



FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESK

THANK YOU TO CPO VOLUNTEERS!!!

An often unnoticed, but vital part of the ministry of CPO is its team of volunteers. Men and women lead Bible studies every week at the jail and the Boot Camp. Several volunteers maintain contact with Boot Camp graduates and ex-offenders by meeting with them and encouraging them to attend their church or another local church. We have volunteers (including guest pastors) who lead the Bible study from time to time for our vocational students at our facility in Roseland. Several volunteers assist our vocational instructors in "hands on" training. Those who stuff envelopes and apply postage for our periodic mailings also make an important contribution to the ministry.

Many of you may not know that CPO has over 40 faithful volunteers. Without the reliable, consistent work of these godly men and women, much of the ministry that goes on here at CPO couldn't happen. Praise God with us for how He is using their gifts and their willingness to serve to accomplish His purposes in this ministry!

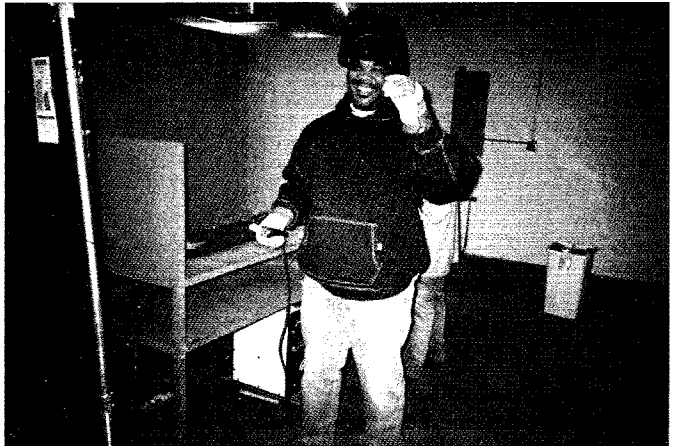
With deepest gratitude,
Dan Swets, Executive Director

CPO's First Welding Class Graduates

On January 30, 2008 we graduated our first welding class for ex-offenders. The students received 30 hours of academic instruction and 45 hours of practical training doing hands on welding.

The graduation ceremony and celebration took place at First Reformed Church of South Holland. A wonderful meal was provided and a marvelous evening of fellowship. Many were in attendance which was encouraging for our graduates and their families. We were able to share information about CPO/Outreach and graduates were able to share their testimony and experience.

The support we receive from God's church and His people is a blessing to us in so very many ways. Our next welding class began the third week of February.



Didn't know learning could be so good.



Instructor Roger, Vol. inst. Roy & 2 of our graduates

Job Readiness

Preparation for seeking employment is now a part of our vocational program. Our job readiness program includes instruction in filling out an application, preparing a resume, conducting an interview and discussion about how to dress and present oneself at an interview. Interview skills are refined as our students become involved in interview role-playing. Reliability, timeliness, honesty, integrity, etc. are emphasized as part of the instruction. We have continued to be involved with our graduates during the job search. Although they have attained the skills necessary the confidence in themselves isn't necessarily fully developed yet.