



**Forgotten Man  
Ministries**

# Reaching The **FORGOTTEN**

FALL 2019

## **LIVES TRANSFORMED:**

### *A New Life through Christ*

To say Edwin Robinson has had a difficult life would be an understatement. He was born and raised in New Orleans in an environment where he states “he saw many things a child should be shielded from.” Edwin was thirteen when Hurricane Katrina hit and his family was deeply affected. He lost more than half his family in the flood and was separated from other family members. Two years later, he lost his mother to cancer.

Without close family or other support, Edwin felt abandoned and forgotten. He began to make choices that he knew would get him in trouble, but he didn’t think anyone cared. He found himself

in prison and served five years time. When he was released he says he was “free but still empty and alone.”

In 2019, Edwin landed in the Saginaw County Jail. He says, “I wanted to give up, but God wouldn’t let me. I was at the point where I couldn’t take any more and God sent me Chaplain Andy from Forgotten Man Ministries.”

Chaplain Andy Cox remembers meeting Edwin for the first time as he entered his cell to minister to the nine men housed there. While many of the men were receptive and encouraged by what Andy was sharing, Edwin seemed angry and frustrated with God.

Andy says, “I have never shared my personal story with inmates, but I felt the presence of God telling me to share my story with Edwin. I told him that I had lost both of my parents to cancer and now my brother has it too.” Edwin



*Edwin with Chaplain Andy Cox at the Saginaw County Jail.*

became pretty emotional as he shared that he had also lost both of his parents to cancer and currently has lung cancer.

Once Edwin understood that God can meet us even in our suffering he began to change. He asked to be involved in our FMM Bible Courses and learn more about Jesus.

Edwin says, “I have devoted my life to Christ and found a new path for my life. Even though I am in a condition I don’t want to be in, I am still blessed to be alive and have another chance to become a better person. I am grateful to Chaplain Andy and FMM for helping me understand the true blessing that God has given me, even when I suffer.”



*Edwin and Chaplain Andy pray.*

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## **INSIDE**

**Volunteer Spotlight:**  
*Gordon Geurink*.....P2  
**Step Up for the First Steps Marathon**.....P3



# Flourishing at Ninety-five: Gordon Geurink has a Heart for the Lost

*“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon”*  
Psalms 92:12

Few people have served with Forgotten Man Ministries as long and as faithfully as Gordon Geurink. And at 95 years young, he doesn't think there is any reason to stop now.

Gordon was born and raised on a farm in Michigan. Like many men of his generation, he enlisted during WW2 and was sent to serve in Italy. While at war, he prayed to God, “If you spare my life, I will spend my life in your service.” He says he is still honoring his end of that covenant today.

God “officially” called him into the ministry as a church planter, planting churches in the Kalamazoo and Paw Paw area. During this time, he heard about the work of Forgotten Man Ministries and became connected to Executive Director Bill Most who asked him if he would consider being the head chaplain in the Ottawa County Jail. Gordon says he turned down the job three times, but God had plans for him in the jail.

In 1980 Gordon became the first chaplain in Ottawa County where he served until 1996 when he moved to the Kalamazoo County Jail as their full time chaplain. During his time in both Kalamazoo and

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*“With wit, grace and wisdom, Gordy is ‘addicted’ to sharing Jesus with inmates. A great example of faithfulness, passion, focus, and a servant’s heart.”*

- Cal Alderink, Ingham County Chaplain, former Kalamazoo volunteer

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Ottawa, his wife Dee was also active volunteering in the home office and grading Bible courses.

While Gordon has been working in the jail part-time since 1998, he is still in the jail three days a week mentoring inmates and training volunteers in how to best do jail ministry.

“Above all I just love the Lord and I really have a heart for the lost. Maybe some people won't understand why I still go in the jail at my age, but I see no reason why I should retire from God's work. I want to be faithful to the end.”

We are so grateful to Gordon for his many years of service to the incarcerated. Well done good and faithful servant.

“I find comfort in knowing that God uses us for His work even if we do things wrong and try and do our own thing. I know now that His love is unconditional and He is forgiving.”

- **Michael**

“I used to be a bitter and angry person, believing no one cared about us here in jail. Now I know that is not the case thanks to Forgotten Man Ministries. I am growing closer to God every day.”

- **LaVerne**

“The knowledge of God's word is priceless and FMM has helped me grow in it. Hopefully one day, I will be able to teach my five daughters what I have learned.”

- **Ryan**

“When I came to jail, I felt like my whole world was falling apart and I lost all hope. I began attending services held by FMM and I was led back to the Lord. Without your generosity, so many of us would be lost. Thank you for showing me the way back to our Lord.

- **Tim**

*Gordon Geurink, 95, continues to serve in jail ministry*

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*“I believe certain people cross your life as angels. The connection simply can't be explained in words alone.*

*It is more than a huge blessing.*

*That is the feeling always experienced after crossing paths with Chaplain Gordon.”*

- Bill Cariano, Director Emeritus

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## Unlocking Hearts

with your support

***Inmates and their families want you to know that you are helping to transform their lives.***



# Better Together: The Body of Christ in Action

by  
Rev. Nate DeWard,  
Executive Director

God is on the move in and through our FMM Chaplains. On September 16-17, FMM chaplains gathered for a work retreat. We had deep discussion about strengthening volunteer ministries, possible partnerships with other organizations, and ways to support inmates returning home.

I challenged the chaplains to embrace a vision for inmate re-entry: "That every returning citizen has a chance for a new life and never returns to jail." As we anticipate changes in our self-study Bible Course program in 2020, I encouraged chaplains to refocus our vision for biblical correspondence ministry so "that every inmate has the opportunity to study

God's Word and be disciplined in it." Lastly, I urged the chaplains to provide a local ministry "that every volunteer may be equipped for every good work for jail ministry."

Chaplains enjoyed fellowship and the chance to be with colleagues who understand the blessings and burdens of leading jail ministries.

We also had the chance to recognize the faithful service of our Director Emeritus,

Bill Cariano, who will conclude his work with FMM at the end of the year. Bill has served with FMM on staff since 2012. Longtime friends and chaplains had the opportunity to exchange gratitude with Bill as we gave thanks to God for his gifts and the fruit that God brought through him.

This Chaplain Retreat and all 2019 Chaplain training was made possible by a generous grant from our brothers and sisters in Christ at Ada Bible Church in Grand Rapids, MI.



## Step Up in January



Building on the success of last year, FMM will once again launch the "First Steps Marathon" in January of 2020.

Last year we were able to raise \$4,448 to help inmates take their first steps of faith in our jails. This was thanks to the hard work of 68 "steppers" and 14 fundraisers around the state of Michigan.

To participate in the First Steps Marathon, all we ask for is a commitment to walk or run 26 miles in the month of January and raise a minimum of \$260 from friends and family who want to support your

efforts. January is a time of resolutions and health goals, so why not combine your desire to become fit with your support for the work we are doing in the jail?

You won't be walking alone! We have created a Facebook page where other steppers share their progress and cheer each other on. We also provide prayer prompts of how you can pray for FMM while you walk or run.

This year we will be adding prizes for most money raised, most steppers recruited and most donors. We also will have weekly challenges to encourage our steppers along the way.

We hope you will join us! For more information, visit [www.firststepsmarathon.com](http://www.firststepsmarathon.com). To sign up, text keyword "fmm" to 71777 on your mobile device.

*"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two."* Matthew 5:41 NKJV

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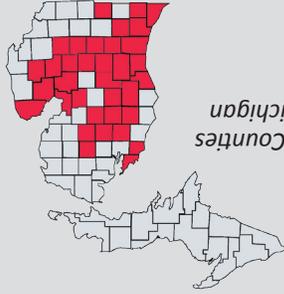
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## A Life Transformed



When Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, Edwin lost more than half of his family in the flood. His mother died from cancer not long after. Years later, Edwin met Chaplain Andy Cox in the Saginaw County jail. They bonded through

stories of shared pain and sorrow when Andy shared how he lost both parents to cancer. Today, God is transforming the pain and trauma of incarcerated men and women through FMM.

Read more inside ●●●

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