

Keryx Prison Ministry
555 Riverside Road
Marquette, MI 49855

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

Spring 2019

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, May 5, if you come to the closing OR mail or bring to Prince of Peace Church on M-28 in Harvey before Saturday, May 4.

+++++

URGENT REQUEST

We were grateful for all volunteers who attended the serenade and closing of Keryx #50. There was a wonderful turnout for the serenade. 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. Monday "Prayer and Share" is also an important commitment. A team volunteer who is unable to attend on the Monday for which he has signed up should contact an alternate who will take his place.

Note from Keryx 50 Rector

To my Keryx family.

I pray everyone is doing well. I had the humbling honor to serve as rector for the last Keryx. It was my second time trying to fill that position. The previous walk was my last as an active member of the Michigan State Police. As time keeper for that walk I had the last talk of the weekend. Chaplain Tom and I snuck out so that I could put my dress uniform on. There were a lot of nervous faces when I walked back in and I do not believe the pilgrims knew who I was even after an entire weekend with them until I spoke. So the last walk I was a full on civilian again.

I have come to realize that the best thing about these weekends is that you get to watch God moving in a dark place. In church we get to worship God and feel His presence. In that little prison chapel we worship God and feel His presence in a place many folks would not expect to find God.

Then as the weekend progresses we get to see God moving in and about the men He brought together for the weekend. We see walls get shaken, crack and eventually fall. We see hard hearts open back up to God and His redeeming grace. We see forgotten men realize that not everyone has forgotten them and watch as they realize God never left them and still loves them as His child.

We walk in as Christian brothers from many towns and denominations as one team. We do our best to do and say the right things to help our brothers. We get to step aside and let God take the lead and reconnect with a man's heart. We get to watch so many miracles, have our own faith encouraged and be blessed by a weekend with God.

Please pray for Chaplain Tom. Please pray for the next bunch of pilgrims. Please pray for the team.

God bless

Scooter

aka, Scott Ritsema

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES FOR 2019

Volunteering training dates are June 11, September 10, and December 10. All are held from 12:00-2:00pm at Marquette Branch Prison.

IN MEMORY OF JIM JOHNSON

On March 15 Jim passed from this life and joined Chris, his beloved wife. Jim was on the Keryx teams for many years, in level 5 and later in level 1. When his health no longer permitted him to be on team, he was part of the outside team and arranged men to come in and prepare breakfasts. Chris and Jim opened their sauna to tired team members during the weekend. We miss both Chris and Jim and are so grateful for their many years of service.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM GALE BOTT, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Any person coming into Marquette Branch Prison, as a volunteer, needs to go through new volunteer training. Marquette Branch Prison will hold special group training sessions for those volunteers who have not completed it before the upcoming Keryx weekend. If anyone isn't sure whether or not they had the training, or would like to schedule it, please call Gale Bott @ 226-6531 ext 252-1407.

A volunteer who has gone through the volunteer training and is in the prison data base will retain volunteer status if he/she is a **regular** volunteer, attends prison services more than two or three times a year. Keryx volunteers are encouraged to attend Monday Prayer and Share and 3rd Saturday reunion.

A person coming in on a one day pass must sign a LEIN at least a week before coming into the prison. This LEIN will remain valid for one year. If you are unsure if you are approved to go into MBP for the May weekend, call Gale Bott (226-6531 Ext 252-1407).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE TEAM

Fred Baij	Boyd Morsted	Scott Ritsema
Jay Norman	Jon Schwalmlien	Pete Corkin
Gary Lubinski	Harry Weikel	Dave Blomquist
Dale Eltman	Ken Johnson	Ben Letho
Bruce Buckman	Joe DeHut	Dick Pernsteiner
Randy Gilbertson	Jim Hayward	Tom Smithson
Greg Anderson	Tim Goman	Mike Stefanski
Jeff Michaud	Jeff Rickaby	Jim Meier
Jack Hudson	Dan MacDonald	Terry Cathcart
Brandon Morey	Doug Hodges	Brian Bartanen

MANY THANKS!

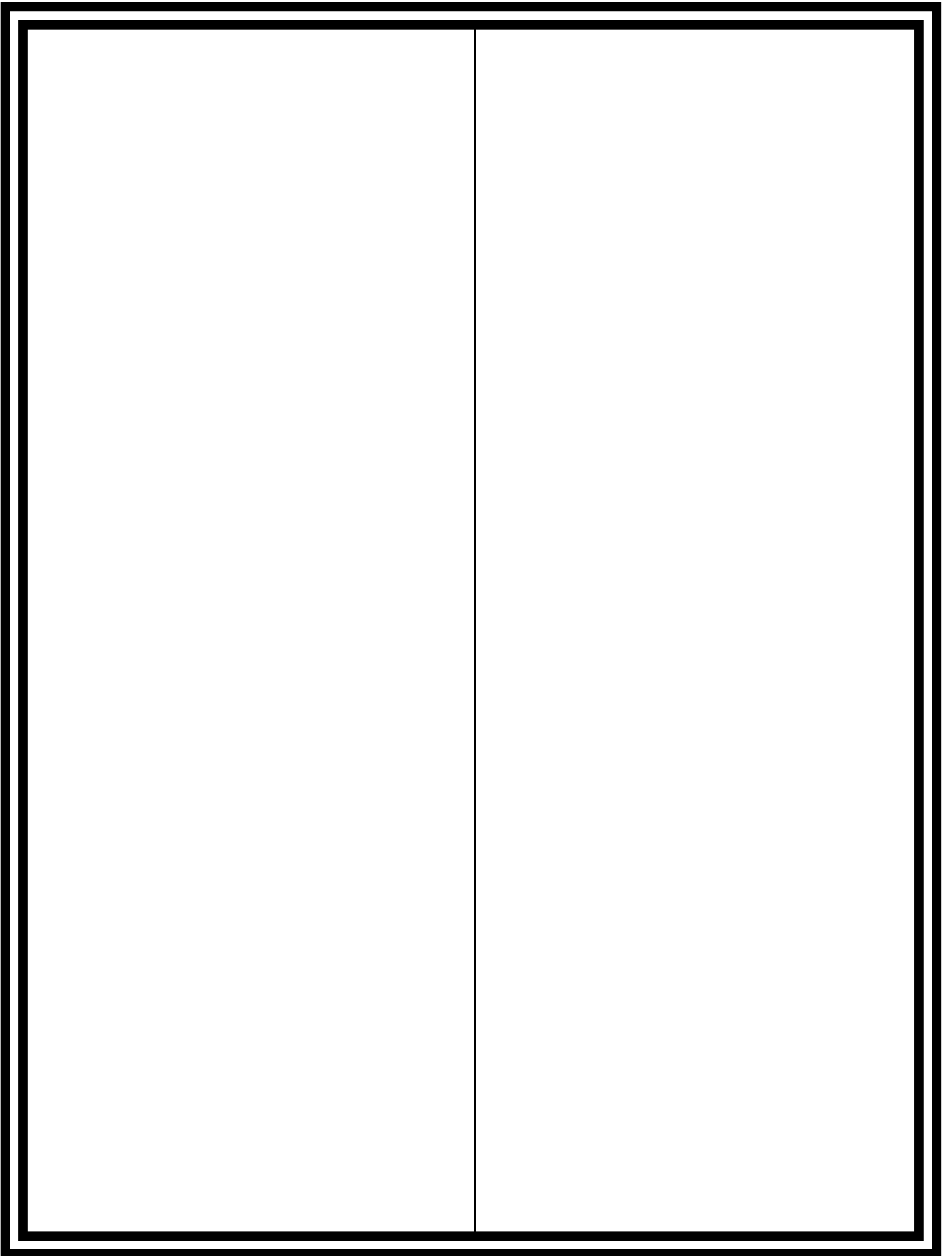
Thank you to all who generously supported the Marquette Area Keryx Prison Ministry, financially and through your prayers. We would especially like to thank Lake Superior Christian Church, a generous, regular contributor to the Keryx ministry. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church supports us in many ways. They generously allow us to hold team meetings in their church and provide space for the team to stay 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 Keryx, 555 Riverside Road, Marquette, MI, 49855. Please note this change of address. 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 met at Lake Superior Church on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 pm. If you did not attend this meeting and are willing to help during the weekend by providing food or working, please call Martha (734-417-3427) or Georgie (906-236-3765).



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 May 2-5, 2019

If you are already a **certified volunteer** (have been through the volunteer training program and in the volunteer data base) have made a 3-day Weekend on the outside and wish to participate in the **Keryx Serenade and Closing** for Keryx 50, please bring your driver’s license or other official picture ID with you to the front desk on Saturday, May 4 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, May 5 at 12:30 p.m. (no earlier for the same reason) for the closing. Just a reminder that a handshake is the only contact allowed.

In the past, it was necessary for trained volunteers to sign a yearly LEIN form in order to keep their volunteer status current. Gale Bott, volunteer coordinator, assures us that this is not longer necessary. When a person has been trained and in the data base, there is no additional training or form updates necessary. However, a volunteer needs to attend more than once or twice a year to retain volunteer status.

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 for more information. It will be necessary to pick up volunteer application forms at the front desk of the prison. Return the forms to the front desk with Gale Bott’s name on the envelope or mail them to Gale Bott, volunteer coordinator, Marquette Branch Prison.

It is now possible to attend the serenade or closing without volunteer status by obtaining a daily pass. It is necessary to go to the front desk at the prison and sign a LEIN form at least a week before going into the prison. Any volunteer who is uncertain if his/her volunteer status is current should call Gale Bott at the prison (226-6531) before coming to the serenade or closing.

There are many ways to support the Keryx Team. Consider being trained as a volunteer 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 Second term ends 6/20</p>	<p>Pete Corkin, Treasurer 520 N. Lake Enchantment Trail Marquette, MI 49855 Petec108@hotmail.com First term ends 6/21</p>	<p>Tom Smithson, Palanca 2623 W. Maple Ridge Road Rock, MI 49880 smithsontom@hughes.net *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 Marthaannhayward@gmail.com Second term ends 6/20</p>	<p>Bruce Buckman W 9277 Hibbard St. Iron Mountain, MI 49801 bruce.buckman@charter.net First term ends 6/21</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 Second term ends 6/20 oulyarm@gmail.com</p>	<p>Dave Blomquist 906-396-0259 1530 West Ridge #7 Marquette, MI 49855 Second term ends 6/20 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, May 2 or 3 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. If you are willing help us save postage by receiving the newsletter electronically, please call Martha or email her at marthaannhayward@gmail.com.



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!