



**Forgotten Man
Ministries**

Reaching The **FORGOTTEN**

Spring 2021

The Other Side of Ministry Inside our County Jails

We share a lot about the amazing ministry that Forgotten Man's chaplains and volunteers are having with the inmates inside our Michigan county jails. For over five decades, they have had the ability to have in-person ministry with inmates. GRO pods, group Bible studies, church services, and one-to-one conversations have all yielded eternal results. What is less recognized, however, is that for just as long FMM has been impacting inmate's lives through remote ministry.

Inmates have unoccupied time and actively look for things to fill that time. Men and women share their testimonies about how reading the Bible and other Christian books has greatly impacted their lives. They confess that they never would have picked up a Christian book or Bible outside of jail. However, since Forgotten Man Ministries made it available inside the jail, they anxiously read the words that then changes their lives.

FMM's Legacy
Bible Courses
are one of



LEGACY
Bible Courses

three valuable types of remote ministries offered through FMM. Since the beginning of our ministry in 1966, we have provided Bible studies for inmates. Those studies have ministered to thousands of inmates and have

provided meaningful ministry for hundreds of our committed volunteers.

In addition to Legacy Courses, inmates can now write letters to mentors using the curriculum of



one of our remote ministry partners.

In January of 2020, FMM entered a ministry partnership with Crossroads Prison Ministries to provide a Bible study focused mentoring program. In the past 14 months, 79 volunteer mentors have joined our efforts and more than 217 inmates have been impacted.

As COVID hit Michigan, jail doors were closed to volunteers and chaplains in all but three of our counties. FMM remote ministry went from important to critical. The pandemic may have been a surprise to us, but God prepared ways to strengthen our existing work and launch an even broader, more robust tool.

In January 2021, we launched our Authentic Remote



**AUTHENTIC
REMOTE
MINISTRY**

Ministry Program. While the other remote ministry programs are designed to provide a single set of material through a single channel, our new program was designed to offer an expanding group of content. Currently, *Our Daily Bread* Devotionals and messages of encouragement are available through



this platform. *Recovering Through Relationships* is a new curriculum to help inmates address addiction and discover their identity in Christ.

Our new program has also been designed to support inmates receiving digital communication as individual jails begin to allow inmates to utilize digital devices.

We feel blessed that FMM chaplains have been allowed to re-enter two thirds of the county jails in which we serve. We are anxious for volunteers to join them and for in-person ministry to resume in all 34 of the jails where we have a presence. We are trusting that God is opening doors to expand into jails where FMM has never had a presence before.

FMM's in-person ministry has been changing lives in Michigan county jails for more than 55 years. But FMM's remote ministry programs have always quietly operated, serving tens of thousands. During COVID they expanded to help fill the void. Combined, remote and in-person ministries create opportunities to provide Christ-centered hope and healing to inmates.





Program Director: Linda Haveman

Cornerstone University says “we are committed to the steadfast teachings of Christ. We preach, teach, and

confess God’s Word in all things. And we train and equip future leaders to do the same in whatever environment they are called to.” As a dean responsible for program development at Cornerstone, Dr. Linda Haveman’s responsibility was clear; create new programs that fulfill that mission today and into the future. With a solid commitment to her own relationship with Christ and a Bachelor’s degree in Ministry Leadership, four Master’s degrees (in Education, Counseling, Business Administration, and Divinity), and a Doctorate in Family Systems, Dr. Haveman was well equipped to fulfill her role at a Christian university. But our lives are never one dimensional, and God seems to frequently challenge us to move out of our comfort zones.

As Linda was exposed to recovery and jail/prison ministry through her church and became more involved in urban ministry, she was impacted by the stories she heard. People she had been in ministry with for years “shared their hurts, habits, and hang-ups” and how God’s redemptive power had restored their lives. She felt called to do more. Linda said she

started with Forgotten Man Ministries (FMM) because, “The Kent County Correctional Facility was close to work” and FMM had volunteer opportunities available to serve inside the jail, so she applied. That was where she met the first obstacle. Safely and effectively working inside a jail requires training, and for FMM in 2013 that meant spending several hours at one of the in-person sessions that were offered. While she understood the purpose and value of the in-person training, the scheduled session wouldn’t fit with her other commitments. Rather than accepting that as a closed door, Linda asked why FMM didn’t offer the training online. An online program would allow volunteers to complete the training when their schedule permitted and give them the ability to go back and review the training as needed. The answer she received was simple; FMM did not have all the background, education, and experience that would be needed to build the program. Linda knew she could help FMM launch an online volunteer training and prayed about how God might use her.

Linda’s next major step with FMM was when she accepted the invitation to be the ministry’s first female member of the Board of Directors in 2015, and her involvement with the ministry continued to grow. In 2019, ministry leadership was discussing how FMM could provide more effective training for chaplains and volunteers.

Linda’s experience proved invaluable to the mission again, as new programs were mapped out. But then COVID hit our county jails. Across the state, jails began closing their doors, first to volunteers and then to chaplains. In person ministry stopped abruptly in all but three of the county jails where FMM served. What surprised everyone, wasn’t a surprise to God. He had already been preparing the pieces for a new dynamic remote ministry to serve our Michigan county inmates.

A nonprofit organization on the east coast had developed a program that could be utilized to allow volunteers to use digital technology to send letters to county inmates. Linda knew how to expand the communication opportunities from just letters to daily devotionals, book and Bible studies, addiction recovery studies, and simply messages of encouragement. Through faithful donors, God had provided the resources for FMM to launch a new arm of ministry.

On August 1st 2020, Dr. Linda Haveman joined the FMM staff as FMM’s first Program Director, with specific responsibility to create and lead the new Authentic Remote Ministry Program. It’s currently being implemented in more than two thirds of our Michigan county jails and has become a vital and growing part of FMM’s Grayline Remote Ministries.



“I’ve been completing these studies for several years now. Having the opportunity to complete these has inspired me to do more studying in the Word.”

-Patricia

“I gain more knowledge of the Bible with every lesson. I pray I continue to grow.”

-Broderick

“The Recovery Bible Studies have helped teach me so many things about my addiction and recovery that I may not have ever learned without it.”

-Samantha

“I have been doing this study course for 4 years now and it still amazes me what they teach me.”

-Austin

“These lessons bring life to regions inside of me that were dead and full of darkness. I am, with each lesson, progressing as a Christian and as a better man.”

-William

“These studies have changed my life. I look forward to continuing to expand my knowledge of Christ.”

-Sara

“I wasn’t a believer when I was free which led to most of my mistakes. Now with these studies, I have a better relationship with our Father in Heaven. I look forward to completing each lesson to learn more about the Bible and further my relationship with Christ.”

-Art

“The studies keep me encouraged to keep on going and not give up.”

-Mandi



Nathan DeWard
Executive Director

The Donor's Bottom Line

When the FMM Board of Directors approved a new mission statement for our ministry in December 2020, it was after months of prayer and

discernment of God's calling for our ministry. A result was the clarity that the Lord is leading us to minister in very specific ways.

1) We are a **Jail Ministry**. The media and popular culture tend to mix "jail" and "prison" as if they were the same thing. In Michigan, they are very different. Jails are operated by local county sheriffs and the average stay for inmates is about 40 days. People in jails are a mix of "pretrial detainees" and those who have been convicted of lower-level crimes. Prisons, on the other hand, are operated by the state department of corrections for people who have been convicted of more serious crimes.

Donor's Bottom Line: When you support FMM,

you are providing Bibles, healthy reading material, mentoring, and ministry with men and women who are generally going back to your community. Our time with them can be short but deeply impacting when the Lord is at the center. Our vision is for every incarcerated person to experience new life in Christ.

2) We are called to **Partnerships**. The needs of inmates exceed what our chaplains can provide, especially upon release. God has not called us to be a re-entry ministry where we provide employment, housing, transportation, and other essentials "on the outside." But God has called us to engage in meaningful partnerships with churches, non-profit organizations, and agencies that will help returning inmates. We are responsible for helping inmates develop healthy family, church, and community relationships.

Donor's Bottom Line: Donors support us as we teach inmates about their identity in Christ and show them how to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, our chaplains help

practically by connecting inmates to the resources they need in the community. We build bridges to local churches and re-entry support.

3) We are called to **Grow**. When COVID-19 hit FMM a year ago, our ministry was significantly impacted by jail restrictions. Since then, almost all of our ministries have resumed in the jails but with ongoing restrictions limiting face-to-face ministry. The Lord has opened the door for us to increase our remote ministry this past year. We now are poised to invite every county jail in Michigan to participate in Grayline Remote Ministries, our expansion project.

Donor's Bottom Line: Supporters can pray for us as we extend our mission to new counties. We will invite 45 counties to consider using Grayline Remote Ministries in their jails. That will more than double the number of jails we provide ministry in. This ambitious goal can only be achieved through God. If you want to see jail ministry in more jails in Michigan this year, please pray for us and consider supporting us financially.



Sue Nolf
Ministry Assistant

Remote Ministry: In Genesee County

In many ways, 2020 was both transitional and a year of expansion for Forgotten Man Ministries. We were limited on the amount

and kinds of ministry that we were able to perform, but God used it to open doors for new and improved ministry as we go forward into 2021.

For decades, we have offered remote ministry options as a continuation of care and inspiration with inmates during and after they leave the jail. Our Legacy Bible Course Program has stood the test of time as a vital tool for this continued ministry. As a result of COVID, we started our new Authentic Remote Ministry Program. This program allows vetted volunteers to use an email system to send a letter that is securely printed and mailed to an

inmate in the jail. There are different opportunities through this program; letters of encouragement, Bible studies, or book studies.

Sue Nolf and Kim Atkins, chaplains in the Genesee County Jail, have seen the difference that this new program is making first hand. Chaplain Sue has worked in the Genesee County Jail for over 30 years facilitating the Legacy Studies in and out of the jail, and recently began participating with the new program. Sue stated, "We have seen the Legacy Bible Courses help inmates and returning citizens alike grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ. Now as we bring the new program alongside, we have the opportunity to involve even more volunteers that have been restricted from coming into the jail as a result of COVID."

Similarly, Chaplain Kim has worked with both remote ministries. She remarked, "Having worked with both platforms, I see great value in each. The Legacy Courses provides the structure of a more traditional Bible study, while

the new program gives volunteers an avenue to minister to inmates inside the jail. Whether volunteers and chaplains are allowed into their jail, or only allowed remote access, it has given us the ability to involve our volunteers in a tangible, interactive fashion. It has been an encouragement to the volunteer base, and those that desperately need it.

In many jails, access to those housed has been very restricted, and understandably so with the pandemic. Many inmates are depressed and discouraged as a result. We believe that both the programs, along with Crossroads, will work to give our volunteers opportunities to encourage, and minister to people that need it the most.

We are grateful for the opportunities that God has placed before us, and look forward to stepping through the open door of remote ministry to reach those housed in the jails, with the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events!

Save the date and be on the lookout for more information!

Online Statewide Event

Date: May 4th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

This will be a Facebook Live Event!

Facebook.com/ForgottenManMinistries

Kalamazoo Worship Event

Date: May 25th, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Centerpoint Church

2345 10th St N

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Kent Worship Event

Date: June 10th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Calvary Church

707 E Beltline Ave NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Midland Cornhole Tournament

Date: June 26th, 2021

Time: Registration begins at 9 am

Location: Eagle Ridge Church of God

2808 Waldo Ave

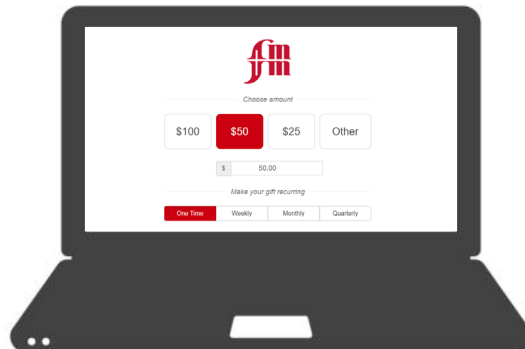
Midland, MI 48642

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide Christ-centered hope and healing through biblically-based, chaplain led, volunteer jail ministries.

Vision Statement

Our vision is for every incarcerated person to experience new life in Christ and develop healthy family, church, and community relationships.



Thank you for your ongoing prayers and financial support!

Without you, our ministry would not be possible.

Please help us continue our mission by praying for us and considering a gift today.

Consider giving today via any of our options:

Online:

forgottenman.org/donate

Mail:

3940 Fruit Ridge Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

Phone:

616.784.4620

Text2Give:

Text 'FMM' to 41444



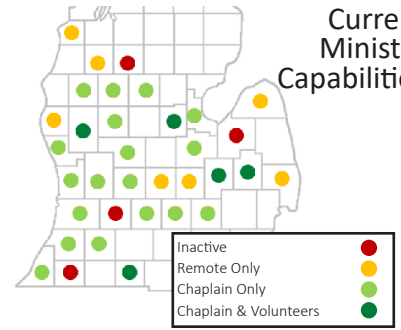
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Forgotten Man Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dependent solely on your generosity.

3940 Fruit Ridge Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
office@forgottenman.org
616.784.4620
www.forgottenman.org

Current
Ministry
Capabilities



Leadership Team



Nathan DeWard
Executive Director



Scott Hall
Regional Director



Steve Lindquist
Development Director



Linda Haveman
Program Director

FMM Regional Leaders



Kenny Hovis
East Regional Leader



Ron Weller
North Regional Leader

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