



FreedomWorks

Post-Prison Outreach

Fall

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Meet Terry... who was born in Idaho, the youngest of four children. He started his drug use at a young age, when at age nine, his older brother first introduced him to drugs. He was kicked out of Junior High for his use, and by the time he got into High School, he was dealing. “For every ten joints I sold, I got two free ones,” he remembers.

Terry describes his life after high school as a train wreck. He went into the army with the desire to make his Dad proud, but was kicked out. Terry recalls, “From there, cocaine literally took over my life. I got married and had my first child, but that marriage was short lived as we were abusive to one another. I then had a short affair with a girl name Daniela and produced a son we named Elliott. Before he was even one, he was taken away from his mom and lived with me until he was in kindergarten. One day I was high and forgot to pick him up. I don’t know how I could have done that. Shortly after that day, his mom showed up at school and took him. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find him since.”

“After that I just lost my will to live and my drug use continued to spiral out of control. I was consuming massive quantities of cocaine and meth and therefore, stealing more and more to support my habit. My phone was ringing 24 hours a day. It was crazy. Over the next few years, I was incarcerated in 11 different county jails in six different states. My last stop was a three year visit to the Minnesota prison system.”

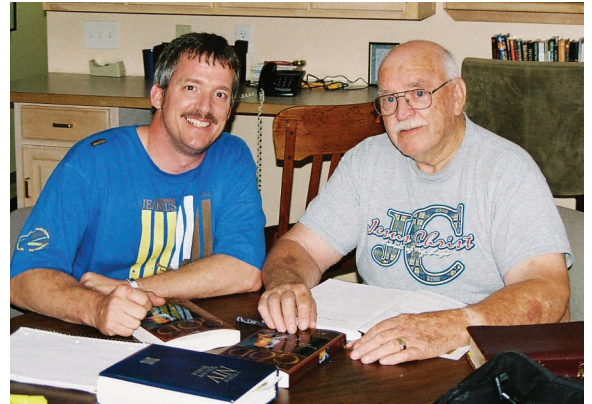
Hitting Bottom... “I was sitting in county jail waiting to be sentenced knowing I was going to prison, knowing that Daniela was trying to terminate my parental rights, when I finally broke down and just started to bawl. I could not do this anymore. I begged God to forgive me, to heal the horrific pain I had inside. And He did! Who would have thought that I had to go to prison to find freedom?”



This picture of Terry on the day he received his prison sentence depicts the devastation of meth use on the body and soul.

FreedomWorks... Upon completing his sentence, Terry entered the FreedomWorks program. When asked about his first impression of FreedomWorks, he stated, “Overwhelming generosity! When they handed me that envelope with gift cards to Cub for food, Kohls for clothes and that bus pass, I could not believe it! Why would these people—these strangers—be so nice to me?”

“Then they connected me with George to mentor me and that has just been wonderful. He knows the word and he lives it. He really has been helping me to level off in my walk with God. He accepts me the way I am and helps me to know that God loves me the way I am. I now want to get much more involved in serving others. I can honestly say that has become a passion for me.”



This is Terry today, pictured with his mentor, George Plew.

Life today... “I still have struggles but through prayers and the help of the community at FreedomWorks, I just don’t desire the drugs. I remember how drugs took my home, my family and my son. Now I have peace and money in my pocket—and it is legal money. I have a good job. And best of all, I now have a relationship with my daughters and my father.”

What Terry would like you to know about FreedomWorks...

“It is a great place for guys coming out of prison to start over. ♦ If someone is in need, you can count on someone to be there to help you out. ♦ It is just a great place to grow spiritually. ♦ I know that God has a plan for me and He will get me there. ♦ This is a personal responsibility place—you are not told what to do—you are given the opportunities to choose and that is awesome. ♦ You guys are awesome!”



Stories like Terry’s are only made possible through God’s abundant love, mercy, and grace. FreedomWorks is nothing more than a human extension and network for God’s provision. All of you who have prayed, volunteered, and contributed are a huge part of that network. Please continue to support this ministry to allow us to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. I know it’s working for Terry!

In His amazing grace!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick".

Executive Director

For more event or program information, or to make a contribution, please visit our website at:

All donations to FreedomWorks are tax-deductible. Freedomworks is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).



Community Outreach and Garage Sale

by George Lang, Program Manager



On Saturday, August 28th, FreedomWorks held a garage sale combined with a community outreach. Items were not priced—we asked people to give what they could. Our surplus was someone else's treasure!



We gave out...

- 750 hot dogs
- 350 dishes of cake and ice cream
- delicious smoothies for the kids
- 500+ t-shirts



It was a privilege to see Christ moving through our group. I was overcome by the unity of our residents and all the volunteers who make up the body of FreedomWorks. All diligently worked side by side to serve and minister to our neighborhood.

The highlight of the day was when a 16-year-old girl, caught up in a life of prostitution, gave her life to Christ!

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.—Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)

Ministry Spotlight

The two most critical and feared questions a man faces when released from prison are: 1) Where am I going to live? and 2) Where am I going to find a job? FreedomWorks can and does provide the living component in a safe and God-centered environment. The second issue is a very difficult problem, particularly in the economy we are living in today.

To meet this need we began a Job Transition Program to teach men skills they will need to have as they go out and compete for work in the marketplace. These are skills that the majority of our residents have never been taught.

Read what others are saying about the program:



“It [the course] really helped me transition into the workplace. I’ve learned to put up with survival jobs until I got a better career job; how to handle the tough questions—to look the interviewer in the eye (don’t hang your head) and be real about my past; the importance of researching the company ahead of time so I was prepared; how outdated my resume was and revised it. I’ve learned a lot about myself and what type of job fits my personality. I really like my job. We work hard but have fun!”—Program Participants

“I think that a graduate of the Jobs Transitions Program with similar skill sets as another job seeker would have the advantage. The applicant from the Job Transitions program will be better prepared, interview better, have researched the company, have an honest, brief story to tell, and know the "little things" to do to stand out in a positive way.—Sam Riemensnider, a Human Resources professional

Upcoming Fall Opportunities

Mentor Training on Thursdays, 6:15-8:00 p.m., Faith Baptist Church

Community Bible Study (CBS) starts Monday, September 13th, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Faith Baptist Church

Fishing Event—Saturday, September 25th

Mentee Fall Study, *Living Naked* starts Thursday, September 16th, 6:15-8:00 p.m., Faith Baptist Church

For a complete listing of details, go to our FreedomWorks website, www.freedomworksmn.org, and click on the *Visit Us On Facebook* option.

**Save the date: Our Annual Christmas Party will be at Faith Baptist Church, Thursday, December 16th, 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.—
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

