

Our Story

Dismas is the name given in legend to one of the two thieves who were put on the cross on either side of Jesus. While one convicted man mocked Jesus, Dismas turned to Jesus and said,

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered, "...today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:40-43)

Dismas Fellowship takes the name of this brother who found acceptance and mercy in Jesus' embrace on the cross. Like Dismas, we tell our story and find ourselves receiving God's unconditional welcome in a community of hope."



Our Prayer

Dear God, In your mercy remember me and forgive me for the wrongs I have done. Set me free of my deep fears and resentments. Melt the hard places of my heart, and allow me the grace to surrender this day to you.

Our Evenings

Community Meal begins with an opening prayer, followed by a simple buffet dinner, and dessert.

The clean up crew and community clear away the tables and set up the chairs for the sharing circle.

The Celebration begins with song, continues with introductions and announcements, and ends with the sharing of the Dismas story, values, and prayer.

The Sharing Circle(s) most evenings will have a theme presentation followed by a time for sharing in one or more circles. Everyone joins the circle but has the right to pass if they prefer not to share.

Our Evening concludes with prayer and the song of St. Dismas: *"Jesus, Remember me when you come into your kingdom."*



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YOU ARE INVITED TO Dismas Fellowship

DISMAS FELLOWSHIP provides a safe and welcoming space where former prisoners and their friends can find community and follow our friend Jesus.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT US TOLL
FREE: 1-877-554-1076

www.dismasfellowshipnetwork.com

Our Shared Values

- 1 We welcome and celebrate one another, regardless of religious or criminal convictions, knowing we are all 'offenders.'
- 2 We encourage everyone to give of themselves in some way – cooking meals, setting and cleaning up, sharing our truth or reaching out to others.
- 3 We are committed to paying our way by sharing the costs of food and accommodation.
- 4 In the Circle everyone is given the opportunity to speak or to pass.
- 5 We will treat each other's story with confidentiality and love. Each story is sacred.
- 6 We are committed to being a safe and responsible fellowship with accountability to the church where our meetings are held.
- 7 We are committed to ministering to each other as if they were Christ.



A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

A safe and welcoming place where ex-prisoners and friends can experience Christian community

Our Guiding Principles

- All participants are 18 years of age or older.
- We remain on a first name basis with one another and do not share phone numbers, nor do we ask people for details of offences or time spent in jail.
- We welcome new guests, and when they come as a result of our invitation, we make a point of introducing them to one of the evening's hosts and providing them with a copy of our values and guidelines.
- We feel that requesting or lending money detracts from our purpose of sharing a meal and fellowship.
- We respect our commitments to one another and to this place we meet and do not bring alcohol, drugs or illegal items to the fellowship.
- If we smoke, we make an effort to enter and exit quietly so as not to disrupt ongoing activities.
- When we are outside the building we respect our neighbourhood residents by keeping our conversations quiet and our language proper.
- For everyone's protection, we recognise valuables should not be left unattended; there is a locked cabinet available for their safekeeping.
- As a fellowship, we are committed to participating in the entire evening and we encourage everyone to give of themselves and to explore the volunteer opportunities (e.g. being a host, car pooling, helping to prepare dinner, cleaning up). Ask one of the evening's hosts for more information.
- In our sharing circles we are there to share our stories, not to preach, and everyone has the right to pass.
- We want everyone to feel welcomed and comfortable (that's why we encourage the wearing of nametags) and invite those with concerns to raise them with one of the evening's hosts.



"The people at Dismas Fellowship welcomed me without judgement years ago and now they are my friends and community."

