

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

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

Spring 2015

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 19, if you come to the closing OR mail or bring to Prince of Peace Church on M-28 in Harvey before Saturday, April 18.

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Thank you Chaplain Tom Prisk

To all Keryx Volunteers:

It's hard to believe that it's been nearly six months since Keryx #42. Due to the additional work involved in preparing for a Keryx weekend on top of an already overloaded schedule, I always find myself dreading the approach of Keryx. But then it arrives and I remember why I do it and consider it so important. Jesus Christ radically changes lives and this is a powerful opportunity to share that fact with these guys. I appreciate all of the time, energy, prayer and sacrifice that all of the volunteers (inside and out) invest in putting together such a weekend. On to Keryx #43!
Chaplain Tom Prisk

Note from Keryx 42 Rector

I wish to extend a big thank you to God for the team for Keryx 42, not just the guys that went into the prison but also those wonderful men and women who help out behind the scenes. So much time and effort go into each of these weekends. What continues to amaze me with each weekend is how the Holy Spirit works to take a bunch of sinners saved by grace, forms them into just the right team, and uses them to spread the Love of Christ to another bunch of sinners saved by grace. I am blessed to have been able to work with such a great bunch of brothers. I am always humbled to be able to see the miracles that God performs on each Keryx and #42 was no exception. Thanks again and blessings to all.

In His service,
Bryan

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.

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.**

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

Update on a former Keryx member

Things are going very well for me here in Grand Rapids. I'll be graduating from ITT Tech in September with my Associates degree in Electrical Engineering. I figured it would be a good way to spend my two years on parole—earning a degree. It's been a lot of hard work, but worth it for sure...I have landed a great job with Midwest Food Equipment Service in Grandville. I'm serving as their Shipping and Receiving Manager. It is a family-owned company, and the people are fantastic to work for...I'm off parole November 5. Things at Alpha House are going great too. I've been House Manager since August...Please let the guys at Marquette know that they are in my prayers. Kevin

Letter from a Former Keryx Participant

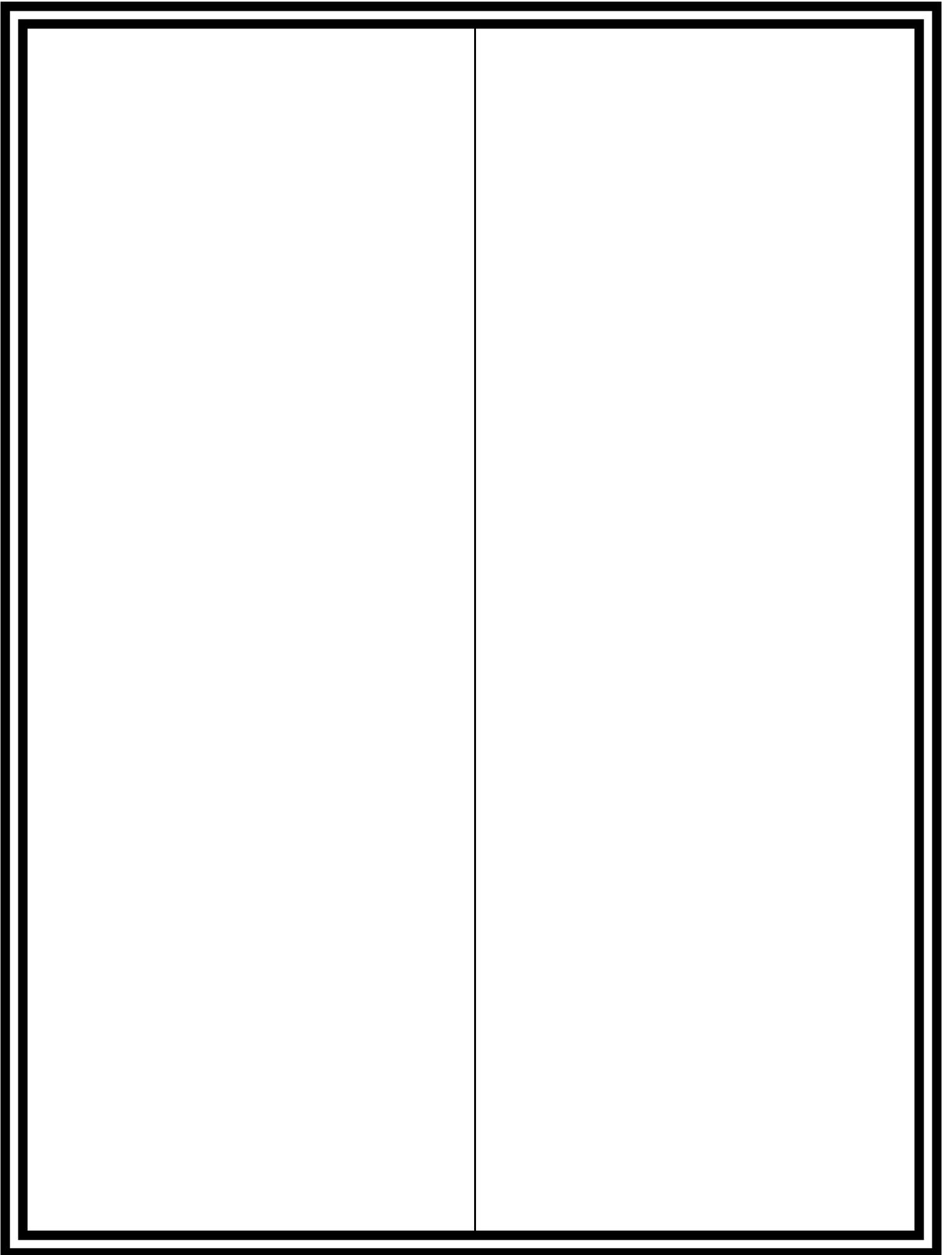
Dear Friends,

My name is Mike; I attended Keryx 39. When I arrived at prison, I was a broken soul, mad at God for my wife's unfaithfulness, blaming God for the mess my life had become. I began attending Ichthos. The first song we sang was "Just as I am." I remembered my mom teaching me that song on the organ when I was a small child. I knew I was in the right place. By the end of that first meeting in the prayer circle I asked God to fix my broken soul. He began His work that day. I signed up for the Keryx not knowing what to expect. God opened my heart that weekend. Through the volunteers I was shown God's love. I had attended church most of my life but never felt the love of God like I did that weekend. In the Keryx I was taught God's love, shown God's love, and told that I was good enough to pass God's love on to the next person. One of the volunteers said something I'll never forget, "Only God's love can change the world."

The Keryx weekend solidified my relationship with Jesus Christ. I cried like a baby the last day of the Keryx as the evil came out and the Holy Spirit flooded in. If it wasn't for the Keryx program, I truly believe that I would have come home and picked up where I left off. Today I am free; I am employed; I am a productive member of society, attend church and am an active member in 12 step groups. Almost all of my free time I spend with my sons Elijah, age 10, and Kai'liko, age 5. Through the grace of God, today I can be a good father and guide my children to know Jesus. Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered for Keryx and Ichthos. It has changed my life. I will be praying for the next Keryx. God loves you and so do I. Mike.

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 marthaannhayward@gmail.com



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 13-16, 2015

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 Serenade and Closing** for Keryx 43 or 44, please bring your driver’s license or other official picture ID with you to the front desk on **Saturday, April 18 and/or October 15, 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 19 and/or October 16, 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 Martha Hayward at 906-475-7582 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

<p>Jim Hayward, President 906-475-7582 103A E. Buffalo Road Negaunee, MI 49866 JSHayward647@gmail.com First term ends 6/17</p>	<p>Dave Adler, Treasurer 906- 343-6666 400 Shot Point Marquette, MI 49855 Da.eagleup@gmail.com</p> <p>*term on board has ended but Dave continues to serve as treasurer</p>	<p>Larry Fladung, Palanca 906-249-3052 249-3052 128 Old Kiln Road Marquette, MI 49855 Bigjudes128@yahoo.com Second term ends 6/16</p>
<p>Martha Hayward, secretary 906-475-7582 103A E. Buffalo Road Negaunee, MI 49866 Marthaannahayward@gmail.com First term ends 6/17</p>	<p>Bob and Bonnie Johnson 906-884-4732 22746 W. State Hwy M64 Ontonagon, MI 49953 Rjohnsondds@hotmail.com First term ends 6/15</p>	<p>Pierre Geoffrion 906-226-2811 706 Clark St. Marquette, Mi. 49855 geoffrionp@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Mike and Marylou Stefanski 43N. Serenity Drive Gwinn, MI 49841 First term ends 6/17</p>		



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 16 or 17 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!