



Special Easter Edition

MARCH 2005

Times are Hard and There is Hope

Right now times are hard for many people in the inner city and they need a ray of hope from God's people. Biblical hope is able to look at hard times or an impossible situation and draw on the confidence that God is bigger than anything we may face. He draws along side people because He loves them and has a plan for their lives.

God is even bigger than death. This is what makes the Easter story so powerful. Without the resurrection, the story of Jesus has a meaningless ending. With the resurrection, however, sin and death are defeated. On the first Easter Sunday two men were walking on the Road to Emmaus talking about their disappointments (*Luke 24:28-35*). Another traveler joined their conversation and explained why the Messiah should suffer for the sins of the world. Soon they sat down for a little lunch and at the moment the bread was blessed, these two men recognized that this man was Jesus who had been raised from the dead.

Afterwards these men said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (*Luke 24:32*) Oddly, it is during difficult times that most of us make friends with hope. This is why The Milwaukee Outreach

Center is strategically placed in the city. Our Christian message penetrates all of our programs so people can look at hard times or impossible situations and draw on the confidence that God is bigger than anything we may ever face. He draws along side of us because He has a plan for our lives.

The Easter story is a very detailed story that follows the theme of three. Jesus prayed three times in the Garden. He took three disciples into the inner part of the Garden to pray with Him. He was tried by three men – Caiphas, Herod and Pilate. Peter denied Him three times. Three times Pilate pronounced Him not guilty. There were three crosses. The inscription on the cross was in three languages. While on the cross, He prayed to the Father three times. At this same time three hours of darkness covered the earth. He was in the tomb for three days. After the resurrection, He reinstated Peter three times. God's plans are always intimate and purposeful.

Our Celebration of Hope is March 19 (the Saturday before Palm Sunday). We still need volunteers to help serve an Easter meal and share the Easter message with the 800 guests we anticipate for this event. Please come. See inside for details.

Lights Come on for Phoenix Graduates

"I came out of a really difficult past and a lot of my struggles were a result of my thinking," said Jonathan Hilson. Hilson was one of nine students who completed The Milwaukee Outreach Center's Phoenix Life Skills Program on January 28. This 40 hour course explores passion, mission and priorities for success in life and in the workplace.

Hilson came to The Milwaukee Outreach Center to see how Phoenix could be incorporated into the programming at his church. He attends Eastbrook Church in Milwaukee. "Phoenix



Larry Liebe extends a friendly hand during one of his sessions. A total of four teachers and five speakers led the January Phoenix Life Skills Program.

"Phoenix helped me to see that I needed something new – a different route, a different road to travel." At first glance, Rovon Johnson (24) appears to be an intimidating ex-football player (which he is) but when you get closer to him, he is really a nice guy.

In fact, a major turning point in Johnson's life happened when in a moment of self-discovery, he said to himself: "You know what? I'm really a nice guy!" When in Chicago at the age of 16, he was shot in the back. He went through years of bitterness and allowed himself to be stereotyped as a bully and thug. Then he had his moment of discovery.

The most important Phoenix session for Johnson during the week was "The Clearing of the Lens." He said, "I recognized that I made many problems and then magnified them to the point where I stressed about them. I was raised to think that living in the ghetto was always the way it was going to be. This thinking was a smudge

could become a foundation for our Career Path Restoration (CPR) program. We provide practical steps for job search and resume writing but we have not addressed the negative things people need to overcome about not working," observed Hilson. He continued, "Phoenix addresses the issues about attitudes, beliefs, values and feelings I have about myself and others."

When asked if there was a specific point in the week when the lights came on, Hilson replied: "This week has been like a dimmer switch when the lights came up slowly as we talked about the ways we think and the paradigm shifts in our lives. The full effect hit me when we began to write our life's mission statement."

"What kind of person would benefit from Phoenix?" was the final question for Hilson. He answered, "Those who are ready for Phoenix are the ones who have decided that they are ready for change. They must truly want to be transformed in their minds according to *Romans 12:2: 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds...'*" Hilson concluded, "A person must have a made up mind that is willing to do whatever it takes to have change."

The next two Phoenix classes begin March 7 and April 18. Check the box in the "Count On Me" section to receive information about these classes.

on my lens because God has not set in stone for me to stay in the ghetto, be poor, struggle and have unending hardship."

Johnson's immediate goal is to be a good provider for his daughter Raviann (5). He wants to finish his GED and needs a tutor to help in the area of math.

His long term goal is to attend Milwaukee Area Technical College or Kendall College in Chicago for culinary arts and business management. One day he wants to operate his own restaurant and help others.



Nine students graduated in the first Phoenix class of 2005. (Front left to right): Andrea Adams, Sandie Tews. (Back left to right): Anthony Adams, Tobias Anderson, Jonathan Hilson, Eddie Sparkman, Jr., Rovon Johnson, Ronald Moseley, Gary Wells.



A great feature of The Milwaukee Outreach Center is that it is located on a main bus line. Rovon Johnson (left) and Eddie Sparkman, Jr. came each day to the Phoenix Life Skills Program on the bus.



Gary Shoults shows his class how to complete their personality profiles at the end of the first session.

Count On Me!

To show hope to those in need, I'm enclosing:

- A Celebration of Hope offering
___ 10 meals (\$30) ___ 20 meals (\$60) ___ 30 meals (\$90)
Total \$ _____
- My monthly commitment of \$ _____
- A Special Easter offering of \$ _____

Please send me information about:

- Celebration of Hope Outreach (March 19)
 Phoenix Life Skills Program (March 7-11)
 Phoenix Life Skills Program (April 18-22)
 Christian Counseling Ministry
 Monday Bread Ministry



Sisters enjoy their dinner at Celebration of Love on Thanksgiving while their mother volunteered as a table host.

Volunteers are needed for Celebration of Hope on March 19. To help, call TMOc at 414-385-2233.

Bread and the Bread of Life

Every Monday at noon 40 to 70 people come to The Milwaukee Outreach Center for free bread. Idella Nikolaus along with other women from the Milwaukee Genesis Chapter of Aglow have been giving bread for the body and soul since 1997.

Each week Nikolaus has brought bread from her local grocery store in Hales Corner and her Bible. After reading Scripture and presenting a short message, people have responded for prayer and counseling. There have been testimonies of healings, successful operations, jobs found, lost ones coming home, and most of all, changed lives. "It is very heartwarming when some say they come just to hear the Word of God even if they don't need the bread," said Nikolaus.

In February of this year the format for the bread ministry was changed so a greater number of partnering churches could become involved with The Milwaukee Outreach Center. Here's how your church can become involved:

1. Commit to a Monday for your church group to conduct the bread ministry. If possible, take the same Monday for each month.
2. Bring 6-10 men and women from your church to conduct the program (10:30 am – 1:00 pm). Youth groups can sign up for the summer months.
3. Be sure to make a clear presentation of the Gospel and provide opportunities for prayer and counseling. Jesus said, "I am the

bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst" (John 6:35).

4. Distribute the bread and bakery items in an orderly fashion.
5. For more information check the box in the "Count On Me" section.

The core leadership for the bread ministry has come from four members of the Milwaukee Genesis Chapter of Women Aglow. (Left to Right): Sandy Schrank, Lucille Stahl, Idella Nikolaus, Marian Montgomery.



Each Monday morning for the past nine years Idella Nikolaus of Women's Aglow has led the bread ministry at The Milwaukee Outreach Center.

Celebration of Hope • March 19, 2005

To sign up and volunteer for Celebration of Hope fax, email or call The Milwaukee Outreach Center. Fax: 414.385.2230 Email: tmoc@tmoc.org Phone: 414.385.2233 with the following information: Name and age of each volunteer (adult/teen/child over 10), your address, phone number and email address.

Easter Week

March 19	Celebration of Hope at TMOc
March 20	Palm Sunday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter Sunday


E-Bay Success

The Milwaukee Outreach is looking for musical instruments that might be collecting dust around your house. We have a way of turning these old instruments into money. As an example, a somewhat tarnished trombone netted \$250 on E-Bay to further the ministries of The Milwaukee Outreach Center.


Please phone our office at 414.385.2233 so we can discuss your donation. Other items of value will also be considered. We can usually arrange for pick up at your home.



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Fax 414.385.2230

www.tmoc.org

email: tmoc@tmoc.org

724 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

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The Milwaukee
OUTREACH CENTER



Michael Rintelman
Executive Director

Executive Director's Update

Several years ago Bill Hybels, Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, wrote a book *Too Busy Not to Pray*. He focused upon our tendency to fill our lives with busyness and to neglect the discipline of prayer. And should this surprise us? When crises come, we pray:

"Lord, help us!" In good times we forget how He has so mercifully sustained us in response to our prayers and the prayers of others.

God desires us to be people of prayer. Our day at The Milwaukee Outreach Center begins with our staff gathering for prayer.

We submit our day to God's will, we ask for protection for this ministry, we pray that He blesses each of you and your families, and we ask that all of us, both staff and volunteers, be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit throughout our day. We do not take His goodness for granted. This is vital if we are to remain open to the work and leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

As a ministry staff, we desire to be people of prayer and want you to join with us in this most blessed privilege that God gives us. To approach His throne in prayer and to have our prayers heard is one of the greatest privileges we have in being a part of God's family through Jesus Christ. Jack Ronzio, a faithful servant and friend

of The Milwaukee Outreach Center, leads our prayer team. Please consider joining with us in one of three prayer levels. First, pray for us. Secondly, we would like you to become a member of our prayer team. Thirdly, we would like to pray for your requests and rejoice with you through answered prayer in your life. To participate with us, please fill out the information in the "Count on Me" section and send it to us. God is pleased when His people come together in prayer!

