

“It is for freedom that Christ set us free.” Galatians 5:1

A Changed Life

by George Lang, FreedomWorks Director

If we want to see what a changed life looks like, we have to look no further than Sam McGown. Sam spent his life running the streets in St. Paul. Sam shares,



Sam McGown at FreedomWorks

“I was addicted to drugs, sex, violence, and crime. I tried to fill my life with things that just emptied me. I finally surrendered my life to Christ in prison. The streets and prison was the only thing I ever knew, so before I got released I decided to go to FreedomWorks.”

Sam served two prison sentences totaling eight years behind bars. He came to FreedomWorks from Lino Lakes Correctional Facility. He was desperately trying to change his life, and he knew he could not do it on his own.

During Sam’s 15 months at FreedomWorks, he developed into the man God called him to be. He learned how to resolve conflicts without resorting to old physical behaviors. He has recently been offered a position catapulting him into a new career. Sam’s deep commitment to his church resulted in becoming a deacon on the worship team and leading recovery groups. At FreedomWorks, Sam is involved in the mentor training program and is a strong role model to all the residents—

and now living in the FreedomWorks graduate house.

FreedomWorks is a 6- to 12-month Christ-centered residential discipleship program that offers 19 spaces for men who are looking for Christ to lead them in their new life. We also offer the option of an extended residency. The core of FreedomWorks is building community in each of the men’s lives. We do this by providing supportive networks around the men through volunteers involved in community living, Biblical studies, career development, computer training, and fellowship dinners/events. ***But the heart of the community is in mentoring.***

Like Sam, each resident obtains a mentor during the second phase of the four-phase program. All mentors are offered training and supportive groups. We have also developed an online mentor training curriculum.

In July 2014, an independent study for the Department of Corrections shows lower recidivism rates are achieved in reentry models that provide a community base and mentoring. This is not news for us at FreedomWorks. The world is finding out what the Bible has always taught us. We have maintained less than a 7% recidivism rate over the last ten years. *“All things are possible through Him who strengthens us.”* Philippians 4:13.

But successes are only achieved through kingdom partners such as Lord of Life. Your support provides over 1,500 community meals and personal care products for the men. We host our annual benefit dinner in the church building in addition to the financial support and amazing volunteers who support FreedomWorks. We cannot thank all of you at Lord of Life enough. ☺

To learn more about FreedomWorks’ mission and mentoring, visit myfreedomworks.com or lordoflife.org/freedomworks.



Sam McGown before FreedomWorks



FreedomWorks Mentor Craig Anderson with Sam