



Ministers of the Great “I AM”

*“This is what you are to say...
‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*



2016 Annual Report

414.259.4370 | www.IM.Life

Ministers of the Great “I AM”

When Israel was in her darkest of days, the great “I AM” appeared to Moses (in a burning bush) and called him to minister to God’s people, leading them from darkness into light. Institutional Ministries meets people in their darkest of days as well. As 21st century Ministers of the Great “I AM”, We are honored to serve the institutionalized, bringing them the same message of hope and deliverance that Moses brought to God’s Old Testament people: “I am has sent me to you.”

IM Life, Raising Awareness Online

In his gospel, John records the seven “I am” statements of Jesus: “I am... the bread of life; the light of the world; the Gate; the Good Shepherd; the Vine; the Resurrection and the Life; the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” Truly, Jesus is the great “I AM” – Yahweh – the God of free and faithful grace, who seeks out sinners wherever they may be found. Sharing the great “I AM” with the institutionalized, has been the mission of IM for over 115 years, and



today, our chaplains and volunteers continue to carry out this mission all over the upper Midwest. To raise awareness about this vast mission field of often forgotten and overlooked souls, and to gather support for this ministry to them, we happily share our/their stories (the great things God has done in the hearts and lives of those we serve), through print and online media. If you would like to learn more about the great things “I AM” is doing through IM, visit us at www.IM.Life.

Chaplain Joseph Radsek

IM Life in Hospitals

Life knows no bounds of love. Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” The hospital chaplain helps patients and families discover where that life is amidst a myriad of health-care challenges. Not everything is life or death, but just about anything can be life changing. It is the chaplain’s challenge to listen, to reflect, and to facilitate the patient’s and family’s discovery that hope exists in every situation. It is our certain faith that God will reveal his love and hope to all those who need it.



Chaplain Mark Wenzel

IM Life in Correctional Facilities

"You don't know what it's like...." Every now and then, someone in prison tells me, "Pastor, you don't know what it's like to be in prison." And I always freely admit that they are absolutely correct. I have never been incarcerated in a state prison. I haven't spent even one night in a county jail. In fact, I have never even been arrested! But there is someone who does know what these men and women are going through as they spend time in prison.

Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep... I know my sheep..." It is IM's privilege to share this good news, this hope, with those who need it most when they are in prison.

Chaplain Charles Iles, Sr.



IM Life in Mental Health Facilities

I can't imagine what it must be like for those who suffer from an illness that resides within their very own mind; an illness that holds their thoughts hostage and impairs their judgment; an illness that leaves them uncertain of truth and even reality itself. This is often the frightening and confusing world of the mentally ill. Yet even here, in this place of uncertainty, our good and gracious God demonstrates his unwavering love and faithfulness. He walks by their side amid the pain and turmoil of a confused mind, nurturing and loving them, even in their brokenness. He draws them close to give comfort to their weary soul. He "IS" the calm within the stormy sea of their illness, the one constant that never changes – the Great "I AM".

Chaplain Sarah Guenther



IM Life in Continued Aftercare

"So what does 'love my neighbor' mean when this guy's disrespecting my child and talking like he's going to kill me?" This question came up in an aftercare group, and it opened the door for others in the group to talk about how they'd faced similar situations, as well as what they did wrong and what they did right. When people feel accepted and respected, they feel safe to try talking honestly about their



lives. In our aftercare groups, like God & Grub and Grace Oasis, our goal is to help people see how the God of grace loves, forgives, accepts, and even respects them as they work to live life without prison bars, without drugs and alcohol, and without criminal behavior.

Chaplain Philip Merten

IM Life, Partnering with Foundations & Donors

Foundations are the living legacy of people who are deeply passionate about changing the world for good, and who seek out faithful partners to help them do so. We are deeply honored each time a donor or foundation examines our work and realizes that we have met the criteria they were seeking. They become true partners with us (“Our Foundation is pleased to support your ministry on behalf of combating mental illness and aiding those struggling with substance abuse and addiction”), and we treasure their words of encouragement (“The Oasis Center, your institutional and correctional programs, and everything else you do are lights in the darkness”).

Executive Director, Philip Henselin



IM Life, Partnering through Education

Recently, I was invited to give my presentation on Christian Hope from Medical Objects, to the WELS Nurses Association. When I pointed out how hospital rooms are filled with objects, which can be connected to Bible stories and healing truths, one of the nurses remarked, “I had never thought about how the medical objects we use every day can be related to Bible truths.” I shared many examples of how these objects might be used as simple, non-threatening starting points from which they might share their faith and words of healing. It is my prayer, that some of these nurses will share my analogies with their colleagues, families and friends, so that our gracious God might offer hope and healing through them. If you would like to learn how you can use medical objects to open a door to share your faith, feel free to contact me (Kenneth.Wenzel@IM.Life).

Chaplain Kenneth Wenzel



IM Life Beyond PTSD

There was a gun in her face. She feared for her life. In that moment of greatest trauma, a first responder arrived for her. Video clearly shows both the terror of this woman and then the injury the first responder sustained as he put himself between her and the assailant. This unknown hero voluntarily became part of her life, no matter the consequences. Isn't that the definition of real love, to lay down your life for your friend? First responders become our extended family, guarding, protecting and delivering us from the enemy, whether it is an outside force like fire or accident or one of our own family members causing us harm. Some of them are injured in the process of helping us. Now, in their time of greatest trauma, we will stand by them as well, offering life beyond PTSD.

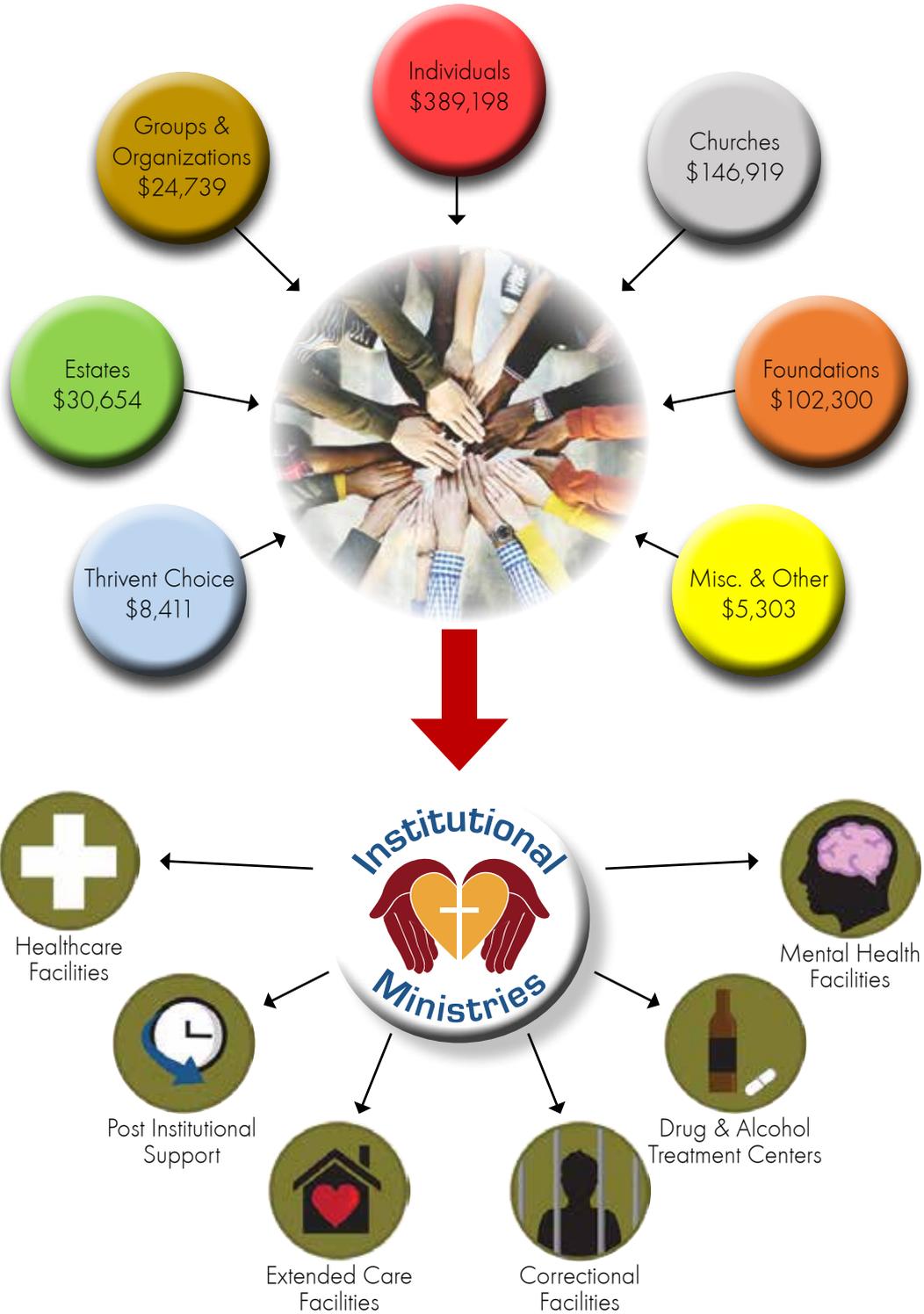
Executive Director, Philip Henselin



IM Life through Hearts and Hands of Volunteers

Even before my Bible study began, I found myself confronted with a barrage of questions about faith and Christianity from one of the inmates. So, I set aside the lesson I had prepared on perseverance, and encouraged the others to join in, to help answer his questions. With a little help from me providing Bible passages as we went along, the class did a great job of answering each of the man's questions. The inquisitive man never got angry or unruly, but he just wouldn't stop raising his hand with more questions. Finally, I used his questions to lead us into my lesson on perseverance, pointing out that Satan wants us to believe anything but what the Bible teaches. After we finished, the inquisitive man came up to shake my hand, and I encouraged him to continue his study of Scripture with our group. Volunteer Alan Uher





2016 Staff



Rev. Philip Henselin
Executive Director



Cindy Aldinger
Office Manager



Rev. Charles Iles, Sr.
Chaplain



Rev. Philip Merten
Chaplain



Sarah Guenther
Chaplain



Rev. Robert Pasbrig



Rev. Joseph Radsek
Chaplain



Rev. Robert Sievert
Advisor - Resource
Development



Rev. Kenneth Wenzel
Chaplain



Rev. Mark Wenzel
Chaplain



Martin Rosewicz
Chaplain

2016 Board Members

Mr. Craig Ellsworth- Chairman

St. Francis, WI

Mr. Lloyd Hoeffner - Vice Chairman

Appleton, WI

Mr. Mark Albrecht - Treasurer

Brookfield, WI

Mr. David Kapanke - Secretary

Sun Prairie, WI

Rev. Timothy Bauer

Watertown, WI

Mr. Larry Clark

La Crosse, WI

Rev. Thomas Fricke

Brillion, WI

Mr. Chris Joch

Burlington, WI

Mr. David Strohschein

Oshkosh, WI

Mr. Carl Rudolph

Appleton, WI

Rev. Philip Henselin

Rockford, IL

Our Mission

“To share God’s law and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with all individuals who are or have been institutionalized, and their families.”