



# WATER



...is life's mater and matrix, mother and medium.

**There is no life without water.**

*Albert Szent-Gyorgyi*

**...has been a problem at Muskegon Correctional Facility.**

**Notes from a prisoner in the final days of winter:**

1. For at least the third time this winter, there was no hot water in the shower. This time it was only for about 24 hours, but it was only fixed because of the continual presence of several inmates being bothersome to the unit officers. We were told that it could be days before we'd have hot water.
2. Meanwhile, the water in the bathroom sinks was scalding. This is not merely hyperbolic speech; the water was too hot to be in contact with skin for more than a few seconds. The combination of cold showers and scalding sink water raises a question of hygiene in a place where germs already incubate regularly, and from which there is nowhere to hide.
3. The bathroom sinks are fitted with "water saver" handles. These were installed statewide several years ago to save money. The problem is, the particular type used here don't work. They get stuck, or break off completely, which causes the faucets to run continuously for days or weeks until the maintenance crew can fix them. This negates any possible cost benefits that may result from these fixtures, especially when there are usually two or three sinks that are broken at once. This also leads to flooding, which presents its own sanitation and morale issues.
4. Completely separate from the sinks, the urinals are constantly breaking down and flooding. The officers will claim that this is due to inmates attempting to flush tissue in them, but that is simply not true. While that may have happened from time to time, it is NOT the regular cause of flooding. And to complicate matters, when repairs are needed, it can take maintenance up to two weeks to show up to fix them

## Holly on the road for HFP

**HFP Vice President  
Holly Honig-Josephson  
at Fountain Street  
Church in Grand  
Rapids for Social  
Action Sunday!**

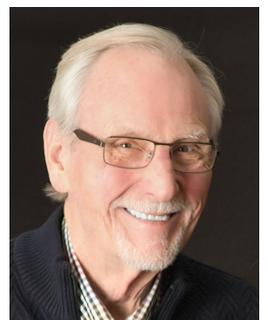


**Holly at Arts  
for Justice State  
Forum on the  
University of  
Michigan  
campus in Ann  
Arbor**

**From the  
desk of Doug:  
Prisoner  
To the state, a number  
To HFP, a person**

I recently posted a blog about a situation within the Michigan Department of Corrections that once again demonstrated man's inhumanity to man. Such action, lamented author Bobby Burns, *Makes countless thousands mourn!*

That's especially true for the HFP team. Not a day goes by that we aren't personally touched by



the state's inhumanity to man. I suppose it can be debated whether such inhumanity is intentional, but that's not relevant. It exists. It's very real. I'm not sure what it's going to take to make a change. But that's why we're here.

The moment a prisoner is accepted into the system, he/she receives an Identification Number. The number #145902 was very important to me. That was the number of Maurice Carter. Carter was my adopted brother, and he called me "Big Bro." But to the state, he was simply #145902. No name, no face, no skin and bones, no feelings.

The name HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS actually defines our role, and explains why your involvement with prayers and dollars is so extremely important.

In trying to teach this very concept, humans vs. numbers, Jesus said "I was in prison and you visited *me*." Who would dare call Jesus just a number? Or even just another human being?

As we march to the Lord's drumbeat, be assured that *every* Michigan inmate with whom we make contact is deemed to be a genuine person, created in the image of God, and will be treated accordingly.

## From the mouths of prisoners:

### Matthew 25

You can also liken HFP's mission to that of the story of those on the right and the left, in that, Jesus speaks about being hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, and in prison. Those on the right tended to His needs while yet those on the left vicariously neglected Him. There is a comparison of these stories equating the humanitarian mission of those a part of this magnificent organization. Your work will always be cherished and remembered. Thanks to everyone at HFP; the Board of Directors, Members, Contributors, Supporters, and last but not least the thoughtful volunteers.

### Proverbs 31

The \$20.00 that I sent is nothing compared to what you've done for so many of us who are incarcerated. So many guys are forgotten from society, and in some cases their own family! So to have someone to speak and fight on our behalf, like you did for Bear, is humbling and a true blessing. In the 40 years I've been incarcerated we have never had anyone in our corner and genuinely wanting to help us without putting their hand out.

### Hebrews 13

The humanity which pours from this wonderful group of people is remarkable and demonstrates what it means to serve others by focusing more on the mission and not so much on the reward. The folks over at HFP are cheerful givers - extending themselves to help others and not looking for anything in return. They are the epitome on how the Law of Giving should be applied.

## Dale's Corner

Experienced Financial Advisor Dale Ringerwole, of Grand Rapids, has kindly agreed to explain options when it comes charitable contributions. HFP will be featuring his thoughts and ideas in upcoming newsletters under



Our legislators have passed laws and inserted rules in the tax code to encourage people to support charities. These laws can be used to benefit the charities that you believe in. Here's this month's suggestion from Dale as to how you can support HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS, and perhaps reduce your tax bills as well:

*For those of you who are retired, you can donate money directly from your IRA to a charity. It does not always reduce your taxes, but I've never seen it work against them. I typically recommend that it is done on a monthly basis. It can make your life simple and easy.*

Watch for another helpful suggestion next month!

## HFP introduces another new video!

Michigan Parolee Roger Church, who recently stepped into the free world, is featured in the second 4-minute HFP video. He tells how HFP helped in a serious medical situation, how HFP stood at the side of Viet Nam veterans behind bars, and how the HFP yarn program made a difference.



To see this new video on You Tube, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmeQVUPhGdw&t>

## Jewelry for Mom! Dollars for HFP!

Grace and Heart jewelry sales rep and former HFP board member Sue Hamm offers a Mothers' Day deal to HFP supporters. 20% of all retail sales supports the work of HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS.



To see this tasteful array of artistic pieces (not costume or trendy) and to place your order, go to <https://www.mygraceandheart.com/SUEHAMM/shop/preshop.aspx> and click on the HFP fundraising event.



**Donate to  
HFP online:  
Humanityforprisoners.org**