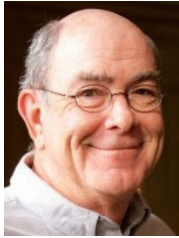




Spring Issue



A message from Dean Bucalos, Executive Director of MB3

In a matter of weeks, our vocabulary changed. Coronavirus. Social distancing. Quarantine. COVID-19. And our lives changed as well. We have learned how fragile life is and how quickly it can change. At MB3, we have had to adjust as well. Lockdowns have prevented us from visiting those behind bars and being present with them. Instead, we have asked people to write notes of encouragement. The isolation normally experienced by those incarcerated has been magnified and the fear of becoming infected has been greatly increased. However, we are still able to remain in contact with those recently released and continue to provide encouragement and support. We go by the tried and true adage, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." In this newsletter, we share some of the positive things in which MB3 has been involved. God's presence continues to be in our midst and God's guidance will lead us through this calamity. We remain faithful and hope you, our donors, will continue to believe in the work MB3 is doing and continue your prayerful support. May you and your loved ones be safe and well.

Lenten blessings,
Rev. Dean Bucalos

Reveal 2020 Postponed

Due to concerns about the coronavirus, MB3 postponed its annual fundraiser, Reveal 2020, scheduled for April 24, 2020. We are so appreciative of our sponsors of this year's event:

David Senior, Esq.



Tom and Susan
St. Maxens



This important MB3 fundraiser will be rescheduled later in the year and once again will be catered at **The Table** with desserts by **Cup of Joy**.

Please look out for a **"Save the Date"** notice in the near future.

Reaching Individuals Behind and Beyond Bars Conference Another Success!



Workshop meeting at Reaching Individuals Behind and Beyond the Bars conference

On March 6th, over 150 people convened at Hotel Louisville for the seventh annual Reaching Individuals Behind and Beyond the Bars Conference. Co-sponsored by MB3, The National Benevolent Association and Catholic Charities, people from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Indiana who work in the area of prison ministry and reentry gathered along with 15 service providers to hear dynamic speakers and attend timely workshops.



Dale Recinella

Keynote speaker, Dale Recinella, a Florida lawyer and death row chaplain, reminded us that compassion without competence is a hoax when we work with those who are incarcerated. Social Worker Tony Mathis shared the importance of building cultural competence as we address issues affecting those who are often on the margins of our society. Good food and important networking complemented a full day. We are grateful to all who participated.

Scarcity and Abundance in a Pandemic

By John-Mark Hack
MB3 Board Chair
jmbhack@gmail.com



John-Mark Hack

Confinement, not being able to move about freely, not being able to come and go as I please, is a new experience for me. Like everyone else, I have never lived through what all of us are now sharing. I'm not accustomed to going to grocery stores and not being able to get what I want when I want it. I'm not at all familiar with the range of emotions

that accompany having my freedom to meet with others taken away. In my most self-centered moments, it seems so unfair, like some miscarriage of the natural world's justice, to have my movements and choices limited by a pandemic.

When I think in terms of scarcity, I see scarcity.

But then, mercifully, forgiving my selfishness, God opens my eyes, my heart and my mind to the experiences of so many others who don't share in the many privileges I'm afforded. God opens my eyes to women and men who don't have the option to spend unlimited time outdoors to relieve the monotony of sheltering in place. God opens my heart to women and men now experiencing confinement within confinement as they lose their already strictly limited opportunities to visit with loved ones and even their lawyers. God opens my mind to the greatly increased risk of contracting a highly virulent virus faced by the women and men in prisons and jails, including both those in confinement and the public servants who work in corrections facilities.

And when I'm willing and honest enough to allow God to fully open my eyes, my heart and my mind to the conditions and challenges constantly faced by my incarcerated sisters and brothers, God enables me to see some possibilities in this dark hour. Public policy makers are now contemplating the release of incarcerated citizens to help in virus containment efforts. While our mentoring groups are now limited in the kind of contact they can have with MB3 clients, how can MB3 quickly expand to help those who are released to successfully re-enter our communities? How can we quickly expand our services in this time of greatest need and what seems like an insurmountable challenge? How can we quickly train and empower new mentoring groups to handle the sudden release of numerous returning citizens?

When I think in terms of abundance, I see abundance.

I see the many of you who have so generously supported this ministry in the past, either financially, with your time, or both. I see your networks of family, friends and fellow church members, many of whom would gladly step up to this cause if they only knew the immeasurable value and deeply rewarding nature of their participation. I see MB3 in a position to greatly expand and share the highly effective methods we have developed to help facilitate the successful re-entry of our returning sisters and brothers released early because of this pandemic. I see the very hands and feet of God in action. I see the heart, eyes and mind of God freely and abundantly expressed through your actions.

Mission Behind Bars and Beyond needs your help to face this moment.

What do you think? What do you see?

Mentors Needed/Mentor Training Now On-line



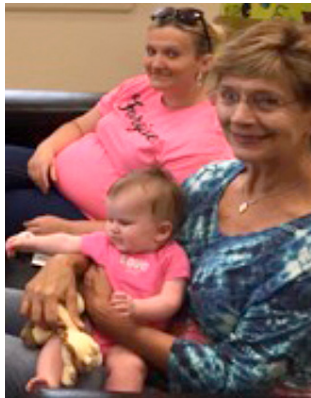
MB3 board member, Mark Johnson, providing Mentor Training.

These difficult times are requiring many adjustments. MB3 still intends to help those returning to our communities from incarceration make a soft landing. Obviously, face-to-face meetings in our Nurture, Support and Accountability Groups will be limited. But there are many ways to provide support and to stay in contact with returning citizens without face-to-face meetings. And now, more than ever, mentors are needed.

You can become a MB3 mentor by being trained on-line through our video training. All you need to do is contact us at missionbehindbarsandbeyond@gmail.com and we will give you the passcode to begin the on-line training. Once completed, we will be in contact and connect you with a returning citizen in need. People ask what they can do during this unusual time to help others. We answer, "Become a MB3 mentor." We hope to hear from you.

What you are doing is working! Pamela, A Wonderful Update...

Here's a current reflection from Pamela whose story we shared nearly five years ago. When we first encountered Pamela, she was pregnant and ready to be released on parole with nowhere to go. We are all thrilled to hear how well she is doing. Because of your continued support of MB3, we share with you one of many MB3 success stories. Read what she has to say (with some editing):



Pamela with one of her mentors (holding the baby) 2015

Five years ago I was in Dismas Charities-Dierson. I went to church and met Pastor Dean and he helped me start my journey. Two days after I graduated (from the substance abuse program) at Dismas Charities-Dierson, I had a beautiful daughter and when I left the hospital I went straight to Lexington to the Chrysalis House. I immediately connected with a MB3 mentoring group (NSAG) and they became my family. They helped me find stuff for my baby cause I literally had like two outfits for her. They helped me find means to get some much-needed dental work done; helped provide transportation and gave me much needed emotional support. They became like family. When I completed Chrysalis House, they helped me get furniture and supplies for my apartment. They celebrate birthdays with me and my daughter, and were there for the birth of my son.



Pamela with her two children today.

It's been four years. My daughter is four and my son is one. I successfully walked 5 years probation and was recently approved for section 8 housing. I still keep in close contact with members of my group; they even take my daughter to church. I am now in a position where I can help others and because of this

group, I know how and have resources. I now feel amazing when way back I felt hopeless. I had no family, no friends and no resources. I now have family, friends, can help others and have peace in my heart. It all began with the Grace of God and this group.

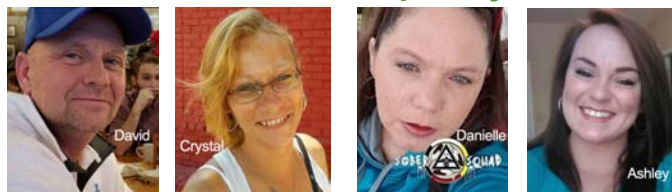
MB3 to Expand Services



In partnership with the United Methodist Church, MB3 will help start a new congregation inside Dismas Charities-St. Ann in Louisville. This is a detention facility for men who have been paroled and are subject to being released upon the completion of a six-month substance abuse program.

The first worship service was held on February 24th. It was led by St. Matthew's United Methodist Church's River City community of faith. The service was well received by the residents. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, subsequent services have been canceled. However, our hope is to have weekly services begin when life gets back to normal. We are excited about this expansion of services and the possibility of serving more men in MB3's mentoring program and involving United Methodist churches.

Some of Those Helped by MB3



Your support can help us add more pictures to this group.

Become a Volunteer, Advocate, Mentor or Donor and help change lives.

Other Ways To Support MB3

- Shop on **Amazon Smile** and set MB3 as the non-profit to receive a percent of your purchases from Amazon.
- Create a **Facebook fundraiser** for MB3 in honor of special events such as your birthday.
- Have a lasting impact on MB3 with a **Monthly Recurring Donation** by checking the recurring donation box when you make your donation.

DONATE



Mission Behind Bars and Beyond
Contact: Dean Bucalos
Executive Director
Phone: 502-396-3543
MissionBehindBarsAndBeyond@gmail.com



Mission Behind Bars and Beyond is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

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