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CONGRATULATIONS DAVE WESLEY

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Throughout his professional career, Dave Wesley has maintained a humble mission of servitude. A dynamic calling of seeing himself in others and being open to God leading him, placed Dave in areas and positions of great influence and leadership.

"Dave looks at people doing the work as being very valuable. He is personal, warm and has shown real interest in our work. He has been a real blessing." Nate DeWard, Executive Director, Reach the Forgotten (Grand Rapids, MI).

Raised in Detroit, Michigan, Dave's passion for baseball led him to play collegiately at Siena Heights University. A left-handed pitcher, to this day his name impressively remains on the school's record board as an Earned Run Average leader.

The qualities which helped make Dave an elite athlete also developed him well into a public-facing career in sales and management. Recognizing his dynamic work ethic and potential as a young hire, employer Federal-Mogul relocated Dave from Michigan to a sales position in Sacramento, CA.





CONGRATULATIONS DAVE WESLEY

Later, his work for Pacific Bell in San Francisco and the East Bay solidified Northern California as where he would build his homestead, and with his wife Kathy Wesley, raise two children. Dave's flourishing career placed him in the epicenter of internet-based activity, and he became involved in the technology industry during a very successful and exciting time of innovation.

However, those economic highs for many businesses were not sustainable and when the dot com bubble finally burst, Dave found himself unemployed. Maintaining composure under pressure, a skill honed from his time as a pitcher, Dave found himself likewise pivoting and changing his life's direction. Returning to school, he received a theology degree from Jessup University and entered ministry full-time. He graduated from being a Board Member at his church to an Administrative Pastor. He was able to grace several churches as a lead Pastor before joining Bayside of South Sacramento (BOSS) church.

A multi-cultural community church, BOSS allowed Dave to dive deep into using his spiritual gifts, including his capacity to lead thoughtful conversations and steward meaningful, Christ-focused relationships. He lamented when his congregates relationally could not be candid or authentic with a church leader, or with one another, often out of shame or guilt. As a pastor his interactions with parishioners led to his heart also desiring to help prisoners.





CONGRATULATIONS DAVE WESLEY

He was working as a Career Coach and pastor at BOSS when the untimely death of its co-founder and leader, Bishop Sherwin Carthen, caused great loss for the entire community. During this difficult time Dave transitioned from BOSS into a position at The Eternity Challenge, a Rocklin-based reentry program that aimed to provide meaningful vocations such as construction and resources to men coming out of incarceration. He began leading Life Skills classes for inmates at Old Folsom prison, and in these classes, he met men wanting to 'figure things out' and get deeper in their own faith. Dave also became familiar with The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) seminary education opportunities being provided the inmates.

He loved helping his students answer questions, such as, "where do I belong?" and, "how do I fit in?" showing them they likely needed to come back to God. Working with his students, the universal connection and authenticity he sought among all people was truly experienced.

The connection that all are desiring of love, purpose and belonging became very evident to him.

His time with the Eternity Challenge introduced Dave to Serving California, which hired him in 2016 to represent Northern California as a Reentry Director. His experience with reentry and The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), including his genuine compassion for inmates and the formerly incarcerated, made him a terrific fit for the position.



CONGRATULATIONS DAVE WESLEY

As our organization's scope grew into Serving USA with a leading national presence, Dave was elevated to Program Director overseeing relationships within our wide community and network of grantee partnerships throughout the country. He also continued to teach at Old Folsom until COVID-19 threw a curveball which curtailed his outreach and classes. Unable to visit in person, he shifted to encouraging his students by speaking with them by phone and meeting with those reentering students in their own communities. Dave's ongoing investments in people demonstrated his unwavering servant's heart, and unshakeable determination.

When Dave received a life-altering leukemia diagnosis with a rather unfavorable prognosis, that determination and incredible faith were on display in a very personal way.

Thinking especially of his expanding family with grandchildren, Dave was driven to beat cancer. In addition to standard treatments, he pursued a very risky bone marrow transplant procedure. Convincing his doctors he would be their 'best patient' and follow all rules and guidelines, they took a chance, and their national search located a matching donor candidate. The transplant and treatments were a very rough time which included lengthy hospitalizations as Dave's immune system was completely depleted medically then restored with healthier donor stem cells. Glory to God for answered prayers, Dave's transplant and recovery were successful, and miraculously he has been in remission since June 6, 2021.

Even while he was battling cancer, Dave continued his work and checked in on his responsibilities as he was able. Throughout his career with Serving USA, he has united his heart interests with his love for Christ and business acumen, and he has been an exceptional resource to all in his care.



CONGRATULATIONS DAVE WESLEY

One of his associates, Josh Jonas, founder and President of Arukah in Livermore, California, shared:

"Arukah has been blessed to receive grants from Serving USA since 2018. During that time, Dave has come alongside me and our organization, becoming both a mentor and a friend. I always look forward to his phone calls, visits, and lunches. Dave is a man of God who loves his family, carries immense wisdom, and is deeply passionate about the work God is doing through the ministries of Serving USA. His guidance has been instrumental in helping me develop Arukah, and I am truly grateful for him. Dave, I hope you enjoy an incredible and well-deserved retirement!"

As news of his upcoming retirement spreads, it is no surprise agencies are recruiting him to join their Board of Directors or volunteer to lead programs, and these duties may come in time.



With new places to go and new stories to write, Dave and Kathy will enjoy much deserved leisurely travel, including embracing Dave's lifelong passion for baseball by visiting remaining Major League baseball stadiums on their Dreams To-Do list.



CONGRATULATIONS DAVE WESLEY

The team and community of Serving USA are thankful Dave has been a major part of our lives for many years and are delighted he and Kathy can fully experience this next life chapter. Congratulations Dave, we look forward to hearing more from you along the way!

https://shusaints.com/sports/bsb/archives/season-records









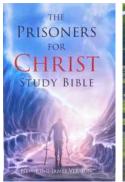


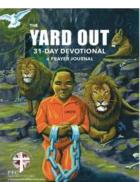
Partner Feature: PRISONERS FOR CHRIST

Prisoners For Christ Outreach Ministries (PFC) of Woodinville, WA, is a ministry dedicated to taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ into prisons locally, nationally, and internationally. Prisoners want to know the truth, so PFC introduces them to the Truth, the Way and the Life by offering materials, mentorship, and meaning. These incarcerated brothers and sisters are, what PFC affectionately refers to as, The Inside Church.

PFC was founded in 1989 by a stockbroker named Greg Von Tobel. The Lord called Greg and his wife, Rhonda, into full-time prison ministry after years of being invited to minister inside a local jail. In 2002, PFC made its first international prison mission trip to Russia. Today, PFC has over thirty pastor partners in over twenty countries who take the Gospel of Jesus Christ into prisons under the PFC banner.

Prisoners For Christ is well-known inside prisons for its **Bible Study Correspondence School** (with over 2,200 inmate students,) as well as its inmate newspaper, **YARD OUT**, which is published three times a year and is mailed to hundreds of facilities around the country. The YARD OUT newspaper publishes testimonies, poetry, and artwork from prisoners who write to the editor. Each year, PFC holds an Inmate Artwork contest and awards the top three winners with cash prizes. These beautiful pieces of artwork are testaments to the hope Christ offers these artists.









Partner Feature: PRISONERS FOR CHRIST

In 2018, Greg Von Tobel started the International Bible Institute, essentially taking PFC's beefy Bible Study Correspondence School and customizing it for prisoners in other countries. PFC has planted six schools in four countries and has graduated four cohorts so far.

The Lord was gracious in giving PFC vision during COVID to convert its core prison volunteer offerings of church services, Bible studies, and outreach concerts into digital formats so Chaplains could offer services inside the closed prisons. God inspired PFC again to step up the quantity and quality of resource material they procure and offer it online for Chaplains to order free-of-charge. PFC's Literature Department has exploded into an entity almost all its own since then. The requests for literature are often overwhelming.

"Good resources are always hard to come by, so we absolutely appreciate the materials that are distributed by PFC. They are not just another 'free resource.' They are thoughtfully designed and attractive to those in need of spiritual help. We have plenty of organizations that are willing to ship us fodder that no one wants. Prisoners For Christ goes the extra mile to make the Gospel desirable. Thanks for all you do!" - Chaplain Ron, Pennsylvania

Two of the most popular literature requests are for the **PFC Study Bible** and the **Yard Out 31-Day Devotional & Prayer Journal**. These PFC publications were created specifically with prisoners in mind; customizing both to minister to the hearts of prisoners. Both are given freely to chaplains and prisoners across the U.S.





Partner Feature: PRISONERS FOR CHRIST

"I received a PFC Study Bible a while back in May. Ever since then, you guys have supplied so many of my brothers in Christ in my pod with Bibles and other Christian literature. I can't explain how grateful and thankful I am for your services. Glory be to God. Everybody is in love with these study Bibles. Thank you so much for equipping us with the Eword." - Kevin R., New Mexico

PFC is excited to announce that its media content will be made available in early 2025 on **The Pando App**. The Pando App is a free Christian app that was created by a few bright minds at God Behind Bars prison ministry out of Nevada. Their app is available on nearly 1 million prison tablets in the U.S. and provides a platform for churches, worship groups, Bible teachers, and various types of ministries to upload their content and make it available to every prisoner who has one of these tablets. Prisoners For Christ will offer up our video church services, Bible studies, and outreach concerts, as well as a "Book of the Month" club where we will rotate a book they can download each month.







Partner Feature: PRISONERS FOR CHRIST

This new venture also begs for new content to be included on the app. Discussions abound at PFC regarding the prospect of podcasts, artist music videos, video devotionals, and many other ideas for the Pando App. The level of excitement cannot be overstated at the chance to reach prisoners IN THEIR CELLS; where they experience the most intimate moments with their Creator; when no one else can hear the tears in their prayers. Prisoners For Christ wants to be there in the prison cells for those seeking Christ in those precious moments.

It's important for prisoners to Know that God has not forgotten them. And neither has PFC.

For more information and offers of support to Prisoners for Christ, please visit their website:

Prisoners for Christ PO Box #1530 Woodinville, WA 98072 Email: volunteer@pfcom.org

Phone: 425.483.4151

https://www.prisonersforchrist.org







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

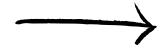
A Christian ministry and nonprofit organization, Serving USA uniquely provides grants, support, and resources to other Christian nonprofit organizations. Their mission is to bring grace and redemption through Christ to Prisoners, Women in Recovery, and Military Veterans. By contributing to exceptional partner groups they assist in creating, enhancing, and expanding high-quality, evidence-based, transformational programs.

Serving USA's annual grant opportunity carefully selects qualified 501(c)3 designated non-profit ministries through a detailed application process and other vetting strategies.

Since 2012 they have proudly donated over \$45 million dollars to deserving groups throughout the country.

Serving USA is pleased to announce the following 2025 partners who will be provided financial sponsorship and support services such as marketing training, mentoring, board development and legal guidance as needed. In addition, selected previous years' grantees who remain as Legacy Partners will continue to receive guidance and advisory support as part of the Serving USA community.

Congratulations to these exceptional ministries.







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Along Side Ministries, (Phoenix, AZ)

Vision: To mobilize the Body of Christ to disciple and equip incarcerated men and women for victorious Christian living. For more information:



Bethesda EC Church, (Schuylkill Haven, PA)

About: Bethesda EC Church is a healing community where God transforms people into His likeness toward unity in the faith. For more information:



Arukah, (Livermore, CA)

Mission: Heping formerly incarcerated and homeless men move forward in life by providing a transitional living environment, job, advocacy, and guidance.

For more information:



The Bridge Restoration Ministry, (Pacific Grove, CA)

About: The Bridge provides support for those struggling with addictions through structure, discipleship, and supervision for the purpose of restoration.

For more information:







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Brookside Community Development Center, (Indianapolis, IN)

Mission: Taking a holistic, Gospel-centered approach to meet the needs of neighborhood residents right where they're at while building relationships and working together toward a collective understanding of the needs of the community. For more information:





Changed Choices, (Charlotte, NC)

About: A not-for-profit corporation of Christ-followers that provides counseling, personal development programs, basic physical needs, transitional assistance, and family support to assure the successful rehabilitation and post-release transition of incarcerated women who have proven themselves committed to making positive, productive, and sustainable choices in their lives.

For more information:

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Community Justice Center, (Fresno, CA)

About: Seeks to cultivate individual and collective well-being, shared accountability, and healing through community-driven research and evidence-based restorative processes, including COSA (Circles of Support & Accountability).

For more information:

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Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Cornerstone New Hope Ministry, (Salinas, CA)

About: Providing essential resources like housing, job opportunities, mentorship, and spiritual guidance, empowering these individuals to reintegrate into society and build meaningful, productive futures.

For more information:



Epiphany Life Change, (Houston, TX)

About: A ministry designed to support men and women on their spiritual journeys after a period spent behind bars, including an emphasis on teaching TUMI (The Urban Ministry Institute).

For more information:



Firm Foundations, (Lenexa, KS)

About: Firm Foundations
Ministries equips men and
women to move from
imprisoned to empowered.
For more information:



Foundation For Women Warriors, (North Hollywood, CA)

About: Established in 1920 as housing association for widows, war nurses, and mothers of fallen service members, today we continue to honor the service of women veterans by empowering their future.

For more information:







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Free On the Outside, (Oregon City, OR)

About: A faith-based organization that provides housing, support, and accountability to people in recovery, people returning home from incarceration, as well as people experiencing houselessness.

For more information:





Freedom Through Education, (Sacramento, CA)

About: Provides members of disadvantaged communities the freedom to a more successful life by expanding the choices they have through services in the areas of education, spirituality, life skills, treatment services, and employment skills. For more information:

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FreedomWorks, (Minneapolis, MN)

About: Focuses on creating a safe and encouraging environment that guides men into new relationships, positive support systems, and Christ-centered studies.

For more information:

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Fresh Coast Alliance, (Muskegon, MI)

About: Transforming the lives of those affected by incarceration and addiction; as we hope, learn, work, heal, and dream together in Christ. For more information:

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God Behind Bars, (Henderson, NV)

Mission: To introduce inmates to Jesus and connect them to the local church.

For more information:



Bethesda EC Church, (Schuylkill Haven, PA)

About: Bethesda EC Church is a healing community where God transforms people into His likeness toward unity in the faith. For more information:



The Bridge Restoration Ministry, (Pacific Grove, CA)

About: The Bridge provides support for those struggling with addictions through structure, discipleship, and supervision for the purpose of restoration.

For more information:







Ma Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

The God of Hope Ministries, (Austin, TX)

About: Provides Christian care and discipleship to men and women incarcerated in Austin and the Central Texas area.

For more information:

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JerNe Ministries, (Houston, TX)

Mission: To be a source of encouragement to women who are disenfranchised and emotionally broken because of incarceration.

For more information:

READ MORE



Kleen Street Recovery, (Vancouver, WA)

Vision: To have an enlightened community where people in all walks of life or in recovery are empowered to succeed and are no longer suffering.

For more information:

READ MORE



Lifeline Global, (Wichita, KS)

Mission: To restore and equip incarcerated men and women to become godly parents so that the generational cycle of incarceration can be broken.

For more information:

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Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

LIFEline University, (Brooksville, FL)

About: Education goes beyond textbooks and classrooms.
Their self-paced, online dynamic and holistic approach to learning blends faith and mental wellness into every facet of the academic journey; nurturing mind, spirit, and overall well-being.
For more information:



New Life Dream Center, (Bethel Island, CA)

About: Emphasizes the importance of treating clients with dignity while helping them reintegrate into society as productive, drug-free individuals.

For more information: `



Mighty Oaks Foundation, (Montgomery, TX)

About: Provides peer-to-peer resiliency and recovery programs that serve as the catalyst to assist our Nation's Warriors dealing with challenges related to the struggles of daily military life, combat deployments, and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress (PTS) offered at no cost, including travel at beautiful ranches across the US.



Oasis Center, (Dallas, TX)

Mission: To provide lifechanging programs and services to first time youth offenders and formerly incarcerated persons. For more information: `







May Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Pathway to Freedom, (Wrightsville, AR)

About: Provides educational, values-based, pre-release services to prisoners, preparing them to reintegrate into society and become productive citizens through pro-social and life skills that will enhance family and social relationships, moral and spiritual development, and employment opportunities.

For more information:





Pillar of Fire Church, (San Diego, CA)

About: A multi-ethnic church that is Christ-centered in bringing fresh hope to everyone by providing a space to hear the word of God.

For more information:

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Powerhouse Ministries, (Folsom, CA)

Mission: To inspire and empower people to rise above their circumstances, change their lives, and impact their community.

For more information:







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Prairie Hills Community Church, (Lusk, WY)

Mission: To help people begin and grow an authentic and enduring relationship with Jesus.

For more information:



Prison Fellowship (The Urban Ministry Institute), (Merrifield, VA)

About: A restorative approach to prisoners, former prisoners, and all those affected by crime and incarceration can make communities safer and healthier. For more information:



Prisoners For Christ, (Woodinville, WA)

Mission: To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to prisoners around the world.
For more information:



Reach the Forgotten, (Grand Rapids, MI)

About: Provides Christ-centered hope and healing through biblically-based, chaplain-led volunteer jail ministries.
For more information:







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

REBOOT Recovery, (Pleasant View, TN)

About: Mobilizing the largest faith-based response to suicide and trauma ever built, doing it one life at a time.

For more information:

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Saint Leonard's Ministry, (Chicago, IL)

About: Empowers formerly incarcerated men and women to lead whole and productive lives.

For more information:

READ MORE



Seminary of Urban Leadership (SOUL)/The Urban Ministry Institute of Topeka, and the Center for Urban Chaplaincy, (Topeka, KS)

About: Trains theologically-sound, Christ-centered, Bible-based, contextually skilled leaders who will win their cities through the victorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. For more information:

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Stir Up the Kingdom Ministries, (Dallas, TX)

About: Ministers to and encourage inmates behind the walls and assists with their transition back into society, while decreasing the recidivism rate, one person at a time. For more information:









Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Tapestry Church, (Oakland, CA)

About: People of many cultures woven together into the fabric of Oakland, California to display the beauty of God's story.
For more information:



Testimony Ministries, (Los Angeles, CA)

Mission: To provide in-prison programs, pre-release support, reentry discipleship, and transitional housing for believers who were and are currently incarcerated.

For more information:



The Training Center, (San Diego, CA)

About: A faith-based residential program for men suffering from substance abuse problems.

For more information:



Turn90, (North Charleston, SC)

About: Combining cognitive behavioral classes, supportive services, transitional work, and job placement to create an opportunity for success after prison where one doesn't currently exist.

For more information:







Serving USA Introduces 2025 Partners

Xtreme SOULutions, Inc., (Ocala, FL)

About: Empowering people to create a future for themselves and their children, building a strong community with moral values, financial stability, and hope for generations to come. For more information:

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Additional insight about Serving USA and these 2025 grantee partners can be found at: <u>www.servingusa.org.</u>

Questions, comments, or concerns can be relayed to info@servingusa.org.



President's Corner



Greg Bruce President, Serving USA

Life has a way of leading us through valleys of devastation, places where hope seems unreachable, and transformation feels impossible. For many, the journey through prison—be it spiritual, emotional or physical becomes a defining chapter of despair. Yet it is often in those darkest moments the light of Christ shines brightest, illuminating a path of redemption and recovery.

As **Prisoners for Christ** shares this month, it is important for people to know that God has not forgotten them. Serving USA's Program Director **Dave Wesley** found his calling walking in-step with them, offering support during their incredible life renovations. This month we reflect on Dave's impactful career and congratulate him on his retirement.

Many of those in our Serving USA community are in need and facing challenges today. Christ's transformative power offers hope to the hopeless, a second chance for those burdened by past mistakes, and a healing touch for wounds that seemed beyond repair. The announcement of our 2025 Serving USA Grantee Partners celebrates ministries who believe in God's provision and are truly making differences in the lives of prisoners, veterans and women in recovery. They offer proof, from the ashes of pain and brokenness; stories and lives of renewal and recovery do emerge. In the year ahead we will continue to share testaments and inspirations our partners witness every day of God's unrelenting grace, and the boundless possibilities of lives rebuilt on His foundation. Thank you for your continued interest, and prayers of support for Serving USA.

Thank you, -Dr. Greg Bruce



Partner Events



February 8th

Arukah 7th Annual Crab/Pasta Benefit Dinner Saturday, February 8th, 4:00PM Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 N. Canyons Pkwy., Livermore, CA 94551

A night of fun and fellowship with friends and supporters includes an incredible crab dinner, pasta, salad and dessert. The evening will include an entertaining live auction, and inspiring stories from current and alumni men who are healing and restoring their lives. Purchase tickets here:





February 5th

His House for Her Wednesday, February 5th, 6:30PM 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472

Partnering with City Light Church, His House for Her will be offering TRAUMA REBOOT for MEN & WOMEN. This 12-week opportunity is perfect for couples who have experienced trauma together or separately AND for any person seeking healing and their support person! Space is limited. Register soon to join Trey & Renee Arnett on this journey. Examples of trauma include losses of any kind, divorces, affairs, natural disasters, community violence, medical diagnoses or incidents like heart attack or stroke, and abuses of any kind. Anything that exceeded your ability to cope is trauma.

There is HOPE after trauma. Find PURPOSE in your pain. MORE INFO & REGISTRATION HERE:





Partner Events



February 13th

SOUL/TUMI Topeka

Women Who've Changed the Heart of the City, Topeka 2025 Thursday, February 13th, 5:30PM

First Church of the Nazarene, 1213 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604

This the Seminary of Urban Leadership's (SOUL) yearly fundraiser and friend-raiser to support classes for incarcerated students and special projects, a beautiful Valentine's event celebrating the work and ministry of women! Help honor women whose work has impacted people affected by poverty and/or incarceration.

5:30-6:30 Networking with Honorees and Friends
6:30 Awards and Presentations
Dinner catered by Sylvia Hopper and Shopper's Kitchen!
Register here at this link:
Womenwhochangeheartofthecity.brownpapertickets.com

Additional questions? Email Mary Flin at maryflin@tumitopeka.org.

