



Missionary Evangelism To Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982

Emmanuel GOD with US ISAIAH 7:14

The Challenge of the Holiday.

One of our intercessors shared the story of a young man who, upon receiving instructions to write about Christmas, started crying. When asked ... he replied, "Everyone wants me to be happy about Christmas, but at my house it is so hard." Another individual when asked what they are doing over the holiday will reply with information about the family gathering, but not share the tension it causes.

Statements like "Jesus is the reason for the season" are true, but when life is hard how do you really experience them? How does one convey the essence of the whole relationship with Christ to someone who doesn't know Him & has lived in the darkness of drug use, theft, materialism or unbelief?

A recent discussion with three incarcerated addicts, now sober and seeking God, who were attending class warmed and delighted me. To see them come week after week to Victory Over Addictions, church & Bible studies is good. To hear the ways they had resisted bitterness, were taking responsibility, struggling & learning how to make amends is also good. To help

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December 31st Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

2013 Year End Review

- * 77 Church Services, Bible Studies & Individual Spiritual Counseling each Week
- * 8 Victory Over Addictions, Celebrate Recovery or Outreach Classes each Week
- * Training & Preparations for Re-Entry Program to begin soon at Anoka County Work Release.
- * Expanded our Facebook Page
- * Over 4000 requests sent out to intercessors in 24 Prayer letters (over 100 prayer partners received these.)
- * Grieved the Passing & Celebrated the lives of volunteers Dick Pettman, Eloise Metz & Leo Brandt as they joined Christ in Heaven
- * Kim Ketola spoke at MEC Spring Event at Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom, MN
- * Presented the play, A Man Called Daniel, put on by Theater For the Thirsty as the fall event at MN Adult & Teen Challenge in Minneapolis.
- * Monthly Newsletters by e-mail & Bi-Monthly Intercession Letter

Year End Review continues to Pg. 2

DECEMBER 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

- ~ The Challenge of the Holiday Pgs. 1 & 2
- ~ Year End Review Pgs. 1 & 2
- ~ Network Links Pg. 3
- ~ Testimonies Pg. 2-3

(Cont. from pg. 1) them grasp David's cry from Psalms, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" was a blessing amidst the demands of fulfilling work roles when short staffed, being a caretaker, family member and homemaker. They talked about the importance of being in & absorbing God's word & presence before others were up or the TV came on.

The work of the Holy Spirit in bringing their sins to mind, conviction, forgiveness, cleansing, helping them in relationships that had been damaged, & trusting Him was evident. A follow up discussion with one of them touched on the importance of walking out this door & into the next, making sure the next door to be walked through would be one where he could stay safe & sober.

When I worked at the nursing home on Christmas, it was a comfort to the patients who had no visitors, to hear that Christ probably did not experience Christmas in the way that we think of it because they did not celebrate birthdays as we do in that time and culture. But Christ himself, was & still is Christmas.

Comfort for a little boy struggling at Christmas, simply salted moments for Micah's family, a family coming together instead of fighting over different opinions of caregiving & criminals' hearts softening as light begins to overcome darkness. It is His presence that brings comfort, healing and blessing to anyone who chooses to receive it; His presence changes darkness to light, hard hearts to soft, and bitterness and hate to love. Immanuel means God with us.

MEC Spotlight ← Spotlight From Pg. 1

- * Distributed many Bibles to inmates in conjunction with International Bible Givers and Lifeway Resources Stores
- * The following books were donated to Nine or more Jails:
Cradle My Heart by Kim Ketola,
When Life Comes Undone by T.J. & Mary Ann Addington
God did Not Call the Equipped, He Equipped
Those Who He Called by Deloris Mix
The Making of a Princess by Robin Rinke
- * Met with 134 inmates to provide reentry resources
- * Responded to 75 inmate & family requests by letter or phone
- * In eight training sessions, 40 volunteers took new or further training

Volunteer Testimonies

While I was in jail I started to see demons while I was awake. I thought it was withdrawals but it was not. I grabbed a Big Book and a Bible and started to read out of both. The funny thing was that for the first time in my life the Bible actually made sense, like a great novel. When I would see the demons I would read, & they would go away. I decided that maybe all the things I had heard in treatment I should try to apply to my life.

Volunteer Testimonies Dave continues on Pg. 2



*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and
In the days to come*

Volunteer Testimonies

Dave Flemming ... can't remember when I had heard, "The only thing you have to change is everything", so I made a commitment to ... do it different. I asked Jesus to come into my life and forgive me of my sins. I started praying for forgiveness and for all the people that I had hurt and that had stood by me even when I did not think they should have. [Now] Jesus took my obsession for drugs and drinking away ...

I had a visit from Pastor Gessele and I spilled everything to him. Someone offered to bail me out of jail ... but did not. I started to get pissed off, thinking here is another person letting me down. A calm feeling came over me and I thought well, maybe I am not the only person in the world that needs help and I should just settle down and be patient. I cry out and say God, if you are real and you are working in my life you have to give me a sign (not like he has-n't given me 10 already)

I like science and I like things that I can touch and feel. [One of the staff] put on a movie called "Evolution vs Creation", and it talked all about how science is proving more and more things in the Bible every day. Right in the middle of the film a quote pops up, "Jesus said, If you can believe, all things are possible". I just about fell off my chair. The night I got my DUI I woke up from a black out hearing that very sentence. From that moment on I knew God was there for me, if I would just get out of the way He would show me the right path to take. David Flemming

Kevin Forss - I grew up in a Christian home and as a child accepted Jesus as myavior, but I grew apart from God as a youth and tried to live my life my own selfish way. My way took me in and out of jails and treatment centers from the time I was 12 yrs old until I was 44. It was then that I was so tired of my life that I didn't care in the least if I lived or died, I just knew I couldn't live life anymore the way I had been living, no matter what. I checked myself into inpatient treatment while there, I got down on my knees and asked God to take my alcohol and drug addictions from me, and to forgive my sins in the name of his son Jesus Christ. That was when ... I started walking with God. About 1 1/2 years later I made a list of all my past sins and people I had hurt and admitted them to another person and God. Later that day I did some meditating and praying by myself and asked God to forgive me of my past in the name of his son Jesus Christ. It was then that I believe I was born again, it was like a fog was lifted from me and things became clearer and I knew I was doing exactly what I was supposed to be doing at exactly the right time and place. Since then God continues to direct my life and put people in my life in amazing ways.

Network Links
We know that we are not alone in Kingdom work. In this month we would like to salute
Safe Families for Children
www.safe-families.org
&
Metro Hope Ministries
New Hope (men) & Healing House
(women with Children)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us with REMOVE in the subject line. Email us at mec@usfamily.net, call 651-408-1300 or write PO542, Wyoming MN 55092. Please visit our website to see how you can support MEC. Donate through PayPal or help by doing some of your shopping by through links on the website without spending any extra. Visit — www.mecjailministry.com Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant D, Sandy Hanson and Michelle Nelson Office Administration