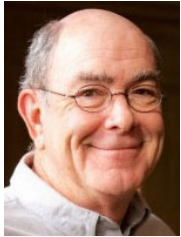




Summer Issue: The Mission Continues



A message from Dean Bucalos, Executive Director of MB3

These are unsettling times. We have been hit by two viral diseases that have created much pain and sorrow. Each brings its own evil consequences. The COVID-19 virus continues to paralyze our nation and take the lives of those most vulnerable. Racism is a viral condition embedded in our culture that has surfaced more profoundly in the past months due to the murders of three innocent People of Color – Arnaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. We, at MB3, understand the riddling effects of these two monsters in our midst. The coronavirus pandemic has struck those who are incarcerated in unique and unprecedented ways, with little relief in sight. Overcrowded prisons and jails can be traced to racist policies and practices dating back many, many years.

Change is on the horizon. MB3 intends to participate in the change that we wish the world to see. Along the way, we will continue to stand with those who have been incarcerated and are returning to our communities. We commit to walking alongside them even though the pathways have been altered and remain perilous. Your support remains the wind beneath our wings.

In this summer newsletter you will learn how we are maintaining MB3's mission in these uncertain and disturbing times. We are grateful to our supporters who have seen the transformation of the lives of those whom we have served. May we all continue to find ways to be safe and well and live into a kinder, more equitable, more merciful, and more loving world.

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Over 2,000 Donation Items for the Residents of Diersen



Rev. Caitlin Simpson with a small sampling of the donated items.

While New Life in Christ Church has not been able to meet for worship since March 10, 2020, the congregation along with Mission Behind Bars and Beyond is still actively engaging with the residents of Diersen at Dismas Charities. In light of COVID-19 causing a suspension of in-person gatherings at Diersen, we started a campaign called Notes of Hope, requesting members of the larger

community write cards and notes sending well wishes and words of affirmation to the congregation. In an overwhelming response of support, the ladies of Diersen have continued to receive letters, cards, and individually packaged snacks from the community as the experience of isolation has increased during this pandemic.

We also began taking donations of Celebrate Recovery Bibles, Celebrate Recovery One Year Devotions, AA/NA Meditation books Just for Today, and other devotionals for the ladies of the house to access. We were fortunate enough to have over 120 masks handmade and donated by community members. By the start of June 2020, we had received over 2,000 donation items for the residents of Diersen!

I speak on behalf of the residents and congregation members by saying THANK YOU! We are so grateful for the continued support for this powerful ministry and for the ways you have showed up to remind these ladies that they are worthy and glorious children of God. We are getting through this, together, with you. Thank you!

– Rev. Caitlin Simpson,
Pastor of New Life in Christ Christian Church

What you are doing is working! *Kat's story...*

Here's testimony from Katherine Yarborough that reminds us in her own words (with some editing), that what you are doing is working....



Katherine Yarborough

My name is Kat Yarborough. I began my journey with MB3 back in November of 2019. I arrived at the Dismas Charities-Diersen in Louisville, KY on November 21, 2019, and met my MB3 family the following Tuesday evening. That is when Reverend Caitlin Simpson and Reverend Dean Bucalos blessed and changed my life forever.

I was lost and going through a major identity crisis but had the passion of Christ burning through me. I was welcomed and loved immediately. Nothing in my past deterred them from loving me the way God wanted me to be loved. Nothing stopped them from bringing in God's word to me. Nothing stopped them from becoming the most inspirational and supportive people in my life. MB3 is truly a God driven program. They go above and beyond to reach the needs of the ones who are incarcerated and wanting to change their lives.

Reverend Caitlin is someone whom I was able to share my most inner secrets with, who did not judge me, yet educated me in my views and feelings of my sexuality and my walk with God. She gave me suggestions on books which I ordered and read that helped answer my questions and become closer to God in the ways I spoke and prayed to him. Her educational and experiential background in suicide helped me through my darkest times when dealing with a family member who no longer wanted to be here. Her love and dedication got me through the hardest six months of my life.

Reverend Dean is someone who brought me the most peace and comfort I have ever known aside from God. His calm and spiritual demeanor radiates to anyone who is in his presence. There is no room for anger or confusion when he is around. He can magically make it go away. I was blessed to have taken one of his classes, "99 Days and a Get Up." In that class, he introduced a method of meditation to me. Through one of those meditations I was calm, clear minded and hearted enough to hear and feel God tell me the time to forgive was right then and

there. Something that had been eating at my soul that I had refused to let go of was released and given to God at that very moment. I will never forget that day. I will never forget feeling safe enough to release my pain. I was also able to share secrets in his class that I had never shared before. He never even flinched. He never treated me differently. He just continued to help me grow and become closer to God.

MB3 provided a case manager for me, Maria Trevizo, who was also such a beautiful blessing. MB3 provided classes for re-entry and brought in other preachers weekly to share hope and God's word. I graduated from Dismas Charities-Diersen on May 22, 2020 and the first phone calls I made were to MB3. I speak with them regularly and they continue to help and guide me. They continue to love me unconditionally. They continue to support me and are still here for me today. I am truly blessed and forever grateful. Thank you MB3. You have changed my life. I am proud to say I am still dealing HOPE every day!

Dismas Charities-St. Ann's Congregation Begins to Meet



Rev. Ryan Stoess

In June, MB3, in partnership with the United Methodist Church and Dismas Charities-St. Ann, will begin regular worship services digitally led by the congregation's new pastor, Rev. Ryan Stoess. We are delighted that Rev. Stoess has answered the call to serve this new congregation in this facility which consists of over 60 men who are under supervision of the Kentucky Department of Corrections and enrolled in a six-month substance abuse program. Once given clearance, Rev. Stoess will begin inviting outside worshipers to visit and lead worship weekly. The men who are residents will be introduced to MB3's mentoring program, and life skills classes will also be provided on a regular basis.



Louisville Bar Foundation Awards Grant to MB3

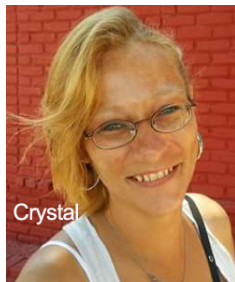
For the past several years, The Louisville Bar Foundation has supported MB3's mentor training program. Once again, in 2020, the LBF awarded funding to MB3's highly successful mentor training program. We are grateful for this and for all the good causes supported by the LBF. These day-long trainings have served to expand the number of mentors that MB3 has available to work with our clients. Though suspended temporarily because of the coronavirus pandemic, once that is behind us, in-person training will continue thanks to the LBF grant.

In the meantime, MB3 is still training mentors! High quality training videos are available on MB3's website. If you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming an MB3 mentor, please contact us at missionbehindbarsandbeyond@gmail.com and we will give you the link to the videos and the required password.

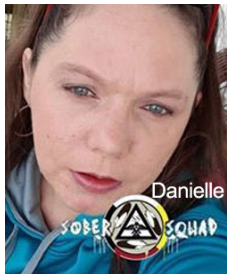
Some of Those Helped by MB3



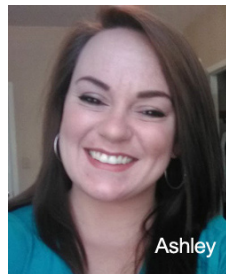
David



Crystal

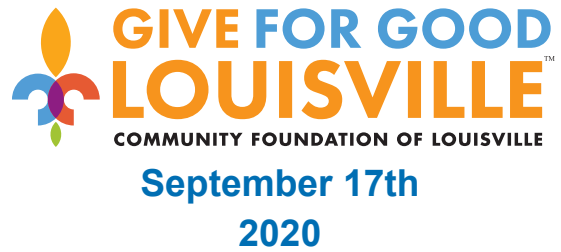


Danielle



Ashley

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



Please Remember This Date. MB3 will once again be participating in this one-day dedicated to giving to worthy non-profits. This year MB3 has the ambitious goal of raising \$10,000. This is double last year's goal, but with your help, we know we can reach it! In a year when fundraising and donor giving has been affected by the pandemic, it is important for MB3 to keep on going.

We are pleased to announce that one of MB3's volunteers, Jennifer Whitworth, will be heading our Give for Good Louisville campaign. **Keep an eye out for communications from Jennifer over the summer and save the date!**

*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



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