

Overview Of New Name Ministries' Transformational Process

Residential reentry is the new name for prison aftercare. Prison aftercare has trended toward the offering of case worker services and connections to resources, rather than post-prison transitional housing. This is fine since post-prison residential reentry facilities can outsource their program participants to these organizations, leaving more time to minister to their clients relationally and run their program. Anyone who has been involved in offending behavior is already living with a prison mentality. This is why our program is not limited to those being released from prison.

If you're reading this, you're considering the need for transformation either for yourself or a loved one. This introduction is an overview of what our process looks like and the tools we use to accomplish the goal of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth through men the world may consider a lost cause.

The best mistakes to learn from are somebody else's. As true as that statement is, focusing on the mistake rather than the solution will only create barriers to advancement. The greater truth is that keeping our eye on the Truth is what transforms. As we present the core elements of New Name Ministries' culture and process, know that we didn't arrive at this juncture by mistake, but through a lot of mistakes and God's continued grace over this ministry. We hope you will hear the beat of your own drum and sound of your tribe within the text of this presentation.

THOSE THAT FOLLOW CAN ONLY RISE AS HIGH AS THOSE WHO ARE LEADING

What can a man expect at New Name Ministries? Most men who come to New Name expect us to teach them how to preach, teach, and minister door-to-door while we offer them structure and sound doctrine. Our calling and desire is to help each man apply the Word of God so he can rebuild his life into the greatest evangelical tool never imagined: a life based on Kingdom principles.

Just say "no" to sin. If transformation was as easy as this the world would be a different place. The Word of God tells us to let our "Yes be Yes" and our "No be No". There is power in our words for life and death. Yet if our hearts are not right and we're striving to live by "the rules" rather than abide in "The Ruler", we are destined for failure. Believing that overcoming sin is as simple as resisting it by the blood of Jesus, will only yield half measures. We must be submitted to God first (trust Him), and those he has placed in authority over us, trusting God is working through them for our benefit. In doing so we can receive the help needed to overcome and be set free from our sins. There is no question that there is power in the blood and it is certainly better to say "no" to sin instead of "yes". But this belief keeps our lives in a constant state of struggle that spits in the face of Jesus' promise to set us free from the schemes of the enemy.



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

We don't want to exchange one set of chains for another. Healing and deliverance will do more to overcome a self-destructive lifestyle than white knuckled resistance to sin will ever do. Our goal for New Name's program participants is to help them learn to live liberated from a daily struggle with sin and the enemy's attacks while honoring what they've already accomplished while learning how to live a truly abundant life.

IF YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY THE REAL PROBLEM, YOU WON'T FIND YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

How can an ex-felon live an abundant life? When a person is released from prison, he believes his life will move forward in one of two ways. He may believe that he can pick up where he left off, not understanding that the place where he left off was the place that brought him to prison. On the other hand, he may believe his life will somehow be sub-standard to the fullness of the life Jesus promises. Believing he is now a 2nd class citizen at best, he hopes someday society will welcome him again. Neither of these outlooks is healthy nor fulfilling. Our goal at New Name is to use the past to fuel the future. By focusing on Kingdom Culture, not the world's or prison's culture, a man can learn to create his own community built from relationships with honorable, loving and powerful people who in turn support him in becoming the same.

Before discussing the program we'd like to qualify our presentation by making this disclaimer: the program doesn't change people, the process does. All the policies and procedures are great for administration and establishing boundaries. Beware: we can only help others as much as they're willing to help themselves. We might be able to get them to change their behavior, but this isn't true success. Behavior modification is about changing performance out of the fear of consequences for non-compliance. It is primarily external in its nature. Ideally, we want to see the men internalize God/Spirit directed principles and boundaries that change their choices, and correspondingly their behavior. Prison demands performance by promoting self-preservation which runs counter clockwise to seeking the Kingdom first, dying to self, and honoring others as servant/leaders. Changed thinking (renewed minds) changes hearts, creating better outcomes. Everything we do at New Name Ministries is with the intent of creating constructive sabotage (described in more detail below): opportunities for personal revelation, repentance and restoration. When men's The Truth and The Light, they either follow the narrow path leading to their be a good examples of the righteous fruit ownership of our own issues, and being others in the way they should go.



lives come to the intersection of The Way, choose to run away, take a detour, or God given destiny. As leaders, we need to that we are called to bare by taking willing to change as needed, to lead

Transformational Principles

Principles transform! Establishing principles is essential for framing up vision and developing a solid foundation and stable infrastructure for any organization. Those who have chosen to follow Jesus have guiding principles that are both in the *Logos* (written Word of the Bible) and the *Rhema* (living or revelational Word through the Holy Spirit). The Bible instructs us to write down the vision so that others can run with it. As we attempt to capture and impart the essence of what has been developing now for nearly a decade at New Name Ministries we realize that the written word can only go so far and then it is purely up to those seeking and serving the Kingdom to yield to that which the Holy Spirit is showing and teaching them in the moment. As re-presenters of Christ and distributors of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth we must apply Biblical principles in all areas of our lives and be solid in our Biblical convictions and covenant relationship with the Lord.

When each new man comes to the ministry he is welcomed home and to the ministry. This is often a profound moment for these weary disenfranchised souls hungering for someplace to call their own. We emphasize that New Name Ministries is not a spiritual flop house but a safe place to make mistakes and apply what they've learned from the Word and in whatever training and counseling they've received while incarcerated. Additionally we invite them to take ownership in their home and to become significantly involved as a member of the ministry.

Even though we welcome each man with open arms we are keenly aware of his need to be reigned in for the first thirty days so as not to put his freedom, or others, at risk. We assure them that they don't know what they don't know and buddy them up with those in the program that are strong and doing well so as to influence accordingly. New Name Ministries has no interest in controlling program participants, only making sure they are able to exercise control and are aware of their boundaries to remain offense free.

On occasion a man will express that he feels his character or integrity are in question and that he's not being trusted. We graciously reply that his response reflects his apparent judgment and mistrust of the ministry. The truth is, he has already received a considerable amount of trust in his character and integrity merely in being accepted to the ministry and being entrusted with the other members in the home. Clearly, we've put more trust in him than he is putting in us. Frequently we remind the men that this is not our first rodeo and that we're doing what's best for the *whole ministry*, not just a select few. Personal agendas don't prosper in a Kingdom culture.



As we address the different elements related to the development of a healthy and effective environment for residential reentry, please know that this is not an exhaustive presentation but as with all things Kingdom, a work in progress. We welcome your constructive feedback.

➤ **Accountability** - It is vitally important in the transformation of an individual's life that they learn to be accountable for their choices. Every action, in and of itself, is dependent on the choice of what we choose to focus on. Our thinking (focus) leads to our choices. What we say and do (to ourselves and others), how we react or respond; it all starts with a thought. In the treatment process, to address issues of behavior, the focus is placed on accountability for the thinking that leads to the behavior. Change the thinking (repentance) and changed behavior manifests. God's word will renew our minds, yet taking every thought captive in obedience to Jesus Christ is imperative so we remain free from our besetting sin(s). We either take our thoughts captive or they take us captive.

We will never be too humble or too wise. Accountability requires a level of humility that allows wisdom to approach and correct our errors. In prison, personal accountability is all about doing your own time and doing all you can so as to not get written up or draw attention to and from others. Typically there is limited personal accountability that takes place behind the walls that transforms a man's life positively. As an offender in the system, the last thing he wants to do is let anyone know who he "really" is or what daily struggles burden his life. This promotes a false ceiling for accountability which restricts others, and/or the individual, from dealing with the real issues that robbed him of his true identity and personal freedom within and without.

Accountability can take on many faces. New Name Ministries promotes personal accountability in several ways. Every candidate for the ministry agrees before coming to the ministry that they will participate in budgeting. We require the men to turn in weekly Order and Increase forms that detail what they've done with their time and money. This process is in place to help them see where they are lacking in discipline, integrity, and follow through related to their commitments and goals for the future. Another form of accountability happens with self-evaluation Progress Reports that include goals, rating of progress for graduating, relationships in and out of the home, treatment, parole, spiritual growth, other needs and suggestions for the ministry that are reviewed by staff. We also facilitate group SWOT's (described in detail below) on each individual at least three times during the year that they're with us. And of course, every offense is a great opportunity for accountability through confrontation; and vice versa, every confrontation is a great opportunity for accountability (see Honor Council below).

- **Creative Sabotage** – Usually, as Christians, we keep the ugliness inside of us mashed down so no one sees it. We call this walking in the Spirit. When this ugliness rises to the surface, we call this getting in our flesh or being fleshy. The problem with this approach is that it leaves us in bondage to areas Jesus died to set us free from. The New Name Ministries model encourages the garbage inside of a participant to rise to the surface so that it can be removed by its root. Only when an individual's issues are fully exposed will he see them for what they are and recognize his need for deliverance. Creative sabotage may look like assigning two of the most incompatible individuals as roommates or perhaps giving a former skinhead a black mentor.
- **Stewardship** - When the ministry first started it was whole-hearted and half-witted. Not because we didn't want to honor God or others, we lacked experience and hadn't learned how to apply the Word to the process yet. This understanding of our own process has helped us extend the grace and create the Kingdom culture that has steadily increased our wisdom and understanding in serving those in the program. Pastor Jon was determined New Name wasn't going to be a program. He hated the idea of men pushing paper and getting the right answers yet missing the mark in their hearts. Finally, he realized the need for a framework to establish a process for men to follow for success. Desperation is the gift that typically contains the answers we're so desperate for. Sorrowing disconnect the men reflected in their choices, Pastor Jon cried out to God to help the men become stakeholders in God's Kingdom through New Name Ministries. Gods reply was simple: Stewardship. The download came quickly and, no surprise, brought amazing results in the day to day administration of the ministry and the lives of the men. Around the same time, the Lord showed us that our original six-month commitment was not sufficient for the men to receive all God desired for them to re-establish their lives in Christ outside the walls. Yes they could find jobs and move on without returning to prison, but their hearts had not been touched and healed, and their lives not rebuilt internally in a such a way that God received all the glory He should. Changing our required commitment from six months to a year took away the ability for the men to slide by on external change only. In the Kingdom, it is not about doing, but being. Seeing men leave hopeful in a future anchored in worldliness is sorrowful when there is so much more available. Stewardship of His sons required a more significant investment to yield the results He wants for His own. Time is the test of all Truth.



In God's economy, we receive our own, after proving we can honor another's.

The words “steward” and “servant” are virtually interchangeable throughout most of the Bible. The American Heritage Dictionary defines a steward as: One who manages another’s property, finances or other affairs; the Learner’s Dictionary defines servant as: Someone who works in someone else’s home. Stewardship is a core Kingdom value for revealing, developing, proving character and promotion. This Kingdom concept is being applied through several different stewardship positions that have been created to assist in maintaining an atmosphere of Kingdom order and peace in our homes as well as providing a way of developing men of Godly character. The following scripture gives an example:

Matthew 25:14 & 21 (NIV) (The Parable of the Talents)

¹⁴Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

What an honor for God to entrust us with His property! Stewardship is more than caretaking of somebody else’s stuff; it’s a very tangible way we show God, and others, that we care about more than ourselves and have a regard for the treasures of God.

²¹His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

It is the nature of God to be in charge of many things, apparently giving Him much joy personally as well as when He gets to share this principle and pleasure with His beloved. God’s way of honoring us and promoting us is by giving us more responsibility. When we handle our responsibilities in a way that glorifies God, we end up sharing in His happiness by having influence over more of His Kingdom here on earth! How cool is that?

Stewardship is about response – ability

When we first initiated stewardship roles within the ministry we experienced a much needed break from having to micro-manage everything. After a season of storming, forming and norming we finally started performing in a way that created a flow of communication within as well as satisfactory results in daily operations. There is a fine line between responsibility and authority. We look at responsibility as the counter balance to accountability, and authority as possessing the account-ability to influence and direct using Godly principles responsibly.

Authority comes with promotion.

The promotion comes once we prove we’re under submission to the mission. Promotion always includes more responsibility (ability to impact others).

Though not listed as such, our On-Site Managers are the Head Stewards within the ministry. The fruit manifested through their year at New Name proved their character as being aligned with God's, allowing us to offer them a promotion and greater responsibility. These men come with gifts, talents and opportunity for continued growth as they learn to lead and administrate. As sons of God, they are able to show those placed in their care (stewardship) what servant/leadership and true love looks and feels like. On-Site Manager positions are initiated and formed through a man becoming an Operations Steward and sitting under those ahead of them in the process.

The following list identifies the stewardship positions within the ministry with a general overview of their responsibilities. Full details of each stewards role is listed in the Stewardship Handbook.

Operations Steward

Oversees assigned Stewardship roles and maintains accountability on a weekly basis, reporting directly to the On-Site Manager. Acting as the bottle neck to the On-Site Manager by promoting problem solving within the stewardship system, the Operations Steward is called to the highest level of care of all Stewards (short of the On-Site Manager).

House Steward

Responsible for daily operations and weekly review of cleanliness, reports to Operations Steward.

Transportation Steward

Responsible for care and administration of ministry vehicle(s) and transportation needs of program participants.

Facilities Steward

Responsible for care, repair and maintenance of facility structure, infrastructure and mechanical needs.

Grounds Steward

Responsible for ongoing yard care, trash pickup, can crushing and waste disposal.

Hospitality

Responsible for coordinating chores, cooking/cleaning schedules, Food Fellowship needs and visitor registration.

Other stewardship roles may be developed based on dynamics that arise unique to each facility or ministry.

- **Goal Setting** - The ministry sets a financial goal for each guest of saving \$3,000 before graduating with High Honors. Other than this, we look to the individuals to establish their own goals. We assist them in achieving their goals through the accountability and equipping established within the ministry processes.


*"If you don't know where you are going,
you'll end up someplace else."*

Yogi Berra

- **Environment** - Our facilities are created to be homes operating as God honoring families. This model goes a step beyond the therapeutic community model by promoting a level of brotherly love through the intimacy (in-to-me-see) gained by eating meals and attending classes together, as well as enjoying group recreational activities. In prison a man does his own time, he goes to his knees to survive. At New Name Ministries, a man is encouraged to stop doing time and start living. True brotherly love looks like holding a brother accountable demonstrating a genuine level of commitment in truly being a brother's keeper.

- **Decompression** - During a newly arrived participant's "decompression" time, he's immersed in the ministry's foundational principles through books, videos, and CD's followed up by written and oral reports. Throughout their year, participants are introduced to curriculum that is intended to expedite the transformation of their minds and most importantly, their hearts.


- **Boundary Building** – For a person to get to the point of committing a felony, he had to have deteriorated boundaries. To assist in the re-establishment of boundaries, we have set rules and conditions in place as a plumb line for each man's personal relationship with God and others. We don't protect the rules in order to have a relationship; we have rules to protect relationships. In prison culture everyone does his own time and follows the rules out of self-preservation or earning freedoms and privileges. In Kingdom Culture the rules are written on our hearts and we experience freedom to live for Christ who died for all mankind. To assist in healthy boundary development we have mandatory group therapy lead by a Christian treatment provider offering keys to establishing healthy boundaries.

- **Treatment** – The best news about God's creation is that we can change! In fact, all things can become new in our lives through Christ. This all starts with our thinking: Repent (change the way you think) for the Kingdom of God is at hand, our hands. We are to be renewed by God's Word yet we are to look to Wisdom as our sister and Understanding as our friend. Treatment offers us the opportunity to connect these disenfranchised relationships. New Name embraces treatment as a means to improve and prove one's self to themselves and others. More importantly is the equipping of an individual so that he learns how he got where he went and how to avoid such choices in his future. New Name Ministries has incorporated weekly group treatment sessions lead by an independent state licensed treatment provider using the Cognitive Behavioral Distortion Relapse Prevention Model which the participants pay for directly. Insights offered through a home living environment create a therapeutic style community while giving greater opportunity for each to become his brother's keeper which is counter intuitive to prison culture. Scripture teaches us, "as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another". The Lord requires a sharp sword to battle victoriously. We are His sword and we need to realize life is filled with battles. Though presentation, the act of accountability and encourages healthy change. When coupled with  the treatment process may be secular in its instruction to the mind and heart of each man a right heart and hunger for more of the Kingdom, God can work miracles.

Back in the early 90's Pastor Jon was going through treatment at the same time as Bible School and was asked which was more beneficial. Without hesitation he replied, "One without the other would render both useless for me." It takes strength greater than our own to dig out from under the wreckage of our past. God, if we let Him, uses who and what He sees fit to do the job of changing hearts and renewing minds, even secular treatment models. Many fear wounding their pride and ego in the process of becoming transparent and healed. Rather than recognizing the grace offered through the process of tearing down the walls of illusion and learning to rebuild their lives, some choose to hold on to their perversions. Every perversion is just the wrong version of the right thing God created us for; you can't pervert what isn't there. Therefore we have good news; under the wreckage of our lives awaits the life we were created to live. All it's going to take is time, money, hard work and a willingness to be radically honest with ourselves and others so as to be healed. Is it worth it? Christ died for it.

- **Mentoring** - Participants in the home are required to mentor accepted applicants as part of their service to others. Mentoring letters are due at least once every 90 days. This process allows ministry staff to observe growth in both the participant and the accepted applicant.
- **Service** – Working under the authority of another person for the purpose of achieving team goals is basic to becoming a servant/leader. Participants are required to acquire gainful employment not only to be financially self-sufficient, but also to grow in service to others. Participants who come to New Name already financially self-sufficient are required to perform volunteer work in a structured environment.
- **Food Fellowship** - We have found that coming together to praise and worship followed up with a meal prepared, served and cleaned up by the men in the program facilitates a number of important dynamics. First, we assemble before the Lord in unity to praise and worship and to share testimonies which glorify God and inspire hope for a future. Second, we acknowledge those who have just come to the ministry, had a birthday in that month, graduates and special guests. Also, this is an opportunity for the men to invite family and friends to fellowship with their new spiritual family.

Transformational Tools

Use the right tool for the right job. Every project requires a set of tools and knowledge of how to use the tools to get the best results.  The following information is offered as frame work for building an atmosphere that will transform the lives of those who come in contact with the process when it's applied to their lives wholeheartedly. Transformational tools can be broken down into two main groups: group study and reports.

Three nights a week are set aside for group study utilizing curriculum or dynamic exercises making use of the principles learned through our curriculum. Each class is facilitated by an On-Site Manager, Staff or a New Name Ministries participant as leadership training and encouragement of leadership skills already imparted by God. On occasion our On-Site Managers will choose to substitute a regularly scheduled dynamic exercise for an evening of topic specific group discussion based on current events in the home. The goal is to address, identify and resolve issues within the dynamics of those in the home that are counterproductive to the well being of the individuals involved, and more specifically, the whole house. Each home is only as strong as its weakest link; all the more reason to be our brother's keeper. The Word tells us to beware, bad character can corrupt good. Actively addressing issues that can negatively affect the whole is essential to maintain healthy dynamics and continued growth in the homes.

New Name's reports allow for each individual to live with a higher level of accountability as well as the opportunity to express progress over various areas of life.

- **Drilling Down** – Through this process, it is our desire to help a man who truly wants godly change in his life. For transformation to take place we must allow the Holy Spirit to move us from the general (or vague) to the specific, from the global to the personal, and from ineffective to applicable in the here and now. By moving through this process we “drill down” to our pivot point, that point in which we change directions. Another term we might use for this pivot point is repentance. When there is true repentance, there will be an immediate and radical change in our thinking, speech, and behavior. It does not result in instant perfection but the change will be abrupt and noticeable. Instead of seeing repentance as something to fear or as some kind of threat hanging over our heads, we can now see repentance as something to celebrate as the beginning of a new level of freedom in our lives.
- **Curriculum** – Once an applicant has been accepted, it is time to begin preparing him for life at New Name. We assign him a mentor from among the men already at the ministry and provide him with Bible-based self-study lessons designed to reach the places in his mind and heart he usually keeps hidden from others and himself. These lessons focus one of three areas: Kingdom Principles (drawn from the concepts covered with the men in the home), Finance, and Counseling. Determining curriculum for use at New Name Ministries was not a matter of figuring out what the men need to learn while in the home. Rather, we looked at what God had already directed us to focus on and what environments He immersed us in during our early years. What we found seemed to fit into the following five categories: Culture of Honor, Identity in Christ, Healing Encounter, Kingdom Culture, and The Prophetic.

Culture of Honor

There is no dishonor in the Kingdom of God. The one time it happened, the disobedient and rebellious beings that God created to uphold the glory of the Kingdom were not only removed from their God ordained positions, but expelled permanently. God, choosing not to miss an opportunity to use evil for good, allowed these fallen beings to have a season of time on earth. Eventually, all the tares among the wheat will be exposed and then disposed. God never wanted to see His creation removed from His grace and glory. Those that chose to believe the lie of being equal to or knowing better than God were spoiled by self-righteousness and arrogant (errant) thinking; essentially casting themselves out of the Kingdom of God and into unfathomable deprivation forever.



Prior to salvation, we too suffered from our own self-righteousness and arrogant thinking, finding ourselves in a prison of our own making, unable to pay the cost of our chosen sin. Thank God for His Son, our Savior, our redeemer and hope of glory. Christ came from Heaven to earth to show the way through dying to self and loving (honoring) others. Not because the others honored Him first, but because He chose to honor (love) others just as He saw His Heavenly Father do. In a culture of honor, we love (honor) first because that’s how our Heavenly Father does it. Jesus lived an honorable life out of love for His, our, Father. He did this through obedience to the Father; we do it out of obedience (honor – love) to Christ. Jesus is the hope of Glory in us that needs to come out, honorably.

One of the dynamics that is important to understand about those coming out of prison is that they've inherently been institutionalized to some degree. Prison culture is basically a perverted form of Kingdom culture. There is an honor code and order to the chaos behind those walls – but it is cloaked in darkness, full of the flesh, and fear of man is the primary motivating factor. The closest thing you'll find to being your brother's keeper inside is known as a snitch. Wardens are considered judgmental and hard to please gods and the guards their ears and eyes. No one is to be trusted.

Good News!

*There is no perversion without first having the right version to
pervert!*

The working out of our salvation is a life time process involving more than we can imagine or comprehend without help from others and the Holy Spirit. The biggest issues usually involve trust, unforgiveness, bitter root judgments, ungodly beliefs and even generational curses. By creating a safe environment for men to risk failing and making mistakes, they can explore the application of what they know about the word of God and see how it fits in to their new life. In a culture of honor people are not honored so much for whom they are, but for whom they're becoming and called to be. They are challenged to let their greatness out and to stop believing any lies that have held them back. The truth sets people free so that they can truly delight themselves in the Lord, and so He can in turn give them the desires of their (right) heart.

The following scriptures are from the NIV and representative of the reflections above:

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

John 15:11-13

¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Romans 7:23

But I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

Psalms 37:4

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Identity In Christ

“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” James 1:22-24

Sometimes believers connect their desire to be doers of the Word with the study of the Word, the memorization of the Word and the collection of right doctrines. But, if we read beyond the much quoted James 1:22 we find there is an important dynamic that activates the hearing of the Word into the doing of the Word; our identity (seeing ourselves not as we are, but as we were created to be in Christ.) This is the number one issue we see men struggle with when they come to New Name Ministries. They may have a sense of their doctrinal beliefs and know their worship style preferences, but they still are not grounded in the love of God, either for themselves or others (and frequently both). Prison life only perpetuates this orphan spirit. Self-preservation is the guiding force in the prison culture that stunts a man's spiritual growth.

Believers set free from slavery to their sin sometimes take the instruction of our Lord to come to Him as little children a bit too far; remaining babes in the Word and ultimately the works of the Kingdom. In prison, men are told what to do, when to do it and limited in the number of choices they can make for themselves. This environment shapes the mind set of dependence rather than interdependence. All too often we see men upon release pursuing independence rather than relational interdependence with those around them and especially in regard to their relationship with the Lord. Stuck filtering life through the mindset of fleshly self-preservation they continue to "do time" even when released from prison. Not realizing that as Believers they're called to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth, they continue to exist rather than truly live through seeking the Kingdom of God first and allowing it to manifest in their life. To do so one must grow in the nature and the stature of our Lord through the working out of their salvation (applying what they've learned) as well as learning to hear God and obeying Him, this process usually involves others and clearly requires a devotion to seeking the Kingdom.

Becoming a son of God requires coming to the end of our old selves by embracing our brokenness. Not just being broken and sorry for getting caught, but repentant; realizing that the consequences of our sin separates us from His love and power for living righteously. This separation leads to the death of who we're created to be in Christ. Many struggle with acceptance of the gift called grace (God's ability to do in us and through us what we're unable to do ourselves), thinking that it's for those who are better Christians or who have better understanding of His Word. This only cheapens the value of Grace and purpose of redemption. One's personal repentance and relationship with the Lord deepens with recognizing that all sin is first against God. When we become humble enough to understand how ugly we have been (and sometimes still are) before God and how little we deserve His mercy, that's when we can receive the truth that He still desires to make us His son's. His desire for a father-son relationship with us is only limited by our own willingness to submit to the process of trusting Him.

Sinner? Servant?
Friend? Son?



When we first say "yes" to the Lord we become as disciples, considered children of God called to be His servants. After baptism and while faithfully following Christ, our personal relationship develops and we grow in Godly wisdom; we're upgraded from servants, to friends who can understand the Father's heart. Then as we follow the Holy Spirit, we become sons, circumcised of the heart, living in the freedom Christ died for. As co-heirs with King Jesus, we no longer fight battles in our flesh, but standing firm, wearing the armor of God exercising our authority over those things under His dominion.

The following Scriptures are from the NIV and representative of the reflections above:

Galatians 3:26

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,

Psalms 51:17

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

John 15:14-16

¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Galatians 4:5-7

⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

2 Corinthians 6:18

And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Galatians 4:6

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Hebrews 2:10

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Hebrews 12:8

If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

Healing Encounter

As Christians, we often think success in the battle against sin comes when we resist it and beat it (and mostly ourselves) into submission. Too often only deal with the fruit of the sin itself rather than ourselves (and our problems) first to God, then problems, distorted beliefs (lies about others or besetting sins for what they are, clear to the root! equipped and empowered us with the truth, we (removing his toxic roots) and he must flee! Can I hear a Praise God!



though, the battle rages because we the root of the sin. When we submit we can recognize (identify) our self), destructive declarations and Being submitted to God who has are now able to resist the devil

The Healing Encounter process, and our accompanying curriculum, is a personal journey of discovering the Truth of who we are with the help of others who have shared similar experiences.

Elements that can cause us to remain stuck in sin are:

- Allowing the legal right for demonic harassment
- Mistrusting God, believing lies, wrestling in the flesh, not yielding to the Holy Spirit.

Root issues list and descriptions:

- Ancestral Curses – looking back to move forward
- Inner Vows - covenants we made to protect ourselves blocking freedom
- Unforgiveness – this always yields a crop of bitterness
- Ungodly Beliefs – worldly views and lies we've allowed to drive our bus
- Soul Ties – it wasn't a one night stand, and, out of sight is not out of mind
- Bitter Root Judgments – whoa, take that log out of your eye
- Demonic Oppression – that's oppression not possession
- Restoration of The Fathers Blessing – what Christ died for is still available

Each person is paired with a sponsor (previously completed the course and Sponsorship instruction) who provides personal prayer ministry after each topic is taught during the personal reflection time.

The Process:

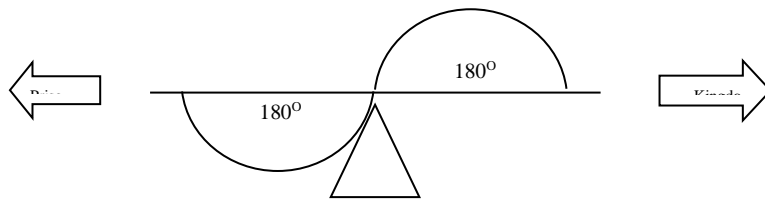
- Receive instruction, insights and instruction for overcoming strongholds
- Confession – not condemnation, clarification and identification of problem areas
- Renounce those things that have proven destructive and obstructive
- Repentance – returning to the high place at Jesus' feet
- Receive fervent effectual prayer that avails much
- Replace the curses and lies with declaration of the Father's Blessing
- Take communion at the cross and leave the past behind; leave free!

The key word here is process. Even though one may go through this course and come away changed, chances are, more will be revealed over time; therefore, more to be received and restored! Those who choose to become sponsors for others usually walk away with more revelation for themselves also. Let His Kingdom come and His will be done!

Kingdom Culture

“Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Is 55:7-9 NIV)

Prison has its own way of thinking, its own culture, flipped 180 degrees from the world’s way of thinking. In the same way, Kingdom thinking and/or culture is 180 degrees from the world’s culture or way of thinking. Usually, when you add 180 degrees to another 180 degrees, you get 360 degrees or a full circle. Not so here.



As illustrated above, prison culture is much further away from Kingdom culture than the world’s culture. Thus the need for transformational residential reentry and not just transitional homes back in to the world.

When incarcerated, the goal is survival. We do our own time, and operate out of fear. Everything is done through the filter of self-preservation. Even when we have a core group of others we are comfortable with, it’s at arm’s length. This code of conduct is a barrier to our calling as Christians who are called to die to self and live for the good of others and the glory of our God. There are those of us who were saved before we committed our crimes, creating an even greater burden of shame and regret. This can become our greatest hurdle or keep us humble enough to see other believers through the eyes of Jesus. Those who “do good” in prison are often only doing rather than being. Often acting righteous to manipulate for personal gain (self-preservation) rather than living righteously. Caught in the trap of performance, they never really commit to anyone else’s well being but their own.

The honor code in prison is not about honor like that of the Kingdom of God. In prison, rules are followed in order to survive, not to thrive. Prison rules are about performance and punishment. Inmates submit to them out of duress; if they don't, they get punished. This is true even with the unwritten rules that govern the prison culture, both those of the guards and the inmates. In contrast, Kingdom rules provide a means to healthy relationships, abundance and freedom (inner). Submitting to God's rules (laws) comes with the promise of reward. If earnestly trying to please God out of love for Him, He encourages us with the promises of fresh mercies daily and grace enough to cover our sin and transgressions through the shed blood of Jesus. If we fall short, we have an advocate who is not interested in punishment but reconciliation. Jesus desires healing and healthy relationships; first with God, then with man. Counter clockwise to prison culture, those who are called to live as servants to the King and heirs to the Kingdom of God are told to be their brother's keeper; hard to do if your base line is self-preservation and doing your own time. Even if one is willing to put themselves out there for others, they might find themselves alone. It takes two or more for the Kingdom to operate, the Holy Spirit is always willing to partner with His beloved. If everyone else is keeping status quo by doing their own time and minding their own business to survive, it can be a huge challenge to get others to receive the Truth about themselves, the Kingdom and others.

Prison Culture	Kingdom Culture
Mind my own business	I am my brother's keeper
Do my own time	I am here to serve
Do what I need to do to survive	Heavenly Father, I trust You with my life

The Word tells us to keep our mind on things above and to be careful not to be polluted by the world. The world is always striving to distract us from our high calling by wooing us to all the things "it" has to offer. But God says to seek first the Kingdom of God and then all these things will be added to our lives as gifts and rewards from God. When we do it the world's way, it comes without His blessing and rest (peace).

Even when a man is released from prison and brought in to a Kingdom culture like the one at New Name, there is the counter culture of the world that reinforces the very same thinking as prison culture: It's all about me; look out for #1, mind your own business, do what you have to do, survival and entitlement mentality, etc. God always has His mind on us! This is an obvious reflection of how we should be caring for others, as in being our brother's keeper. Jesus continually encourages us to be like Him: Holy (whole hearted & healed), loving, serving, listening to and obeying God. The world tells us it's up to us to overcome and that we should receive the glory. Jesus, the hope of glory in us, says not to fear the world; He has overcome it!

The world tells us that we can do whatever we want as long as we work hard and outdo the other guy. No wonder so many think they can get to heaven or receive God's approval through works as well as comparing others sins to their own. In prison one can go a long way on doing good and outperforming the next guy. The favor from guards, chaplains and others is all too often stored up for "a favor". Yet God says he has given each of us a measure of faith which grants us unmerited favor. We can't earn it; it's a gift! God says He has a plan for good in our life, to prosper us and keep us from harm. This doesn't happen by mistake. We need to be intentional in choosing what God has for us. This requires a level of trust unlike that which we've experienced in earthly relationships. Going beyond our earthly experiences, where most people's faith stops, to a faith (trust) that allows for new experiences outside of our human abilities and personal resources. This is where God gets His glory and Jesus gets His just reward of our re-presenting Him (by trusting our Heavenly Father) as we bring His Kingdom of Heaven to Earth.

*The Kingdom is the King's Domain and the Earth is His footstool.
Why would we want to reach up for things that are beneath us?*

The Prophetic

"..I am thy fellow servant, and **of** thy brethren that have the testimony **of** Jesus: worship God: for the testimony **of** Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy.**"

Revelation 19:10 (KJV)

When people hear someone mention "The Prophetic" they may think of Old Testament characters like Elijah or Isaiah. Or, they might think of today's fortune tellers* or story's of strange goings on in Pentecostal, Charismatic, or Spirit-Filled churches. Many good-hearted Christians run from such out of fear (False Evidence Against Reality). The prophetic gifting was obviously still in effect during the writing of the New Testament (NT) and, the NT makes clear that the prophetic gifting is to remain in operation to build up and encourage the body of Christ until His return. Many in the church today have forfeited the blessing of the prophetic due to unhealthy perceptions, misunderstandings and misguided leadership. The scripture above makes it abundantly clear that Jesus in us, is the spirit of prophecy. So how can it be dead or inactive? We invite you to search the Word out for yourself and let the witness of the Holy Spirit be the compass of truth since He alone administers the gifts of God. Simply invite Him, the Holy Spirit, to teach you and remind you of all things true and beneficial.



For our introductory purposes, we include prophecy (guiding or affirming words), words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and discerning of spirits in the realm of the Prophetic. Under the umbrella of The Prophetic, we ask the men at New Name to care about others enough to hear from God on another's behalf so they can speak life into them (the power of life and death is in our words). In The Prophetic, we seek to strengthen, encourage, and comfort. When dealing with the deep wounds that lead to negative behavior and living below our potential, there are times we need someone who is willing to see things in us that cannot be seen without the discerning of the Spirit. This "seeing" must come from the Spirit of God, not the spirit of the world which only mocks God.

To operate in the prophetic, we have to care about others more than our fear of making a mistake (looking stupid) or of being rejected for speaking that which the Spirit has revealed. It takes courage and boldness motivated by a love for another that can only come from the heart of God (compassion). At New Name Ministries we desire to be used in encouraging and calling out the greatness in each man God has sent us. The tools of this world are sorely insufficient for the work; and the Word of God is not good news without the power of His Spirit.

*The Word of God states that the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable. What we choose to do with those gifts either glorify God or others (self/Satan). As an example: Fortune tellers/psychics are those who are gifted but have perverted the gift given them – putting themselves in the place of God’s Spirit, being influenced by unseen world powers rather than Kingdom Powers. To be sure, Satan will always sandwich a lie between truths; God never lies!

- **Activation of Accountability Council** – This is an in-service of all of the men in our ministry homes for the purpose of affirming and declaring the Spirit and Biblical bond of New Name Ministries’ members. This public confession of each man’s commitment to be their brother’s keeper and to uphold a standard of honor to all, in all situations, is for God’s glory alone.
- **Dinner Devotional** - As new men arrive at New Name Ministries, they usually come committed to the ministry along with a goal to see their life transformed. Unfortunately, once they get to feeling better from good food, good rest and revived self confidence, it doesn’t take long for some to become discontent as they get reoriented to life on the outside. Distracted by the desire to get back what they left behind or what they never had due to prison, it’s imperative to remind them to keep their eyes on Jesus. The dinner devotional is designed to remind our new arrival of the good things he has found at New Name each time the men gather to eat with their spiritual family.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Phil 4:8)

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
(Rom 12:10)

- **S.W.O.T.’s** - During each Participants stay they’re offered at least three opportunities to receive unobstructed (by the participant) feedback from staff and other participants regarding their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. SWOT’s are typically used in the business arena to analyze and establish points of reference for future progress by seizing opportunities, creating strategies for growth, equipping against threats and weaknesses to prevent failures and bolstering strengths. After each SWOT the participant is given a SWOT Reflection Form to record feedback on their peer’s comments and share what they were able to hear and receive. Upon completion, the individual presents their reflections with the group for further constructive discussion and input. Each SWOT Reflection will end with an assignment given by a peer.
- **Order & Increase Reviews** – There are two things we spend and can’t get back, time and money. Each program participant is held accountable for his use of time and finances on a weekly basis. We use a separate

form for unemployed men as their needs differ from the employed men. On-Site Managers review and critique and send to Staff for review and records.

- **Progress Reviews** - Each participant will submit a periodic self-evaluation covering various areas of his life. Our goal is for the participant to learn how to do an honest self reflection of their progress in the home, work, treatment, finances and goals. Once they identify barriers to progress, they are to develop a plan for improvement in each area. On-Site Managers utilize this Progress Review to stimulate feedback from other participants during SWOT's and other special meetings if needed.
- **Peer Reviews** - Each participant will evaluate himself and his housemates in regard to their behavior over several areas. He is to fulfill his responsibility as his brothers' keeper. This is a very good gauge of character and integrity as well as insights in to other participant's life issues.
- **Honor Council** - When behavioral patterns or unresolved conflict with peers or staff in the ministry arise, the ministry seizes the opportunity to address any cognitive distortions and unhealthy spiritual roots inhibiting the participant's transformation. Honor Council's are a group process used to discover and uproot strongholds as taught in the Healing Encounter. Ultimately, the goal is reconciliation through repentance. By confronting in love the areas that are creating strife and dissension, we seek to create a bridge to healing and transformational change, re-establishing trust and unity within the ministry. This process produces stronger bonds within the home as the participants come to realize the value of being committed to the whole.

One of the key goals of the Honor Council is to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in order to discern the spiritual roots of whatever issue a brother is dealing with. Staff is part of the process but the men in the home, too, are participants not spectators. The men will need to care enough about their brother to seek and be open to God's insight for his healing. When we don't care about our brother, we judge and condemn him and ourselves. If we just sit there and watch him suffer through his self-destructive choices, we honor the devil through our indifference or agreement. This will be a good time to find out who loves Christ enough to love His people and who loves self too much to care.

SPEAKING THE TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE IS JUST A SIMPLE FORM OF CRULETY

- **Restorative Action** - Another tool used to address behavioral issues is Restorative Action, also known as a special assignment. These are generally written essays that may appear punitive at first glance. They are designed to expose the character (and thinking) behind destructive behavior by looking at what is behind the behavior without any justification, excuses, religiosity, or commitment to change. Then the participant can look at the truth and ask himself the question: "Is this the man I want to be?" This gut level, raw exposure of an individual's root beliefs affords the participant the opportunity to choose to take these thoughts captive in obedience to Christ Jesus.

- **House Meetings** - On occasion our On-Site Managers will choose to substitute a regularly scheduled curriculum for an evening of topic specific group discussion. The goal is to address, identify and resolve issues within the dynamics of those in the home that are counterproductive to the well being of the individuals involved, and more specifically, the whole house. Each home is only as strong as its weakest link, all the more reason to be our brother's keeper. The Word tells us to beware, bad character can corrupt good. Actively addressing issues that can negatively affect the whole is essential to maintain healthy dynamics and continued growth in the homes.
- **All In Meetings** - Similar to House Meetings, the All In Meeting is all hands on deck, including all program participants, On-Site Managers and staff. These meetings are typically not scheduled unless there is a need for addressing issues that are impacting the ministry as a whole.
- **Incident Reports** - Accountability is essential and at times requires documentation to clarify and substantiate consistent issues or incidents that indicate a disconnect from goals and objectives of the program. These are shared not only with the individual for their file, but with staff, On-Site Managers and treatment provider as well as any supervising officer.

Administrative Tools

There is no "I" in TEAM. Even God said it is not good for man to be alone, especially in the office. Even though our system is set up to be effective and self-regulating, the forms and documents that will come with each of these previous and following tools are always subject to improvement. We believe and have witnessed repeatedly that with order comes increase. These tools need to be maintained and serve no purpose if they are left in the shed.

- **Staff and Volunteers** - Every organization needs personnel support. Typically staff within this type of ministry receives stipends rather than salaries supported by private donations and a portion of program fees. To say they are not there for the money is an understatement. Clearly it is a calling answered by faith that God will provide a way, and He does. There are possible grants, but these should not be considered a primary or given source for provider. God is our ongoing needs. God is our Volunteers come in handy tasks. The primary concern are in contact with the men that they understand and uphold the ministry standards. We encourage doing due diligence by checking references and to start slowly. Trust but verify their abilities and motives. Know that just because you've trained them and had them sign a covenant with your ministry, personal agendas and unhealthy issues can still show up and impact your ministry or those in it negatively. Be ever aware that the work we are doing is destroying the Kingdom of Darkness and redeeming lives once in bondage to the ways of the lost. Better to struggle without than to struggle within.



- **Visitor Policy** - Those who wish to visit someone in the program are asked to read and sign our visitor's policy so as to cover the bases on issues that could jeopardize the men's freedom. We require ID and contact information to verify ages and so as to be able to contact if issues arise related to their visit(s). Good boundaries make for good relationships.

- **Chaperones** - If working with those under supervision and required to register due to a sexual offense they may be required to have a certified* chaperone with them to attend church or other functions where children might be present. *The supervising agency will determine how chaperones can become certified and what limitations are to be enforced.

- **Community Outreach/Inreach** - Networking within your community, especially any opportunities that create a bridge with governing agencies and local government, is highly recommended. We never know where we might find an advocate for our cause. In fact, it might be wise to invest in this networking well in advance of opening a facility to help gain support of and possible advisors to your cause. The flip side is when others within the community become involved or visit the ministry community. Having interaction with those outside the ministry can do wonders for morale as well as help in gaining insights of those in the program.

- **Discharge** - We don't discharge program participants, they discharge themselves. We will gladly work with anyone who struggles with doing wrong and getting it right. If a man is unrepentant and unwilling to live honorably, he discharges himself. There is no need to put others at risk due to the selfishness of others.

- **Graduation** - Does anyone really graduate? Truthfully, we struggled with this for a long time. For some, finishing the year commitment is a big deal. For others, saving money is a major step in their lives. The goal is changed hearts that lead to a victorious life style upon completing the program. What we've found to be acceptable is a certificate of completion acknowledging fulfillment of minimum standards and a Declaration of Identity for those who have chosen the higher road. Examples of these are in the forms section.