



**Keryx Prison Ministry
P.O. Box 1042
Marquette, MI 49855**

*Matthew 25:36
"I was in prison
and you visited me."*

Spring 2014

KERYX of MARQUETTE

*Keryx is a Greek word meaning "herald". In the ancient world, a herald was one sent by his master to proclaim in public the master's message. He dared not change the announcement because it was not his own. His responsibility was only to proclaim it accurately. That is how Paul understood his gospel ministry.
We, in Keryx, as Paul, are mere servants proclaiming our Master's Good News*



AGAPE/PALANCA LETTER WRITING INSTRUCTIONS

Please note that all agape/palanca must be written expressions on paper, only, and with **NO stickers of any kind** on them. Please address your letters, "Dear Brother in Christ," and write of your support and God's love for the candidates. Palanca will NOT be received by the candidates until **AFTER** the Keryx.

Do not include any identifying information such as your last name, address, phone number, etc. Use only your first name - no exceptions.

All agape for each individual prisoner will be placed in one large envelope and mailed at the end of the weekend. Therefore, do NOT put your letters in envelopes. All letters are read by our volunteers for acceptability and are again screened by Department of Corrections personnel after their arrival at the prison via U.S. Mail.

Please bring your letters by Sunday, April 27, if you come to the closing OR mail or bring to Prince of Peace Church on M-28 in Harvey before Saturday, April 26.

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Thank you Chaplain Tom Prisk

Dear Chaplain Tom,

We know that the Keryx weekend means much additional work for you. Thank you for prayerfully selecting the candidates for Keryx #41 and for obtaining the necessary paper work to get permission to hold the weekend. We are so grateful for all you do to make the weekend a powerful spiritual encounter for candidates and team members. We often take for granted that you will do all these preparations, failing to remember that you are chaplain to both level 5 and level 1 and that your time is a premium.

In gratitude,
The Keryx Volunteers

Note from Keryx 40 Rector

To the Messengers of the Word:

First I would like to thank the Keryx Board of Directors. I was blessed to have you trust me to serve as Rector for Keryx #40 and to guide me along. Thanks again, it was a pleasure.

I was given a list of men who agreed to serve on team for the weekend, a boat load of special men. But in the process of selecting the team, the enemy stepped in. Some men had to step down from being on team—some for health reasons, some for employment schedules and others for various reasons. But when I asked team members to go beyond what was expected of them, to perhaps step out of their comfort zones, do a little more to fill in the gaps, everyone of them on Keryx #40 team said, "Yes." That was one of the many grace filled moments of the weekend. A huge "thank you" to the team. You are my brothers in Christ.

I've attended some of the prayer and share Monday nights and there are still a few prisoners talking about the mountain top experience. I believe the Holy Spirit was in and among us that weekend. Again I want to thank all who served that weekend, the administration at MBP, Board of Directors, team members, Prince of Peace Church, and those women and men who served meals at the church. Thank you, thank you.

God loves you, He's crazy about you!! God's Peace, Dale

Keryx Website

The Keryx website has been updated. Check it out: Marquette Keryx.org. You can read the current newsletter, past newsletters, team meetings, volunteer opportunities, and more. We welcome suggestions for what should be included in the website.

Sample Palanca

Dear Brother-in-Christ,

My prayers are with you as you continue your 4th day journey, walking humbly with Christ. May you remember the feeling of God's loving presence throughout the Keryx and may you bring that to others as well. I remember how powerful my own weekend experience was. Since then, I've found that regular grouping, daily prayer and devotions, and consistent examination of conscience practices keep me faithful in my walk. I hope that you will also walk forward, confident as a child of God and desiring to serve as you are called, where you are called.

Your sister/brother-in-Christ,
First name

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to all those churches and individuals who have so generously supported the Marquette Area Keryx Prison Ministry, financially and through your prayers. We would especially like to thank Lake Superior Christian Church, a faithful, regular contributor to the Keryx ministry. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church supports us in many ways. They generously allow us to hold team meeting in their church and provide space for the team to gather during the Keryx weekend. We also want to thank our many donors and especially the team members who contribute so generously by giving both time and money. We thank God for your faithfulness as you help us bring the Good News to those incarcerated at Marquette Branch Prison. If you or your church family would like to help defray the costs of putting on a weekend or the costs to print or mail the newsletter, please send a check made payable to "Keryx Prison Ministry", and mail to P.O. Box 1042, Marquette, MI, 49855. Your donation is a tax-deductible contribution under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3). Thank you.

Needed: Board members

A number of our current Board members will be leaving the Board in June of 2014. If you are a experienced team member, we ask you to prayerfully consider being on the Keryx Board. The Board meets just six times a year. We have met at Prince of Peace in the past but the location of team meetings is negotiable. Please call or write Bob Matchett if you are interested or need more information: 906-458-2035 or rmatch2@gmail.com

Letter from a Former Keryx Participant

Dear Friends,

I became a prisoner of the state of Michigan in February of 2008. Before that I was a very active member of a large church, and served as a worship leader and Bible teacher. I believed in the love of Jesus Christ. But when I went to prison, my church family turned its back to me, and it was a though all the love they ever had for me just simply vanished. My family and friends followed suit. I had loved them all genuinely and my heart yearned for forgiveness and restoration; but it didn't come. I started to believe that the love of Christ wasn't real. I thought that there was no hope of experiencing God's love in this world, and that what I had experienced in the past was simply a deception. But then I attended a Keryx weekend at Pugsley Correctional Facility. The love and compassion that was shared that weekend was life-changing for me. I saw the TRUE love of Jesus being shared; and that love was unconditional. It didn't matter that we were a bunch of prisoners; outcasts, rejected, despised, and forsaken. The hope in my heart sprang up once again. And every week after that, the outside volunteers kept showing us how real that love is by being there with us; worshipping with us; praying with us; and encouraging us. Today I am a free man. I still consider my Keryx family to be my TRUE Christian family. I love them all. And I know they love me because they love me with the love of the Lord. They took me by the hand and pulled me out of Satan's grasp; out of the miry pit of despair. What a joy to finally know the love of Christ. God bless every Keryx volunteer—inside and outside teams. God loves you and so do I. Kevin L.

Help save postage

Thank you to those who have agreed to receive the Keryx Newsletter electronically. It's not too late! If you are willing to get your newsletter on line, email Martha Hayward at marthaannahayward@gmail.com

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DO YOU HEAR GOD CALLING?

Is God calling you to visit and serve Him by bearing Christ as a committed volunteer to inmates in the Keryx Prison Ministry at Marquette Branch Prison?

If so, we invite you to join the “active” Keryx Prison Ministry faith community, which holds Keryx weekends and weekly and monthly reunions in the Trustee Chapel at Marquette Branch Prison (more info. below). For more information about this opportunity to serve, call one of the board members.

**Please answer God’s call!
The next Keryx weekend is October 16-19, 2014**

Please note that the spring Keryx weekend is later in April than usual. It is usually the third weekend in April but that is Easter weekend so we moved it to the last weekend in April. If you are already a **certified volunteer** (have been through the volunteer training program and have participated in a volunteer activity within the past 12 months and have filled out a volunteer application within the past year), have made a 3-day Weekend on the outside and wish to participate in the **Keryx #41 Serenade and Closing**, please bring your driver’s license or other official picture ID with you to the front desk on **Saturday, April 26th, at 3:30 p.m. (no earlier as you will be asked to drive out off the prison property)** for the 4:00 p.m. Serenade, and on **Sunday, April 27th, at 12:30 p.m. (no earlier for the same reason)** for the closing. If you are a certified volunteer, it is still necessary for you to reapply as a volunteer each year. There are two forms that must be filled out and submitted to the prison front desk at least a month prior to the date you plan to attend a prison program. If you have not filled out these forms in the past year, you should call the front desk to check the date on the back of your card. Just a reminder that a handshake is the only contact allowed.

Anyone who is not a certified volunteer but feels God’s calling to become one, please contact one of the board members listed in this newsletter. It is necessary for volunteers to be active to keep their volunteer status current by either serving on Keryx weekend teams and attending a minimum of one Monday night Prayer & Share session per month, and/or by attending Serenades, Closings, and occasional third Saturday afternoon reunions. If you are not certain your volunteer status is current, please call the prison and check before coming.

There are many ways to support the Keryx Team. Consider getting your volunteer card and attending Serenades and Closings, pray for the team and prisoners attending the weekend, provide and/or help serve food for the evening and (early) morning meetings at Prince of Peace Church (please call Paula Matchett at 906-458-2035 to sign up for food options).

PLEASE NOTE: ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the Monday evening (7:00 p.m.) Keryx Alumni Prayer & Share, and the Third Saturday (1:30 p.m.) Alumni Reunion, there are several opportunities to volunteer at Marquette Branch Prison in the Trustee Division (either male or female welcome): Saturday services are held at 5:35 p.m. (Protestant) and 7:15 p.m. (Catholic) and Sunday services are at 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. (Protestant). Ichthos Fellowship is on Tuesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. Volunteers should be **at the front desk** 20 minutes prior.

MARQUETTE AREA KERYX BOARD

Bob Matchett, President 458-2035 531 Harrison Street Marquette, MI 49855	Dave Adler, Treasurer 343-6666 400 Shot Point Marquette, MI 49855 *term on board has ended but Dave continues to serve as treasurer	Larry Fladung, Palanca 249-3052 128 Old Kiln Road Marquette, MI 49855
Jim Johnson, VP 249-1719 525 Cherry Creek Road Marquette, MI 49855	Paula Matchett 458-2035 531 Harrison Street Marquette, MI 49855	Pierre Geoffrion 226-2811 706 Clark St. Marquette, Mi. 49855
Don Miller 906-387-4861 308 West Onota Munising, MI 49862	Bob and Bonnie Johnson, 22746 W. State Hwy M64 Ontonagon, MI 49953.	



Donations of **home-baked** cookies are gratefully accepted for Keryx weekends. We would like to bring as many dozen cookies as possible into the prison as a gift to the corrections officers who go out of their way to allow us to come into the prison on these weekends. Please help us out by dropping off your cookies (in disposable packaging please) on Thursday or Friday, April 24 or 25 at Prince of Peace Church in Harvey. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have any comments, suggestions or item contributions for this newsletter, please let me know: Judy Fladung at 249-3052 or Martha Hayward at 475-7582.



Prayer coverage is a vital part of the weekend. Please make a concerted effort to circulate and return (by email is fine) the prayer vigil enclosed in this newsletter.

This is something that EVERYONE can do!

Hearts are softened and God's power works through your prayers!