

Keryx Prison Ministry
555 Riverside Road
Marquette, MI 49855

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

Spring 2018

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 22, if you come to the closing OR mail or bring to Prince of Peace Church on M-28 in Harvey before Saturday, April 21.

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URGENT REQUEST

We are grateful for all volunteers who attended the serenade and closing of Keryx #48. 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 48 Rector

Dear Brothers in Christ,
As the past Rector of Keryx #48, I would like to tell all of you that this was the best week I've had in a long time. It was a little scary at first but once I let the Holy Spirit take over it couldn't have been any better. As soon as it seemed like there was going to be a problem, bang, God stepped in, problem gone!! He helped me realize who was really in control and I owe Him all the credit for a blessed weekend. I guess it's like they say, "Thank Him who sent me!" I love working for the Boss!! Jim Meier

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, generous contributor to the Keryx ministry, generous in economic support and volunteers. 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 want to thank Chaplain Tom for the support and energy he puts into making our services continue. 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 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.**

OUTSIDE TEAM MEETING

The Keryx Outside Team supports the Keryx weekend by preparing supper and breakfast for the team members, organizing the palanca packets which are mailed to the candidates after the weekend, and filling in the prayer vigil sheet.

The Keryx Outside Team will meet at Prince of Peace on April 5, 7:00 pm, at the same time and place of the 5th team meeting. Any one willing to help plan meals or prepare food for the team during the weekend, please make plans to attend this meeting.

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

From Chaplain Tom Prisk

To All Keryx Volunteers:

This is a reminder that the times of the serenade and third Saturday reunion have changed. The serenade is 6:30-7:30 on Saturday evening. Please be at the prison between 6:00-6:15pm. The closing on Sunday remains the same. Be at the front desk at **12:10, since we might go in earlier than before.** The third Saturday reunion is 9:15 to 10:30am. Be at the front desk by 9:00am.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should pick up application forms at the front desk. Return them to the front desk with Gale Bott's name on the envelope or mail them to Gale Bott, volunteer coordinator, Marquette Branch Prison.

Mr. Bott has scheduled three training sessions for 2018: March 13, 12-2pm; September 11, 12-2pm; December 11, 12-2pm.

Keryx weekends in 2018 at MBP are #49 is April 19-22 and #50 is October 18-21.

Again, thanks to all the many volunteers. Chaplain Tom

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

Testimony from former candidates

To my brothers in Christ,

I am writing this letter to tell you how the Keryx Ministry affected my life. I was privileged to be part of Keryx #45. I have had my share of dark times, filled with doubt about God. When I arrived at MBP, I met some good Christian brothers who invited me to attend services and sign up for Keryx #45. There I learned that even though my earthly parents were never there for me, I have a Heavenly Father who will never leave or forsake me. Having leaders come into the prison to give their time to share the gospel with us and give us their personal testimonies and to love us in spite of whatever we were there for, meant a lot to me. I still think of and pray for all of you.

God bless,

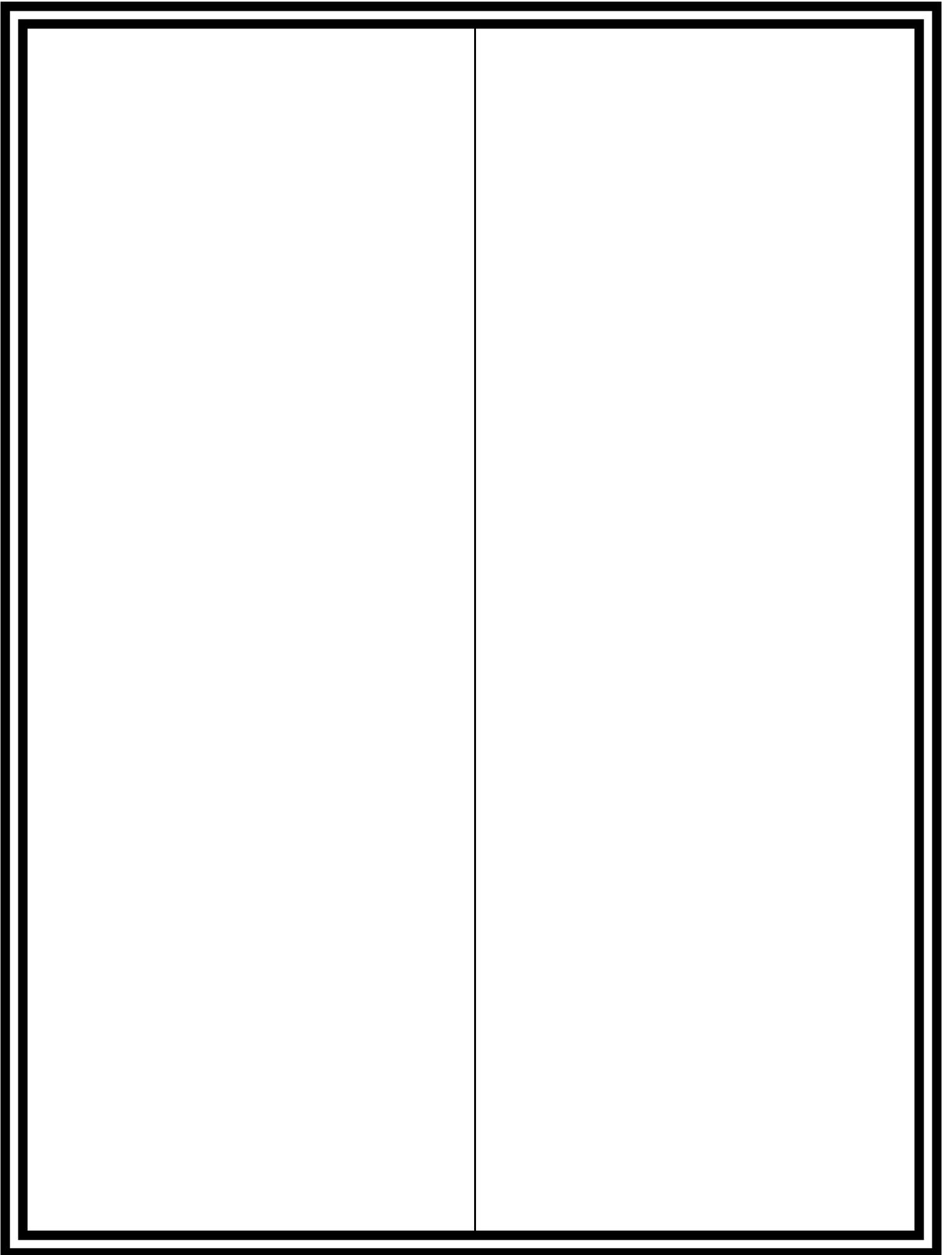
William

Greetings from the western edge of the swamp:

As I read Mike's letter in the Spring 2017 Newsletter, it reminded me about the way I heard about Kairos in the Kinross Correctional Facility. Like Mike I was attending church services regularly but something felt missing. I attended the October 1995 Kairos #24 weekend at KCF and nothing has been the same since! I was active as a Keryx inside team volunteer at KCF and MBP until paroled. I still go to Mass five days a week and celebrated 43 years of continuous sobriety on August 23, 2017 by being active in Alcoholics Anonymous. Like Mike said in his letter, it took prison to bring me back into the fold.

One of the King's kids,

John



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 19-22, 2018**

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 49, please bring your driver’s license or other official picture ID with you to the front desk on **Saturday, April 21 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 22 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 7:00pm. (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>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 Rijohnson114@gmail.com First term ends 6/15</p>	<p>Marvin LaGrew N. 14511 Black River Road Ironwood, MI 49938 Marv46@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 Dmb1530@gmail.com</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, October 19 and 20 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!