

# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2019



Dear faithful CCOM supporters,

My name is **Mark Maier** and it was my privilege to serve on the board of CCOM for many years. Steve asked me if I would be willing to write a piece for the newsletter. I was more than honored.

Serving in my position over the past decade has given me special access into the heart of CCOM. Started well over thirty years ago (with a vision to unite local ministries to provide assistance to those in need of encouragement,) CCOM continues to do just that. CCOM remains true to its original purpose. While CCOM provides God-inspired counsel (and often, relief to those in need,) its heart is to meet people at their spiritual need. Our community and world is full of broken, hopeless people. The saving gospel of Jesus Christ is distant to them. Families struggle to pay their bills. Drug and alcohol dependency is prevalent. Attitudes of entitlement and selfishness are rampant. **Sin is ever before us. It is the Eternal hope of Christ that we want to extend to our community.** To do so, CCOM provides biblically-based counseling, not just to see people "pray a prayer of salvation", but to provide biblical encouragement to those struggling in life. It is important to note that CCOM does not only exist for "those people", the ones many of us rarely see or interact with. Hurting lives are being impacted as the Gospel goes out.

One by one, many people are being saved as the gospel is proclaimed, or rededicating their lives to Christ. It would be amiss for me to not mention the folks whom the Lord is using at CCOM. In Steve and Iris, the Lord has provided caring hearts. Many of you know Steve, the director at CCOM. His love for the Lord is contagious. He is a faithful follower of Christ who does not take his position at CCOM lightly. I have never known someone with as pronounced a gift as encouragement. At this moment I can hear his voice, "we must be at the task...Preach the Gospel!"

Dr. Barrett, (Iris), is no less impactful. She is a highly educated, devoted woman of the Word, who walked away from the lure of the corporate world to minister to women in the local community. She is highly skilled and dedicated to the ministry she provides at CCOM.

I will always cherish my time spent on the CCOM board. I have also been deeply blessed by getting to know the faithful men on the board. As director of CCOM, Steve is a faithful steward of the finances God has graciously provided through your generous gifts. Over the past few years, the board has expanded. By God's grace, I am convinced that the ministry is in good hands as it moves into the future. Thank you for partnering, both financially and in prayer, with the ministry of CCOM. It is truly a gospel light to our community.

Gratefully,

**Mark Maier**

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**Dwight Stone** is the founder and first director of Christian Community Outreach Ministries. After many years of faithful service to this community God called him to serve with European Christian Missions where he has spent many years serving the Lord in Poland, and even after the loss of his wife, Andrea, he has remained faithful to the Lord. He continues to serve the Lord in many capacities, here and in Europe!

“I am very thankful to God that He has moved a group of fellow believers for over 33 years to start and support Christian Community Outreach Ministries. God our Creator is very concerned for the struggling , suffering people in our community. Since He is Eternal, so are all in our community. Every soul needs to know His great desire that we be reconciled to Him. 2 Cor 5:17-21 says: <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[a]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ, God was reconciling<sup>[b]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

But many are unchurched and do not know this truth.

I am very thankful for all who help to support this vital Gospel work of our Lord. He was always seeking the Lost. Mark 1:38 says: And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”

Thanks to all who pray and give. God describes this thankfulness in Third John, verses 5-8: Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, <sup>6</sup>who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. <sup>7</sup>For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. <sup>8</sup>Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

**Praise the Lord Who gives us this great **privilege**.**





## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S HEART,

Since becoming CCOM's Director in October of 1999, I have learned much, and I am still learning much about the value of Biblical Soul Care/Discipleship! What a joy it has been to me personally for God to supply a multitude of counselors for my own soul so I may in turn be "a drink offering" to someone else in need, who is empty and hurting spiritually!

Dr. Iris Barrett, our ladies' Biblical counselor, says AMEN to that as well! As community shepherds, we know the value of Discipleship and ministry time for a lost, hurting soul!

This is our primary focus at CCOM – we shepherd souls. Most who come through our CCOM door say they are saved, but sadly, their lives say otherwise.

Yes, we still provide 'partial assistance' with utility disconnects for those who fall within our ministry guidelines. However, we also clearly let folks know God has put us here to provide prayer and Biblical encouragement, along with words of loving instruction, straight out of God's Word. Remember, most people we see say they are Christians!

As I mentioned earlier, 90% of the people we talk with or see say "Oh, I was raised in church"... but when you help them peel back the layers of religion and damaged relationships, they find out they need the one and only Savior...Jesus Christ, and they need a church home! When we share the Gospel with them they find out that without Christ as their risen Savior and Lord, there is no real hope, now or later! Most people we encounter love this real soul time!

Again, the value of living out the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is essential to every soul in our community and our world. Many have responded, and are responding to His amazing grace, and for that, we are eternally grateful – grateful that we can be His ambassadors in their time of need.

Sincerely, in CHRIST, Steve Workman for the CCOM Gospel Team

Special thanks to Jimmy and Debbie Preachers, who delivered another load of "BLESSING BAGS" to give to children who come in with a parent who is there for encouragement!!! I wish you could see each child's face when they choose a bag!!!!!

