

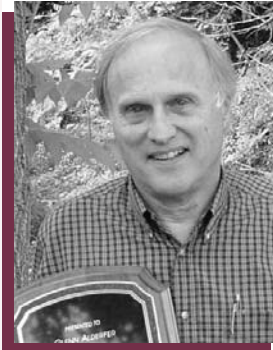


# Liberty Letter

Summer 2005

A Bi-monthly Publication of Liberty Ministries

Celebrating  
**25** Years  
of Ministry  
~1980-2005



## Volunteer of the Year at SCI-Graterford

### *“Are you a Christian?”*

That question comes naturally to Glenn Alderfer, who recently was honored by SCI-Graterford as Volunteer of the Year, 2005. Immediately after the above photograph was taken, a passerby was curious and asked about the plaque Glenn was holding. Glenn struck up a conversation with the young black man, and within a few minutes, asked him the question, “Are you a Christian?” The answer was “yes,” but the man appeared to have a need to explain how and why he had strayed from going to church. Before the conversation ended, Glenn talked to the man about a church that he might like near his home in Norristown.

It is this easy-going style and the heart of an evangelist that have helped to make Glenn so effective in prison ministry for over 30 years.

Glenn is an ordained Mennonite pastor with a Master of Divinity Degree from Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield and a Doctorate of Ministry Degree in Biblical Counseling from Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. For the last thirteen years, Glenn has been the pastor at Living Faith Fellowship in Franconia.

Glenn's interest in prison ministry can be traced back to the 1950's, when he witnessed his father's passion for helping former prisoners and those with drug or alcohol problems. One of Glenn's first jobs after college was as a probation officer in Montgomery County, so he has an understanding of all sides of the corrections system. God then called Glenn to the mission field in Brazil, where he served for four years. In 1974, Glenn first started going into Graterford. In his early years as a volunteer at Graterford, he taught Bible studies and brought in Christian films and musical groups. Glenn also plays guitar and sings, which has been helpful in his ministry service. In 1980, Glenn and Charles Ness co-founded Liberty Ministries, and both remain active in it today.

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Liberty Thrift & Home  
Furnishings - Collegeville:  
610-831-9856

Liberty Thrift & Home  
Furnishings - Gilbertville:  
610-367-0595

Little Liberty Thrift:  
610-831-2170



## TWENTY FIVE YEARS

### FROM THE BEGINNING:

#### 1979

Charles "Charlie" Ness sends out church bulletins through the Franconia Mennonite

Conference saying, "Anyone interested in working with prisoners meet at Skippack Meetinghouse on June 2nd." By pooling all interested people and resources available, the groundwork for Liberty Ministries begins to take shape. A steering committee is formed, chaired by Charlie, to look into the idea of getting a halfway house started. John Rush, director of Freedom Gate – a Mennonite halfway house in Reading, is sought to give advice and guidance.

#### 1980

Liberty Ministries incorporates in March of 1980 as a non-profit religious organization in Pennsylvania under the Franconia Mennonite Conference.

This enormous step of faith and commitment is a culmination of much prayer and discussion.

#### 1981

Liberty Ministries procures a row house (pictured on right) in Philadelphia after an unsuccessful attempt to acquire an abandoned building on Cherry Street in Norristown. The Christian Center, an outreach of Liberty Ministries, opens at 3054 N. 5th Street in Philadelphia. Mennonite Disaster Service sends people to fix up the house and the center is opened in May. John Roman is appointed the first resident director. The program becomes two-fold in nature: 1) it helps prisoners to cope with society as a whole and 2) it helps drug and alcohol abusers to kick their habits.



(Cont'd on pg. 2)

*This issue of the Liberty Letter has been made possible through the generous contribution of*  
**BERGEY'S INCORPORATED.**

**LIBERTY MINISTRIES BOARD**

- Bob Thompson – Board Chair
- Paul Long – Vice Chair
- Peg Moore – Secretary
- Wayne Mumbauer – Treasurer
- Steve Kulp
- Arlan Kratz
- Irv Kunzman
- Richard Landes
- Judy McVaugh
- Ruth Mumbauer
- Charles Ness

**LIBERTY MINISTRIES STAFF**

- Mark E. Goins – Executive Director & Newsletter Editor
- Rick Young – Program Director
- Coldelia White – Administrative Assistant
- Todd Fearheller – Program Assistant
- Jonathan Lewis – Program Assistant
- June Jones – Director, Thrift Store Operations
- Brian Jones – Business Manager
- Ann Angelichio – Volunteer Coordinator

**(25 YEARS, cont'd from Pg. 1)**



The first Liberty Ministries Board of Directors is formed and consists of

the following members: Charles Ness, President, Upper Skippack Mennonite Church; Claude Wisler, Vice-President, Skippack Church of the Brethren; Al Karp, Secretary; Glenn Alderfer (pictured above), Treasurer; Lee Greaser, Ann Angelichio, and Gene Nellinger, all of Towamencin Mennonite Church; Keith Heavener, Salford Mennonite Church; Ed McCafferty, Valley Forge Christian College; Floss Stephens, Lower Providence Baptist Church.

**1982**

Montgomery County renovates Building 52 on the Norristown State Hospital grounds and begins to utilize the facility as a prison for women. Ann Angelichio joins Liberty Ministries as a staff assistant to organize the Sunday afternoon service and a weekly Bible study for the women in this newly formed "Women's Prison."



**1984**

Amid growing frustration surrounding the poor location and distance of the Philadelphia facility from the local community, the Board begins to explore other options for a half-way house.

Harold Nyce, a board member and local real estate investor, takes ownership of a large building in Schwenksville. His initial plan is to "flip" the property for a profit. However, he ultimately offers to rent a part of the building to Liberty Ministries for running its discipleship program.

After much discussion by the board of directors, Liberty Ministries decides to accept Harold's offer and relocates to the current site at 565 Main Street, former site of the old Schwenksville Hotel. The building is in deplorable condition and barely habitable. Liberty House rents an apartment in the building and begins its ministry with just a few men.

Karl Shisler is the first Resident Director of this new facility. He is later followed by Gene Nellinger, and then by Herb Brown.



**1985**

Charlie Ness becomes the first Executive Director of Liberty Ministries. Because of his position as a local pastor and sparse Ministry funds, Charlie works for Liberty Ministries on a part-time basis.



**1991**

Conrad Moore is hired as Resident Director of Liberty House. Accompanied by his wife, Theresa, he serves the ministry for almost nine years. He leaves a tremendous legacy in his love for the men and his ability to mentor and disciple those that come through the Liberty House program. Conrad and Theresa leave Liberty House in the summer of 2000. (See the picture of Conrad and Theresa to the left.)



(Cont'd on pg.3)

# Liberty Letter

(25 YEARS, cont'd from Pg. 2)

**1996** Tony Lapp becomes the first full-time Executive Director. Under his leadership, a plan is developed for the purchase of the current facility which is finalized in the spring of 1997. A capital campaign is initiated to raise funds needed for purchase of building and much needed renovations. A \$25,378 annual operating budget for Liberty Ministries is approved by the Board.



**1997** Renovations begin on the Liberty House building at 565 Main Street. Many volunteers are enlisted to help replace the roof and build a kitchen and conference area for the residents. These initial renovations were completed in 1998. Significant renovations continue until 2004.

Realizing that this ministry cannot survive on church donations alone, the Board decides to open Liberty Thrift as a means of helping to fund the ongoing work of Liberty Ministries. Ruth Mumbauer is selected as chairperson of the Thrift Store Operating Committee. Liberty Thrift officially opens in Schwenksville in 1998.



**1998** Bill and Nancy Shupp become Executive Director and Administrative Assistant for Liberty Ministries. During their brief tenure, the Ministry is computerized. Databases are created to track applicants and donors. Computer-based fiscal tracking systems are implemented. Also, policies and procedures for the Ministry are formalized and documented.



**2000** Mark Goins, a recent graduate of Philadelphia College of Bible, joins Liberty Ministries as Executive Director. His goals are to make Liberty Ministries a model for aftercare while providing strong leadership at a critical stage in the Ministry's development. Liberty Ministries begins a Pre-Release Preparation Program in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility, a collaborative effort between the chaplain, Prison Fellowship, and Yokefellow ministries as a means of better preparing inmates for life beyond incarceration and as a means of reducing recidivism in and around Montgomery County. Over the last five years, over 200 men have passed through the Pre-Release Preparation training.

Liberty Ministries begins to provide training to all volunteers entering the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

**2001** The success of Liberty Thrift and the need for additional retail space propels Liberty Ministries to consider an additional store. Liberty Thrift & Home Furnishings Opens in January of this year in the space occupied by the old Main Street Video store in Schwenksville. June Jones is the manager of both stores.

Liberty Ministries approves a \$155,000 operating budget for the year. Liberty Thrift provides about 18% of the total ministry budget. Liberty Ministries also begins to gain exposure and support from churches outside of the Franconia Mennonite Conference network. The ministry is supported by over 300 churches, over 55 local businesses, and over 600 individuals.



**2003** Lack of parking and insufficient retail and storage space make it a challenge to accommodate a thriving thrift business in Schwenksville. Liberty Ministries begins to look for additional retail space. The owner of the old Homemart Hardware store in Collegeville is approached about leasing his building to Liberty Ministries. After months of dialog and negotiation, a suitable lease agreement is reached and Liberty Thrift and Home Furnishings opens in Collegeville in May under 8400 square feet of retail space.

## Picture of Thrift Collegeville

The original Liberty Thrift store is kept in Schwenksville and is later converted to Little Liberty, a children's clothing and maternity shop.

With most of the interior renovations complete on Liberty House, the Ministry can now accommodate 10 men in the nine-month residential program. Additionally, four apartments are available which can accommodate an additional five men in the Ministry's Post-Residential Support Program.

(Cont'd on pg.4)

## History of Leadership

### Board Chair

Charles Ness	1980-1985
Arlan Kratz	1986-1990
Richard Landes	1990-1992
Jim Williams	1992-1996
Jeff Landis	1996-2001
Nate Clemmer	2001-2002
Charles Ness	2002-2004
Robert Thompson	2004-Present

### Resident Directors

John Roman	1980-1983
Karl Shisler	1983-1984
Abram Derstine (acting)	1984-1985
Gene Nellinger	1985-1986
Bob Stevenson	1986-1987
Herb Brown	1987-1991
Conrad Moore	1991-1999
Jeff Hall	1999-2000
John Axsom	2000-2001
William White	2001-2003
Guy Jones	2003-2005
Richard Young	2005-Present

### Executive Directors

Charles Ness	1985-1987
Cranford Calter	1987-1989
Charles Ness	1989-1996
Tony Lapp	1996-1998
Bill Shupp	1998-2000
Mark Goins	2000-2003
Richard Davis*	2003-2004
Mark Goins	2004-Present

\*Richard served for seven months while Mark was on a leave of absence.

**2005** A new Liberty Thrift & Home Furnishings store opens in Gilbertsville. Little Liberty moves from Schwenksville to a larger facility in Collegeville. The ministry now operates three stores that provided about 35% of the ministries' annual operating budget of over \$300K. The combined total sales of the three stores under the direction of Brian Jones exceed \$700K!

Liberty House hires a Program Director, Rick Young, who is participating in a graduate counseling program. This is an initial step towards having a certified drug and alcohol counselor on the Liberty House staff.

## 2006 and beyond

Liberty Ministries is actively planning for the ability to support additional full-time chaplain's assistants at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. We also see an aftercare support center that will assist ex-offenders in the community who are not eligible for our resident program but need assistance plugging into local social services. Our vision also includes an aftercare facility for women and a residential facility that will support 50 men.



## Glenn Alderfer, cont'd. from page 1

When you ask Glenn why he has volunteered for so long in prison ministry, his answer is disarmingly simple: "You invest yourself for years in a person, some times, before you see results." Glenn has seen firsthand the so-called "generational curse," with some men following the same criminal life that their fathers led. As a way to prevent overcrowded prisons from becoming a "school of crime," Glenn's attitude is that someone has to get involved with men and woman in prison because the vast majority of them are coming out to live in our community.

But you also sense that Glenn's legacy of service in prison ministry is inspired by the Scriptures. For example, Glenn reminds us that in Matthew 25: 35-40, Jesus spoke to his disciples about when they came to prison to visit him. When the disciples were puzzled and questioned Jesus on when that happened,

his answer was: "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

In the program for the Volunteer Appreciation Reception at Graterford on April 25, 2005, SCI-Graterford expressed its appreciation for Glenn's service as follows:

"For more than 30 years, Glenn has given himself to the Graterford population in ways that reflect the very best in faith-filled witness and committed volunteer involvement.... Staff and inmates alike have

benefitted greatly from his gracious and dedicated presence."

*"You invest yourself for years in a person, some times, before you see results."*

**Liberty Ministries joins SCI-Graterford in saluting Pastor Glenn Alderfer, co-founder of Liberty Ministries, long-time friend and dedicated servant for Christ.**

# Liberty Letter



## Sweeping Schwenksville!

That was the battle cry of David Dale in the month of May. David clocked about 30 hours of community service helping the borough prepare for two days of street sweeping. David diligently and delightfully swept every sidewalk in the borough while whistling and or singing praises to God. This "strange behavior" was brought to the attention of Police Chief Tim Hoppes by several borough residents asking, "Why is there a man sweeping our sidewalks and why is he singing?"

David has been cleaning up a lot more

than just the streets of Schwenksville during his last eight months at Liberty House. David has really been working hard to become the man that God wants him to be. He is learning to put others first and to seek a multitude of counsel prior to making decisions. God has blessed him with an excellent career opportunity at Delaware Valley Concrete in King of Prussia where he is currently working as an assistant plant manager.

David is in the process of moving into his Phase II apartment and will be celebrating his Phase I graduation on August 5th. According to David, he is very proud of this accomplishment because he has never graduated or completed anything in his life prior to coming to Liberty Ministries.

*Hats off to David for his accomplishments and his willingness to let the Lord do a new work in his life.*

## Wish List ...

### Material Needs:

#### CRITICAL:

A late model minivan for transporting the men.

#### Men's Toiletries:

(i.e. soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, plastic soap cases, shaving cream, Q-tips).

#### On-going Needs:

Linen for Twin Bed  
(Masculine Colors & Pattern)  
Blankets and Comforters  
(Masculine Colors)  
Wash Cloths and Towels  
Paper Products  
(toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)

#### Volunteer Needs:

Male Mentors for Residents  
Office & Thrift Store Volunteers  
MCSE for server administration

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Liberty Ministries exists to serve offenders in prison and ex-offenders in the community by showing God's love, providing practical assistance, and supporting biblical standards of justice.*

*In order for us to accomplish our mission of freeing men and women from the bondages that have led them to prison, I join the fellowship of believers who prayerfully and financially support Liberty Ministries. To the best of my ability and with God's help, I will give:*

- \$10 monthly
- \$25 monthly
- \$50 monthly
- I would like more information on volunteer opportunities.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ quarterly
- a one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Celebrating 25 Years of ministry ~1980-2005*

Please detach and mail to:  
Liberty Ministries  
P.O. Box 87  
Schwenksville, PA 19473

**Thank you for your support!**

*Liberty Ministries is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all contributions are tax-deductible. A financial statement is available upon request.*



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Join us

for our

## *25th Anniversary Banquet*

*at Franconia Mennonite Church*

*613 Harleysville Pike,*

*Route 113, Franconia*

*on*

**Saturday, October 8, 2005**

**6-9 PM**

*(More details to follow . . . .)*

## Upcoming Events

**September 5, 12-5pm**, Liberty House to host a **Labor Day picnic** in Zeiglerville. You are invited to join us. Please call the office for details.

**September 14, 9am-4pm**, **Volunteer in Prison Training** (prerequisite training for prison volunteers); call the office for additional information and to reserve your seat.

**October 8, 6pm-9pm**, Liberty Ministries 25th Anniversary banquet.

### Liberty Ministries

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*Liberty Ministries*

*A Christ centered ministry to offenders  
in prison and in the community*