

# We Give Thanks

## Forging new connections to reach more disciples

Our recent efforts have included connecting with like-minded ministries and attracting more students. More on page 2.

## Course casts vision for biblical discipleship

The class that launched the vision for FGR is being offered this fall to people in the local Brown County community. See below.

## Meet the FGR Board members

Get to know FGR's Board members, the backbone of our governance and accountability. Meet Gerald Casey on page 2.



## New class ignites enthusiasm for more biblical discipleship in Brown County

"An eye-opener." "Greatly needed." "I'm taking this to my pastor."

These are only a few of the positive reactions voiced by students in "Discipleship as Jesus Modeled It," a new 10-session class being taught by Bill Schlipp. The course is open to anyone in the FGR community who wants to grow in his or her understanding of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and how to live it out.

"It's always been my desire," said Bill, that Jesus's command to

to become disciples and make disciples would be revered and practiced by those in the church. This is the philosophy of FGR. It's exciting to see it get traction with the students in this class."

The 10 students participating in the course are studying the historical context of discipleship, lack of discipleship in the church overall, and supporting Scripture. The lessons are sometimes illustrated by stories of men who live out one-on-one discipleship.

FGR strives to set people free from addictions and other life-dominating struggles through the power, love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. We offer hope and guidance to those who are lost and feel broken-hearted, empty, alone and without direction. (Matthew 11:28-30)

## New place of tranquility for FGR students

Friends of FGR have generously transformed a neglected "watering hole" into a beautiful pond where students can pray, read and gather. (Not a photo of our pond, but we picture it looking like this soon!)



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FGR has a house to fill. It's a cozy house, a house of hope and promise. The natural surroundings are beautiful, peaceful. And four beds are ready for men who are eager and willing to have transformed lives with Jesus as their Master.

Over the last year Bill has poured his passion for Christ into his primary disciple Chris Mahon with excellent results, training him in his faith and as FGR house manager. Chris has become an enthusiastic advocate for Jesus and discipleship.

Several church, organization and



local government leaders are now more aware of all that FGR offers and have committed to sending student referrals our way. These include Chain Breaker Ministries in Columbus, the Brown County Recovery and Wellness Coalition,

Brown County and Morgan County Corrections, other recovery-focused facilities and local pastors.

"Our open house event in July resulted in student referrals, and some are still possibilities," said Bill. "Most recently, we are developing more compelling outreach materials and a simplified application with the goal of finding more men who can benefit from FGR's teaching. Most importantly, we know that God will send the men He wants for FGR in His perfect timing."

## Meet FGR's Board Member: Gerald Casey

If there's anyone who can recall the earliest days of FGR, it's our Board member and friend Gerald Casey.

Gerald has been an FGR director since God first allowed the nonprofit to put a stake in the ground. He has seen us through growing pains and victories and has always been a blessing to FGR with his wisdom, experience and – most of all – heart for helping others.

Bill and Gerald met when Gerald was asked to mentor Bill as

a new pastoral intern at Pacific Garden Mission (PGM) in Chicago, where Gerald has been a staff member since 2007. An instant friendship and mutual admiration blossomed.

Gerald first came to PGM as a drug user who had lost control of his life. God met him there, granted him salvation by His grace, and transformed him into the dedicated servant of Jesus that he is today. Gerald is the epitome of 1Peter 3:15,



"Always ready to give ... a reason for the hope that is in you." His passion is a driving force in this ministry.

Let us hear from you!

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Please pray for FGR...

- Men who want life change through Jesus Christ and are willing to put in the effort
- Ministry partners who will join in our mission through giving
- Volunteers to teach or help around the farm
- God to be glorified in everything we say and do!

We thank God  
for your love,  
prayers and  
support for FGR.

