

Gordon W Brown



In 1997 I had been serving as the Chairman of the Board of Church and Society of the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church and had previously chaired the Reconciling Congregations Program, both positions that could be held by laity. As a result of my UMC connections I received an invitation to attend an Exodus meeting. On a November day in 1997 I attended my first meeting at Eastern. That meeting, with that group of Exodus Brothers, confirmed my belief that change is possible and that a person can be a life-giver, even in prison. I met extraordinary men, of course Rev Muller, but

Bama Battle and I became family, Willie London and I were very close before and after his release, Lou Rodriguez, Miguel “Big King” Santiago, Nicholson “King” McCoy, and so many others whose faces and voices are in my memory, though I may have lost their names because I knew so many by their “nicknames” such as Cincere, Powerful, Haji, Baby, Intel, Shaq, etc.

The point is that from that first meeting I felt I was both welcome and helpful. I brought my experience as a USArmy trained Caseworker, a Drug and Alcohol Counselor, along with the perspective of an artist, having attended The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and a furniture design school. I assisted Rev for several years at Eastern until we started a second group at Woodbourne, then we expanded to Shawangunk. I was the primary facilitator at Woodbourne and Shawangunk and would fill in at Eastern, or sometimes just visit “my home group.” The Woodbourne group even gave me an honorary DIN, # 97A4700.

We are all on our own personal journey, and around 2010 I became a Secular Humanist. This change was consistent with the welcome of Exodus. Access to Exodus was provided to the individual willing to focus on humanity, being a life-giver, that there is a sincere desire to become an “intentional human being,” and a willingness to accept and explore the Exodus Concepts, Rites, and Contract. Men of virtually every belief system found in prison participated over the years. The rooms were occupied by Christians, Muslims, Jews, nondenominational, Indigenous religions, agnostics, etc.

After about 23 years I had decided to stop visiting inside, but, coincidentally, the onset of Covid was causing the closing of many programs while computer tablets were being issued to the incarcerated. I converted Exodus to the current email/tablet program that continues to this day. I send the Exodus Rites, a Deep Talk, Study Paper, and notes on the Contract, communicating every two weeks with men in about seven NY facilities and one in NJ. Also, many people who were once incarcerated, volunteers, or associates receive the same biweekly studies via regular email.

See the link below to sign up for the email program or to recommend someone inside who would benefit from the Exodus Concept (I need full name and DOCCS ID #). “The past is approved, the present is received, the future is open.”