

# The Theotherapy Project

## NEWSLETTER

MAKING REDUCTION IN RECIDIVISM A REALITY...

February 2009



Mark West, Director

The Theotherapy Project is off and running for the New Year with over 200 inmate enrollments for the first six month class!

Word is spreading throughout the inmate community and enthusiasm is high!

Check out our website for more info!

### Healing the Heart



This is where real and lasting change takes place...in the heart.

Only thru relationship with God can any of us truly experience the power of forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation. An

## Hispanic Inmates Translate Prison Ministry Curriculum

Every once in awhile you encounter a life so dramatically changed, they totally surprise and inspire you! Julio, a recent inmate graduate at Turney Center Industrial Prison along with John, one of our inmate small group facilitators, took the initiative over the Holidays to write and produce a Spanish translation of the Theotherapy Prison manual for their Hispanic brothers and sisters there at Turney Center and at Tennessee Prison for Women.

With limited resources and some language barriers to overcome, they presented us with several Teacher and Student manuals artfully designed and beautifully bound. They even did the cover art! This is love in action! It's working with extraordinary folks like these that causes us every day to be so thankful for the opportunity to provide this program within the corrections environment.

Please pray for us and for our incarcerated Hispanic brothers and sisters enrolled in the program! Please pray for those inmates who function as translators for us during class lectures and small groups. I think I need to learn Spanish!

Please visit our website at [www.theotherapyproject.com](http://www.theotherapyproject.com)



## A Word from TDOC Director of Volunteer Services

*"As the Director of Volunteer Services for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, I see the Theotherapy Project representing the love of God in a tangible way. It helps people work through issues that may have led them to where they are today. They are in prison, so positively dealing with their past issues can help prevent future crimes. I support Mark West and the work of the Theotherapy Project."*  
Richard Dixon

Richard Dixon is the Director of Volunteer Services for the Tennessee Department of Corrections and is the founder of the annual Faith in Corrections Conference. Visit [www.faithincorrections.com](http://www.faithincorrections.com)

## Inmate of the Month

authentic relationship with God is needed to live life fully and freely in whatever environment we find ourselves ...whether in prison or in the "free world".

Life on the "outside" doesn't just stop when a mom or dad is incarcerated. The inmates' children suffer due to the fact that bills still need to be paid, groceries and clothing still need to be purchased...help with homework and advice about growing up in today's very scary world is still needed.

At the Theotherapy Project we know we can't do a lot to meet those basic needs. However we thank God that as these incarcerated men and women resolve their conflicts and diffuse their deep childhood traumas by applying the truth of God's healing principles to the deep wounds of the soul, they become more healthy and responsible moms, dads, husbands and wives.

It is healing the heart...it is God's love in action!

Please join us in praying for our nation's incarcerated men and women and their families.



Each month we try to feature one of the inmates in our program. This month we want to say thanks to Michelle from Tennessee Prison for Women who functions as my administrative assistant when I am at TPW and also helps out as an assistant facilitator in the small groups. Michelle is committed to her own emotional healing and is a leader among her peers.

Michelle is deeply committed to the Theotherapy Project and cheerfully and skillfully helps keep things on track. She also busts my chops from time to time because I am somewhat administratively challenged. Please pray for Michelle and for her teenaged daughters at home.

As of this last December 9th, there were 18,279 male inmates, 1,146 female inmates and 11 juveniles incarcerated in Tennessee's 15 state correctional facilities.

We are making a significant impact at Tennessee Prison for Women and Turney Center Industrial Prison. Of those inmates graduating from our programs who have been released back into society, only 19% have recidivated as opposed to the national average of almost 70%. The program works!



The Theotherapy Project is a faith-based organization offering conflict resolution principles to incarcerated men and women with the goal of restoring families and reducing recidivism.

Learn more about us at [www.theotherapyproject.com](http://www.theotherapyproject.com)

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and for your much appreciated prayers and support. Your tax-deductible contributions enable us to continue providing quality rehabilitative programs for Tennessee's incarcerated men and women.

Mark West  
The Theotherapy Project

**Your tax  
deductible  
contribution  
helps more**

Please pray about sponsoring an inmate at only \$20 per month...that's less than a cup of coffee or an order of fries off the value meal menu at your local fast food drive thru. Your donation impacts the lives of inmates, their spouses and their kids...

The Theotherapy Project is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit ministry partner

of the Good Neighbor Foundation, LLC.

than you  
realize...

To donate...please visit our website at [www.theotherapyproject.com](http://www.theotherapyproject.com) and click on the "Donate" tab.