



New Beginnings

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Why there is a need for Koinonia House®

Pete Duncan never had a job and rarely called any place home other than his cellblock.

"It was the only place I had to come back to," he said. "Things that normal people do were strange to me.

More than 500,000 ex-cons like Duncan will re-enter society this year, and most of them returning to their old neighborhoods and old friends who got them into trouble in the first place. In Ohio 20,000 prisoners are released every year.

But a growing number of them have made commitments to Christ while in prison thanks to the Kairos program at Marion Correctional Institution in Marion. More on this wonderful program in the next issue of "New Beginnings."

According to the Administration Office of U.S. Courts, at least 40 percent of ex-cons will commit a new crime or violate parole and be sent back to prison.

Tragically, there are only a handful of community-based programs to help these men re-enter society. And that is exactly why Manny Mill founded Koinonia House® ministry a decade ago. Not only does it benefit the Christian ex-prisoners, but the churches and communities who mentor them are radically changed as well.

Koinonia House® and Grahams dedicated

Koinonia House® national directors Manny Mill and Bruce Renfro dedicated the Graham home in Greenville to officially mark the beginning of their ministry to Christian men once they leave prison. "No longer is it "our" house, but it is the Lord's house," John said.

To mark the beginning of the Ohio Koinonia House® ministry, more than 65 people packed the Graham's house on Sept. 9 to hear Manny not only dedicate



Bruce Renfro, national "mentor" for all Koinonia House® resident directors, commissions John and Kathy Graham as they begin their new ministry.



Founder and national director of Koinonia House® Ministry, Manny Mill, dedicated the Graham home to the Lord on Sept. 9.

the building, but Bruce Renfro commission the Grahams as "missionaries," as they call themselves, to the men in the Ohio prison system.

Paraphrasing Numbers 27:18, Bruce commissioned the Grahams with these words: "Take Kathy and John, two people in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on them. Have them stand before the priest and the entire assembly

and commission them in their presence."

It was a very moving experience for all who attended, and it confirmed what Manny and Bruce have been saying about the Koinonia House ministry. "We fully expect this to break out into a nationwide ministry. This is only the beginning a something very big that God is doing."



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**JOHN GRAHAM
RESIDENT DIRECTOR**

Building a bridge to the future

**We're on the web!
Koinoniahouse.org**



Meet the Greenville Koinonia House® board

The board members for Koinonia House® of West Central Ohio all share the same passion to help hurting people.



They include: (front row from left to right) Joy Yeazel, Kathy Graham, Paul Bersche. (back row) Mark Yeazel, Ray Donadio, John

Graham, Bob Westfall.

Mark and Joy are dairy farmers in Preble County and have often opened their home to teenagers needing help.

Paul Bersche is from Detroit and he has been Kathy's pastor for 30 years. Currently he pastors an inner-city church as well as serving as mentor to numerous pastors in the Midwest.

Ray Donadio is an attorney in Greenville. Not only has he handled all the legal affairs for the ministry, but he has a special sensitivity for those going through hard times.

Finally Bob Westfall is a pastor in Miami County and he has been

especially supportive of John over the years.

All live daily, in some way, the command of Jesus to reach out to "the least of these" we meet in our community.



Board president Bob Westfall explains Koinonia House ministry to guests at dedication