

# The Milwaukee Outreach Center



*Easter Edition*

MARCH 2006

## A New Living and Hope

The cross by itself looks hopeless. The cross and Easter, now this is a message of living hope.

Women who were eyewitnesses when Jesus was crucified, three days later crossed the

Kidron Valley to visit a garden tomb with spices for the body of Jesus. On that first Easter Sunday, they found a massive sealed stone that had been pushed aside and an open tomb. Stepping inside, they saw an angel bright as lightening with clothes white as snow. He said, "I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay" (Matthew 28:6).

Before they knew it, these women were commissioned with the most important part of the Gospel message – the resurrection account. "Go tell His disciples and Peter that Jesus is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you" (Matthew 28:7). After they did this, the disciples didn't believe them "because their words seemed to them like nonsense" (Luke 24:11).

Peter, however, stood up and began moving in the direction of the tomb. His faith moved him to action. If the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive, Peter then had a new way to live. He could either live a life filled with regret, rejection, and failure or he could live a new life of forgiveness and peace with God, a life filled with purpose and dignity.

The purpose of the cross and the empty tomb is God's price for sin so His holy life can fill our lives. Think of it – God's life in me! When Peter ran to the tomb, he was crossing a great divide that

separated himself from God. When the women went to find Peter, the Bible says that they were "afraid, yet filled with joy." These two emotions coexist every time we begin to take steps of action in response to our faith.

All too often fear cripples us from stepping out in faith. When the message of the resurrection reached Peter and the other disciples, they were hiding behind locked doors. At one point they had believed in Jesus and left their jobs and families to follow Him.

But their dreams were now buried in a cold tomb. And then God did something totally awesome, and hope was reborn.

The Easter message is that God calls us not to a hopeless end, but to an endless hope. As these women set out from the tomb to put their faith in action, the risen Jesus met them. As Gomer Pyle used to say, "Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!" Today Jesus still surprises His followers and calls us to put our faith in action. Whether it is in financial support of this ministry or as a volunteer, action speaks louder than words.



# Phoenix Class Seeks Mentors

Students from our March Phoenix Life Skills class are seeking mentors for the next phase of their program. We are looking for volunteers who will come along side individuals who are taking steps towards greater responsibility and accountability.

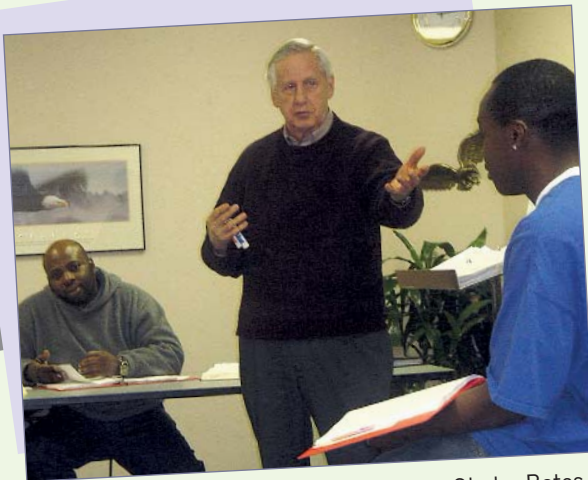
A mentor makes a twelve-week commitment to meet with a student once a week for an hour and a half. We provide training and a handbook for mentors to help a student catch a vision for his or her life and know what it means to be a Christian.

Phoenix Life Skills is a 40 hour program that explores God's design, purpose and priorities in order to be fulfilled in life and work. We provide a framework for our students to successfully compete in a global economy and make necessary decisions for meaningful employment.

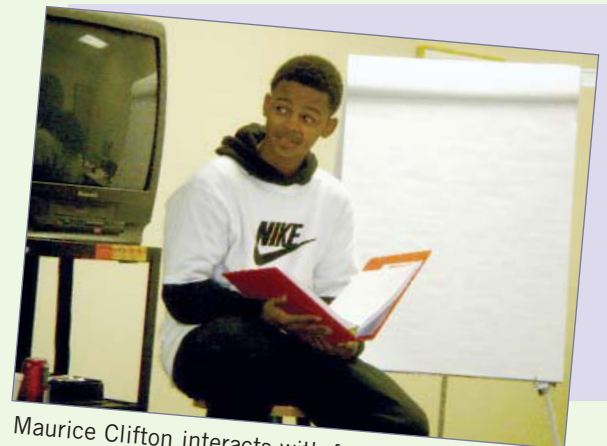
If you would like to be a mentor or receive more information, please call Bill Lange, Director of Phoenix Life Skills (414-760-0334).

## PHOENIX LIFE SKILLS Facts to Know

GRADUATES	156
African Americans	63%
Criminal Background	54%
Drug Abuse History	56%
Have Children	63%
Have Drivers License	29%
High School Diploma	35%
Men	68%
Milwaukee Residents	89%
No Social Security Card	49%
Not Married	62%



Larry Liebe (center) clarifies a point for Shaka Bates (right) in the development of his mission statement. Liebe volunteers as a certified Phoenix Life Skills trainer.



Maurice Clifton interacts with fellow students as he explains his personal mission statement.



Volunteers from Elmbrook Church prepare lunch for students and trainers in the Phoenix Life Skills class. (Left to right: Bill Bosch, Mary Meyers, Jeanne Bosch, and Marge Nelson).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact The Milwaukee Outreach Center to explore ways you and your group can volunteer and make a difference in our very needy city.

- Administrative Assistance with Microsoft Office Applications
- Character Development Teams – Fall After-School Program
- Event Leaders for Golf Scramble, Walk-A-Thon, Lake Michigan Dinner Cruise
- Hospitality / Lunch for Phoenix Students
- Mentors for Phoenix Life Skills Students
- Phoenix Life Skills Trainers
- Project Leader for Commodities Distribution

# Count On Me!

## Today I'm enclosing:

\_\_\_ My monthly commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ A special Easter offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_

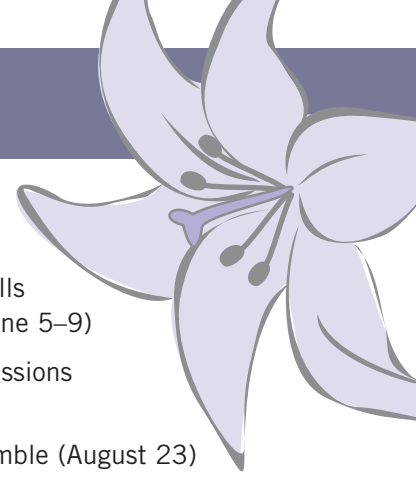
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## I would like to...

- be a volunteer
- attend a Phoenix Life Skills program (April 24–28, June 5–9)
- schedule TMOC at our missions fair/conference
- register for the Golf Scramble (August 23)
- register for the Classic Cruise (July 14)
- visit with a Christian counselor



## Elmbrook Church Devoted to Community Ministry

Elmbrook is one of the great churches of Milwaukee that loves this city. This month we would like to introduce you to Buzz Taves, Elmbrook's urban ministries coordinator for 17 years. He is stepping down from this position but he will continue to be involved in ministry to the city.

### *How does your church encourage people to become involved in missions?*

Elmbrook has been engaged in global missions work for 35 years and urban work for about 17 years. We have always considered urban ministries as missions since we work cross-culturally, often with different languages, and under various economic conditions. We send and support 106 missionaries, 11 of which are in either urban or prison ministries in southeastern Wisconsin. Every year six to seven hundred people are engaged in some kind of ministry to the city and community.

### *What first steps do people take to become a volunteer?*

It typically begins with the Holy Spirit directing people into urban missions. Often felt as a burden, they seem to develop a heart for the city. Volunteering for a specific project can be the starting point. For others, a relationship develops between an individual or a missionary and this begins the process of becoming serious about ministry.

### *How do people become aware of volunteer opportunities?*

Our ten-day annual Harvest Festival presents both world-wide and local volunteer opportunities. Throughout the year we host a Ministry Fair, a Community Opportunities to Serve, Secret Service Program and published a booklet featuring about five hundred volunteer



Mission Leadership from Elmbrook Church (left to right): Tom Keppeler, Associate Pastor of Global Engagement; Buzz Taves, Coordinator of Urban Ministries; and Mike Murphy, Associate Pastor of Community Engagement.

opportunities each month. We are aware of 1,275 opportunities where volunteers are needed.

### *What changes do you see ahead?*

Elmbrook recently appointed Mike Murphy, a full time pastor of the church, to oversee and further develop our community engagement ministries. Urban ministry introduces you to some of the most genuine and committed people you can find on the planet. These people know the Lord and Scripture because they have been in the trenches for decades, listening to, learning from and serving with an awesome God.

Over a dozen of Elmbrook's international missionaries today have actively served in the city before they went overseas.

### *What do you see as the greatest challenge for our city and community?*

Our greatest challenge is to find people who have a heart for our city. These special people value relationships and depend upon God for safety and wisdom in knowing what to do. They are willing to work with people from different cultures, languages, economic and educational backgrounds.

### *Please tell us about your relationship with The Milwaukee Outreach Center and why you support this ministry.*

Our relationship with TMOC started over 15 years ago because of a similar burden for our city. We have done outreaches in the park and TMOC has provided offices for launching our urban programs, a Hispanic church and a Laotian church. TMOC has always been there as an encouragement, quietly, subtly serving the Lord Jesus Christ so more would come to know Him and live as He would want all of us to live. Elmbrook is indebted to TMOC for its long-standing role in urban ministry. They not only have helped Elmbrook, but other churches and individuals in the community for many, many years.



With an eye on missions here in Milwaukee, Elmbrook Church assisted Pastor Bouathong Abe Vangsoulatda establish the Lao Christian Church on National Avenue.

# Inside



A New and Living Hope



Phoenix Class Seeks Mentors



Volunteer Opportunities



Elmbrook Church Devoted to Community Ministry



Count On Me!

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Lasting Change.*

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Michael Rintelman  
*Executive Director*

## Executive Director's Update

At the onset of World War II, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle was charged with the daunting task of bombing Tokyo. Most critics in the military thought that it could not be done. Doolittle believed it could because he believed that "there's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." The crack, all volunteer, squad of aviators did indeed make it happen.

As I look forward in 2006, I see a greater and greater need for committed volunteers. And not just any volunteers. Volunteers with the resolve to make the difference in the lives of those we serve. This is, admittedly, not an easy task. Individuals who have never had relationships with someone who genuinely cared about their success are skeptical of our intentions. Being cared for is a foreign concept to most. The question most often asked of us is, "Why are you doing this?" Why do we do it? We do it because Christ calls us to do it. Christ was called to the cross and in that act set the standard for us. Jesus knew that unless he intervened on our behalf, there would be no possible way for us to do it on our own. Are the lives of those reaching out for help worth that same intervention and resolve on our behalf? Most definitely, yes. And in doing so we touch our Father in heaven.

TMOC has had the great privilege of working with many great volunteers through the years. In fact, over 500 volunteers engage in

ministry every year through TMOC. I believe one of the things that motivate our volunteers was captured by Ralph Waldo Emerson when he said, "It is one of the beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself."

I must admit that I have experienced the greatest joys in my life after helping someone else. Whether it is my wife or son, a neighbor, the woman at the grocery store with three screaming kids that needs help loading the groceries into her car before her kids run away, there is great joy that comes from serving others. As you assess what difference you want to make this year, please consider investing your time in the life of someone who will never be able to thank you enough for the difference you are making in their life.



Mike Rintelman (center) is surrounded by supportive leaders from Elmbrook Church. Left to right: Buzz Taves, Tom Keppeler and Mike Murphy