residents that the Holy Spirit will give them strength to overcome temptation.