

# Uwezo's Christmas Country Jam Café and Marketplace

**WOW! What an amazing event!!!! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who attended/supported/organized Uwezo's Christmas Country Jam Café and Marketplace! A special thank you to Lars Carlson, Mo Howard, Larissa, Joe Loftus and Our Melody Moments! Many of these musicians, some knowing very little about Uwezo, drove from far, some all the way from Nashville, just to provide Uwezo with amazing Christmas music for that night. It was a beautiful evening and we are so grateful for each person who attended and helped with this event. Thank you so much for your support!!

**GREAT  
Gift Ideas  
Inside this issue**

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK  
FOR REGULAR UPDATES**

Uwezo posts regular updates on Facebook, so we encourage you to become a Fan to Uwezo International on Facebook to stay more up to date on the amazing work God is doing through Uwezo!



We  
Wish You A  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**

...And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace . . . . .

**Isaiah 9:6**

# TESTIMONY

## LIVING WITH ADDICTION

This is a short story of how a life of drugs, alcohol, and hardships led me to Jesus Christ....

I am twenty-six and grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I had loving parents who tried to the best of their abilities to raise my sister and me. Despite my parents' love, I grew up as an angry, broken youth. I never felt like I was socially accepted or was good at anything. I started fighting and using drugs at the age of twelve. Then too, when I was twelve, my parents divorced. My mother moved to another city; consequently, my sister and I had to change schools. This enhanced my fury with my mother and made me resent her for leaving my father.

I did everything I could to be by my father's side, but my love was not sufficient to fill the void of my mother's leaving him. Six months after my mother left, my father attempted suicide. My life really took a turn for the worse.

When I was sixteen, I moved out of my mother's house because of her alcoholic rages. I was still attending ... High School ... and was determined to graduate by any means necessary.

To get money to buy my own place and rent a piece of land, I sold narcotics. I met my high school sweetheart, and we had five-year relationship. Eventually, we became co-dependent on each other and drug use got a lot worse.

Another turning point in my life occurred Thanksgiving week, 2008. I broke my leg in a head-on collision. I had a large cache of drugs in my vehicle and was charged with two counts of "distribution." I bonded myself out on Thanksgiving eve.

Using one of my firearms in my house on November 27, 2008, my dad committed suicide. I turned to drugs to numb the pain.

In 2013, I started a 33-month prison sentence after I was arrested for an armed robbery of a drug dealer. I had finally hit "rock bottom" and given up. I didn't believe any person had the power or grace to help me with my problems.

My first year in East Baton Rouge parish prison, I joined a faith-based group. In that year, I grew so close to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I screamed out to the Lord "please help me," and I begged Him to forgive me of my sins. I joined a non-denominational service called, "Full Gospel." I faithfully went every Sunday and the Spirit lead me to be water-baptized. That was my pledge to

the Father to say, "I will always try my best and live for You." I started attending church service three times a day: I quit cursing, smoking, and remained sober.

On November 23, 2014, I was re-booked on a charge in Wisconsin. I prayed and fasted, and the Lord told me I would be delivered. Once I completed my sentence in Louisiana, I was shipped to St. Croix County jail, Wisconsin. I immediately started attending church services.

I was in a cell with another Christian brother and spent almost every night discussing what God has done for us. On a Monday night, he said, "Look. I know you like to go back to sleep each morning, but come to "Uwezo" with me." So, I agreed. The next morning, we went to the Uwezo meeting, and Brother Ron was ministering the Word to us.

One aspect which struck me was Ron's genuine concern for all of us, even though we were in orange. Ron always tells us "You are mighty men of value!" and "You guys are made out of precious metal, more valuable than gold!" Those words really changed the way I feel about myself. I catch myself repeating the same to other brothers who are down on themselves. "Dude, you are made of precious metal; YOU ARE VALUABLE!"

I don't know how people get by without Jesus in their lives. I would not be able to keep pushing forward, without God giving me patience, understanding, and strength every single day.

I appreciate all the Uwezo volunteers I've encountered since being here ... making this possible; taking time to come and fellowship with us; and helping us organize all the "baggage" we've accumulated. You made a major impact on my journey. Ya'll will not be forgotten. Thank you, and God bless.

Inmate St. Croix County Jail 2016

# Looking for Christmas gift IDEAS?

## NEW TO UWEZO... Metro Dining Cards

We are excited to announce that we are now selling Metro Dining Cards for only \$24.00! These 166 cards are cheaper by \$6.00 than if buying direct from Metro Dining Club!



Each card (in the packet of 166 cards) is good for buy-one, get-one free entrée or 50% off a food item EACH MONTH for EACH CARD! I bought my first set last year and I could not believe the excellent deals and the money it saved our family at local restaurants and on day trips!

The cards are good for restaurants all over St. Paul and Western Wisconsin areas.

These make EXCELLENT GIFTS at a great price!!!

## NEW TO UWEZO.... Smile.Amazon.com

Help Uwezo "smile" by shopping on Smile.Amazon.com. When you do, Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of your purchase price, with no additional cost to you.

For your Amazon shopping, all you need to do is start at Smile.Amazon.com rather than Amazon.com. You must then select Uwezo International as the organization of choice, and proceed to shopping! If you have an account with Amazon,



## PLUS, DON'T FORGET....

**Purchase Family Fresh/Kwik Trip/Bruegger's gift cards** through Uwezo and we will receive a percentage back from each purchase!  
Note: we can get fuel only gift cards, too, from Kwik Trip.





# SPOTLIGHT

## on UWEZO VOLUNTEER Opportunities

Uwezo has a number of wonderful volunteer opportunities. The highlighted volunteer opportunities for this newsletter are:

### **PRISON CORRESPONDENCE COORDINATOR**

Uwezo is blessed to minister to a large number of inmates at St. Croix County Jail each year. Some of these inmates go onto prison and stay connected with us via mail. We are looking for someone to write timely answers to these inmates in response to their letters.

### **CREATE A PRISON RESOURCE PACKET (THIS IS A SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEER POSITION)**

There are various free resources available to people that are incarcerated, and Uwezo has a list of some of these resources. We are looking for someone to seek out additional freely-given Christian resources and develop an informational packet. We will provide those packets to those incarcerated in prison or a long-term stay at St. Croix County Jail.

### **VOLUNTEER AT ST. CROIX COUNTY JAIL**

Uwezo operates a men's Bible Study and a women's Bible Study each Tuesday morning at St. Croix County Jail. We also conduct an intense re-entry ministry on Friday mornings called "What's Your Plan". We meet with inmates individually to help them establish a three-month plan for their release.

**We have other exciting opportunities, and you can find them at [Uwezointernational.com](http://Uwezointernational.com) in the "Partnership Opportunities" section. Please contact Uwezo if you are interested in volunteering to help Uwezo help others.**

P.O. Box 434, Hudson, WI 54016

**UWEZO**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

## Uwezo Partnership Form

Thank you for your interest to partner with Uwezo. We are always in need of support and value your partnership! Please fill out the below form and return to Uwezo in the enclosed envelope or to the address below.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Preferred Contact Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer Support I would like to...

- pray for Uwezo
- pray for the inmates at Saint Croix County Jail

### Financial Support I would like....

- to donate to Uwezo \_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_ one time gift
- to purchase Metro Dining Club cards for \$24.00 each. How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- to purchase Kwik Trip/Bruegger's/Family Fresh gift cards
- information on becoming a business sponsor/partner to Uwezo
- to purchase "Coming Home" journals. How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- to donate ink cartridges
- I will shop at smile.amazon.com and chose Uwezo International Inc. as my organization

### Volunteer Support:

I would like more information on volunteering...

- for Uwezo Freedom Ministry (Jail/ Re- entry/Recovery/Family Support/Children's Ministry)
- as the Prison Correspondence Coordinator
- to develop a Prison Resource Packet (this is a short term volunteer position)
- to help raise support for Uwezo
- to help organize community awareness events

### Other:

- I would like to receive the Uwezo Newsletter via E-mail/Mail/Both (please circle one)
- I would like to host an Uwezo presentation at my church, small group, and/or other forum
- I will become a fan of Uwezo International Inc. on Facebook

Please return to:  
Uwezo International Inc. P.O. Box 434, Hudson, WI. 54016