



# New Beginnings

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## Forgiven murderer to speak October 4th

### Promise Singers on agenda, too



The Cincinnati Promise Singers and Praise Band officially began in 1996 when several musicians acted as chorus for a Promise Keepers rally.

The group is composed of men from various denominational, ethnic and social backgrounds. They feel this diversity is one of the major reasons for their success as a group.

They have sung for churches, men's conferences and other evangelistic efforts throughout Ohio and Kentucky. Several men have also sung in PK stadium events, including "Stand in the Gap" in the nation's capitol.

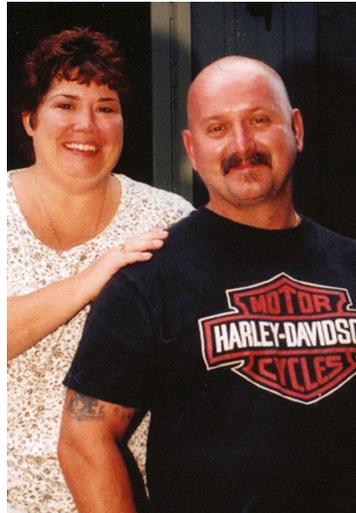
**Koinonia House Concert**  
**Friday, Oct. 4,**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**All Seasons Place**  
Lighthouse Christian Ct,  
US 127 By-pass @  
Sebring-Warner Rd.,  
Greenville.

"I took a life. Now I feel I owe my life back." That's what John Beason says today, but that wasn't always his attitude.

Twenty-six years ago he was filled with hate and violence. And at the age of just 19 he killed a man and was sentenced to life in prison.

Behind bars Beason joined a gang - the Aryan Brotherhood- a white supremacist group known for racial violence, especially in prison.

His anger was so intense that he even planned to kill the deputy warden of



Prisoner # 147-129 and his new wife Patty. Being a Christian gave John Beason a new start in every area of his life.

Marion Correctional Institution, where he was incarcerated.

"I had a knife and I was stalking him, just waiting for the right time to kill him, even if it meant I would get the death penalty," Beason said.

But then God spoke to him.

"I realized that I was that evil person they had said I

was and the reality of it cut real deep," he admitted.

Ironically, it was another Marion prison official who led him to Christ. He credits Warden Christine Money's consistent Christian attitude and lifestyle.

"Never in my life had I ever seen such an example of a real Christian," Beason said.

### Impact on prison

His conversion was so dramatic and so complete that in the past five years more than 300 men at Marion Correctional have also committed their hearts and lives to Christ. One inmate said prior to this spiritual revival, Marion was a hate-filled and violent place, much like Beason.

But today it is one of the safest prisons in Ohio.

Now on parole, Beason and his new wife Patty



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**JOHN GRAHAM  
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*Building a bridge to the future*

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



## **Mentoring new believers like growing a garden**

Kathy has always wanted to have a garden of her own. But she is a city girl and doesn't have the foggiest idea how to grow one. Fortunately, our friend Bill offered to help her. He did a good job planting the garden for Kathy. He even gave her a book about gardening.

Over the next two months the corn grew to over six feet tall. And there were hundreds of tomatoes, as well as peppers, beans, broccoli, beets, carrots, cauliflower and even cucumbers.

### **Garden problems**

But it looks like we'll have to wait until next year to be eating fresh

vegetables. Bugs ate our beans. And Kathy didn't know when to pick the broccoli and cauliflower, so they rotted on the vine. Even the tomatoes never made it. Worst of all, the corn never took root and it fell over during the first storm of the summer.

Kathy took her garden failure personally, but I blame Bill. He may have done a good job planting her garden, but when the problems came with growing the garden - and they always come, he wasn't there to help her.

### **Churches like that.**

Christians can be like that. We're

really good at planting people in the faith, but we're lousy at doing all the follow-up work that is needed to help them grow. And when the spiritual and emotional bugs come for new believers - and they always come, there is no one there to help them.

Getting somebody into church is like planting a garden. It's only the beginning. But making disciples - working with them through the weeds and bugs and storms that happen to all of us, that's what the church is supposed to be doing. And that is what Koinonia House® is all about.