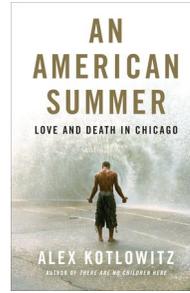
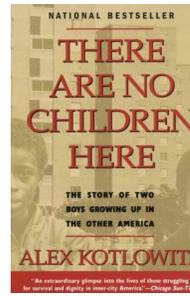
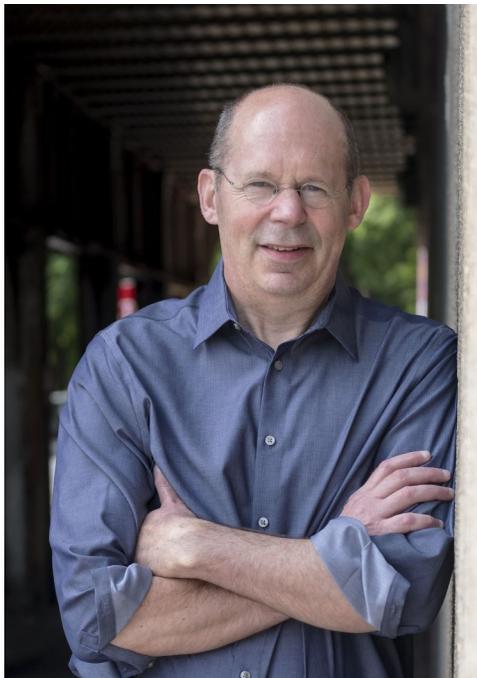
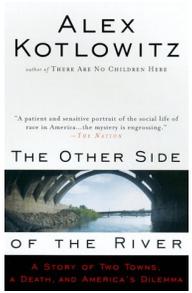
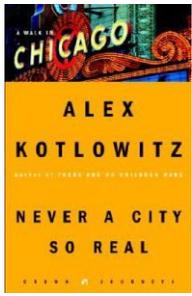


From the people who brought you best-selling authors Piper Kerman, Fr. Greg Boyle, Sister Helen Prejean, Jennifer Thompson & Ronald Cotton

Now comes



Alex Kotlowitz

Community Lecture and Discussion

October 17, 7 PM, Lakeshore Middle School, Grand Haven

Kotlowitz, author of **NO CHILDREN HERE**, **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER**, **NEVER A CITY SO REAL**, AND **AN AMERICAN SUMMER**, was a friend of the late Maurice Carter, and readily accepted HFP's invitation!

Kotlowitz has a personal interest in prisons. In 2016 he worked with inmates of Illinois' Stateville Prison writing essays about their lives in cells, now featured in the podcast **WRITTEN INSIDE**.

You can be a sponsor!

Your sponsorship will ensure all costs are covered so 100% of ticket proceeds will support the good work of HFP. We would love to include your name on our sponsorship roster, although anonymous sponsorships are also welcome.

Sponsorship levels include a meet-and-greet dinner reception with Mr. Kotlowitz and preferential seating at the lecture:

\$5000+	Platinum – 8 VIP tickets
\$1000-\$4999	Gold – 6 VIP tickets
\$500-\$999	Silver – 4 VIP tickets
\$250-\$499	Bronze - 2 VIP tickets
\$100-\$249	Copper – 1 VIP ticket

Prisoners support HFP

President Matt Tjapkes: "It's the highest compliment we could receive!"

For the second time this year, HFP has received a grant from a Prisoner Benefit Fund at one of Michigan's prisons. The PBF Committee at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson, made up of staff and inmates, voted to make a \$2,000 donation to Humanity for Prisoners. The money, which comes from the prison store and vending machines, is often used on items for the benefit of prisoners, such as recreational equipment and microwave ovens.

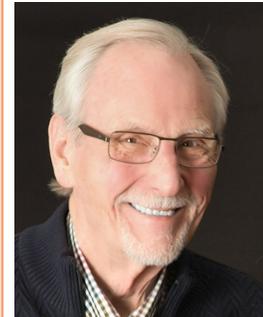
From the desk of Doug: New Beginnings

September is the month for new beginnings.

This is the month that most classes resume. It marks the beginning of activities in the

church year.

Service clubs and civic organizations launch a new season of programs and events.



This message is directed to those persons involved in scheduling for service clubs and churches.

We know just how difficult it can be to find relevant, interesting and stimulating programs, and we can help.

Here's what my church is doing next month. We're planning a **Prisoner Awareness Sunday!** On that day, a representative of Calvin College's Prison Initiative Program will speak to our adult ed class. Not only that, he'll take along an ex-offender who was formerly a student in that program. In the morning worship church service, a former prisoner who appreciated the services of HFP, will share his story. The sermon will be delivered by a member of our Board of Directors (we have three ordained preachers on the board, and they're all outstanding!). When it comes time for the offering, a special collection will be taken for the work of Humanity for Prisoners. Following the service there will be a luncheon, where parishioners will have the opportunity to meet and chat with these guests.

For all of you involved in program preparation, I hope this stirs your creative juices. Let's get started on a Prisoner Awareness Day, or better yet, PA Month!

HFP Whistle-blower wins!

In late July came this public announcement: The ACLU of Michigan has settled a federal lawsuit after the Michigan Department of Corrections agreed to a major policy change that will allow prisoners to report any abuse they witness of other inmates.

The lawsuit was filed in 2015 on behalf of Sharee Miller, a prisoner at Huron Valley women's prison, who was fired from her job as a prisoner observation aide (POA) because she wrote letters to advocacy organizations reporting incidents of severe abuse and neglect that she personally witnessed.

The job of a POA is to maintain one-on-one observation of other prisoners who are at risk of suicide or self-harm. While working as a POA in 2014, Miller witnessed extremely disturbing incidents of staff misconduct involving the abuse and mistreatment of mentally ill female prisoners. One woman was hog-tied and left naked in her cell for nearly

five hours while screaming out in pain. Another woman who was dehydrated, delirious, vomiting, and eventually foaming at the mouth was ignored until she became unresponsive, went into cardiac arrest and suffered permanent brain damage.

When Miller attempted to get help for these women and bring these incidents to the attention of advocates and authorities outside the facility, she was terminated from her job in retaliation for her efforts.

Corrections officials argued that Miller violated confidentiality rules by reporting the abuse. After a federal judge rejected the state's efforts to have the lawsuit dismissed, a settlement was reached just days before a trial was scheduled to begin.



Under the settlement approved by a federal judge, Michigan prison policy will be changed to allow POAs to report mistreatment to a government oversight agency or state-designated protection and advocacy organization whose mission includes the protection of prisoners' civil rights. Miller will be reinstated to her position as a POA, compensated for her lost wages, and have her record cleared of having been terminated for violating prison rules.

Miller's message to HFP founder Doug Tjapkes:

I could not have done this without God, you and Humanity for Prisoners. You helped start this mission to speak for inmates with mental illness. Thank you so much, Doug, for always being here for prisoners and their needs. You, my friend, have made a profound difference in this system, whether they like it or not!

Michigan's Parole Board gets a C-minus!

The MDOC's parole process ranked slightly worse than average in a nationwide comparison. The research was done by Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE). CURE gave grades to all states that have parole based on 18 different factors...crime-reducing policies that CURE felt that parole decisions should be based on. Michigan's parole process received a C-. Said CURE: The "nature of the crime" or "seriousness of the offense" should not be the reason for parole denial.



Ants in Baraga

Mr. S, Level V prisoner at Baraga Correctional Facility, was just released from solitary confinement for health reasons. He writes: *They moved me to a cell contaminated with bio, infested with ants, and no air circulation. I'm tired of waking up in a bed full of ants chewing on me! The doors are altered to block illegal messages, but this also blocks all air.*

One does not ask of one who suffers: "What is your country and what is your religion?" One merely says: "You suffer, that is enough for me."

Louis Pasteur

HFP Wish List: Office supplies

On occasion, Humanity for Prisoners has needs arise that people may wish to contribute instead of monetary donations. This month, HFP is in need of **8 1/2" x 11" copy paper and regular USPS stamps**. If you would like to donate, call our office at 616.935.0075 or send an email to us at info@humanityforprisoners.org.