

**Free Inside**  
**A Christian Prison Ministry**  
*A Partner with Vision New England Prison Ministries*  
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**Free Inside News**

May 2004.

I was given the following comments on prayer from someone without information regarding the source, I was challenged by them and pass them on for your consideration.

**“Pray for us”** 1 Thessalonians 5: 25.

This is a clear and straightforward plea by the apostle Paul to the Thessalonians. It is simple, emotionally restrained; yet an earnest expression of the need he feels for God’s help. The apostle Paul was intellectually brilliant, spiritually gifted, a valiant missionary of the gospel, chosen by God to do great things. Yet he pleads for prayer, ‘pray for me’ In Romans 15:30 his plea is more vehement, more urgent ‘join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.’ If a great man like the apostle Paul needed others to pray for him, then surely we need to pray for each other.

**Why?** Because that which most needs to be accomplished in Christian ministry and missionary outreach cannot be achieved by human effort and ingenuity.

***The bottom line is that we are engaged in spiritual work and warfare,*** bringing the light and love of God wherever we go, whether it is into a prison or to our next-door neighbor. Without God’s help we will fail. That is why we pray for the power of God to be released into our lives and ministry. Ministry success comes through prayer.

**Bergin beginning.**

After waiting and praying for months, Free Inside will begin Alpha at Bergin C. I. in Storrs on May 5th at 7 pm. The patience of our second volunteer team has been rewarded and they are eager to get going. The team members are quality folk, representing 2 churches, First Baptist Church in Manchester and the Worship Center in Hebron. Please pray for them and for the inmates at Bergin, that the Lord will draw them to the course.

**Gates ending.**

The day we begin at Bergin will be the last session at Gates C. I. We are planning another session at Gates as soon as the head Chaplain returns from her sabbatical at the end of May.

**Gates volunteers.** The Gates team is eager to continue and are ready for another session. Here are a few brief comments on their first experience in prison ministry.

**Volunteer comments:**

*“I am always surprised that the short distance to the other side of the barbed wire is to move into another culture, yet inmates have much the same hopes and concerns as those on the outside. Every week they seem overjoyed to meet volunteers, and express concern that all is well with us. It is an encouraging experience.”* Gordon.

*“I have been impressed with what God is doing in these men’s lives and how they will need much prayer after they get out of jail. This may be the biggest challenge they may have to their new spiritual life.”* Frank.

*“I find the inmates, for the most part, to be sincere and truly seeking for Christ to enter into their disordered lives. Interacting with them weekly has given new meaning to Christ’s words-‘When I was in prison you visited me’”* Joe.

**My Schedule:**

May 1 – Free Inside Board Meeting

May 2. – Preach Westford Congregational Church, Ashford;

May 9 – Preach Hebron House Church

May 15 –Alpha Connections, Branford, 10 am - noon: Alpha Connections is a gathering of leaders of churches along the Connecticut shore doing Alpha. I have been invited to present the work of F I at their meeting.

May 15 – DOC Volunteer Conference 2 pm - 4 pm

May 22 – Prison Fellowship Mentoring and aftercare training. Please pray for these events.

**Praise.**

- For the Bergin beginning.
- For enough volunteers for Bergin and the churches they come from.

**Prayer.**

- For the team and inmates at Bergin.
- For a second course at Gates, at least by the summer.
- For the start at York C. I. (no date set yet) A sufficient number of volunteers for York.
- Our personal funding, we are still only at about 30% of what we need.

**A personal prayer request.**

Sheila and I need guidance on our church membership. A while ago we wrote to some of you about this, expressing some of our concerns. We still have no clarity, so we have decided to wait a bit longer before making a decision.

Sincerely,

Peter.

*For Christ and His Kingdom*