



THE GOOD NEWS

From Crossroads Connection Omaha

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Mission

Crossroads Connection is a community of faith in support of prisoners, those released, and their families, because God's grace is extended to all.

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Parable of the Mustard Seed

Like a mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds in the ground, when sown it grows up to become the greatest of all garden plants. **Mark 4:31-32**

President's Message

Crossroads functions and develops with your support, of individuals and congregations. I want to hold up here two activities which have been maintained so faithfully since their inception that they have become part of our fabric: driving a bus and teaching a class series.

Without use of a 25-passenger bus we would need over twice as many transportation sponsors every Sunday to bring inmates to our worship. The generosity of Presbyterian Church of the Master, which allowed use of their bus, and their four members who volunteered to take turns driving as sponsors has been a blessing. When the bus became unreliable, Crossroads found support for purchase of a replacement, acknowledging how critical a bus had become to us.

Without Mike Halvorson's initiative, volunteer recruitment, and continuing involvement, the faith-based financial education of inmates in the Omaha prisons would not have happened. Getting approval was challenging. Inmates and staff are pleased with the course and the volunteer small-group leaders.

While the bus was retired and Mike has moved to Colorado for a new job, others will maintain the work. If you feel a call to minister in a new way to those transitioning back from prison to citizenship, please contact Diane or me to get more involved. You'll be glad you did.

With thanks, Jim

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Financial Peace University - In the summer of 2012, Crossroads Connection began offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University course to inmates at the Omaha Correctional Center. Classes were held in February, May and August this year. The objective of the course is to teach the inmates skills for sound financial management - a concept that is new to many of them. Some of the lessons include relating with money, budgeting and cash flow management, dealing with debt and credit, insurance, and retirement. As Jim mentioned in his message, Mike Halvorson has moved to Colorado Springs but this vital program continues. Crossroads can utilize more volunteers for more classes at the Omaha Community Corrections Center-Omaha and the Omaha Correctional Center. Volunteers must pass a background check and must attend two orientation classes. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact our website and direct your inquiry to one of the officers at www.crossroadsconnectionne.org. Financial donations are always needed and appreciated. Books for the course are \$15.00 and the course program is \$235.00. Thanks to all who are already a part of the Crossroads Financial Peace ministry. This program is crucial toward helping inmates transition back into society and gives them skills to go forward and not reoffend.



Meet Matt –

I wanted to take this time to say a quick hello and introduce myself to all of our partners and friends. My name is Matthew Anselmo and I am the Life Manager for Crossroads. We have made a commitment to help men transition out of prison and back into society. We provide an in-house transitional program, clothing, food, counseling services and employment opportunities. I have now been with Crossroads for 6 months. My previous experience working in local law enforcement and being familiar with both the state and federal correctional systems gives me the opportunity to help these men build a positive foundation for their future. I look forward to working with all of you and if you have any questions or would like to know more about our Life Program please give me a call at [402-779-9642](tel:402-779-9642). God Bless. Matt

Crossroads Wish List – it takes a great many partners and volunteers to make Crossroads viable, with it all starting at the Sunday service worship. Preachers/speakers at 6:00 P.M. and the fellowship dinner at 7:00 P.M. None of this can happen unless we have transportation sponsors to get our folks from and to the Community Corrections Center (often referred to as the work release center) in a timely fashion. In order to be a transportation sponsor, an individual needs to have a little training on the rules (about an hour session) and pass a background check. Because our numbers change week-to-week, we are never sure exactly how many transportation sponsors we need but it generally runs 8 to 10. Our **need and wish** is that we have a large enough pool to draw from so that we have 8 to 10 sponsors a week available and by having a large enough pool an individual would only have to transport once a month or as often as they wish. Mary Ann Fox and Anne Carroll, board members, coordinate the transportation sponsors and would be willing to answer any questions. We realize that at first thought it can be a somewhat scary and daunting undertaking. Any of the present transportation sponsors would be willing to have you ride along some evening to the church and attend the service.

Thank you from the program coordinator – The needs of the Crossroads Wish List are ongoing. I am taking this time to express my heartfelt thanks the Carroll's, the Scott Lamb Family, the John Rohwer Supper Group, the Central

Supper Group, GEM/Bible Study Group (sing and serve), Westminster Supper Group and James Almond, all of whom made possible one or more fellowship meals when the need arose and this year the need arose frequently. Working with all of you continues to be a blessing to me. If you have any questions, please give me a call at [402-516-2403](tel:402-516-2403). Blessings. Diane

Clothing Ministry – as Matt mentioned above, we provide gently used clothing and household items, linens, etc. for our men in housing. Earlier this year we put out a call for items and when you ask you receive and we are still receiving and we thank you. We now have two rooms designated for our clothes closet and board member Carol Chereck maintains those rooms and the items in them. A shout out to Carol, who has spent many days organizing and caring for the closets.

**We don't change the message,
The message changes us.**

**GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME
ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD**

Give Hope

Your financial contributions make it possible for Crossroads Connection Omaha to continue its Faith-driven ministry in support of prisoners, those released, and their families, because God's grace is extended to all. Crossroads is a Nebraska nonprofit 501(c)(3) and gifts are tax-deductible.

Visit our website to make a secure online donation or mail it to our address in the enclosed envelope.