

ORCU Think Legacy

What we doin' in the

DOG HOUSE?

Alpha Dog Spirit!

June—August 2018

Special points of interest:

- Missed Blessings!
- MVPs and MIPs!
- Getting Ahead Grads!
- Alpha Dog Grads!
- Puppies!

Missed Blessings by Joseph Ramey

Joseph and Vicky, a divine Christian couple, are in their heavenly home watching over the earth. They are touched by the challenges of human life, the complexity of human reactions, and the ever-present place of suffering in the human experience. As they watch, Vicky sees a miserably poor man walking down the road. His clothes are shabby and his sandals are tied together with a rope. Her heart is filled with compassion for him. Touched by his goodness and his struggle, Vicky turns to her divine husband and begs him to give that man some gold. Joseph looks at the man for a few moments. “My dearest wife,” he says, “I cannot do that.” Vicky is astounded. “Why, what do you mean, husband? You are lord of the universe. Why can’t you do this simple thing?” “I cannot give this to him because he is not yet ready to receive it.” Joseph replies. Vicky becomes angry. “Do you mean to say that you cannot drop a bag of gold in his path?”



“Surely I can,” Joseph replies, “but that is quite another thing.” “Please, husband,” says Vicky. And so Joseph drops a bag of gold in the mans path. The man meanwhile walks along, thinking to himself, “I wonder if I will find dinner tonight, or will I go hungry again?” Turning a bend in the road, he sees something on the path in his way. “Aha,” he says. “Look there, a large rock. How fortunate that I have seen it. I might have torn these poor sandals of mine even further.” and carefully stepping over the bag of gold, he goes on his way.

Life drops many bags of gold in our path. Rarely do they look like what they are. It is up to us to recognize and use them to enrich and better our lives. My bag of gold came in the form of the Think Legacy Reentry Program.

From the Big Dog

I’ve seen great growth in the ORCU Think Legacy program over the last few months. The community has really pulled together and are focusing on the basics of personal growth and change.

The mechanics of personal change are an important part of the reentry process. The reality is that no num-

ber of certificates, no amount of community resources, no amount of employment will keep a man whose mind and heart are still consumed in criminal addictive thinking, out of prison. We must meet the day with a new way of dealing with life’s challenges. Think Legacy gives us a precious six months to learn and practice some-

thing different in an atmosphere that fosters change. Don’t just talk about it—be about it!



Embrace the Struggle

Inside this issue:

A Word from the Big Dog	1
Alpha Dog Strong Alpha Pups	2
MIP Award Recipients Mentors	3
HAB-A-KNIGHT Mustangs	4
Think Legacy Grads	5
MVP Award Recipients	6
Getting Ahead Grads Reflections	7-8 9



Embracing the struggle of personal change and doing this with the "Alpha Dog Spirit" is what our program is all about. Recognizing that everything we say, everything we do, our outlook and attitude, will affect those around us, we embrace the opportunity to positively affect the world in which we live. We look forward to each and every day, thankful for another chance to celebrate life and all of the wonderful opportunities held therein.



Alpha Pup Program

Here in the Dog House everyone must earn their place. Peer Guide Billy Smith is currently facilitating the Alpha Pup program. "I'm proud to be a part of this important part of the Alpha Dog experience", he says.

As a new participant, each are required to accomplish several missions for the purpose of establishing themselves as members of the Alpha Dog community.

First, each new participant must journey down the hallway to meet the "Big Dog", Mr. Ashcraft. This personal interview gives an opportunity for the Big Dog to give a hearty "welcome" and encouragement to each newcomer.

Second, an essay is required detailing where the new pup sees himself in the next sixty days. This allows the newcomer to set goals for himself to

reach. Next, each Alpha Pup is required to devote one full week to a community service project of some kind. Some have chosen to help clean the barracks' or the bathrooms. Others have chosen to give the morning wake-up call. Whatever the project, all are benefited from the effort.

Finally, each pup must stand before the community and present a discourse on a subject that has meaning to the new participant. This helps the community to get to know the new participant.

We have had great success with the pup program and are very grateful to the all that have helped to develop it.



Alpha Pups showing their teeth!

MOST IMPROVED PARTICIPANTS



**AUGUST 2018
CARL KING**

**JULY 2018
DON BURGE**



The “Most Improved Participant” award is a special award because it is only given to those that have had to dig down deep and face themselves to make real changes. These changes are manifested each and every day as we have seen these men respond to life’s challenges in ways that result in positives. These Alpha Dogs have proven their commitment to change with action!

ALPHA DOG MENTORS



World’s Greatest Peer Counselors

“They don’t care what you know... until they know that you care.” Truer words were never spoken. And the team of Peer Counselors here in the Dog House are distinguished by this one fact—they care.

A real Peer Counselor can tell you that many o’ night in the wee hours are spent in contemplation of issues that the community is facing. With such a

high level of personal commitment, we as Peer Counselors recognize that we must meet the day with professionalism. This requires stepping outside of ourselves to see the bigger picture in order to best serve our participants. An Alpha Dog Peer Counselor has one goal in mind—to do his utmost to help each member of the Alpha Dog community become bigger, better, and stronger.

HAB-A KNIGHT MUSTANGS



The HAB-A-KNIGHT Mustangs are on the roll again with another group of graduates. (Front Row from Left) D. Goff, D. Pirtle, D. Blasingame, R. Rhinehart, B. Miller (Back Row from Left) J. Lane, A. Lovell, R. Eaton, S. Phillips

The HAB-A-KNIGHT Mustangs proudly welcome fellow Alpha Dog graduate Andrew Ramsey as a new HAB Peer Counselor. Mr. Ramsey will work with fellow Alpha Dog graduate “Cowboy” McMillion in Mentoring the Mustang Think Legacy program. “I’m honored to have been given the opportunity to work with the men in the HAB program,” says Ramsey. “I look forward to a fruitful future in my interaction with them, and want to emphasize that what we accomplish belongs to our entire group, and it will stand as a tribute to the combined effort of every individual.”





Steve Kissire



Zack Brown / The "Big Dog" Mr. Ashcraft



Spencer Pierre Hobbs



Grant Crawford / Dustyn Bethune



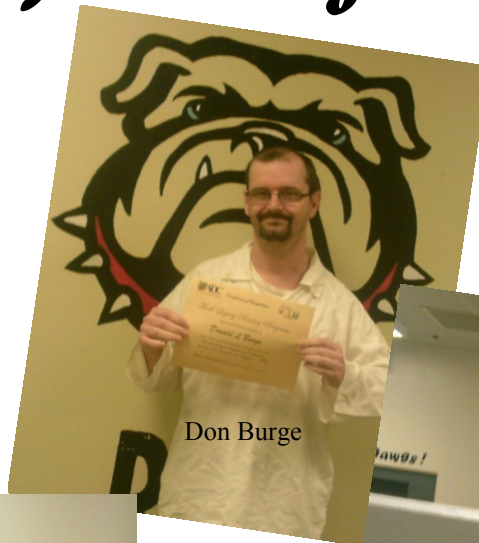
Joey Joe Abshure

ORCU Think Legacy Graduates May—August 2018

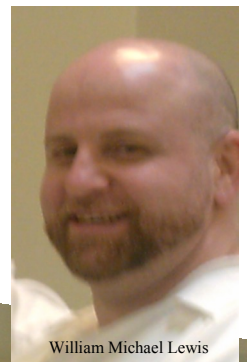
This is only the beginning!



Edi Saucedo-Camacho



Don Burge



William Michael Lewis



Shane Bajorek

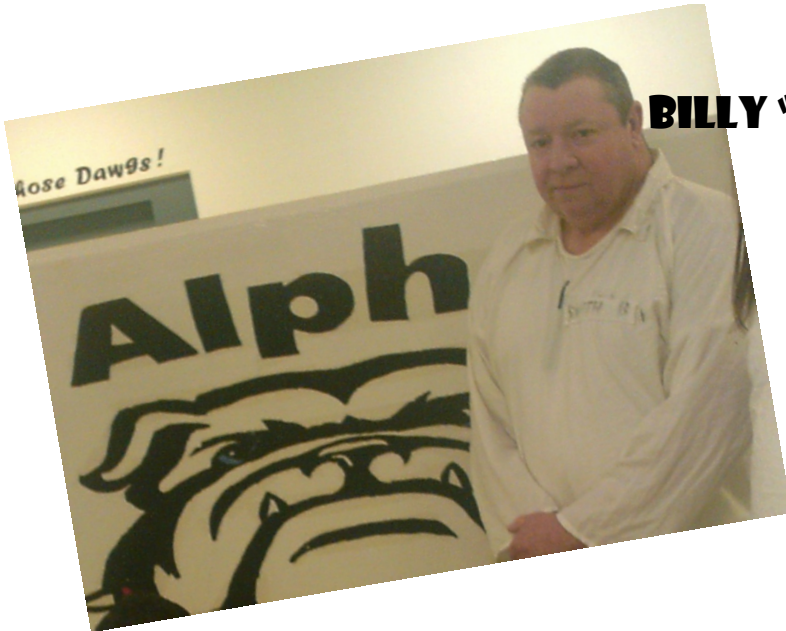


"Big Sarge" Ard

MVP AWARD MOST VALUABLE PARTICIPANT

MAY 2018

BILLY "THE BOHEMIAN WARRIOR" SMITH



AUGUST 2018

JOSEPH TERRELL RAMEY



From time to time, a Think Legacy participant rises to the challenge of personal change in ways that inspire and encourage us. Here at the Dog House, we choose to highlight those that have embraced the struggle and have conquered their lesser selves, having chosen instead to be the outstanding men that they *can* be today.

Real change is evidenced by how we roll each and every day. It begins with honest self-evaluation, is set in motion by putting into action new ways of dealing with life, and it's perpetuated by constant tending and cultivation. It can be done! Congratulations to these two Alpha Dogs!

“Getting Ahead” Graduates

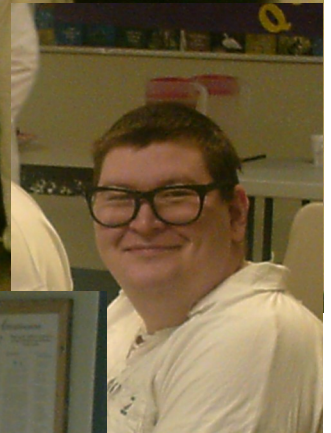
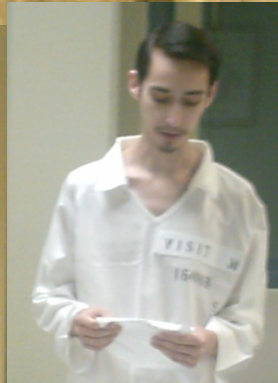


Brian Graham—Johnny Cupples—Angela Echols—Dian Glover



“These guys are awesome!” so says Angela Echols and Brian Graham of the “Getting Ahead” group. “Getting Ahead in a Getting By World” is a 16-week program that focuses on helping participants to prepare for reentry into society. “This program really helped me a lot.” says J. Gonzales, a graduate. “I really feel that this class, along with everything else I’ve learned and practiced in Think Legacy, will really help me to get out and stay out of prison.” Special thanks to Brian Graham, Johnny Cupples, Angela Echols, and Dian Glover for the hard work and time they devoted to reaching out to our Alpha Dogs. Woof!

Below: Graduates are (from left) J. Rhea, C. King, Z. Brown, W. Bertsch, J. Gonzales, J. Garcia, J. Immanivong, P. McNutt, and





Reflections by Craig Oneal

By the grace of God, on August 21, 2018, I was approved for parole. I hate to say that this hasn't been my first rodeo, but it can sure be my last. With my poor release history, and parole violations, the deck was stacked against me from the get go. My parole examiner was Ms. McCaslin and she asked me what was different this time around. I explained to her that I am a graduate of the Think Legacy program, and that I'm currently a Peer Counselor in the program. Along with the support of my family, what tipped the scale in my favor was my participation, graduation and continued involvement in Think Legacy. For anyone getting ready to go up for parole, I suggest that you go in prepared to be your own advocate, have confidence and faith in yourself. Without being cocky, present the examiner with a plan of action to not only get out, but to stay out. I can honestly say that my time in Think Legacy with my fellow Alpha Dogs has been a very rewarding experience for me. While I truly enjoy helping others, I too benefit from my interaction with all of the participants, every person that I've come into contact with in the program helped me to become a bigger, better, and stronger man than what I was when I came in.

My thanks go out to all of the Alpha Dogs, pups, guides, and mentors for helping me in this journey. A special thanks to the "Big Dog", Mr. Ashcraft, mentors Sidney Meyers, Thomas Barry, and Brian Killough for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself.

I encourage anybody who is ready to leave the prison mindset, mentality and attitude behind you, apply for Think Legacy. Our common goal is to "Get Out and Stay Out"!



**Push up
Petey's
Face!**



**TH—TH—TH—
THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!**