

# The Milwaukee Outreach Center



JUNE 2006

## Someone Cared

Finding meaning in life and work is the purpose of our Phoenix Life Skills class. This is an intensive one-week course for people going through hard times while searching for employment.

**Trish Lofton** found The Milwaukee Outreach Center (TMOC) through an internet search. She noted, "I've been in Milwaukee 34 years and I didn't know that you existed. I'm impressed that you care and reach out to people who are looking for work. This is a beautiful center that is filled with kindness and surrounded by nature and awesome trees."

She recently came back to faith through the prayers of her daughter. "Christ is now a part of my everyday routine. I read His Word, seek His will and worship at Christian Faith Fellowship Church," Lofton said. Her dream is to be in television or radio production.

Lights came on for **Wadiyyah Thomas** during the third day of the class. Up to that point she found it boring. She then said, "I opened my eyes and saw that all of this was for good and a way to better myself and my kids." Thomas had no choice in coming to Phoenix. This was part of her agreement with her probation officer.

"Once I was here," Thomas continued, "I began to learn about myself and the skills I will need for a full-time permanent job, an apartment and how to stay on the legal path."



When **Mindy Meyers**, a former gang member, walked into TMOC she thought, "This is going to be a tough place." By the second day she was amazed and overwhelmed, saying: "I saw God in each one of the staff and in the teachers. You didn't have to tell me your stories. I saw your stories."

Referred by the Wisconsin Nazarene Compassionate Center, Mindy's goal is to learn a better way of living as a Christian in recovery. Today she is reaching out to others and offering them the same forgiveness that she has received from God. Her mission is to demonstrate, motivate and encourage faithfulness for others. Her goal is to train as a paralegal and help the homeless and addicts.

**Julie Jones** found herself calling out to God with tears. She was at a low point in her job search and after praying she had an idea to look in the Yellow Pages and came across TMOC in the employment section.

She called and learned that TMOC helped people discover their God-given gifts and abilities. "When I heard the mention of God I said, 'This is for me.' It is very unusual to hear God mentioned so openly and freely when you are searching for work," Jones said.

Driving up from Oak Creek for the first day of class was difficult. She observed "that it was a humbling situation for everyone in the class. Larry Liebe was the perfect teacher in putting us at ease and by the end of the day we were glad to be there." She is trusting the Lord to bring her to just the right clerical position where she can model, encourage and nurture justice for others.



# Cornerstone Church Expands Its Vision and Reach



Joe Stillone, Pastor  
Cornerstone Church in Grafton

Cornerstone Church of Grafton is growing with its community. Now in their fortieth year of ministry, this Evangelical Free Church 16 miles north of Milwaukee is actively engaged in missions and is set to build new facilities. This month we would like you to meet their pastor, Joe Stillone.

## *How does your church encourage people to become involved in missions?*

In recent months we have been focusing on the Katrina effort and have sent two different teams to the Gulf Coast. We highlight in our services what God is doing through and in our members who have gone on these trips. For those who have gone on these trips, a fire has been ignited in them and we want this to spread throughout our church.

As an example, one of the team members now wants to pursue fulltime ministry and is beginning his education this summer.

Another team member, after coming back from Katrina, wants to have greater involvement in ministry.

One young team member, who before coming to Christ spent time in jail, tearfully encouraged the church to continue to reach people for Christ.

## *What do you see as the greatest challenge for Milwaukee and our community?*

I believe the greatest challenge is the wide-spread problem of broken families.

## *What things do you believe have contributed to the vitality of Cornerstone?*

What happens on Sunday mornings stokes the spiritual fire in people's lives. We value relevant biblical messages and worship that enables people to sense and experience the Lord. The next step is

for people to be a real part of the community through small groups and personal ministry. We are a church of about 200 people, and in recent months many new families have visited who have heard about what's happening here.

## *What are some of your missions goals for this year?*

Most of our ministry focus and energy is currently being directed toward construction of the new building and getting ready for the evangelism and outreach opportunities associated with a move to a new location and a new worship and ministry facility.

## *Please tell us about your relationship with The Milwaukee Outreach Center and why you support this ministry.*

We believe in what TMOC is doing and see your work as part of our Great Commission work. We also have a long standing relationship with TMOC through Mike Rintelman, a long-time member and elder of our church.



After providing helping hands in New Orleans, team members from Cornerstone Church pause for a picture with a homeowner.



Before going to work in the Ninth Ward, Katrina relief workers from Cornerstone Church put on safety masks to protect themselves from mold and dust.

## Looking for Direction in 2006?

- Are you searching for answers?
- Wondering what God's plan for you might be?
- The Phoenix Life Skills program teaches people who they really are and how to find meaning in life and work.
- This is an intensive one-week 40 hour course designed to motivate and empower individuals to achieve personal and financial goals.



### Dates:

July 17 – 21  
October 9 – 13

August 28 – September 1  
December 4 – 8

### Time:

8:45 AM – 4:00 PM (lunch provided)

Register: Call The Milwaukee Outreach Center at 414-760-0334.



# Count On Me!

Phoenix Life Skills Class  
graduates (April 29, 2006).



## Today I'm enclosing:

\_\_\_ My monthly commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ A special offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## I would like to...

- be a Phoenix volunteer
- be a mentor for a Phoenix student
- attend the Phoenix Life Skills program
- be a receptionist/office volunteer
- register for the Golf Scramble (August 23)
- visit with a Christian counselor

## News That *Travels*

### *Congratulations to Our Graduates!*

On May 13 our two outstanding interns from Concordia University graduated. We pray God's richest blessings upon Angie Miller and Melissa Whiting for this great accomplishment in their lives.



Angie Miller,  
Master of Social Work



Melissa Whiting, Bachelor  
of Social Work (with her  
beau, Alex Lamkin)

### *William Hope, Director of Development*

#### Lake Michigan Dinner Cruise

The Princess II is no longer sailing from Milwaukee harbor. The July 14 TMOG Classic Cruise has been canceled and a new benefit dinner will be announced in the near future.

Ministry Expo/Elmbrook Church (April 29-May 7). TMOG was represented at this year's Ministry Expo at Elmbrook Church. The Expo is dedicated to community and world engagement with 45 groups in attendance.

Urban Expo/Northbrook Church (May 20-21). Will Hope represented TMOG at this year's Urban Fest. The Northbrook Church also visited many urban ministries in Milwaukee during their Urban Fest.

### *Bill Lange, Director of Phoenix Life Skills*

Bill Lange attended the annual Prison Fellowship Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 6. Lange is also an active member of Prison After-Care Network (PAN) in reaching out to ex-offenders through employment services.

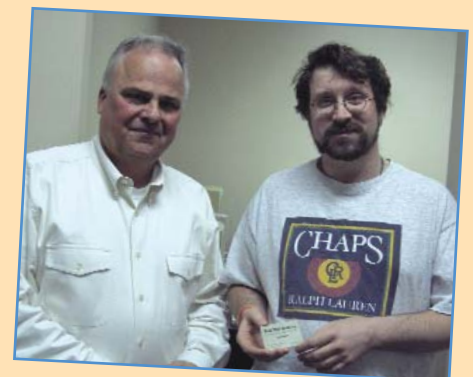
## Why I Volunteer

### *Fred Koehler, Senior Loan Officer, Amerihome Mortgage*

Fred Koehler advises students in the Phoenix program not to expect change over night. He tells them, "When negative habits are formed, they are hard to break. If you will turn to God and be patient, then change will take place first on the inside and then on the outside."

Koehler is a regular Phoenix speaker. His greatest joy is "to watch the lights go on" as he speaks. His concern, however, is what takes place after the week-long classes are over. "Each one must take the necessary steps in applying what they have learned in class," says Koehler.

If you would like to be a volunteer and make a difference in someone else's life, call Bill Lange, Director of Phoenix Life Skills at 414-760-0334.



Fred Koehler (left) with Phoenix student Mike Murphy.

# Inside



Someone Cared



Cornerstone Church  
Expands Its Vision  
and Reach



Why I Volunteer



News That Travels



Count On Me!

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*Penetrating Lives for  
Lasting Change.*

The Milwaukee Outreach Center | 414.760.0334 | Fax 414.760.0399 | www.tmoc.org | email: tmoc@tmoc.org



Michael Rintelman  
*Executive Director*

## Executive Director's Update

What a great feeling it is to be able to say, "Somebody cares!" It is what makes life worth living. Knowing that people care about us gives us hope, confidence and security that we are not facing this world alone. It is also a great assurance to know that there is a God who cares for those who place their trust in Him. People who care are not necessarily concerned about

what we want, rather they are more concerned about what we need. Jesus was a great example. When the rich young ruler came to ask Him what he needed to do to obtain eternal life, after a brief discussion, Jesus told him what he did not want to hear and missed out on what he needed most.

As we look toward Father's Day, I hope that all of us dad's make it a priority to let our children know that we care. That we care about their successes as much as we care about their struggles. That even in the not so nice times, they know dad cares. And not only does dad care, but that our Father in heaven cares even more. A child's view of God is greatly influenced by how much their father cares – in both words and actions. When our actions as a Dad are guided by the work of the Holy Spirit, there is no limit to what God can do through us for our children.

It is unfortunate when there is no one that genuinely cares about what is best for us. As we have highlighted in our newsletter, God has entrusted students to us that we are called to care for. I want to invite you to participate with us in caring for those who come to us. Please consider becoming a volunteer and sharing with our students. It is my prayer that all of us are on someone's list when they are asked the question, "Who is it that cares for you?"

Jesus said, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

