

2009 MEC Volunteer Testimonies

Anoka County Juvenile: There were 4 girls and 3 boys from the Shelter that joined us. It was very open and real, with the conversations and questions going deep into their daily lives. They all were struggling with the same questions and issues, even though their details are very different. They brought up concerns of hating that one part of them that wants to do what is right, but the other part of them doesn't, and they are tired of the battle. They are tired of having a short timeframe of doing well, and then falling right back into what they are not wanting to do. They were extremely frustrated that it seems as though God has abandoned them. That even though they have prayed and asked God to change them, etc, there is little if no difference in them or in their lives. They feel like God does not hear them or care. They cannot understand why so many bad things happen to people that do know God and pray to Him and ask Him for His help. We talked about how God does love them, and says they have worth and value to Him. How He is there, all the time, and never leaves them no matter how they feel. How He did the most selfless act of love by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for each of them because He loves them unconditionally, even before they ever started to look to Him. How He wants to be real to them. How it is only thru Him that they will be able to have His strength and all He has for them to overcome sin. That they will never on their own, separate from Jesus, be able to do the good they want to do. That only thru the grace and power of Jesus will they truly overcome the things they have been struggling with. How important it is that each one of them would be willing to once again, and over and over again if need be, lay everything out before the Lord. Cry, yell, whatever it takes, to have a real heart to heart with Him and give it all to Him. Ask Him to forgive them. Then be willing to ask Him to heal them of hurts, bitterness, anger, fear, unbelief, etc. And really be willing to receive from Him, everything that He has. He is there to comfort, bring peace and joy, freedom from guilt and shame, etc. About how important it is to be born again of water and Spirit and allow Him to continually draw them into a deeper relationship with Him. How they can ask of Him and He is faithful to hear them and answer because it is His promise to do so. How God's people in the Bible all went thru very trying things, even though they loved Jesus and knew Him. How it is promised that we will go thru difficult things, but that He loves us and wants us to trust Him and believe that He is good and in control no matter what so we know that He is with us right in the middle of our crisis, so we will end up knowing Him in a much deeper and personally real way. There was so much discussed. We also prayed, and spoke the Lord's blessings to them. –Sherri

Anoka County Juvenile: Since there was still renovation going on, we were at the other building again. There were a total of 12 young men from Sanford/Walker that joined us. Much of what was talked about was very similar to what we discussed at the Shelter. Matt talked about having a real relationship with a real God. How people have come up with and believe the whole evolution theory that is nothing but lies and that if that was really true, then there would be no purpose for any of them. But because that is not the truth, it is crucial for them each to continually know God for themselves at a deeper measure and ask Him what He says their purpose on earth is. How God requires there to be repentance so they are allowing the continual work of Jesus in their hearts and in their lives. How the Lord wants each of them to be about what He has for them so they are no longer trying to run their own lives and do their own thing and be their own god. How God is not impressed at all with the wisdom of men and what they think they have accomplished. That the Lord had winked at ignorance, but not any longer. How each and every one of us will stand before God on our own. That even though there are so many

false gods that are believed in, one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. How God looks at each of them and everyone on earth in a totally different way than people look at each other. That He does not care if you have tons of money or none, do this for a living or that for a living, are educated or uneducated, etc. God is looking at their heart. He loves a broken heart. A heart that will cry out for help. He would rather they hit rock bottom and cry out to Him than just go on living their own life and act like they are their own god and can make their own decisions and do their own thing. How Jesus wants all of them, so that includes every part of their life. There was so much talked about. There was also a lot of input from a few of the young men, as well as questions. A few of them expressed an interest in having Matt come at another time to have a Bible study with them. Quite a few of them do have a pretty good knowledge of the scriptures and are hungry for more. Some of the scriptures Matt turned to were: Acts 17, Psalm 2, 1 Peter, Matthew 19, Hebrews 11. One of the young men asked if they could all take turns praying. Most of them did, and then we prayed over them. I am sorry that this is so long. I am still extremely excited and thankful to God for what He did tonight to impact the lives of these 19 youth, and what He will continue to do in their lives. I am so grateful to Him for using us to minister to them. -Sherri

Anoka County Juvenile: 15 young men attended from Sanford & Walker dormitories, with at least half of them familiar from previous months. The worship there was very good, with many requests and much enthusiasm in the singing. Once again, there was a drawing of the anointing of the LORD in this service. I used similar Scriptures and message as previous service, but more noticeable presence of the LORD and reception by the assembly. A young man named P., who is soon to be a father, was touched and convicted; he was on the verge of tears but was apparently reluctant to break down in front of the rest. Another young man came up to me afterward, saying that he was convicted about unforgiveness toward his mother and asked for prayer. The subject of feeling like a mistake and wondering about purpose in life was expressed during the message. I prayed for the young men there to realize the full potential of all God has called them to be. Even those that did not speak seemed to be receiving and reflecting on the need to allow God to bring them into His Kingdom and worthwhile life. -Matthew, 10/7/09

Anoka County Juvenile: One young woman began crying at the first line of "Open the Eyes of My Heart" and wept on and off through the songs and message. I gave a message on God's delight in being with us, His crowning creation. One young man in particular made sure he knew exactly which verses I was using and that he could find them and follow along. Prayer at the end was for all, particularly for the young woman who had been crying throughout. -Pastor Matt, 7/2/09

Anoka County Juvenile: 20 young men came down from Sanford and Walker. I believe this is the 2nd or 3rd largest turnout since I have been ministering here. I would like to note that I have been more encouraged by the response on the shelter side than I was earlier. I used to wonder if I was getting through at all to the 'kids' at the shelter, although I recognize the power of the Word and the Spirit to penetrate and plant a seed. The young men at the Sanford/Walker service typically 'draw' on the anointing more, but I have seen a more noticeable reaction by those at the shelter of late. This is encouraging. -Pastor Matt, 7/2/09

Anoka County Juvenile: There were questions when I mentioned that God had a destiny and a desire for each of them to be like Him. I added an Ephesians 1 reference after one asked for scripture about God's plan for each of them. One young man, in particular, was touched when he asked a question and I responded to it by reading the Isaiah 62:1-3 reference. He said that his girlfriend had just written him a letter telling him to read that same verse. He said he was

"feeling like he was high, but different". I talked directly to him, telling him that God has ministry in his future, but he needs to quit messing around and come to Jesus first. I prayed for him and a few others, then all of them. The guard was even engaged and allowed us to go past the usual quitting time.–Matt, 4/29/09

Anoka County Jail Facility: I ministered to two ex-vice lords who are really getting into the Word of God! One was in Anoka County for months and then the HCADC. He was transferred to Leavenworth, TX where he met with three vice lords who pressured him. When he made it clear that he was now following the Lord and would not go in with them, they jumped him. He was transferred back to the HCADC to testify in another case. Now he is back at Leavenworth and asking that a Spirit-filled Bible be sent to him. / Another ex-vice lord had been involved in a gang shooting where a girl sitting in her home died in the crossfire. This got to him and he is now getting into God's Word and wants to preach to kids. – Keith

Anoka County Medium Security: All participants seemed upbeat and hungry. Lots of questions and participation. God's presence was there, indeed. I passed out marked Bibles (done by some friends) - they all took one and were so thrilled to receive these!! Eloise

Anoka County Medium Security: There was one woman there. We had an intimate time with God. She loved reading God's Word out loud. She wants prayer to lead a strong and healthy life, and seemed very hungry for God. She is homeless and has children, but they have been taken away. – Eloise, 9/23/09

Anoka County Medium Security: A nice looking fellow by the name of A. J. came in first, and this is his first time being incarcerated. His grandmother just died and he was pretty broken up about that, as she was the same as a mother to him, which is some insight into his family life, I would guess. Qualified him with questions to determine that he is a believer but has not been allowing Christ to be the Lord of his life, but this has been a wake up alarm for him. His grandmother, he says, was an outstanding Christian, and so we went through several aspects of what constitutes the Christian walk. Prayed with him, and he left with a great attitude and rejoicing in the Lord.

D., a man I have talked to before, who has a son with a strange disease that has robbed him of his muscle control over a long period of time and is now dying. Really a guy that is likable and we prayed and counseled him. He is hoping to be able to see his son before he dies.

Lastly, C., an interesting African American came in and asked me for prayer. When I pressed for it, found he is a deacon at a church on the North end of Mpls. He came from Chicago a rough neck in his own words, and once he got here, heard the claims of Christ and is now rejoicing in the Lord. What he wanted prayer for was that he might be a witness to the others in his section. - Dale, 9/18/09

Anoka County Medium Security: Just a note to let you know that last week at Lino Lakes an inmate named N. accepted the Lord. Also, I had lunch with S., M., and . on Sunday and went to IHOP Restaurant where L. (former inmate) is a waitress and doing very well. M. is a Spanish girl who became a Christian while incarcerated and was in jail for 7 months over an abuse issue with a boyfriend. I'll be going in this Friday and hopefully be able to bring in some resources for N. –Carlotta, 2/25/09

Anoka County Medium Security: God's House.....I've heard this over and over as I've been volunteering in the jails. I know this is true because of the lives that are being changed. I would like to tell you about a few women I have met and hopefully you will also see that yes it is God's house.

M.- once in jail started reading her Bible and read through the whole Bible in less than 4 months. When we would be reading scripture in class she would say keep going it gets even better. What is amazing is that she read the Bible through in English even though her main language was Spanish. I was able to get her a Spanish study Bible before she left.

L.- Came in the first few weeks and I wondered why she came, her face was so cold and she didn't seem to care. As weeks passed she would come in and her face beamed. You could see a complete transformation happening in her. She even started hugging... She was waiting longer than she should of for her court date and when she finally did get to court they said that they had every intention of sending her to prison but because of the evident change in her she was sent to treatment instead. After she completed treatment she came back to jail to finish her sentence. She said when I left for treatment I prayed for 2 things: fuzzy green pajamas and a pink pair of granny underwear. When she got to treatment her roommate was giving her some clothes that she did not want. She said this is going to sound weird but she pulled out of the closet a pair of pink granny underwear with the tags still on and said you wouldn't want these would you? L. cried as she told this story...

S.- When she first started coming looked so unhealthy...She said she knew why she was there...She said that she had at one time been really close to the Lord and stopped going to church and reading her Bible and when things got really tough mentally she fell apart. She became a mother hen to the women you just heard about.

At Christmas time I found out that these women, after being released, were still meeting together for Bible study. Just a few weeks ago a woman told me I know this is God's house because when they arrested me and put me in the back of the car I said, "Thank you God!" Week after week when we are reading scriptures someone will say I was reading that this week. The time the women spend in jail is time with the Lord without distraction.... no makeup..... no communication outside....it is time of solitude..... And when they pick up the Bible, God has their full attention... And I am so blessed to be able to witness what God is doing in their lives.....

If you want to know how to pray for this ministry pray that the inmates would pick up the Bible when there. Pray that they would be drawn like a magnet to God's word.... Pray that their hearts would be open and ready. .-Cheryl

Anoka County Work Release: The other day, an inmate shared that she is going to get her medallion for being drug free for a year. She gave the credit to all the volunteers who faithfully come in to the jails and teach how to apply the Word of God to make life changes. That one report made the whole year worthwhile for me! -Leon, 1/22/10

Anoka County Work Release: There were six men and two women. I brought scriptures concerning who Jesus is, who we are in Him, and that only the Holy Spirit of God can empower us to live an overcoming life in Christ. I usually close out around 9:00am but this last Sunday, I left at 10:30 and still made it to church with my wife. When I shared the scripture of where Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go to the Father----that I may send you the Comforter" ---, the person of the Holy Spirit came into our midst. I was led to ask them to put their hands up into the air, if they really, really wanted to be baptized by the Holy Ghost. As one, they all shot their hands into the air. There were three of them that asked for prayer, one turned out to be a time of personal deliverance and release. I shared that after much prayer by many intercessors, it is time

for the Holy Spirit of God to rise up in the midst of those gathered in His Name and He did. If I sound excited, I am. Thank you so much for the opportunity to minister to these people. – Leon

Anoka County Work Release: Just a quick note to say we had an exciting time yesterday at Anoka! I started out by singing a song God gave me a couple of months back. "Yes Lord, Yes Lord, I am so blessed Lord, I am your child, you are my King, I am so blessed, my heart must sing" . After I sang it, I asked the others to join me... All but one couldn't or wouldn't.

During the Word, one gal, W. appeared to not be connecting with anything I was saying, to the point of making me wonder about my message, even though she came with a very new Bible designed for women. After the teaching, I gave my testimony and an invitation. The one fellow who did sing with me, asked the Holy Spirit to empower him but the others gave no response to a call to start a relationship with Jesus.

After an ending prayer I mentioned I would stick around for questions afterwards. All left but W., who got up and came over to me, weeping, telling me how her family had fallen apart, how she was tired of doing things her way and she HAD been connecting with what I was saying, especially one part of my testimony. I believe she was just fighting with God, but she came forward in obedience to His call. I asked her to just tell Jesus what was on her heart and she did (not me saying the words), asking Jesus to come in and take control of her life!

I asked her afterwards if she could sing that song earlier and she said no. I responded that she couldn't because she was not His child and He was not her King. I asked if she could now and she said absolutely yes! I could see peace all over her and the tears were GONE!! I then found out that an AA sponsor of hers had given her the Bible. The Word of God is so POWERFUL!

-Rod

Anoka County Work Release: We see it every week. It is exciting to be a part of what God is doing and witness this. They are coming off of street drugs and are so bottled up that no one has been interested in them and they get angry and express the pain and anger. What a privilege to open God's word and show them that God loves them no matter what they have been doing, and to see the fruit of this. God puts some joy back in their spirits, they are more open to talk and explore and see what God is doing and let Him work in their lives. It is real rewarding and we get ministered to as well. To see some of them when it is time for them to leave, once they have given their lives to the Lord, even if they are not whole yet, when they have given their life to the Lord you know they have everything. The difference between when they come in and when they leave is remarkable in what God has done in their lives. -Debbie

Anoka County Work Release: There were 5 or 6 females, and about 14 men. We brought out scripture of living by the leading of the Holy Spirit, and just life in general. All but one raised his hand (with every eye open, and every head looking around) to receive the Helper of Christ-like living. (He also raised his hand after a bit more talking.) And now we bind the Word of our Lord to their hearts, so they will turn to Him in the good times and the not so good times. Finding the answers they need to govern their lives. Amen. Thank you much for the opportunity to minister there! –Leon

Anoka County Work Release: Some nights there are, ten some nights it's three, but always enjoyable. There are a few that are fun to watch as they grow in their knowledge and love for Jesus. Others are just there to check it out...either way the gospel is heard, What a Gracious God we have!. -Paul

Chisago County Jail: Praise the Lord, we had 4 accept Jesus! –Linda, 10/19/09

Chisago County Jail: We had 2 accept Christ, praise the Lord! –Linda, 8/26/09

Chisago County Jail: J. accepted Christ so we praise the Lord for that. –Linda, 5/20/09

Chisago County Jail: We had two that accepted Christ this week and I will let the church know. –Linda, 5/5/09

Chisago County Jail: She accepted Jesus yesterday so we praise God for that. –Linda, 4/22/09

Chisago County Jail: He accepted Christ on Tuesday. Also pray that he can stay focused on Jesus and away from drugs. –Linda, 4/1/09

Chisago County Jail: We had five inmates come today and all of them had accepted Jesus in the past. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and let's be thankful that we can go into the jails that we are in because the inmates really appreciate us coming. –Linda, 11/24/09

Chisago County Jail: PTL we had 4 inmates accept Christ, they all came in serious and ready to learn. . –Linda, 11/18/09

East Central Regional Juvenile Center: For the last couple of weeks we've seen an unusual interest in girls wanting to get saved. Yes, in the past we've talked about salvation and had evangelistic Bible studies and clearly explained the gospel, but this is different. One week, almost before we could even sit down, a girl said, "I want to get re-saved." When I asked what she meant, it was clear that she wanted to repent and turn to Jesus. That evening two of the three girls prayed to be forgiven (for salvation). The third girl was already a Christian.

The Holy Spirit seems to be moving at ECRJC. We count ourselves blessed to be involved in such a thing as this. It is our prayer that it continues and that we carefully obey the Lord - saying everything he wants us to say (and how he wants us to say it) and not saying what he doesn't want us to say. We are thankful to the Lord for His powerful working in the hearts and lives of these girls. –Cindy and Jody

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: I went to Quad 11 & 12. There were about 15 per quad that showed up. They were real attentive and joined in asking questions and sharing their heart about various issues that they felt were important. I prayed with the first group to get their hearts right with God and in the second group one of the inmates asked if he could give the closing prayer. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the inmates and believe that God touched their hearts as he did mine. –Bruce, 4/27/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: The ministry Sunday to quads 11 and 12 went great. We had prayer for any needs they had. I shared from the word and they were all very receptive. I shared on Genesis 7. Some shared about struggles they were having and I believe the Holy Spirit was ministering hope and grace to their hearts. At the end I prayed a sinner's prayer with all those who came. Altogether, there were about 25! –Bruce, 5/26/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: I have a great group of guys coming every week in the kitchen at jail in quad 8A. I am really excited for what God is doing in the jail and specifically in the hearts of the men from quad 8. Please pray for them with me. – Bruce, 6/9/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: Had six gals today and it went very well. The presence of the Holy Spirit was there, and you could tell that the gals were being touched by Him. –Penny

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: A few weeks ago I met with S. and a new inmate, R., who is Muslim and has never read the Bible! The first week I witnessed and then we read and discussed the book of James. At the end of class I told the guys that we had covered a lot of scripture and to help them understand James better they should read it and meditate on God's

word again in their cells. R. said he didn't have a Bible and I was able to get one to him! The next week I met with the same guys and R. said he had read the book of James four more times and would like to read and discuss it again! After we read James we watched a clip from the DVD, More than Dreams: The amazing phenomenon of Jesus' appearing to Muslims in dreams. After the video, one inmate asked if he could be baptized. Unfortunately, we can't do that!

We have been watching more clips from More than Dreams the last couple of weeks and studying the Epistle's of John, sometimes just me and R., who says he just loves reading the Bible!!! R. has also been reading The Book of Good and Evil, which is an illustrated version of the Bible with everything referenced to scripture. This is a great way for new believers to learn the Old and New Testament fairly quickly.

Last week R. said someone was helping him study the book of Genesis. I couldn't figure out who he was meeting with until I learned from B. that an adult inmate who knew the Bible very well, had been working with them through the air ducts! God will find a way! Praise God!!! -Kevin, 3/5/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: The Lord continues to encourage the men to get connected, pray, and read their Bibles. We ran out of English Bibles since I have been telling the men to read every day and pray. The Lord is telling these men they have worth and value and He has a plan for their lives. I continue to receive ministry as well as I share with these men. Chaplain David brought more Bibles to the quad and I want to thank him for that. -Steve, 1/21/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: This Thanksgiving week I was able to do services in the gym with about thirty adult inmates. We discussed if we stay grateful and discipline ourselves to focus on the positive in our lives, and develop an attitude of praise and thanksgiving, we are shielding ourselves from the attacks of the enemy! If we live with a grateful heart, we are empowered with God's Spirit; enabling us to live a life free from bitterness, anger, and strife!!! -Kevin, 11/28/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: Wednesday I met with a new juvenile inmate, M. I was able to witness to him and then we did New Believers Bible Study #1 together. We had some time to discuss the study and what M. wanted to do with his life. He said he has been in and out of the Juvenile Detention Center a few times and was probably going to prison for a few years (he's 16). We talked together on how he could change his life and become a completely new person during this time. I asked M. if he had ever accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. He said he had said an acceptance prayer once with a group but had never really accepted Christ on his own, and asked if he could now!!! After, when the guard came to get him, he asked if we could pray together again before he went back to his cell! -Kevin, 11/17/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: Last Wednesday I met with D., who attended the Bible Studies until he was sent to prison for 3-1/2 years, who is back at the jail to testify. We studied scripture together and discussed how he needs to take advantage of the programs offered in prison to keep from returning to prison upon release. I asked if he was staying away from the gangs and he said that's what got him in trouble to begin with. He said him and the other guys from the jail Bible Studies hang out together and he told me how some of the other guys from the jail are doing in prison! -Kevin, 10/22/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: MEC has supplied the bulk of the volunteers for the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center since 2001. God has used their faithful efforts in

sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to change lives. Inmates have found Christ, families have been restored and many are now serving as productive individuals in their community. Some of the inmates have returned to the jail voluntarily to share the message of Christ. I have the pleasure of working with these volunteers and seeing the impact that they have had on the inmates. – Chaplain, 1/18/10 (Change name when publishing)

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: We discussed how we all face challenges, difficulties, and times when things don't go our way and how God wants to use the tough times in our lives to change us, to strengthen and develop us, and make us into the people He wants us to be. To treat people right even though we may be being mistreated, and to stay joyful and praise God even in these tough times! Some of these inmates, literally, have nothing but the clothes on their backs, but were discussing how they could see God working in, changing, and restoring their lives!!! Then we read passages from James on how to live a godly life in this world and to break free from their past! -Kevin, 9/13/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: E., who became a Christian a couple of months ago but has been in lockup and was able to come again last week, is a completely different person from the one who sulked in the back of the room, to one who laughs and smiles and loves to read God's word!!! (He turns 18 this month and will be with the adult jail population). – Kevin, 9/3/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: I have been having some AWESOME Bible Studies with the juvenile inmates this last month. A couple weeks ago two inmates accepted Christ as their Savior (E. and D) Praise God!!! I started meeting with these inmates a couple months ago. At the first few meeting E. claimed he couldn't read (now he's one of the first to volunteer to read) and D. was disruptive and disrespectful (now he asks for copies of readings I bring in so he can memorize them and repeat in his morning prayers!). Last week I was able to present D. with a Study Bible he can take with to prison (is getting sentenced to 7 years). It is just totally amazing to watch God's Spirit come into these guy's lives and completely change them into new Creations!!! -Kevin, 8/12/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: The Lord's presence was with us and His truth spoken and love shown and it brought the gals to a place where they opened up and it was so healing. I really am enjoying the time He allows me to be there. It's His ministry! I am so grateful to be a small part of it. –Mary, 10/5/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: The tears were flowing from two gals and the presence of the Lord there lifted my soul today. –Mary , 7/6/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: There were six gals and two recommitted their live's to the Lord. One only a few days earlier but was not sure Jesus was there. Talked to her about it and she seems to be more at peace and wanted a Bible. PRAISE GOD!!!! -Mary, 6/15/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: One of the gals wanted a Bible and we were able to get it to her right away. She is very interested in learning what it is all about. I have so much hope for this one and know the Lord's hand is on her. –Mary, 5/4/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: We had six gals today and one committed her life to the Lord and four recommitted their lives to the Lord. –Mary, 4/6/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: Friday I had a great Easter service with 23 inmates. After witnessing I opened in prayer, then read a sermon I had printed out from Billy

Graham on God's need for a blood sacrifice being shown throughout the gospels. That part didn't go so well with some inmates starting to lose interest and talking among themselves (I guess I'm just not a preacher). Then we started reading scripture and God's Spirit took over, with all of the inmates wanting to get involved with reading and discussing God's Word (Praise God!). At the end of the service I handed out Bible study lessons to those who wanted them. I had 13 but the night before I decided I had better print out ten more, and like last year when I did three services and God used exactly the thirty I had brought, this year God used exactly the 23 I had with! Maybe next year I will print out a couple hundred!!! In closing we all stood together and said the acceptance prayer that is in the Bible Study!!! -Kevin, 4/13/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: A few weeks ago I met with S. and a new inmate, R., who is a Muslim and has never read the Bible! The first week I witnessed and then we read and discussed the book of James. At the end of class I told the guys that we had covered a lot of scripture and to help them understand James better they should read it and meditate on God's word again in their cells. R. said he didn't have a Bible and I was able to get one to him! The next week I met with the same guys and R. said he had read the book of James four more times and would like to read and discuss it again! After we read James we watched a clip from the DVD, More than Dreams: The amazing phenomenon of Jesus' appearing to Muslims in dreams. After the video one inmate asked if he could be baptized, unfortunately we can't do that! We have been watching more clips from More than Dreams the last couple of weeks and studying the Epistle's of John, sometimes just me and R., who says he just loves reading the Bible!!! R. has also been reading The Book of Good and Evil, which is an illustrated version of the Bible with everything referenced to scripture. This is a great way for new believers to learn the Old and New Testament fairly quickly. Last week R. said someone was helping him study the book of Genesis. I couldn't figure out who he was meeting with until I learned from Brian that an adult inmate who knew the Bible very well, had been working with them through the air ducts! God will find a way! Praise God!!! -Kevin, 3/5/09

Ramsey County Adult Detention Center: Almost every week, it seems, the inmates ask: "When are you coming back?" THEY ARE HUNGRY FOR GOD'S WORD AND FOR THE CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IT. If the prison staff is willing to schedule more Bible studies, I'm sure inmates would sign up for them; can MEC (and/or some other like-minded group) provide more volunteers? "Pray, therefore, to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out workers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:38) Brian, 11/9/09

Ramsey County Adult Detention Center: Thanks, once again, for this opportunity that you have given to me. Praises will be that all the inmates are receiving Jesus as savior and the LORD has been touching their hearts, to our LORD is the GLORY, because without the HOLY SPIRIT, we can do nothing. -Juan, 5/8/09

Ramsey County Correctional Facility: We read Proverbs chapter 9 (invitations of wisdom and folly). With that as a starting point, the three of them spent the rest of the time discussing how they had been foolish before, how they ended up in jail, the wisdom and power of God's Word, and how they had been changed by it. One in particular had a lot to say about his intentions to use his testimony to win others for Christ. It was tremendously encouraging for me to hear what they had to say, and the inmates also seemed to be greatly encouraged by our time together. - Brian, 12/5/09

Ramsey County Correctional Facility: We are continually seeing men's lives touched by Christ and are encouraging them to get involved within the local church once they are released.

We always look forward to the connections the Lord brings about. The men are always grateful for our efforts in coming to them, and sharing the Gospel with passion. -Jeff, 5/5/09

Red Wing MN Corrections Facility: We have been in Genesis for the past three Thursdays and we plan to do a survey of male leadership throughout the Bible. The men are a joy to spend time with. They ask lots of questions and have a lot of insights on what the scriptures have to say to us. I would say the men I have been spending time with already have had some significant exposure to the gospel and there have been no new converts at this point. There are several men in the cottage that do not attend, and it is those men whom I hope to eventually make inroads with. - Doug, 12/27/09

Roseau County Jail: Although it varies, I have had a great turnout and heard back from many of the inmates who have taken an interest in learning about God. I have been able to go to some of their court situations and the county gave me a key to the courthouse so in addition to the studies for the men and the women in the jail, I am able to do Bible study with some of those who have been released. -Jim, 2009

Scott County Jail: We have been working with a man named E. for a couple of weeks who was addicted to meth. This was a blessing since we were all able to add experiences of our pasts, and scriptures that have helped us in battling the temptations we all face on a day-to-day basis. Seeing other inmates who are walking tightly with Christ and spending much time in the Word gave hope, which has had a huge impact. -Mark, Greg, David, 3/2/09

Scott County Jail: When I was without a car for a while and taking the bus, I met several people who we had ministered to in jail. [She shared specifics of several situations.] I understood that we had far more impact than I had realized before. -Dorothea, 2009

Scott County Jail: We had a very nice turn out with six men hearing a word of encouragement. The women were nine in total - one re-committed her life to Christ. The work release men were only two, but they had a great time singing with us and we enjoyed their company as we discussed Romans 1:16 and related verses. - Karen, Paul and Bill, 3/5/09

Washington County Jail: We started out with a song about how God will deliver us from whatever it is we need. Many acknowledged there were things in their lives they needed to be set free from. We let the women choose some of their favorite songs to sing. The Bible study was on God's love, based mostly out of John 3. -Barb, 3/1/09

Washington County Jail: There was a lot of discussion today, few songs. They had lots of questions, comments and there was very good ministry. K. shared a testimony of how God showed Himself real in her life. Very uplifting. Spent some time in the Word. We encouraged them to read the Word and be obedient to God. At least 2 out of the 3 women seemed to have a personal relationship through Jesus, but expressed their need to draw closer to Him. -Barb, 8/2/09

Washington County Jail: We have been averaging 8-12 guys with 17 showing up in early February. God has given me many good Spirit-led studies. -Keith, 2/28/09

Washington County Jail: I feel God answered our prayers, as the women were open to God, repentant, searching, and interested in what we were sharing. There were tears as they understood themselves in the light of God's great sacrifice through His Son, Jesus. We went through the Easter story. They enjoyed that!
-Jane, 4/15/09

Washington County Jail: Once again the Holy Spirit showed up in great measure as we had the privilege of encouraging three believers last night at the jail. It was already a special evening as

Ruthie accompanied us as a group of three for the first time. Satan didn't want her to be there as she wasn't feeling well, but she did a great job of interacting with the women.

The women were ready to be open in sharing their testimonies and their questions with us. We read God's Word in John 20:1-31 and the devotion that went with it on page 1318. The conversation and questions seemed to center around what happens to believers and unbelievers after they die. Cheryl had great insight and scripture to back up the concerns about Jesus return, what happens to the soul and the body after we die. Again, we were honored to be there. -Jim, 6/20/09

Washington County Jail: We had a wonderful time in jail! They were open in sharing and asked thoughtful questions. We had some great dialogue about prayer. -Diane, 6/27/09

Washington County Jail: There were 8 women present and all very glad to be here. Many asked for Bibles out of the closet and we got them for them. We spent time singing and then had a Bible study on the death of Jesus. We also led the group in a salvation prayer and spent time praying over the women as a group. Many seem to know the Lord, all seemed to pray the prayer of surrender or recommitment. -Barb, 4/20/09

Washington County Jail: One of the women shared that she has been sober for a year after Christ lifted her addiction from her. It was a powerful testimony. -Beth, 3/16/09

Washington County Jail: We were joined by five wonderful women. We had a Spirit filled evening that reminded me of the "old days". The women were really attentive and involved in the study. Our focus was on John 6:25-59, and that Jesus is the Bread of Life. -Beth & Jane, 4/29/09

Washington County Jail: Praise! N. has come a second time after accepting Christ two weeks ago. Pray that he will continue to come to learn and grow in Christ. -Harry, 5/19/09

Washington County Jail: Praise! N. came to our Bible study pretty much just to get out of his cell. He listened to our discussion. At the end when I asked for prayer requests he asked for prayer to end suicidal thoughts. R., an inmate sitting next to him, asked if he knew Christ, would he like to. He said yes! - Harry, 5/2/09

Teen Challenge Ministry Students: 3 inmates and 6 Teen Challenge staff or ministry students have applied to volunteer. We are not able to get them into the jails yet, so would like to have them run the Victory over Addictions curriculum as a group at a church or community setting. Please continue to pray.

Yesterday I received a phone call from a young man named Matt who wanted to thank the people from Lakes Free who went to the Lino Lakes Detention Center and presented the Gospel approximately one year ago. Later, in his room, he prayed to receive Christ. He went right from Lino to Teen Challenge and has been there almost a year. He wanted to express his appreciation. -Chuck @ ?, 3/26/2009
