



**Forgotten Man
Ministries**

Reaching The **FORGOTTEN**

SUMMER 2019

RELAPSE TO REDEMPTION:

A New Life through Christ

Donors often wonder what happens when an inmate relapses.

Ryan has been in and out of jail and prison most of his life. When he was released in 2014, he felt like his life was finally getting on track. He regained custody of his 15 year old son and was able to spend more time with his 7 year old daughter.

Everything changed on October 17th, 2016. Ryan found his mom in her garage after she had taken her own life. He turned to meth to numb the pain and stop the nightmares. He stopped caring about family and slid back into all his old ways. He was arrested and sent to jail, but while out on bond, went on the run. He tried to commit

suicide and was shot twice while evading cops.

Back in jail and estranged from his family, Ryan was at rock bottom. It was then that he was introduced to Jesus by our Barry County chaplain and volunteers. He began reading the Bible and doing regular Bible studies.

He was able to heal his relationship with his family and they have become a big support system. His daughter visits him every Wednesday and they read through "Our Daily Bread" together. It is the highlight of his week.

"My daughter always sees the *Our Daily Bread* in my chest pocket and she always reminds me that it's there. I'll ask her if she read it, and of course she says 'yes.' When I ask her to tell me what she got out of it, she says that she forgot so we read it again together to be sure she will always remember at least one thing out of the reading for that day."



Ryan (left) and Chaplain Joyce Black at Barry County Jail.



Ryan reading Our Daily Bread.

Ryan recently took a plea deal for 13 years in prison. He is hopeful his testimony helps others and leads them to Jesus.

"It is a long time and I know it won't be easy, but I feel more free now than I ever have. I know with God by my side I can do anything. I am excited to tell everyone in prison about how God has transformed me to the man I am today, all because of Jesus Christ."

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Volunteer Spotlight:

Ben Freitas

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

The way I used to live my life before I gave it to the Lord was all about me and trying to make myself happy. I was deceiving myself and didn't even realize what I was doing. I was so blinded by my sin that I could not see my choices were ruining me and my whole family.

I began to truly understand that God had a plan for me and loved me so much that he gave his son's life for me. I didn't have to live this way. I knew my old life had to fade away so my new life could begin.

Now as the leader of my house, Christ had shown me who I needed to be. My life and family's life became better, but I still felt like I needed to do more because God had done so much for me. Now I offer Him my devotion by reading His Word and going to church every time the doors are open.



Freitas Family: Ben Freitas (back left) with his wife Shirlee and their children.

The Lord led me to get involved with FMM and it has changed my life. My testimony and experiences have given me an opportunity to share and help others in a place where they feel trapped, lost, and forgotten. I am able to show others that we have to die to ourselves daily and empty out all the skeletons in our closet so the Lord can resurrect us to make room for Him. He will make us new and fill us up with His spirit.

I have a brand new life now and anyone else who submits to the Lord and truly

repents can find the same fulfillment. I have found a true happiness through Jesus Christ that hasn't left me yet and never will, no matter what I go through.

Your faithful support of FMM gives men and women hope at a time in their lives when they feel they have no hope. I have been blessed to hear inmates say firsthand they are experiencing empathy, forgiveness, or hope for the first time in their lives. FMM helps to break the cycle of bad decisions and helps lead the lost from darkness into light.

"I was at rock bottom when God came into my life. FMM showed me that God is real and that regardless of how low a person has come, there is always hope in Christ."

- **Mark**

"I am in the last 90 days of my sentence and am so eager to get out, rejoin the community and be an ambassador of Jesus Christ. The impact FMM has had on my life is greater than words can express!"

- **Sean**

"Living without Christ just isn't an option for me now. I know without a doubt that Jesus is in my heart. I would have never said that before I came to jail."

- **Penny**

"Every time a new Bible study arrives, it is like getting a Christmas gift. I am so excited! God has used these studies to draw me to Him and know Him as the one true God."

- **Larry**



Unlocking Hearts

with your support

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



Cooperation: An Answer to Jesus' Prayer

by
Rev. Nate DeWard,
Executive Director

Our ministry thrives through cooperation. Local churches and Christian organizations work with us and make up a significant portion of our funding and volunteer base. The body of Christ is diverse and beautifully embodies Jesus' words in John 17:20-23: *"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me....May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* Our cooperation is an answer to Jesus' prayer!

Our Daily Bread Ministries (ODB) has been an important partner for many years. Their devotionals are an essential

Bible study resource for inmates. In fact, ODB distributes 3.5 million copies of the "Our Daily Bread" devotional in jails and prisons globally. ODB is designing a special "Our Daily Bread" devotional for jails and prisons with the help of Forgotten Man Ministries. We will begin distributing the custom edition in our 34 jails later this year.

Tyndale House Publishers has sold FMM Life Recovery Bibles at a special discount for our work in the jails. In response to our Spring Appeal, you gave over \$20,000 to support our chaplain's work with these Bibles. Because of this, we are able to increase our distribution of these Bibles and train volunteers on how to use this Bible and recovery studies effectively. This is the best Bible for men and women in jail.

We are grateful for you! You make ministry happen through your regular giving. We know there are many demands on your time and budget. It gives me great joy to know that you've read this and that you support our chaplains in Michigan county jails. If you want to tell me why you support FMM, drop me a line by email at ndeward@forgottenman.org. It would be my privilege to say thank you even more personally. God bless you and all of our brothers and sisters who are a part of Forgotten Man Ministries.



FMM chaplains tour Our Daily Bread Ministries.

Announcing the Grayline Project

In our last newsletter (Winter 2019), we shared that our Board and leadership are focused on cultivating Sustainable and Strategic Growth. This led us to work with chaplains on county-specific sustainable ministry plans and prioritize new ministry opportunities. Presently, FMM is in 34 of Michigan's 83 counties.

Since then, we have re-examined how our ministry is most reproducible in new settings. We identified that our network of volunteer training, volunteer management, and restorative resources add value to jails in Michigan. We asked, "What if we packaged our volunteer training software, volunteer management software, and restorative resource

network and offered it to other jails?" With that, the Grayline Project was born.

Over the next six months, FMM will be researching how to enhance jail ministry in Michigan through the Grayline Project.

Sheriffs and jail administrators care deeply about the safety and security of their facilities and the people in their jails. Imagine if sheriffs around the state could enhance the safety and security of their facilities through well-trained and well-managed volunteer programs and restorative resources. And imagine if more inmates could also be positively impacted through these programs, supported by Christians who care about

them, and teaching them how to live in fellowship with God and flourish in relationships.

The **Grayline Project** is the vehicle to develop volunteer training, management tools, relationships, and resources in a way that can be packaged and reproduced in jails around Michigan. We especially encourage non-FMM counties to go to graylineproject.com to sign up for periodic updates.

GRAYLINE PROJECT

Visit graylineproject.com to sign up for periodic updates.

Save the Date!

Beauty for Ashes



Join Us
for the Forgotten Man Ministries Fundraising Banquet in your county.
www.forgottenman.org

"To all who mourn, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes."
Isaiah 61:3



Your Help Is Needed!

We are seeking table hosts and sponsors for our events.
Would you consider helping in these critical roles?
Contact your local chaplain or email us at events@forgottenman.org.

FALL BANQUET SCHEDULE

Our annual banquets provide an uplifting opportunity to hear how FMM has reached the hearts and souls of inmates in your local jails. It's a time to gather with community members and experience how your support has impacted lives. We look forward to seeing you there!

DATE	COUNTY	DATE	COUNTY
Sept. 12	Barry	Oct. 15	Lake
Sept. 19	Benzie	Oct. 17	Tuscola
Sept. 26	Ottawa	Oct. 17	Clinton
Oct. 1	Newaygo	Oct. 22	Saginaw
Oct. 3	Eaton	Oct. 24	Genesee
Oct. 3	Lapeer	TBD	Muskegon
Oct. 10	Cass	Oct. 29	Van Buren
Oct. 10	Ingham	Nov. 7	Livingston

FMM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pictured (left to right): Jay Kuiper, Herb Lantinga, Kristen Aidif, Bob Ellis, Linda Haveman, Dave Ellis, Matt Antkoviak, Dan Helmholdt, and Rev. Nathan DeWard.



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FMM Counties in Michigan



Accreditations and Affiliates

