



Living Water Ministry Network

Building Community through Stories of Restoration

December 2021

Volume 30, Issue 7

**Serving Men Paroling
from Prison**

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President and Treasurer

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ADOPT A NEED

Donations are always needed
for the upkeep of our homes.

*"He who has two
coats, let him give to
him who has none;
and he who has food,
let him do likewise."*

Luke 3:10

Living Water
Ministry Network
PO Box 8227
Kentwood, MI 49518

Phone:
616-425-2414

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<https://livingwaterpmn.org/>

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Registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit

"I WANT TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY"

On occasion, when we review applications from men applying to live in a Living Water home, we see these words, "I want to do things differently" or similar words that indicate that they want to go in a different direction than the direction that sent them to prison. To be sure, some men don't like their circumstances and just want relief from them. But others really do want to go in a different direction. That is the definition of repentance, "going in a different direction."

It has been, and continues to be, our desire to help men do things differently. As we know, apart from the Lord Jesus, there is no real transformation of life except from what He can do in a surrendered heart.

In 2021 we had 31 men come to our ministry. Four have been with us the entire year. Others have left and 27 came sometime throughout the year. I love these men. Many truly want to follow our risen Savior. Some, unfortunately by their actions, tell us they are not interested. But the ones who *are* interested, are such a blessing!

The ones who want to follow the Lord have needs. They need a safe place to live. They need help in getting settled back into society. They need employment. They need instruction in God's word. They need structure in their lives to make good decisions, and the list goes on.

This is where you can help us. Your generous gift at this year's end will help us to help the men we serve. We have more men coming in 2022. We have already committed to three more, with more applying every week. We also ask for you to pray for us--- we need the wisdom of the Lord as we navigate the many decisions that we face daily.

Blessings to you and your family during this Christmas season.

Gary Wainwright, LWMN President & Treasurer

On Behalf of the Board of Directors



ADOPT A NEED

List of needs for our homes:

- Used Vehicles**
- Licensed builder** to evaluate our homes and make written recommendations
- Skilled laborers** for repairs
- Donations** for home repairs

Please email or call:

info@livingwaterpmn.org
616-425-2414 to donate.

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NEW TRADITION

Many of us have Christmas traditions that we celebrate on an annual basis—baking, getting together with family and friends, attending music concerts, and giving gifts. For one group of individuals, the residents at Living Water Ministry Network, traditions are non-existent. For many, this Christmas is their first outside the bars. Into that space, the board members of LWMN have come alongside and started a new blessing—to the residents and to the board members.

With the Covid-19 shutdown last year, it seemed that we would not be able to celebrate with the guys. But a new idea formed. Rather than gathering in a large group setting, the board would take Christmas to the individual homes. They brought in a festive meal and dessert, spent time getting to know the men a little bit, played games, and brought personal gifts. The residents were encouraged and the board members were thrilled at how well this was received. And we started a new tradition!

Carol V.

BUDGETING LESSONS OF AN ALUMNI RESIDENT - PART 2

After seeing my growing bank account, I WANTED to go spend it. Spend it on things I wanted, like stylish clothing and pay for entertainment things like the movies and festivals that Grand Rapids offers from time to time. "It's my money and I should be able to do what I want to with it." The ministry has a different aspect of where my money should go towards and be spent. I was annoyed by it and yet knew what I had signed up for. I had to follow the program's advice in order to change my life and be successful. When I signed up for this program, I was honest with myself and knew I needed certain structure in my life, and budgeting is definitely part of it. I am so grateful what I learned from Living



Water and the "push" they gave me for my own good. I wouldn't have been able to come up with \$2,000 for a transmission repair, or nearly \$3,000 for an engine repair. And I didn't have to be embarrassed by going to others for help financially. I know a few guys who would help if I needed support, and the same goes for anyone who needs also.

I encourage those who are attending Living Water Ministry, and whoever else, to keep doing the budgeting program with honesty and perseverance and let it show that your money pays the bills on time and yet grow for your future journey. It's great to have money pay for unexpected things and to bless others with by treating them out to dinner or a trip out of town. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Alumni Resident, Paul

