



# THE CROP

The Crop is the newsletter of Sowing Seeds Ministries, Inc. Sowing Seeds Ministries, Inc. is a full service 501 (c) 3 Not For Profit Organization, providing individual and group counseling, drug and alcohol counseling, discipleship training, personal development courses, job search assistance, meals and mentoring.

No Man Left Behind

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 E-mail: info@sowingseedsfl.org  
 Website: www.sowingseedsfl.org

## HOMELAND MISSIONS—MISSION POSSIBLE

Your church or organization can help support Sowing Seeds as a missions outreach that we call, "Homeland Missions—Mission Possible."

Our vision is to create greater awareness to the growing incarceration problem and to meet the unmet needs of men, their families, and the communities where they live. Our mission is to have local churches and churches throughout the U.S. partner with us to meet these needs by changing families - one man at a time.

Churches can help by sponsoring a man enrolled in Sowing Seeds on a monthly or yearly basis. The minimum sponsorship is \$300. This pays for a man's entry fee and covers some of his expenses for his first 2 weeks. We would also like to help churches that have men recently released from incarceration, or churches who have members with family that are currently incarcerated. We can network with churches with the resources that are available to help.

Tommy Presley, pastor of Turning Point Worship Center of Bartow now collaborates with Sowing Seeds by paying for our van. What a blessing! With the van, we are able to take the men to job interviews or to their jobs, pick up donated items, shop for our sustenance, and, well, it meets our needs for transportation in every way.

March 29, 2007, at our first banquet, Todd Knaack, Sowing Seeds Advisor, boldly told our audience that it would be nice of someone to pay for our van. Four months later, Sowing Seeds held a service at Pastor Presley's church, Turning Point Worship Center, featuring Sowing Seeds resident and long time member of Turning Point, Jimmy Joiner. At the end of the service, Pastor Presley walked over to us and told us that during our banquet, the Holy Spirit had told him to pay



Pastor Tommy Presley, led by the Holy Spirit, supports Sowing Seeds by paying for our van.

for our van. Pastor didn't say anything at the time, because he did not know how he was going to do it. He told us that he was going to be obedient and pay for our van. Since then, he has paid the \$422.41 payment every month and he will continue to do so until the van is paid in full.

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We thank Faith Wesleyan Church, Turning Point Worship Center of Bartow, Victory Church, our churches with vision to equip locally, and our state and national churches who are supportive and considering supporting us. We thank all our mentors and directors who are helping us as we grow into what we believe will be a national model for transitional programs that work.

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- ◆ Please Remember Father's Day, Sunday, June 21

## DONATE BY EATING!

Come to Zaxby's and eat Zaxby's delicious chicken,

Tuesday, June 9, 2009  
 5—9 p.m.

10% of all sales will go to Sowing Seeds Ministries, Inc.  
 Say, "What a deal!"



Zaxby's  
 4510 U.S. Hwy 98N Lakeland, FL 863-816-9900

# SOWING SEEDS' FRED DEMOUEY RECEIVES GOLD PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM



Ed White, Terry Raburn, & Fred DeMouey receive prestigious Presidential Council Award for Volunteerism.

Superintendent Terry Raburn and Men's Director Ed White of Peninsular Florida District Assemblies of God, along with Sowing Seeds Residential Director Fred DeMouey, are pictured holding their Gold Presidential Council Award for Volunteerism. Each man also received a letter from the Whitehouse signed by President Bush.

In January 2009, the trio was notified of their approval, then received their certificates this past March.

President George W. Bush created this award in 2002. A person must have at least 350 volunteer hours per year to be considered for the prestigious award.

Fred did over 500 volunteer hours in prison and prison-related ministry in 2008 along with innumerable hours for Sowing Seeds.

We'd like to thank these volunteers for their tireless efforts in ministry, especially prison ministry. These men, and all of our volunteers, exemplify the teachings of Jesus in their daily lives. *Thank you.*

## ONE IN 100 ARE BEHIND BARS IN THE U.S.

### Stats heard at our April '09 Banquet

In the past 20 years, the national prison population has nearly tripled. In the U.S. today, more than 1-in-4 people of working age have a criminal record.

Florida has the second highest number of incarcerated people in the nation, with the rate expected to increase to over 4,000 new inmates *per second*.

This year **3/4 million** inmates will be released within the U.S. Polk County has—and will release—the seventh highest amount of inmates in Florida. Where will they go? Are they ready for today's rapidly changing technological and economic environment?

It is widely accepted that rehabilitation

offered within the prison system is profoundly limited. Florida has already cut many chaplaincy employees to reduce expenses.

Sowing Seeds is a place where men who have proven their intention to follow Jesus Christ can transition into society. They are given a place to live (to which they must contribute financially), a structured work & volunteer schedule which includes mandatory church attendance and life skills classes. This court-approved program helps those who are serious about living the productive life of a Christian citizen in Florida and the U.S.

Men can stay from 30 days up to two years. Some men are accepted who voluntarily enroll as they see themselves

slipping into trouble. Others are recommended by the courts and are court-ordered to the program as a healthy and viable transition from incarceration to restoration with family and society.



We cannot do it without your help. We whole-heartedly thank our volunteers, teachers, advisors, and all who help. Nevertheless, the reality remains that this ministry needs finances to operate. In these days of tremors in the economy, and tremors in the job market, we must realize the value of Sowing Seeds as essential for the well-being of all of our futures.

**Volunteer Rally - Ling's Buffet - June 23rd - 7pm »R.S.V.P. 863-644-6644**

### Our Own Wish List

**Current Need: new tires for the van, washer & dryer, small appliances**

The prospective son-in-law was asked by his girlfriend's father, "Son, can you support a family?" "Well, no Sir," he replied, "I was only planning on supporting your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, WE ASKED ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS,

## “WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH SOWING SEEDS MINISTRIES?”

“Over the course of my lifetime, a lot has been added to the safety of our communities with electronic surveillance at banks, stores, and even traffic lights. We see law enforcement with improved technology to aid in keeping us from harm. Nevertheless, corrections, law enforcement, and human service agencies are not the only ones affected by the release of offenders. Businesses, churches, schools, neighborhood associations, you and I are all stakeholders in the release of offenders. The number of *churners* (repeat offenders reincarcerated) is high. I remember learning how to take tests and pass a class. There were times I passed the test just to finish the course. Every test I passed did not necessarily change my ways of living. Even basic training in the military has a certain mentality to it of - *just do it and soon it will be over*. Surely, some offenders learn that cooperation is the fastest way to freedom. Is our community any safer when these offenders are released?

Occasionally, when I see a homeless man in trouble on the street, I imagine him as a youngster and say, “That guy was once this little, chubby-cheeked, innocent, baby boy.” And I feel sad for that guy. There are many many men and women in prison today who simply had such crummy lives growing up; they never had a chance. Countless teens in youth detention honestly believe they will never live past the age of 26, who say, “Why bother to try to live an honest life?” I could go on and on with an emotional plea from a compassionate heart to stress involvement. I could say, “That could be your little boy; or, that could be your sister’s son, his dad was such a creep.” Eventually, you might help from the heart of compassion. What if I remove the emotional factor and just say, “These guys are just thugs. *Humph....*” Logic demands that I still help. Why? Compassion aside, we owe it to - *public safety*.

There are offenders who hear the preacher say, “One day you just get sick & tired of being sick & tired,” and they truly want something better. Just as there must be some offenders who truly want a safe and peaceable life, there must be programs that will help sincere ex-offenders learn how to make good choices. We, the people who know how to make good choices, were taught how. We have a stake in helping others learn too. Sometimes, you don’t have to feel compassionate to do the right thing. Assisting ex-offenders keep from becoming offenders again - is the right thing.

Did you know that the definition of police officer is, “one who protects the lives and properties of the citizens?” One term used in the olden days was *peace officer*. Who doesn’t want to

live in peace with their liberty and their property secure?

I realize that programs such as Sowing Seeds provides incentive for good behavior, perhaps some try to fake their way into the program, but we all know that God will take whatever He can get and grow with it. All He needs is a man’s sincere heart. Sowing Seeds interviews their prospective residents to determine the offender’s sincerity. The directors don’t expect perfection, pass judgment, or give the man a prescribed test to pass. They look at the heart of the man to see if he truly wants to learn the ways taught by our Lord, Jesus. You know when you see a man who

has truly given his heart to the Lord. With Sowing Seeds, the strategies and the tactics are there to give every man who enters the program a hope for a future and a plan for success. We must realize that these men are not **re-entering** society as the men they were. No, they are entering society for the first time, as first-class citizens of our King’s government. They are our adopted brothers and our future neighbors both here and in the world to come.

I wish there were more programs like Sowing Seeds who are devoted to helping a fragile ex-offender get started into a solid and different environment; devoted to teaching men how to make good choices that will give them (and us) peaceable and secure lives; devoted to giving value to those who may have never known love before; and who are devoted to demonstrating the truth of God as seen in their own lives. The truth is we can reduce the percentage of *churners*, we can reunite men with their families, we can give a boost to new Christians on their way to becoming viable citizens and men of God, and we can improve our community - *one man at a time*. Will it work for every man? It will not work for the ones who are just trying to pass the test to get to freedom, but it will work for the man who will let Jesus lead him to freedom.”




  
**Sowing Seeds**  
*Yard Sale*  
**Saturday,**  
**July 11, 2009**  
**8 a.m.—5 p.m.**  
at the ministry  
**5415 Rebecca Lane**  
**Lakeland, 33807**  
**Please call Mike at 863-934-3458**  
**for best times to drop off donations**  
**or to arrange to have your donations picked-up.**



# SOWING SEED'S 2ND ANNUAL BANQUET: YOU HELPED!

On Saturday, April 18, 2009 over 400 people attended our second annual banquet held at Victory Church. Special thanks goes to Pastor Blackburn for hosting the event and for his inspiring and informative appeal.

We raised \$4,000 from ticket sales and collected \$5,480 for a total of \$9,480. We also received a total of \$5,776 in pledges. That gives us a grand total of \$15,256.

Our monthly operating costs are \$11,000 per month. Last year our total expenses were nearly \$140,00.00. Contributions

received met our needs. This year, we still have a long way to go!

Throughout the year, we plan to hold monthly yard sales and we offer special thanks to Zaxby's who have offered to donate proceeds to us when we hold our fundraisers at their scrumptious restaurant on Lakeland's north side.

We thank all who gave to this ministry and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who will support us!

You can make your tax deductible donations to:

**Sowing Seeds Ministries, Inc.**

**Mail to:**

**Sowing Seeds Ministries, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 6190**

**Lakeland, FL 33807**

Please contact Fred DeMouey at 863.644.6644 or

go to our website at:

[www.sowingseedsfl.org](http://www.sowingseedsfl.org) and make a donation by secure-pay online.

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Please cut out donor card and return to Sowing Seeds, or call 863-644-6644.

## Your Name & Phone Number:

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- Yes, I will sponsor a resident for one year with 7,200.
- Yes, I will sponsor a resident with \$600 per month.
- Yes, I will sponsor a resident with their \$300 enrollment fee.
- I cannot sponsor a resident, but please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please contact me.

### Sowing Seeds Goes Green with Our E-Letter

We would like to send our newsletter by email so that we may be great stewards with our resources. If you would like to be on our email list, please send an email to:

[info@sowingseedsfl.org](mailto:info@sowingseedsfl.org)

**Subject: Subscribe**

You may unsubscribe at any time. Future editions can be found on our website at [www.sowingseedsfl.org](http://www.sowingseedsfl.org)

### As Seen in Readers Digest

A teenager brought home her new boyfriend to meet her parents, and they were appalled by his appearance: leather jacket, motorcycle boots, tattoos and a pierced nose. Later, the parents pulled their daughter aside and said "He doesn't seem very nice." "Mom," replied the daughter, "if he wasn't so nice, why would he be doing 5000 hours of community service?"

*Submitted by Rhoda White, Director of Volunteer Services, Visiting Nurse Service of New York*



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