



NEW NAME Ministries

"...To him who overcomes, I will give...a white stone with a new name written on it..." – Revelation 2:17

Newsletter

P.O. Box 11694, Ft. Worth, Texas 76110

2005 Hemphill St., Ft. Worth, Texas 76110

The Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

What's in a Name?



As our newsletter name implies, we have a **New Name!** Literally and eternally! Legal restraints forced us to stop using First Stone ministry as our name, but we haven't changed our focus!!! Despite the disappointment and confusion of losing our former identity we are encouraged by the new doors opening and the ensuing opportunities to serve.

As our newsletter name implies, we have a **New Name!** Literally and eternally! Legal restraints forced us to stop using First Stone ministry as our name, but we haven't changed our focus!!! Despite the disappointment and confusion of losing our former identity we are encouraged by the new doors opening and the ensuing opportunities to serve.

We sense our present state of transformation is similar to the process Abram must have gone through when God said to start using his new name of Abraham. We truly believe that the path God has us on will effect change not just here in Texas but for our nation.

When I originally received the vision that led to the use of our former name of First Stone, it was my identification with the adulteress in John 8 which colored my world. This unsolicited name change brings a different view of our ministry and the men God is bringing to it. No longer shall we be called outcasts and lepers. The Lord will give us beauty for ashes, joy for our mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness! All this to the glory of His name!

When you read Revelation 2:17 you see that He gives a new name written on a white stone that only we will know. The things of God are not hidden from us but for us. Our new names already exist, we are becoming that which He created us to be, that, which is our undeniable eternal name is. Praise God!

"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." - 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Ministry in Motion!



Pastors Dick Witherow and Jon Cordeiro co-presented at the **5th Annual National Prisoner Re-entry Conference** in Dallas on October 13 – 15. The topic of the presentation, **Dealing with Special Populations (Sex Offenders)**, covered issues related to offender profiles, recidivism rates and current laws. The factual information and statistics provided

were surprising given all the mis-information the public receives through sensational news media coverage. Pastor Cordeiro pointed out that recidivism rates are far lower than typically reported in the media. Based on an eleven year study in Michigan tracking 4,762 paroled offenders, 93.89% did not reoffend. Only 2.46% returned to prison for the same offense and the other 3.65% returned on a technicality. In a recent briefing, The State of Texas Council of Sex Offender Treatment quoted a statement from Psychiatry News reporting 80% of sex offenders that undergo treatment DO NOT reoffend. In addition, Pastor Witherow provided vital information on aftercare for sex offenders and Pastor Cordeiro provided guidelines for sex offender church attendance. A SPECIAL THANKS to Rich Wootton for the countless hours spent researching, collecting and organizing all the information used for the presentation. You're truly a warrior in God's army!

On December 1 representatives from Restorative Justice Ministries as well as Pastors Cordeiro and Leonardson met with Senator Tommy Williams' Legislative Director in Austin, Texas. The Director was presented with information about restorative justice, mentoring and the United Methodist church's Newgate Initiative. Pastor Jon Cordeiro provided logistics and statistics on sex offenders and transitional housing.



It was off to Houston on December 13th. Pastor Cordeiro met with the Community Partnership Council (CPC) consisting of participants from

parole, RJM, family counseling, other transitional housing ministries, and SAA. Dr. Judy Johnson (head of the state's sex offender treatment program) spoke with participants. Among the issues cited was the lack of facilities to release paroled sex offenders back into the community and the lack of effective tools to assess risk.

Heart Felt Testimonies

Jon,

You have really been an example to me of the Father's heart to all of us as you have worked with Chris over these past several months. I appreciate so much your faithfulness, mercy, and patience extended to our son.

Over the years that we have had Chris in our family, we have had to learn not to look at the temporary or short term results of our helping him, but rather trust that God will ultimately use the seeds we've planted in his life to bring the changes we long to see and that Chris needs so desperately to survive. You are a blessing to him and to us.

Jim

Jon & Cynthia,

You have loved Chris like your own son & you have come to see & understand things about him that no one else has taken the time or care to do... We know you love him and also want to wring his neck like we do - BUT you went way past the distance with him & we thank you both so much! You cannot imagine how you ministered to Chris AND to us by sharing our love and concern for him. I know you feel that same mixture of grief & relief at his leaving the program that we have felt many times but we want to encourage you as we have encouraged ourselves - that Chris made it OK for about 7 months & that is the best he's done since about age 13 - so this 'is' a blessing & he had every help, support and love possible at this time but Chris chose to "do his own thing & go out on the streets." It's our prayer that someday he will choose to stay stable & make it all the way! Please thank everyone for us - the other John's & their wives, Billy, Wayne, David, Joshua & all the guys at the house. We want to stay in touch & monthly support your ministry. Also anytime I can write a letter or speak for 1" Stone anywhere I'll gladly help. Chris 'is' not exactly a "success" story - he is 'a testimony' of your ministry & caring!! We will be in touch - much love,

Bonnie

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!!!

Billy Geeslin and Wayne Edwards completed Phase 3 (off site living with continued ministry involvement) on August 4, 2006. This milestone of their commitment to successful re-entry is paving the way for others successful involvement with the ministry in the years to come. Thanks Billy and Wayne for all you've done for, and invested in, New Name Ministries. Congratulations and may the Lord continue to richly bless you!



Love Heels

K.C. - Companion Dog for New Name Home

Unshakable loyalty, a devotion to service and an infectious exuberance for life! A companion dog is often the key to unlock a wounded or hardened heart and that can be the beginning of the miracle of change. She does more than just love, she is a teacher. As she has gone through obedience training, we are all learning to reward the behaviors you want to see in yourself and others.

K.C. was another "captive set free" as she was "THE one" selected from the shelter. Coming home for K.C. was likely a very new experience. Never was a pup so welcomed and or a candidate to have the "fur loved off" as eight residents and four staff made space for her in their hearts. K.C. has a crucial role. She serves as a companion dog in our aftercare of men coming out of prison and into a life Christ has destined. Unconditional love, joy in the little things seems to be her gift. One man noted "I thought she was the ugliest dog I'd ever seen" but admitted that after spending the day with her he had grown to love the funny quirks, her willing spirit and well, she made him laugh. One resident after a particularly challenging day of adjustment to life in the "free world" felt able to face the next day as K.C. crawled up beside him and let him share his fear and sorrows. Mrs. C or Cynthia, New Name's 1st lady who also works to train miniature horses as service guides for the blind is K.C.'s trainer. "She is all I'd hoped for", smiles Cynthia. K.C. brings joy, hope and love to hearts that have known little of that for years. This is what God created K.C. to do. "Where's K.C.?" call the men as they come home and cheer to see that doggy smile and wagging tail! Welcome home...



Welcome Home!



For the Haralsons (or for that matter, the ministry) it was anything but a "lazy, hazy" summer. The Haralsons have moved! Bay Haralson (a former sex offender) has been a member of New Name Ministry for over two years and his wife, Ann has

been coming to fellowship for nearly as long. God has been calling Bay to ministry work and out of obedience he decided to retire from his job in Dallas and work full-time with the ministry on a voluntary basis. He and his bride have relocated to Fort Worth to be nearer New Name Home and were fully on board with the ministry by August 1. Pastor Jon has set some ambitious goals for New Name Ministries in 2007. Bay will be providing administrative and research support for the many projects on the plate. Both Bay and Ann are excited about their new life and can't wait to see what God has in store for them next!

Free World News

By Frank Herrera

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief." - 1 Timothy 1:15

Dear brothers,

I am writing for this news letter because I feel led in my heart by the Holy Spirit to share the hope given me to other sex offenders, or to any other person held in bondage of sin. First of all let me introduce myself. My name is Frank Herrera. I was incarcerated for thirteen years as a sex offender and completed an eighteen month Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) at the Hightower Unit. I am living at the Christian transformation home called New Name Home, directed by Pastor Jon Cordeiro, also a former sex offender. Our vision here is for social reform through the church for the nations.

I am writing to you because I can relate to you all and hope to help you make the transition through prison into the free world. Before I can help you must make the decision that you want to help yourself first. Starting with applying and making an effort in any positive program you can while incarcerated. This is not only something I am telling you to do, but did myself. When I first arrived at Hightower Unit I was negative. Fortunately I received the help of others like Mr. Richard my case manager, and my group therapist Mr. Manuel. The members of my group helped me too as well as those on my wing, especially with all the assignments. I encourage you to take treatment seriously, you'll get out of it what you put into it - be real.

Here at NNM we only accept those who are willing to be accountable and deal with their stuff while walking right with the Lord. We currently have 6 men in the home committed to the ministry and the men in it. We have rules, chores and boundaries that are in place for the benefit of all.

Since being here I have enjoyed all of the fellowship during the week that we must attend as well as our Fellowship on Sunday nights which is non-denominational. All of which is based on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the peace of our Lord. We are not perfect, but we all are striving together to be conformed more into the image of our Lord. Whatever condition you might be in as you read this know that there are people out here who really care, I'm one of them. Please feel free to write me. Praying for you all.

Brother Frank Herrera

SOS

Have you seen our new **Sex Offender Sense (SOS)** brochure? It contains facts about recidivism rates and other information vital in bringing a balanced view to law makers and the public. Copies available upon request at \$1 each.

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."

(Proverbs 8:17)

The first edition of the *Sex Offender Accountability and Regeneration (SOAR) Manual* is now available! This manual contains



valuable information on tools to be used to lead a productive and hearty life centered on Christian principles. It provides instructions for setting life goals, respecting boundaries of others (and self), recognizing thinking distortions that lead to offending and much more. The cost is \$40 per manual plus shipping. Write or call New Name Ministries to order your today! Our address is New Name Ministries,

2005 Hemphill, Ft. Worth, TX 76110 or you may call 817.920.5886.

We are also pleased to offer for a limited time an option to order Reverend John Leonardson's how-to manual for aftercare facilities; *Starting and Operating a Post-Prison Aftercare Facility*. Reverend Leonardson has worked in various prison-related ministries since 1980. The course he developed to help inmates following release; *Preparing for Success on the Outside*, has earned the Texas Governor's award for the *Most Innovative Program*.

Introductory Special

Each manual sells separately for \$40.00. We are offering Free shipping if you order both today! Both manuals will provide most everything you need to run an aftercare home for former sex offenders. Either manual ordered separately will require an additional shipping fee of \$6.50 each. Order both now and save \$13.00!!! To order, write or call New Name Ministries and indicate you wish to take advantage of our special offer.

Praise Corner

- God has opened so many doors for us - we've been blessed with opportunities to speak at several national conferences in 2006. We're excited about the plan God has for the ministry in 2007!
- We're blessed by volunteer staff helping us with the many administrative tasks necessary to run our ministry.
- We were blessed by the Refuge Church members in December who adopted our men providing a wonderful Christmas dinner and gifts of both time and love.
- We are blessed by each and every man entering our ministry!

"And the nations will see your righteousness and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow." - Isaiah 62:2

New Name Meeting Schedule
(Formerly **First Stone** Ministries)

Join us for any or all of the adult meetings during the week at **New Name Home:**

SOZO Group for Adult Men: Group meeting regarding salvation, healing and deliverance through Jesus Christ. Monday 7 PM.

Bible Study Fellowship: Wednesday 7 PM.

SOAR Group for Adult Men: Addressing personal goals, thinking errors, coping with day to day stress and more. Thursday 7 PM.

New Name Fellowship (NNF): Meets on Sunday 6:30 PM.

Financial Encouragement and Prayer Support!

We are so blessed to be able to help men in need as they re-enter society. Sex offenders are considered today's lepers and many of them have no where else to go. They are so appreciative of the assistance they receive through the ministry. Lives are being changed one man at a time for the glory of God. New Name needs your financial encouragement for continued success and prayer support to bring in the harvest.

- Funds for housing, utilities, transportation, food, postage, research and more.
- Funds to cover the ministry vehicle's insurance, maintenance/repairs and fuel. (Approximately \$450 a month).
- Mentors. (Free training available).
- Volunteers for financial bookkeeping and various other services.

We genuinely appreciate your prayers and tax deductible donations in support of this vital ministry. Send your blessings to:

New Name Ministries, P.O. Box 11694, Ft. Worth, TX 76110.

Need to talk? Give us a call: (817) 920-5886 or fax us at: (817) 920-0077. May God bless you with all you need and all He desires.