

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

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

Spring 2017

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 23, if you come to the closing OR mail or bring to Prince of Peace Church on M-28 in Harvey before Saturday, April 22.

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URGENT REQUEST

Attendance at the Serenade and Closing for Keryx 46 was considerably smaller than usual. These events are a very important part of the weekend. Candidates frequently comment that they are moved that volunteers are willing to come to prison on Saturday and Sunday to be part of their weekend. Please update your volunteer status if needed and make plans to be present for the Serenade and Closing. Thank you.

Note from Keryx 46 Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Keryx 46 was an exciting success! First, we had 36 men who volunteered for 25 positions on the team. This was a good problem to address. Thanks to gracious Christian men, every person I contacted said yes to the Lord. To those who I asked to sit out this weekend, thank you for your understanding. The witnessing of the candidates was sincere and as mature as any I have experienced in my years of involvement. I believe Keryx is doing the job it is intended to do. We are helping to bring Christ's light into that dark place. Turnout for the Serenade and Closing was disappointing. This may be due to new requirements for maintaining our status as volunteers. These are key parts of the message we are bringing: "You are not alone." We say hundreds are praying for you and sacrificing for you this weekend. We need more evidence of that claim in the Prayer Vigil, the serenade, and the closing. Please get your status updated. The prisoners need our witness. I thank God for choosing me to be the rector and I thank all who volunteered their time, prayers, cookies, and selves to be Christ's presence in MBP. Keep praying for our efforts to bring the love of our Savior to the men in MBP.
Rector, Dave Blomquist

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. The Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church again gifted us with a generous donation. 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.

Thanks to the generosity of churches and individuals, we were able to purchase 50 new song books. These donations also help finance the Keryx weekend and allow us to purchase supplies for the Christian services.

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 Keryx, 555 Riverside Road, Marquette, MI, 49855. Please note this change of address. As of January 2017, we will no longer receive mail at the P.O. Box. **Your donation is a tax-deductible contribution under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3). Thank you.**

From Chaplain Tom Prisk

To All Keryx Volunteers:
Thank you for the many ways you contribute to the Keryx weekend. It is your faithfulness to this program that keeps it functioning in MBP. Due to some changes in the schedule at the prison, we needed to make some adjustments to the time volunteers come to the prison for the serenade and the third Saturday reunion. The serenade will be from 6:30-7:30 on Saturday evening (April 22 this Keryx). Please be at the prison 6:00-6:15. Please make every effort to be present at this very important part of the Keryx weekend. The third Saturday reunion will be changed from afternoon to morning, 9:15-10:30. Be at the front desk by 9:00. Again, thank you for your commitment to the Keryx Prison Ministry program. Chaplain Tom

Letter from a Former Keryx Participant:

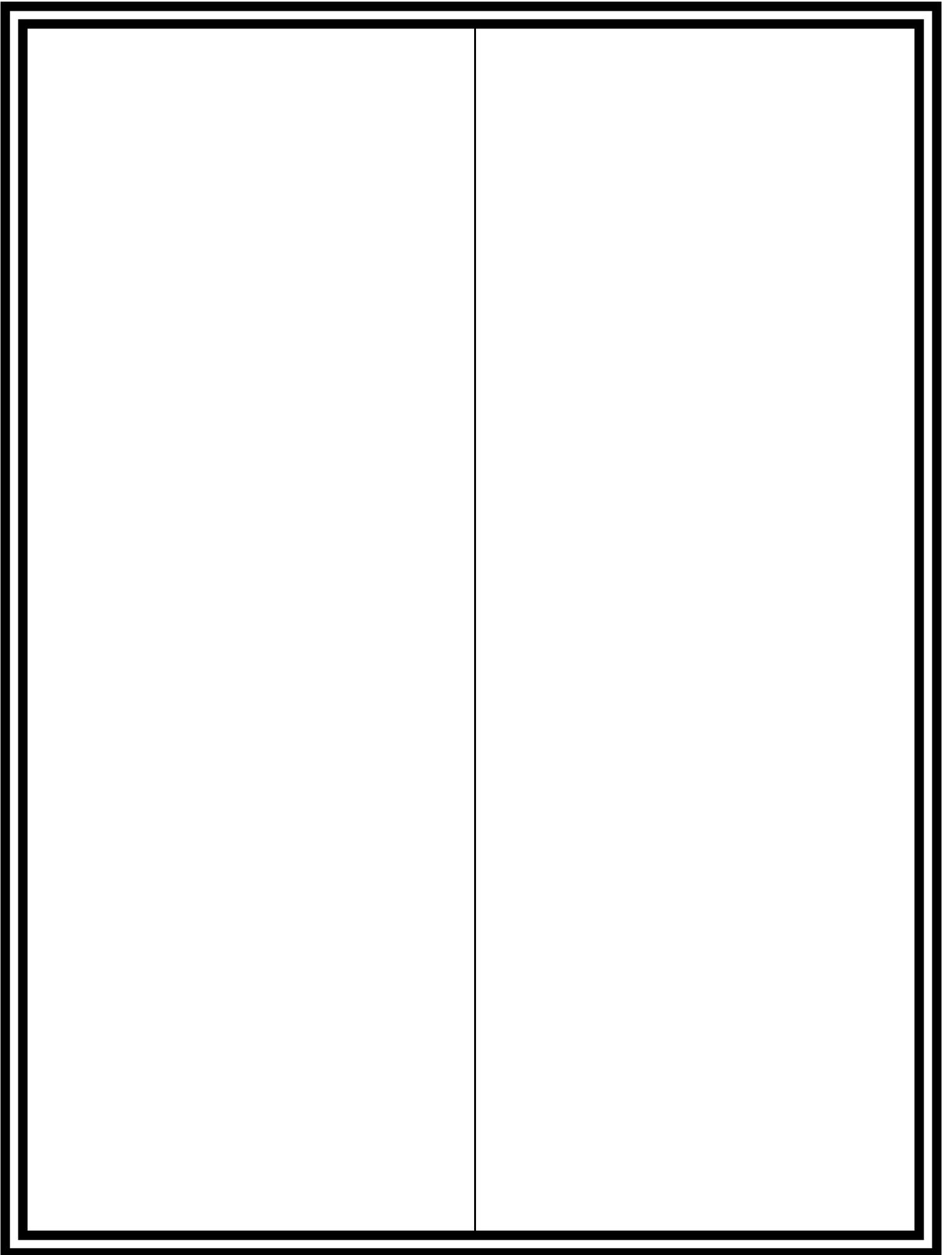
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
With encouragement from a little friend of mine, I'm writing to friends in Christ to "stay strong."
Before Christ in my life I worked as a carpenter, did rodeo as a hobby, and drank a lot of beer. I've traveled across the U.S. many times and visited many jails due to drinking. When I was in my 50's and married for 6 years, I got another drunk driving. The day of our 6th anniversary, I was sentenced to 3-12 years. In transit to prison, I was held over night in a small cell. I was having a hard time. I was pacing the floor, doing push ups, and started to pray, just needing someone to talk to. Suddenly I started laughing; I just got this feeling that everything was going to be all right. After sentencing, I told my wife to get a divorce. She said, "No." From that day on I prayed a lot. I knew that Jesus is my friend and always with me, no matter what. I tried attending church services but something was missing. Then I saw a Keryx flier at the prison I was in. I asked a female guard about it and she highly recommended I go. The weekend personalized my relationship with Jesus. I became a facilitator for Keryx and very much enjoyed it. I not only grew in Christ, I grew to accept and understand many different people. My life changed drastically. I had love in my heart for myself and was able to show love to others. It's all through Christ. When I tell others the female guard who recommended Keryx, the reaction is HER? See what Jesus can do. Through her, He worked. Jesus is almighty, powerful, on the job when we least expect it. Shortly after Keryx, I was baptized; I wanted to seal my relationship with Christ. I've been home two years now. The blessings I have received since that day in that cell are astronomical. The best things I ever did was go to prison and meet Jesus. I pray the same for my brothers in prison.
In Christ, Mike

More thanks

A special thank you to the women of Prince of Peace for the six beautiful banners for the TD Chapel. They have been approved and will soon be replacing the old ones now on display. They enhance the worship atmosphere of the chapel.

HELP US SAVE POSTAGE

If you are willing to receive your newsletter electronically, call or email Martha Hayward (734-417-3427) or 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 Keryx weekend is April 20-23, 2017**

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 47, please bring your driver’s license or other official picture ID with you to the front desk on **Saturday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. (no earlier as you will be asked to drive out off the prison property) for the 6:30 p.m. Serenade, and on Sunday, April 23 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.

Volunteers are responsible for keeping track of their status. All you need to do to keep your status current is fill out a new LEIN every March or April. If you forget and let it lapse, your ID is shredded and you will have to go through the whole application process again. In the past reminders were sent out but that does not happen anymore. If your contact information has changed, please email or call Tom Prisk so he can update your information.

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 (9:15am) 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

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|---|---|---|
| <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>Tom Smithson, Palanca 2623 W. Maple Ridge Road Rock,MI 49880 smithsontom@hughes.net</p> <p>*Tom is not on the Board but has agreed to serve as palanca coordinator</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 Rijohnsondds@hotmail.com First term ends 6/15</p> | <p>Marvin LaGrew N. 14511 Black River Road Ironwood, MI 49938 Marve46@up.net First term ends 6/2019</p> |
| <p>Mike and Marylou Stefanski 43N. Serenity Drive Gwinn, MI 49841 First term ends 6/17 oulyarm@gmail.com</p> | <p>Dave Blomquist 906-396-0259 1530 West Ridge #7 Marquette, MI 49855 First term ends 6/17</p> | <p>Vic Thompson 1109 N. 18th Street Escanaba, MI 49829 Thom7374@gmail.com First term ends 6/2019</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 20 or 21 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!