

Kafka starts Holyoke-based prison ministry

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

After volunteering at the Sterling Correctional Facility for five years, Dan Kafka has begun the first prison ministry with roots in Holyoke as he heads the Holyoke Church of Christ prison ministry.

His hope is that through the prison ministry, those locally who want to extend a helping hand as a volunteer will now have a way to do so.



Dan Kafka recently opened the doors for local volunteers to donate their time and knowledge at the Sterling prison by starting a prison ministry based in Holyoke through the Holyoke Church of Christ. ☐ ☐

—Enterprise photo

“We have great Christian people out here in the community,” Kafka explained. “Of all of the groups of churches we have in the community and all of the different faith beliefs, there are good Christian people who want to do something, want to be more involved than they are right

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now. This is an opportunity for them to be involved in a very fulfilling way.”

Kafka first considered pursuing a degree in biblical studies online in 2000, claiming he always felt like he could be doing more. Five years ago, Kafka decided to go through with the online courses to attain the degree. As a way to supplement those studies, Kafka saw an opportunity to volunteer at the prison and jumped on it.

His goal when he began classes was to one day be a preacher at a local church, but since his involvement in the prison ministry, he says he no longer has that desire.

“My passion has really become prison ministry,” Kafka said. “I saw a side of Christianity that I have never seen before. Not the day-to-day, not the Sunday only thing. I saw what Christianity was and it was really compelling to me.”

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