

Damascus Way

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Faith Found

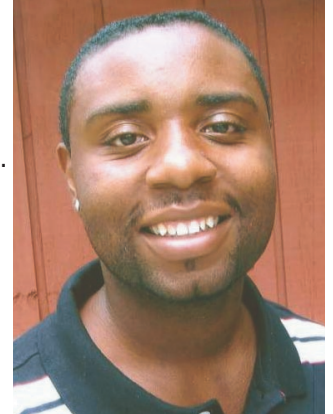
Marcus McGill's dad died when he was 9. When he was 14, his mother died. Both events **shattered his faith** and left him feeling alone.

After their deaths, Marcus lived with his sister in Chicago. The youngest of 9 children, he was naturally protected from some of the drug and gang activity going on around him during high school. He eventually graduated without much incident.

But following graduation, Marcus got into arguments with his sister over some insurance money, and moved out, relocating to Minneapolis. Out from under his family's protection, he began drinking heavily and was soon selling drugs. Within three months, he was arrested.

Over the next several years Marcus racked up 10 to 15 probation violations, eventually landing in prison on a second felony drug charge.

In prison he heard about the Work Release program offered at Damascus Way. The possibility of getting out early caught his attention and he didn't stop long enough to learn that he was entering a Christian program. Little did he know how this program would change his life!



Life At Damascus Way

Although a "Christian program" was not what Marcus had expected, he quickly adapted. In fact, he says, "I loved it. They were real nice and made me go to church."

"I always wanted to learn more about God," Marcus said. "I never went to church growing up and only read the Bible when I got in trouble." He continued, "I lost my faith when my parents died. I was left alone, and I didn't like that feeling."

As part of the Damascus Way program, Marcus was required to attend weekly church services, find employment and attend meetings regularly. "This is the longest I've ever kept a job in my life," he said with pride. The structured program helps residents become healthy, contributing members of society as well as teaching them about God and His Word.

"I learned to take care of myself in a responsible way," Marcus acknowledges. "I learned to do the right things instead of the wrong things."

Marcus has a new-found faith, a new job and new hope for his future. He knows you have invested in his life: **"I appreciate and thank you all for making a program like this. It really does help people come out of prison. Thank you."**

Because of your generous support, Damascus Way continues to help over 30 men, month by month, find their own faith in Christ as well as employment and other support. **We all thank you** for your faithfulness to the men of Damascus Way.

Dick

Rev. Dick Harden, Executive Director
Damascus Way Reentry Center, Inc.

YES! I think God meant for us to serve one another whenever and wherever we can.

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