

# **FreedomWorks**

Post-Prison Outreach

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*Galations 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,  
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

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January 28, 2011

## **FreedomWorks Stays the Course with More Changes in 2011**

From the formal incorporation of FreedomWorks by Fred Peterson in 2004 until now, FreedomWorks has been *constantly changing to do the same thing* – provide a Christ-based ministry of reconciliation to men returning to our community from prison. FreedomWorks helps reduce recidivism when we help ex-offenders successfully re-enter society. Providing affordable housing during the critical days and months immediately following release, an encouraging community of personal mentoring, employment counseling, life-skills training and uplifting social events, FreedomWorks is real Christian community. Men begin their own season of serving one another even as they are rebuilding their own lives.

At the end of January, Executive Director Dick Kluge will step down from two years of service, which began when, as a member of the board, Dick was called to lead the ministry. Though now taken from day-to-day leadership by distant family responsibilities, he continues to volunteer and has been instrumental in forming a relationship between **FreedomWorks and the Salvation Army** adult rehabilitation center. (More below).

As we publicly thank Dick and Nancy Kluge for their energy, welcoming spirits and devotion to FreedomWorks and the families we serve, **we want to enlist your help** – **you** may know of a potential candidate who might be called as Executive Director. Let us know! Please contact any one of the undersigned directors with ideas; we would be greatly appreciative.

Ministry continues, whether at the FW house at 3559 Penn Avenue North, or nearby. Community Bible Study under the leadership of Bob Johnston is held weekly; once a month the men reach out to those less fortunate to pack and deliver meals; drug and alcohol support class is held on Tuesday nights; and Ray Cole and George Lang hold Bible Studies in the Dakota County Jail as well as host our **open-to-all, fellowship dinners held each Thursday** night at Faith Baptist Church on Russell Avenue. Everyone leaves well fed, bodily and spiritually. Residents, volunteers, guests and mentors are trained, interesting topics are explored and all are encouraged. It is a joyful time. **Please join us any Thursday you are able!**

FreedomWorks and the Salvation Army have been planning over the last few months to collaborate in exciting ways. Not only do we “speak the same language” in how we serve, we are unequivocal in basing all we do on following our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are joining forces in the areas of Christian drug and alcohol treatment, the Community Bible Study and job transition training; all on existing shoe-string budgets. If you are so led, **we would appreciate your financial support to lengthen our shoe-strings!**

The ministry of reconciliation given to all Christians is, of course, built around difficult life circumstances. Some days, the difficult circumstances are more visible than the reconciliation. But God is good and we are grateful for what He provides, often as encouragement walks in the door in the form of a brother who lifts up another just when he is flagging. We experience each day the truth of the words written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

*“The Christian cannot simply take for granted the privilege of living among other Christians... **the physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer...** It is easily forgotten that the community of Christians is a gift of grace from the Kingdom of God, a gift that can be taken from us any day.”*

We are thankful for the FreedomWorks community into which we have been placed. We heartily invite *your “physical presence as a source of incomparable joy and strength”* – it will not go unappreciated! Thank you for your prayers and support. Please save April 14<sup>th</sup> as an evening of ministry celebration this Spring; more on that is forthcoming.

In the name our Lord,

*The Board of FreedomWorks*

*Don Smith, Chairman*

*John Bown*

*Mike Gattie*

*Bob Johnston*

*Chip Mahon*

*Jim Taylor*