

# CPO Ministries

Chicagoland Prison Outreach P.O. Box 63 South Holland IL 60473 708 331-3301  
www.epoministries.org

9/11

## What does CPO look like?



## On which day?

It's hard to use straight lines to draw a picture of CPO. The boundaries change as the needs and the seasons change. Somedays CPO looks like;

- ✓ a mother sharing the story of her son coming to Christ before he was killed;
- ✓ a Bible Study/Basketball Camp for young ones in Ford Heights or a Basketball Tournament for the older ones at Moody Bible Institute
- ✓ ex-offenders being trained in carpentry, welding, auto repair or computer repair/scraping.
- ✓ volunteers donating food or wrapping gifts for families of inmates at Christmas or Thanksgiving
- ✓ a picnic with ex-offenders and their families
- ✓ CPO staff or volunteers leading Bible Study at Cook County Jail, Boot Camp or at our Career Center in Roseland

**These are just some of the things  
CPO looks like but  
ALL OF THE TIME CPO  
strives to reflect Christ  
to a lot of people.**

# Staff Spotlight



This year is a year of significance. In biblical numerology the year seven is the year of completion, and I am currently in my seventh year as a husband, and in my seventh year as a chaplain with CPO. Looking back over these last seven years I am amazed at the grace of God. My wife and I are still in love. We have a beautiful house in the wonderful community of South Holland, and August 21 we will celebrate seven years of marriage. I'm sure that for many of you we are still newlyweds but it is our prayer that we would share the testimony of many other believers and someday celebrate 50 years of marriage.

This year I will also celebrate seven years as CPO's chaplain serving at the Cook County Boot Camp. Over these seven years I have had the opportunity to counsel three to four inmates a day and even minister, to and build relationships, with the officers. One of the great joys for me while serving at the boot camp is the opportunity I have to disciple men from boot camp after they are released. Currently many of my hours are spent with these men. I am meeting with four of these young men, sharing my life and sharing the Word of God. I am working to be a teacher, an encourager, a big brother, and even a father to many.

Additionally I spend time at our vocational program. Since I am an ex-offender myself I really understand the struggle in finding gainful employment. I understand the wish for a stable life and the hope for better things but then having the doors closed. This makes me especially passionate with regard to our vocational program. Over the past six years I have had involvement in starting the program, recruiting students, helping to coordinate some of the programming and leading Bible studies. We have seen lives changed as a result of this program as men and women submit to the gospel of Jesus Christ, as they find gainful employment, and as they are given the opportunity to properly support their families.

**Since I am an ex-offender myself...**

When I started with CPO I was challenged by Dan Swets to focus on working with ex-offenders, especially men exiting Boot Camp. As a result of that encouragement we created a mentoring program, a program which we now call Angels of Hope. This program is designed for us to connect inmates with churches. Over the last seven years we have been able to encourage these connections through church distribution of food boxes and through our Thanksgiving and Christmas programs.

**Seven years:  
-husband  
-A CPO chaplain  
-Angels of Hope**

We also recently introduced a letter writing program. A number of churches have responded to this challenge and now have members who are writing to inmates a few times each month.

Churches are mentoring former inmates who live in their community and God has used these programs as another way to connect inmates and their families with God's people.

There are so many more things I can say about how God has allowed me to experience and to serve through Chicagoland Prison Outreach. Please know that it has been through your obedience to God and your gracious giving that my wife and I have been allowed to experience the joys of doing God's Kingdom work for the past seven years.

Thank You!  
Corey Buchanan.

# CPO's Angels of Hope

## Inmate Family Care Ministry

CPO's Angels of Hope Inmate Family Care Ministry is a partnering ministry with local churches to identify, assess, and address the needs of the families of inmates at their request.

### The purpose of this program is:

1. To connect the inmate's family to the body of Christ in a meaningful way.
2. To be the means God uses to prepare a godly home for the inmate to return to after release.

Programs to meet these needs include providing meals at Thanksgiving, the Angels of Hope Christmas Ministry and ongoing regular visits by volunteer teams to the homes of the participating families.

For Christmas and Thanksgiving, the participating churches - along with CPO staff - provide and deliver food, gifts, clothing, household items, etc. In response to identified needs.



### Adopt a Family Ministry provides regular ongoing visits that include (but are not limited to):

1. Volunteer teams from participating churches presenting themselves in service to inmate families in the name of Jesus Christ.
2. Sharing needed and available resources with the inmate's family as those needs are identified.
3. Unambiguously and explicitly presenting the Gospel.
4. Providing a ministry of physical presence by partnering with the inmate's family in prayer (and Bible study when appropriate) actively and regularly in their home.

## The Reality of Doing Angels of Hope Ministry:

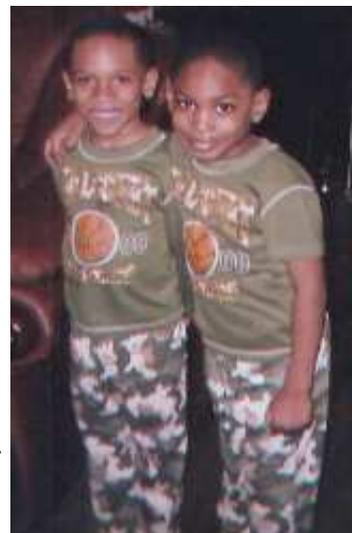
A few years ago Corey met a young man in Cook County Boot Camp. Most inmates sign up their mothers, grandmothers and wives for our Angels of Hope

*Three months after  
...we were finally  
able to connect*

Program, however this young man wanted to sign up his aunt. We tried to reach out to the family but our attempts failed. This young man was persistent; he really wanted us to be a help to his auntie. Three months after our initial try we were finally able to connect with his auntie and get her assigned to a church. The church reported that this lady was bogged down with

*no longer consumed with  
depression...consumed  
with a very real love  
for Jesus*

depression and stress; she lived in a space of hopelessness. The team reported that her despair was so thick you could feel it in her home. The team however consistently brought her hope from the Word of God, prayers to lift up her spirits,



Continued on Page 4

## CPO's Angels of Hope

Cont'd. from pg. 3

and food to feed her. After two months she wanted to come to the team's church. The team provided a ride via one of their team members and on that day God really moved on her heart. She went on to become a member and regular attendee at that church. The team continued to visit her until she mentioned that she no longer needed the food but desired fellowship. Our young friend's auntie is now connected with the church, her nephew also has joined the church and he is now traveling across America for his work. His auntie is no longer consumed with depression and she is now consumed with a very real love for Jesus.



### *From The Director's Desk*

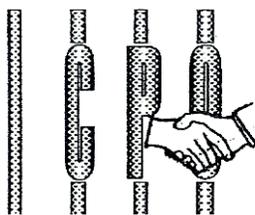
**Dan Swets Executive Director**

It's been quite a while since you received a newsletter from us. The current economy dictated that we "tighten the belt" a little. We knew that cutting programming wasn't an option, so one of the things we did was to cut back on printing and distributing newsletters.

I also know, however, that the many churches and individuals who so faithfully support the work of CPO have a right to be informed of how God is currently working through the ministry. So we are providing this newsletter to do just that.

I can't even put into words all of the miraculous ways that God has been using CPO over the past year. Inmates, ex-offenders, officers, families and kids are visited, helped, mentored, counseled, disciplined, encouraged, educated and connected with the Body of Christ. Some of those stories are included in this publication.

Thank you for your interest in – and support of – CPO. Praise God with us for all He is and all He does.



**Chicagoland  
Prison  
Outreach**

Matt. 25:36

#### Board of Directors

Daniel Bruinsma Nyla DeGraff  
Corrie Lenting Brian Oswald Dan Swets  
Chuck Verhagen Jim Voss Craig Worries

[www.cpoministries.org](http://www.cpoministries.org)

e-mail: [cpoministries@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpoministries@sbcglobal.net)

*If you would like more information on CPO or would like to be a CPO volunteer, please call or write us.*

**Chicagoland Prison Outreach P.O. Box 63 South Holland IL 60473 708 331-3301**