



Rev. Peter Dewberry PO Box 341 Glastonbury, CT 06033 Phone: (860)633-4085

November 2009

e-mail: freeinside@cox.net , website www.free-inside.com

National Alpha Conference - Orlando

"Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124: 8

Sheila and I returned on October 25, from Orlando and the National Alpha Conference. The conference was an enriching experience, we learned a lot in the plenary sessions and in several workshops and seminars. Unfortunately, due to a cold, we had to miss the evening sessions, by the end of each day I was worn out.

One of the best experiences was meeting up with others who do Alpha in prisons. We were able to share experiences, ideas and to encourage one another in prayer.

Alpha America's Conference

I would like to encourage everyone of you to think of going to the next national Alpha Conference which is planned for Chicago on June 22 and 23. This conference is being billed as *Alpha America's Conference*, because participants will be coming from the whole of North and South America. Attendance will be a wonderful experience for you all.



Alpha's penetration into Connecticut prisons

I was encouraged to learn that Alpha has a greater proportional penetration into CT prisons than any other state in the USA. Our ministry Free Inside is in 7 prisons offering 12 courses each semester, and teams from other churches such as Trinity Covenant in Manchester, and First Church, Wethersfield are in 7 others, offering 7 courses. So there are 19 courses each semester in 14 out of 20 facilities., making a total of 70% of all prisons in the state with a regular course.

Tomoka Correctional Institution - October 22, 2009

A disparate group of 24, (photo below) from 3 countries, USA, UK, South Africa went to Tomoka C I a level 5 men's prison in Daytona Beach to introduce and launch Alpha. We held a service in the prison Chapel which was surprisingly large compared with CT prison Chapels. According to a sign on the wall it was approved for a capacity of 210, it was full.



Main Entrance Tomoka C I

The music was led by an outstanding band of 4 talented musicians, under the leadership of Brenton Brown, who is internationally known as a contemporary worship leader and song writer. Brenton and one other band member, Daniel Ornellas are from my home town Cape Town, South Africa. Brenton has several CDs to his credit.

Those of you interested in Contemporary Christian worship music should check Brenton's list on iTunes.

Bear Grylls at Tomoka

The service was led by Jack Cowley, USA director of Alpha in Prisons and Re-entry. He introduced the 2 main speakers, Paul Cowley (no relation) spoke on finding God's plan from Jeremiah 29: 11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* He spoke movingly and very directly from his own personal life story of how he found God's plan for his life.

Jack Cowley then introduced Bear Grylls of the Discovery Channel's survival program *"Man vs Wild"*. Jack's interview covered his life, the TV program, his own experience of Alpha, and his personal relationship with Christ. Bear spoke refreshingly to each of these topics without using *"Christianese"*. May he never learn to use Christian jargon *ever*.

Waiting to get into Tomoka



Lots of questions

As you might imagine the men had lots of questions about the program and about the disgusting stuff he eats to survive on the program; grubs, snakes, undigested food taken from bear poop and even skunk. I don't think that any other Alpha program in prison has had such a great launch event.

Praise God for:

- The fact that 70% of CT prisons have an Alpha course
- The growth of Alpha in the USA, in churches, prisons, colleges and the military

Pray for:

- Alpha at Tomoka
- The 19 Alpha courses now in progress in CT
- Funding for maintaining and growing the ministry
- Funds to replenish our supply of resource materials



Bear Grylls; Shara Grylls; Paul Cowley

Make a donation to help supply needed ministry resources

Resources we need and use

We need to keep a fairly large inventory of Resource materials on hand, to supply our teams with what they need. The cost of these resources is considerable, but they are essential for the ministry. We distribute booklets, books and Bibles to inmates free of charge. The printing and copying of outlines for inmates and promotional materials for the ministry are also expensive.

Within the next 6 - 8 weeks our fall programs will end. Each group will have a graduation, those who have completed, the course will receive certificates. When we can we like to give out a good Christian book along with the certificates, most prisoners read a lot, so good, readable Christian books have a great positive influence in their lives.

We scour book discount warehouses and catalogs in an attempt to purchase these books at as deep a discount as possible.

Your donation to our resource fund is an effective way of influencing these men and women for Christ.

The Purpose Driven Life



The Purpose Driven Life has proven to be one of the most effective resources in our ministry. It has helped inmates build a stronger foundation and a clearer understanding of the faith. The edition we use is inexpensive and is especially published for prison outreach by Rick Warren.

In the last 4 years we have given out over 2000 copies in English and Spanish.

Many inmates have met up other like-minded men and women in their dorms and cell blocks through reading The Purpose Driven Life. They are sometimes able to share and pray about what they are learning from this book. Prison life breeds a deep sense of isolation and mistrust, by sharing together in this way they begin to experience real Christian fellowship.

**Please make your check out to Free Inside and mail it to:
Free Inside, P O Box 341, Glastonbury, CT 06033.**

Free Inside is a 501 c (3) tax-exempt charity, all gifts are tax-deductible