

The Milwaukee Outreach Center



MAY 2005

Good Leaders Lead

A quick glance at census data shows that 96% of Wisconsin's growth these past ten years has been urban. This creates a huge challenge for civic leaders and leaders of churches and ministries.

Early Christians compared the church to a ship with Christ as its helmsman. Using Isaiah 18:2 ("send ambassadors by the sea"), these early Christians said: "*The sea is the world in which the Church is surrounded by storms like a ship on the sea, but it does not flounder because it has on board the experienced pilot, Christ.*" One of the tombs of an early Christian shows Christ as the pilot with His left hand on the rudder and His right hand stretched out in command.

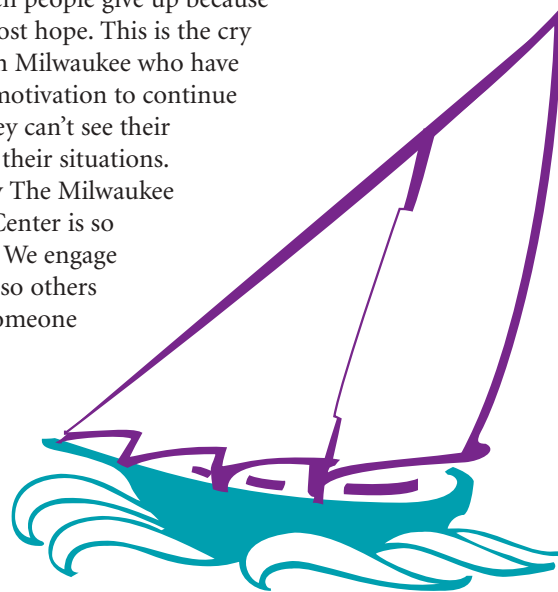
We have a command to love our neighbor and lead him or her to be a true follower of Jesus. This isn't always easy and requires leaders who are willing to submit themselves to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

This newsletter introduces you to the leaders of The Milwaukee Outreach Center and some of the challenges we face. We believe Jesus brings lasting change to a person's life and we have three strategies that guide us:

- 1 Help people come to terms with questions of ultimate ends: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in life? Who is God? How can I know Him?
- 2 Help people fit with others in order to make a difference in society. Link them with a local church, help them find employment and counsel them to care for their family.

- 3 Draw people into a process of reflection on the ethical standards in Christian action and the ethical aspects of their daily lives. Our challenge is to inspire people with values that fill their interior lives which become positive expressions in their daily actions.

All too often people give up because they have lost hope. This is the cry for many in Milwaukee who have very little motivation to continue because they can't see their way out of their situations. This is why The Milwaukee Outreach Center is so important. We engage in mission so others can have someone to live for.



"The sea is the world in which the Church is surrounded by storms like a ship on the sea." The Milwaukee Outreach Center makes a difference in the city surrounded by Lake Michigan.

Progress Comes Slowly for Phoenix Graduate

What happens to our Phoenix Life Skills graduates? We recently interviewed Thomas Hartman (35), a September of 2003 graduate of Phoenix. The Milwaukee Outreach Center (TMOC) sponsors this free week-long, forty-hour class for people working through personal and employment issues. The next class will be June 6-10, 2005.

Thomas, please tell us how you found out about the Phoenix Life Skills program.

I found out about the program while I was incarcerated. I wrote to the prison ministry at Elmbrook Church and they referred me to this program. Upon my parole, while a resident of the Bridge Halfway House, I contacted The Milwaukee Outreach Center to participate in the program.

After you completed the program, what steps did you take to find employment?

The biggest thing I did was to keep submitting resumes and filling out applications. I worked with Bill Lange at TMOC on a regular basis by conducting internet searches, faxing resumes and calling people. I just kept contacting potential employers and accepted the temporary job placements even though I was overqualified for many of these jobs. Some of this was very mundane and repetitive work, but I kept taking whatever was offered to me and made the best of it. Eventually opportunities opened up for me to work in an office environment. By being persistent, diligent and prayerful, doors opened up.

Last June I was offered a temporary position at Concentra Medical Centers through Manpower (a temporary employment agency). While at Manpower, I received their Circle of Excellence award. As a result of this, Concentra created a part-time position in their billing department to keep me employed when I returned to school in the fall. Due to recent circumstances, I'm no longer in this position.

What led you to enroll at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee?



I enrolled because I knew that a college degree was essential to my future success. While I was incarcerated, I started correspondence classes toward my bachelor degree through the University of Wisconsin-Superior. I applied to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee because it is located in Milwaukee. It is also a commuter college with an excellent business program. I am working on a degree in business administration with a focus in marketing and finance. I began as a full-time student at UWM in the spring semester of 2004.

Tell us about your commitment to Christ and how this has been a part of your life?

God is and always will be a very important part of my life. My faith



Chaplain Thom McMahan of the Salvation Army (left) met with Tom Hartman at a local restaurant for this interview.

is a very integral part of who I am and that will never change. Without God's assistance, I don't think I would have made it through all of my set backs, hurdles and trials that I have had to deal with. I look to him for my strength and support.

How has TMOC influenced you in your walk with Christ?

One of the biggest ways that the Phoenix Life Skills class helped me was in the session about uncovering your purpose and developing a personal mission statement. Once you identify what God's purpose is for your life you can then set goals that are in line with His purpose. This process gave me a new perspective and focus. Chaplain Thom McMahan of the Salvation Army and a board member of The Milwaukee Outreach Center has also ministered to me. He has walked this road with me from the very beginning through support, correspondence and even rebuke when necessary.

Upon your release, what have been your greatest challenges in making progress in regaining your life?

My greatest challenge is going up against the stereotypes, attitudes and stigmas that are associated with offenders. It seems that no matter how much you want to put your past behind you and move forward, some people don't want this to happen. This can create overwhelming stress and I know that God is there to alleviate this. I could not go forward without His comfort, knowing that He is guiding me by bringing people into my life that are supportive. The Milwaukee Outreach Center has supported me through love, concern, counseling and care. They have encouraged me to keep going forward.

Predominately a commuter campus, UW-Milwaukee is a perfect fit for Tom Hartman. He is in his third year of studies.

continued on bottom of next page

Count On Me!

Walk-A-Thon participants from last year's event stroll past Mitchell Park Domes (near TMOC).



Today I'm enclosing:

- My monthly commitment of \$ _____
- A pledge for the Walk-A-Thon \$ _____
- A special offering for _____ \$ _____

I would like...

- to walk the Walk-A-Thon on May 21
- attend the Phoenix Like Skills program (June 6 - 10)
- information about the Golf Scramble (August 24)
- Christian Counseling Ministry
- to visit with a Christian counselor

Success at Celebration of Hope



Prayer counselors, actors, musicians, cooks and servers all made this year's Easter dinner extra special.

This year's Celebration of Hope (March 19, Saturday before Palm Sunday) included a drama. The setting for this drama was one month after Jesus' crucifixion and involved a Roman centurion's decision about following Jesus.

John Lopac from Brookfield Assembly of God wrote and directed "Extreme Decision." This gave a very unique view of Jesus through the eyes of a centurion and the witness of his servant. The sword fight caught everyone's attention.

After each of the three presentations, a special Easter dinner was served to over 400 guests. The 70 volunteers made this event a great success. A special thanks goes out to the many people who gave generous gifts for this outreach!

John Lopac as Marchus exits stage right during the drama "Extreme Decision."



The Roman centurion (Peter Horn) squares off with his servant (La Vongpatongee) in this year's Easter drama at The Celebration of Hope.

Join US Walk-A-Thon

Saturday, May 21, 2005

Join us for a two-mile scenic walk in Milwaukee followed by a delicious picnic lunch. Our goal is love our city and raise awareness and support for the youth programs.

What You Can Do:

1. Identify friends, co-workers, neighbors and businesses that will sponsor you
2. Be one of the 20 walkers who will raise \$500 in pledges, or
3. Be one of the 20 walkers who will raise \$250 in pledges
4. Walk the Walk-A-Thon

Pledge forms are available. Commemorative T-shirts are given to all participants who raise \$50 and polo shirts for those who raise \$150.



It's not too late to register for this year's Walk-A-Thon on May 21. Call 414.385.2233.

Progress Comes Slowly for Phoenix Graduate (continued)

What advice would you give to someone in your same situation so they would not be misunderstood or mistrusted?

People who are misunderstood or mistrusted shouldn't give up – that's the biggest thing. People are not always going to see things your way. The only thing you have control over is what you do for yourself and you can not control how people choose to respond

to you. If you are walking according to principles and precepts of Christ and you are reestablishing your life according to the rules of your supervision, what other people think of you is of no consequence. This is hard, but what this person says or that person feels isn't important. The only person you need to worry about pleasing is God Himself. Keep doing what you know you need to do whether people respond the way you want them to or not.

Inside



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for Phoenix Graduate



Success at Celebration
of Hope



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THE
Milwaukee
OUTREACH CENTER



Michael Rintelman
Executive Director

Executive Director's Update

The crack of the bat and the voice of Bob Uecker on the radio can mean only one thing for those of us in Wisconsin – the coming of spring and the start of a new baseball season. As a former baseball player in college, this time of year gets me excited as no other time of the year. Please give this old ballplayer a little liberty in making a couple of

correlations between the game of baseball and our walk of faith as Christians.

Baseball has a unique tension. This tension exists because it is both a team and an individual sport. In order to have a successful season, a team has to work together for common goals. Our goal as a team of Christians is to recruit more players for the team and to collectively demonstrate the character, spirit and grace of our coach and model, Jesus Christ. The goal of a baseball team is to put aside individual goals and work together to have a winning season. As a team the number of lives changed for God's glory is the only real statistic we need to be concerned about.

In baseball it is entirely up to each fielder to catch the ball and to throw it to the appropriate base. While batting, each player must stand alone in the batter's box and hit the ball without assistance. Our personal walk with Christ also requires us to stand alone. Our teammates can cheer us on and encourage us, but we alone will give an account of what we do when the ball comes our way.

I am blessed to have such great teammates at The Milwaukee Outreach Center and at my church. I am surrounded with people committed to living out their faith. Our TMOC team consists of Bill Lange, Gary Shoults, Will Hope, myself – and you, our faithful supporters.

As teammates, would you join us for this year's Walk-A-Thon on May 21? Over the years our Walk-A-Thon has raised over \$200,000 for youth programs. Please help make this year's event a huge success! Information on participating as a walker or as a sponsor is located in the center of this newsletter.



TMOC's Team (front): Will Hope (Director of Development); (back left to right): Gary Shoults (Counseling Ministries); Bill Lange (Director of Phoenix Life Skills); Mike Rintelman (Executive Director).