

From Inmates to Volunteers

Coming Full Circle With Your Help

Unhappy in their marriage and dissatisfied with life, Jesse and Amber Modert turned to drugs to drown out their pain and hopelessness. Gateway drugs soon led to methamphetamine addiction. "It just started taking over our lives," Amber remembers. "We spent all of our money on it, and when we couldn't afford it anymore, we started making it ourselves."

It all caught up to them on Valentine's Day in 2012 when deputies showed up at their door. Jesse went straight to jail. Amber had to tell their three children that mom and dad were under arrest. Family came to pick up the kids. "Finally, it was out in the open and we could get the help we needed," says Amber.

They both spent ten days in the Branch County Jail before making bond. "I was there about five days when FMM Chaplain Dave Brown talked to me about devoting my life to Christ," says Jesse.

"I made the decision right then to turn my life over to Christ's care and control."

Amber also had a life-changing moment thanks to God's intervention through FMM volunteers. "My mom called Chaplain Dave and asked him to speak with me. Gini Toth was with him and she said 'I just wonder if you know that God forgives you,'" remembers Amber. "And I said, 'No I don't. I don't think you understand the things I've done in my life...the things I've done to my children, my family.' Gini just looked at me and said, 'Amber, truly, God forgives you for everything.' Finally I accepted it for the first time."

Amber and Jesse went through nine months of rehab together. When they were later sentenced, Amber spent 90

days in jail and Jesse, twelve months. Their newfound faith in God carried them through each step. While in jail, both Amber and Jesse continued with FMM programs. "I participated in everything they had when we got sentenced," says Jesse, "...church, Celebrate Recovery, and counseling. Having that available to me in jail was a big part of my recovery."



Jesse and Amber came full circle, now serving as volunteers.

*"We knew we wanted to help people because we were just so lost. It's neat to go full circle."
- Amber Modert*

It's been just over three years since Jesse was released from the Branch County Jail. He now owns his own business

and Amber is a real estate agent. Jesse and Amber go back to the jail every week, now as volunteers. "We help with the Celebrate Recovery program," says Amber. "We knew we wanted to help people because we were just so lost. It's neat to go full circle." Each time they serve, they are reminded of God's goodness to them. "As much as it helps the inmates, it's helping us at the same time," says Jesse. "It's not a one way street...you just get so much in return. We are truly blessed."

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Amber and Jesse help to assemble gift bags for Christmas at the Jail.



Unlocking Hearts

with your support



"All the teachers and preachers in this jail have helped me a lot. When I get out, I want to be a volunteer myself to come show how it has worked in my life and to give my testimony how good God is."
—Jermaine

"When I came to jail I harbored hatred in my heart—I was an adulterer, a liar, and a thief. FMM has helped me to see the light. I didn't know Christ until 10/28/2016. Now I know I have a future to look forward to with Jesus Christ. Thank you!"
—Billy



"Forgotten Man Ministries has been a blessing for me personally because I have been able to see the truth in the Word and the truth in myself...On June 30th, 2016 I gave my life to Jesus. God has been working on my side: my heart, my mind, and my soul. If it wasn't for the FMM staff and volunteers coming into my life I would not be where I am now in life, spiritually and in the future. Thank you Jesus."
—Scott

Church Ambassador: Serving Your Mission and Church

Take advantage of an exciting volunteer opportunity available now—become an FMM Church Ambassador! Church Ambassadors are important liaisons who share new FMM information with their church, encouraging support for the mission. It's a volunteer opportunity that requires minimal time commitment, yet can tremendously impact the forgotten inmates in our county jails.

Church Ambassadors serve a variety of needs. You would:

- work directly with your pastor or church missions committee to share news about the Lord's work being sustained by FMM in your county jail
- encourage financial support and active involvement by your church and church members
- provide FMM input regarding opportunities to partner with your church to help those incarcerated

and those transitioning back to your community as returning citizens

FMM needs ambassadors at churches throughout the counties we serve. This is an important role, allowing you to be active in a local mission field at a level that's limited only by your imagination!

Contact Marilyn at 616.784.4620 or office@forgottenman.org to learn more.

To see counties served by FMM, go to www.forgottenman.org



Answering His Call

by Bill Cariano, Executive Director

I am excited and encouraged daily as I walk alongside the nearly 2,400

volunteers in the FMM army the Lord has raised as His hands and feet in Michigan county jails. Members of this army often express how blessed they are to have a front-row seat to witness inmates who have cried out for Jesus, and had Him come. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel to those who have dedicated so much to our mission.

Thank you for serving the Lord, helping to grow eternal fruit.

There is much more work to do! As news headlines remind us daily, our world is in quite a mess. We ask ourselves, how can we make an impact in this global crisis? YOU CAN! You can make a difference as close as your county jail. Each year, nearly 235,000 people are booked into

the jails served by FMM, 95% of them will be returning to your community as your neighbors. There is a 70% chance that upon their return, they will commit a new crime within three years if they do not change the way they live. However, they cannot do it alone...they need us, their brothers and sisters in Christ.

We may not be able to impact global challenges, but by coming alongside those incarcerated in your county jail, we will positively impact our corner of the world...sowing seeds that God will produce into lasting fruit in the form of changed lives, better spouses, parents, employees and productive citizens. FMM volunteers and sheriff staff will testify it is working. However, there are still many weary and lost calling out for help.

The call of the Lord is to serve with Him together as members of His family. We

“...And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

And how can they preach unless they are sent?

As it is written: **How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News.**”

- Romans 10: 14-15

are God’s people, blessed with a wide range of spiritual gifts to be engaged in the Lord’s ministry. Our world is in crisis and we need you more than ever. We are grateful for your prayers and your generosity, and ask you now to consider if God is calling you to serve as a missionary in your corner of the world.

To determine your next step, contact Marilyn at 616.784.4620 or office@forgottenman.org.

Volunteers Discover Their Place

Jim Peterson has worn many hats in 17 years of volunteering at Forgotten Man Ministries. When he first started, he went into the jail to meet with inmates. “I soon realized that wasn’t my gift,” he remembers. “I didn’t feel comfortable doing that, so I only went 3 or 4 times.” Soon after, friends from church, Budd and Norma Kahler and Dan and Marilyn DeVries, recruited other recent retirees

to join them at the mission to correct Bible course tests. “We were looking for a place that both Barb and I could volunteer together, so we came...and that’s how we started.”

Over the years, Barb and Jim have served faithfully as a graders of Bible study lessons. Jim has also helped to replace windows, paint the mission’s home office, and twice a month, he is in the copy room running thousands of tests for inmates completing their Bible course studies. Jim and Barb’s devotion and generosity extend beyond sharing just their time and skills, as they also donate to the ministry monthly. “God has blessed us immensely,” says Jim. “The goal is to minister to those people who are in jail. Consequently, they need



Jim and Barb Peterson offer their time, skills, and financial support each month.

volunteer help and they need financial support to be able to continue to do that.”

So why do they continue to volunteer at the mission every month? “When you invest yourself into an organization, you know the people that are here and you become friends ...you feel like you’re part of a family.”

FMM depends on supporters and servants like the Petersons. **Thank you Jim and Barb and all FMM volunteers!**



The Petersons and fellow FMM volunteers at the home office.

SPRING BANQUET SCHEDULE

You make a difference! Join us at our annual banquet. It's a time to gather with your community and experience how powerfully God's Word is impacting lives. We look forward to seeing you there!

DATE	COUNTY
March 16	Allegan County
March 28	Huron County
April 18	Branch County
April 20	Kent County
April 25	Kalamazoo County
April 27	Berrien County
April 27	Roscommon & Crawford Counties
May 2	Osceola County
May 4	Midland County
May 4	Muskegon County
May 9	Lake County
May 9	Wexford & Missaukee Counties
May 11	Mecosta County

Your Help is Needed!

We are seeking table hosts and sponsors for our events. Would you consider helping in these critical roles?
Contact Julia at 616.784.4620 or events@forgottenman.org



A Heart of Wisdom

"Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
- Psalm 90:12



FMM Legacy Society: Proclaiming Christ for Generations

God has blessed your life in many ways. You can choose to champion His good work by remembering Forgotten Man Ministries with a bequest. A gift in your will or trust, after your loved ones are provided for, can make a profound impact in your community and eternity.

Why should you consider making a bequest?

- Creating or updating your will allows your legacy to reflect what's important to you and your family.
- You can plan a future gift while keeping control of your assets during your lifetime.
- Bequests are revocable if your circumstances or priorities change.

- You can choose a specific amount as a gift, a percentage of your estate, or other flexible options.
- Tax benefits may result from your bequest.
- You will have peace of mind knowing that your loved ones and valued charitable foundations are provided for.

Contact Bill Cariano at 616.784.4620 today if you would like to receive more information about joining the FMM Legacy Society. Or, please let us know if you have already taken steps to share in building a strong future for FMM.

FMM relies entirely on your contributions to keep our mission moving forward. Please continue to offer your prayers and financial support today! Send the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.forgottenman.org/donate

fmm Forgotten Man Ministries
Bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Forgotten...