

Providing Grace and Redemption through Christ for Prisoners, Women in Recovery, and Military Veterans

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Monthly Spotlight: **CORNERSTONE NEW HOPE MINISTRY**

Jordan Jeske spent years as an inmate in the California prison system and paroled in 2010. Though he kept involved with church, his firsthand experiences showed him the stigma awaiting convicted felons after release. Stereotypes given to former inmates caused Jordan to struggle to find employment and secure a steady income. Yet, despite the challenges, he was determined to live a life free of drug abuse and criminal activity and vowed he would never go back to prison.

Jordan had a strong faith in Christ to help carry him through, and it was while interning at Calvary Church in Monterey, California, that former warden Randy Grounds convinced him to return to prison, but this time to lead prison ministry. While working in Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP) and California Correctional Training Facility, Soledad (CTF), Jordan befriended many gentlemen, particularly in the TUMI (The Urban Ministry Institute) classes. Many students were serving long sentences, but several had parole dates quickly approaching, and some of them had absolutely no place to go upon their release.

Jordan felt led to offer them a better chance for a smooth reentry and approached his wife Antonette with an idea. He knew it as a calling from God, and his purpose was becoming very clear.

Antonette's extensive career in medicine as a physician assistant included working with emergency room patients, in mental health units, and jails. These encounters in challenging crisis situations had also exposed her to the various



Monthly Spotlight: **CORNERSTONE NEW HOPE MINISTRY**

needs of system-impacted men and women. Even in her personal life and marriage she had experienced walking with Jordan through overcoming the hundreds of barriers he faced upon reentry. Antonette listened to his vision, and quickly agreed they should move forward on starting a ministry.

“I trusted Jordan and I knew how good God is. The redeeming work of Jesus can change and rehabilitate men from who they were in prison.”

Together, in 2018 they officially established Cornerstone New Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting men recently released from prison in reintegrating into society. Their all-encompassing mission is to minister to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of parolees—specifically long-term offenders. Rather than being released to find their own way, a different reentry experience is offered to men in their care through a structured living environment. The Jeske’s open their own family home to support individuals transitioning from incarceration back into society. Living under the same roof, the Jeske home provides stable housing in a traditional setting, where the men see healthy relationships and daily, loving interactions of parents and children modeled, helping facilitate their reintegration.

Jordan and Antonette desire to ensure a different reentry experience and successful reintegration as these parolees build their lives after release from prison.

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Monthly Spotlight: **CORNERSTONE NEW HOPE MINISTRY**

How they achieve their mission focuses on the men's specific needs, following a 'Three-Pronged Approach' as developed by Jordan, who operates as Cornerstone New Hope's founder and director.

This approach includes: 1. Structured living environment. 2. Sustainable work opportunities and 3. Moral rehabilitation.

To provide sustainable vocational opportunities and help men return into the workforce, Jordan established 'Cornerstone Landscaping and Maintenance' which provides local services. In addition, their residents can gain experience in agriculture, aquaponics, sustainable living, and nutrition. Raising chickens and quail, they may also enterprise in apiculture (beekeeping), or plant, grow, and maintain microgreens and ingredients used in health products, such as fresh juices they bottle and sell in their community.

Experiencing moral rehabilitation at Cornerstone New Hope includes continuing education and addressing mental health needs. As they live among the Jeske family, work and meet with members of their church, the men are also provided guidance, mentorship, and community support. The return on investment into transforming the lives of residents who have experienced the grace Cornerstone New Hope provides at such a critical time, has proven exponential gains.



Jordan and Antonette Jeske

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Monthly Spotlight: **CORNERSTONE NEW HOPE MINISTRY**

Jordan admits he has a heart for second chances and shared,

“I really do enjoy working with these guys, working with them directly. A family, building relationships, walking with them and helping them grow...it is an honor and privilege. It is my mission and purpose that I have been given and I cannot imagine doing something else.”

A current resident, Micah, shares how his experience at Cornerstone New Hope is facilitating a bright future which during the heights of his addiction and incarceration he had never thought possible:

“Cornerstone New Hope Ministry has changed my life completely. This program gives opportunities and a future in the life God chooses for you.”

Thankful to God for His continued provenance in their calling, as Cornerstone New Hope looks toward the future and continued growth of their ministry, Jordan and Antonette are leaning into an even bigger vision. As they continue to raise their graduates up to go out into the world and make their own mark, they also intend to impact lives of more residents in their community and are considering ways to meet the needs of affordable housing in their area. They also desire to expand their hydroponic and aquaponic capacity and are building up partnerships with area businesses to make this next vision another reality.

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Monthly Spotlight: **CORNERSTONE NEW HOPE MINISTRY**

For more information on their ministry, to learn about their successful alumni and how to support the Jeske family in their calling with Cornerstone New Hope, please visit their website:

<https://www.cornerstonenewhope.com>



Jordan Jeske, Co-Founder and Director, Cornerstone New Hope Ministry with Dave Wesley of Serving USA

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Questions

Q & A

Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

George Lang, Executive Director of FreedomWorks, leads as an example of a life transformed by Christ. Having served three prison sentences, he knows the struggles of reentry firsthand. George's call to serve men comes from **Isaiah 42:22: "These are my people hidden away in caves, dungeons and prisons with no one to speak for them."** George was raised in St. Paul, Minnesota and currently lives in Blaine with his wife Ana and their children.

1

(Q) Your lived experience lends authenticity to all aspects of FreedomWorks' robust services, influencing your approach as a businessman, to leader and mentor facilitating successful programs, reconciliations and reentry for your clients. What has been the most rewarding aspect of your work leading and developing this ministry over the past 18 years?

(A) Serving others has brought me to see the fulfillment of God's promise stemming from Isaiah 58:6-8. Note the promise in verse 8: "Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth, and His righteousness will go before you and the Glory of the Lord will be your rear guard."

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Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

God pulled me out from a life of destruction, addiction, and from returning to a life of incarceration. Not only have I witnessed the Lord move in my life but in countless lives of those we serve. I have seen firsthand miracle after miracle. People that others wrote off, God was writing new chapters in their story and life.

Explaining how I witnessed time and time again His provision, to see Him advance His vision is indescribable. Maybe that is what He meant in Isaiah 55:11, "So My Word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, succeeding in the matter for what it was sent." Amen to that!!!!



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Questions

Q & A

Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

2

(Q) Looking at the variety of opportunities given to your reentering clients at FreedomWorks, what do you feel are the most critical and impactful services you provide them?

(A) A place of belonging, and acceptance through a community rich in Christ. A safe, encouraging, dignified living, and HOPE. But when we need to provide practical needs: shelter, food, clothing, transportation, treatment services, job readiness and healthy accountability, to name a few... and we gain the permission to speak into their lives, we then earn the trust to build a foundation set on Christ. It is limitless where we can go from there.



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Questions

Q & A

Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

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(Q) For Serving USA's community interested in leading a reentry ministry, what are some suggestions for where their initial focus should be placed in operations, programs or services as they get started?

(A) It starts with a clear vision. Don't get ahead of Him. It has not worked for me yet. Follow His lead. Know He is doing a work in you as He uses you to reach more for Him. Keep humility at the center of serving others. Find strong champions. Establish a prayer group. When bringing on staff member, look to those 'called' individuals... employees become useless. Remember Christ qualifies the unqualified. Learn from other local like-minded organizations. Partner up. Set policies that steer the organization, set standards, and guide others. Programs should not be complicated; provide a clear vision for all who participate.

Don't do participants' work... or work harder than them. Allow them to make mistakes but be encouragers to them, as they learn from them. Not everyone is willing to change. Screening participants is crucial. If they have started the work on the inside (Jeremiah 29:4-7) they probably won't do badly on the outside. Reentry starts before you get out.

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Questions

Q & A

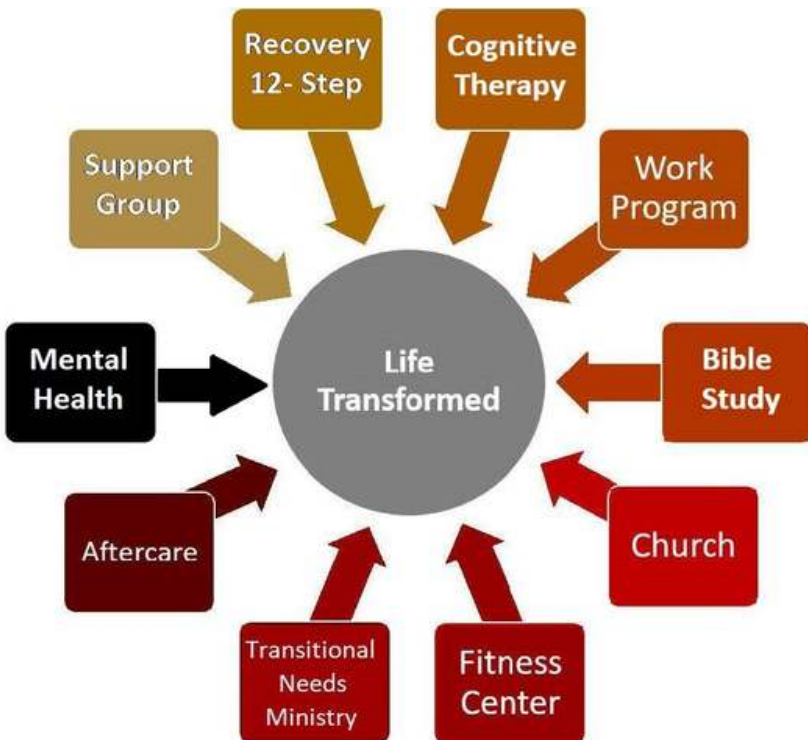
Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

4

(Q) Are handbooks or guides available for them to refer to, or is this something FreedomWorks has considered creating for others to possibly replicate your model?



(A) We have participant and mentor manuals. WE WILL SHARE everything we have learned from our program materials, policies, procedures, Board Development, staff training, etc.

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Questions

Q & A

Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

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(Q) In Minnesota 106,500 people are currently behind bars or under community supervision, lending an incarceration rate of 323 of every 100,000 residents. This is near the national average, and most of these inmates will likely be released into neighborhoods throughout the state. From your perspective what changes in policy or law would most benefit reentering citizens in your community?

(A) *Lesser severity in sentencing for property, no violent crimes.

*More education and job training inside of prisons.

*Create opportunities for earned reduced sentencing for nonviolent offenders, property, drugs, etc.

*Stronger Second Chance legislation.



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Questions

Q & A

Answers



GEORGE LANG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FREEDOMWORKS

6

(Q) How does FreedomWorks engage in advocacy work to support systemic change to create a lasting difference?

(A) Our zip codes 55411 and 55412 have the highest per capita returning offenders. We not only focus on faith, but also a holistic approach to substance abuse disorder, mental health and cognitive therapy focusing on criminogenic.

Discovering where we get permissions to engage in unlawful behavior, we can change thought patterns that may lead to criminal behavior. Breaking systemic poverty is at the core of lasting change.

We find that over 60% of participants lack basic life skills and employment experience. We recently launched our food programs that include Bread of Life (BOL) Food Shelf and JailBreakers Culinary Job Readiness program. Our focus is teaching participants to “Serve Others” through BOL while earning a spot in the JailBreakers program. JailBreakers teaches needed basic and intermediate life skills, while training participants through our 4 Phase on the Job Training courses. As they complete the program, we can refer participants to one of our employment partners in the surrounding communities. The average starting wage is 35% higher than the minimum wage (\$25 hour) and in most cases, it includes benefits.

Testimonial Spotlight

GRIT INTO GRACE



GRIT INTO GRACE

Please see this video featuring women of Grit into Grace, whose founder Stefanie Jeffers states: "If they weren't here, they wouldn't have a place to go."



"I think I'd be dead by now..." These powerful words could have been the end of these women's story—but thank God, they're not. They're living proof that resilience, hope, and faith can overcome even the darkest experiences. Each woman at Grit into Grace has her own unique story of survival that deserves to be heard, honored, and celebrated.

98% of the women Grit into Grace serves struggle with some form of addiction. In one year, 3 of the women in their program overdosed and died.



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Testimonial Spotlight

GRIT INTO GRACE



GRIT INTO GRACE

The Dream House is a non-residential place of refuge and rest for survivors of sexual exploitation in an area of Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana, notorious for crime and where the most suspected overdose deaths occur.

A welcoming, open door in the neighborhood, they provide services without exception or discrimination. Grit into Grace continues to provide their community acceptance, resources and the love of Christ, meeting women where they are, with unlimited barriers to accessing care.



Testimonial Spotlight

GRIT INTO GRACE



Grit into Grace also travels to meet with currently-incarcerated women in county jails and in prison where they identify survivors, educate, and empower them. Believing that knowledge is power, they provide pathways for reentry resources, connecting them with local organizations upon their release, and introducing alternatives to incarceration such as diversion programs. Through 'The Purple Project' they are giving women opportunities to recognize their own worth and value.

For further information about Grit into Grace, visit: gritintograce.org.



President's Corner



Greg Bruce
President, Serving USA

This year Serving USA continued our investment in support of faith-driven people working diligently as agents of change in diversified communities nationwide. Collaborating with nonprofits and supplementing their endeavors enhances opportunities to transform the lives of prisoners, veterans, and women in recovery. In 2024, our network of ministry partners has reached tens of thousands of people, and has celebrated program graduations, salvations, baptisms, freedom from addictions and incarceration; so many wonderful events in the name of Jesus Christ... and the work continues.

In support of our partners, the team at Serving USA genuinely desires to be involved in helping nonprofits be successful and sustainable. From scheduling video meetings, being present with in-person site visits into prisons and boardrooms, to conversations with program participants, we listen to our partners' praise reports and concerns. We hear their plans and visions, work through strategies, and very often pray for each other. It is our commitment and mission of providing grace and redemption through Jesus Christ, and we are grateful for each occasion to show His love to our neighbors, whatever their current circumstances may be.

Our newsletter is another way we show our support and this month's Q&A features **FreedomWorks' Executive Director George Lang**. George overcame his own struggles from previous incarcerations and now provides hundreds of former offenders pathways to obtain sustainable futures in North Minneapolis, Minnesota. We highlight Monterey County, California's **Jordan and Antonette Jeske**, whose **Cornerstone New Hope Ministry** is "building lives, faith and futures" within correctional facilities, and while walking with their men during reentry and beyond.

President's Corner



Greg Bruce
President, Serving USA

Also, we share a must-see testimonial video highlighting real women of Indianapolis, Indiana who receive the assistance of **Stefanie Jeffers' Grit into Grace**. Stefanie and her team minister to women behind prison walls, and to women on the streets of the inner-city, reminding them of their value and purpose in Jesus Christ.

As the year ends, we thank you for being part of our community and for your ongoing interest in Serving USA and our partners throughout the year. Let us also remain encouraged to stand united and steadfast in our faith and love for one another (John 13:34). Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas, and a joyful holiday season.

Thank you,
-Dr. Greg Bruce

Providing Grace and Redemption through Christ for Prisoners, Women in Recovery, and Military Veterans

Get In Contact



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Questions?

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR
CONCERNS REGARDING INFORMATION WITHIN
THIS NEWSLETTER,

PLEASE CONTACT [INFO@SERVINGUSA.ORG](mailto:info@servingusa.org)

[@servingusa](https://www.instagram.com/servingusa) | info@servingusa.org

WWW.SERVINGUSA.ORG

Providing Grace and Redemption through Christ for Prisoners, Women in Recovery, and Military Veterans

Partner Events

January 11th

Northeast of the Well

January 11th

Human Trafficking Awareness March (Los Angeles)

Join us as we raise our voices & God's Word to bring awareness to the darkness and realities of Human Trafficking.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water, sunscreen, and a hat. If you would like to make a post to carry please see examples below:

- People are not for sale
- Stop trafficking
- Expose and abolish human trafficking
- Speak up for the poor and helpless & see that they get justice
- Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves
- Ensure justice for those being crushed
- All people are God's children
- Jesus is the light of the world
- Proverbs 31:8
- Psalms 68:5
- Jeremiah 31:25
- Luke 4:18

Register for Human Trafficking Awareness March:



REGISTER NOW | 949.515.9355 | IRMAD@NORTHEASTOFTHEWELL.ORG

NORTHEAST OF THE WELL

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MARCH

January 11 | 9-11am | 6600 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles

Join us ...
as we raise our voices & God's Word to bring awareness to the darkness and realities of Human Trafficking
www.northeastofthewell.org

January 11 | 9-11am | 6600 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles

THANKS FOR JOINING NORTHEAST OF THE WELL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water, sunscreen, and a hat. If you would like to make a poster to carry, please see examples below:

- PEOPLE ARE NOT FOR SALE
- STOP TRAFFICKING
- EXPOSE AND ABOLISH HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- SPEAK UP FOR THE POOR AND HELPLESS & SEE THAT THEY GET JUSTICE
- SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK UP FOR THEMSELVES
- ENSURE JUSTICE FOR THOSE BEING CRUSHED
- ALL PEOPLE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN
- JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
- PROVERBS 31:8
- PSALM 68:5
- PSALM 91:4
- JEREMIAH 31:25
- LUKE 4:18

Scan QR code to sign up and get your hoodie!

REGISTER NOW | 949.515.9355 | IRMAD@NORTHEASTOFTHEWELL.ORG
www.northeastofthewell.org

Providing Grace and Redemption through Christ for Prisoners, Women in Recovery, and Military Veterans

Partner Events



January 17th and 18th

**The 4th Annual Kitsap Con'25: A Boardgame Convention
Friday & Saturday, January 17th & 18th**

**Location: Faith Episcopal Church, Poulsbo
20295 Little Valley Rd. NE Poulsbo, WA 98370**

Come and meet other game players in the local community. Tournaments, games, movies and more. Proceeds benefit Scarlet Road, offering the hope of freedom to those who have been sexually exploited. <https://scarletroad.org>

Register for Kitsap Con'25 here:



March 4th - 6th

**Teen Challenge Southern California
Fire In Our Bones: National Pastors and Leaders Conference
March 4-6, 2025**

**Location: Harvest Christian Fellowship, Orange County
Campus. 17600 Gillette Ave., Irvine, CA 92614**

In a world where faith faces increasing resistance, God is calling His people to burn with a passion that can't be contained. Join Teen Challenge SoCal at the Fire in Our Bones Conference in Orange County for three days of powerful preaching, transformative worship, and intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit. This is more than just a gathering--it's an encounter. Let His word ignite within you a fire that cannot be silenced, equipping you to carry His light back into your community. Register for Fire In Our Bones here:

