



# Missionary Evangelism To Corrections

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

## Habakkuk Hope, Thanksgiving and Joy

When invited to True Friends Place, a beautiful log home for women's sober living, friends of TFP sat in the living room where I shared past trials and scripture that God had worked into the core of my being. His Word reflects trust as an important foundation. Although time consuming and sometimes difficult, sturdy foundations are necessary to strong buildings, character, unified families and groups or communities.

Discussion was open enough to reveal deep, honest questions and struggles. The time is never long enough to delve deeper into the answers. My notebook held thoughts God had given me that addressed the questions directly, but it had been left in the car.

Habakkuk Hope is hope that goes beyond the circumstances of what we are going through. Habakkuk cried out to God amidst overwhelming evil and received an answer which was not what he hoped for. Destroying the evil included destruction of life as he knew it and victory for those who did not deserve it, but in the end God would bring restoration. "Even if the fig tree does not blossom and the vines have no grapes, even if the olive tree fails to produce and the fields yield no food, even if the sheep pen is empty and there are no cattle in the stalls - even

Cont. on page 3



May 30th, 2014 Newsletter

## MEC Spotlight



*We want to thank Lakes Free Church for donating money for eight site licenses for the movie Home Run. This movie depicts the addiction of a man (in this case a baseball player) and the struggles of family members and others who attend Celebrate Recovery.*

*Celebrate Recovery meetings are support groups for anyone with hurts, habits, and hang-ups. They concentrate on 12 steps and the concepts Christ shared in his first public teaching in Matthew 5:1-20 and Luke 6:20-22.*

*Each jail site license permits the movie to be played as many times as desired for an entire year. Currently four jails are showing this film to their general population.*

*Please pray that the corrections staff will show the movie often, that this film has a lasting impact on those who see it, and that the details concerning licensing for the other four jails come together.*

*Finally, pray that this movie paves the way for us to supply more inspiring films to the jails in the future and that God supplies the means and help to do so.*

### Amazing Service

Barb and I had an excellent interactive service in which God gracefully gave us the guidance we needed to break through barriers in the lives of these women. Unresolved strife was

Cont. on pg 2

## MAY Highlights

- Habakkuk hope, Thanksgiving & Joy .....pg 1 & 3*
- & Homerun Movie site licenses donated by Lakes Free Church...pg 1*
- May 17 event recorded .....pg 2*
- Network Links .....pg 2*
- Family Story request .....pg 2*
- Amazing Service .....pg 1 & 2*

May 17th was a wonderful evening with People of Hope, Metro Hope Ministry Music team, Saul Selby, Doug Rogers, Sherriff Rick Duncan, and Seth Evans.

Thank you to all the volunteers who

helped and you who shared it with us!

Whether or not you were able to join us, **Please let us know if you would like a CD of the event.**



Amazing Service from pg. 1

causing distractions. We took the opportunity to stop and pray, taking authority over strife ... and asking that this would be a safe place for the ladies to seek You (God), to share their hearts and that their words would be used to edify, encourage one another and not to tear down. ....The atmosphere was dramatically improved and there was a very distinct change in the women's behavior. Now that the room was free of petty quarrels, the Holy Spirit was able to flow freely through the message, worship and prayer.

Barb has a wonderful way of weaving worship and teaching and Jen spoke of the importance of prayer, explaining how common it is for people to place too little of value on prayers due to seeing God somewhat impersonally. Using the motto of "stop, drop, and roll" she shared a similar strategy for prayer. STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN. 1) Stop to get away from noises, activities, and other distractions. 2) Look for the blessings of God and show him your appreciation. 3) Listen for his voice to see what you can learn.

Woman began to share their struggles with anxiety, and we had much discussion, tears and prayer. (See more detail on the website) At least three women prayed out loud for the first time. With a little encouragement, these women were able to confidently and audibly pray for their own struggles, each other's struggles, and the struggles of their friends and family members. It was a service to remember.

## Network Links

We know that we are not alone in Christ's Kingdom work. This month we would like to salute

Hiding Hurting Healing & Out of the Shadows

HHH—Support groups for women to stop hiding their hurts and the follow-up program OOTS for those dealing with betrayal, abuse, traumatic or painful relationships

<http://www.hidinghurtinghealing.com>

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery meetings are support groups for anyone with hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Concentrating on 12 steps, and the beatitudes: meal, worship, teaching & small groups discussion

<http://www.celebraterecovery.com/>

See [www.mecjailministry.com](http://www.mecjailministry.com) for more resources

**Next Month we hope to focus the newsletter on family stories. If God helped you while your loved one was in corrections, please go to our website, click—share your story, type it out and press submit. We will consider it for sharing with others.**

then, I will be happy with Yahweh. (Yet I will exalt in the LORD). I will truly find joy (rejoice) in the God of my salvation. Yahweh Adonai (the Lord God) is my strength. He makes my feet like those of a deer. He makes me walk on high places (the mountains).” It struck me that it is written for the chief singer or choir director. It is music for everyone to hear or sing. (Habakkuk 3 CJB & KJV)

Notice the rejoicing. At the dedication to the temple David recounts that when all was well, he did not think he would ever be shaken, but that it is by God’s favor we are able to stand firm. Psalms 30 says ... “Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” As the psalmist cries out to God, pleading for mercy, truth, pity and help he describes the change... “You have changed my mourning (sobbing) into dancing. You have removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy so that my soul may praise you with music and not be silent. O Yahweh my Elohim, I will give thanks to you forever.” (CJB & NASB)

The book *Prison to Praise* encourages us to praise God in every circumstance. Before going back to deal with the pain of things that needed a deeper forgiveness than just overlooking matters, I would purpose to praise God often in every situation and it was not long until I found myself not doing so. After dealing with buried pain and continuing a spiritual walk, I found praise becoming more integrated characteristic. Ann Voskamp received an email dare to chronicle 1,000 gifts from God. Her book *One Thousand Gifts*, relays how, following her little sisters death when Ann was four, life struggles included depression and anxiety.

Studying Eucharisteo led her to discover that this word encompasses grace and thanksgiving. Carrying out this dare helped her to live it. It is not salvation, but a reflection of it and of our trust.

I started my own list and have loved the joy awareness and thanksgiving it has inspired.

Although it seems simplistic, several concepts have been developing in my heart and mind and circumstances unfold which have caused me to realize more of Christ, the “man of sorrows” (Isaiah 53) and the one who brings life and life more abundantly (John 10).



Volunteers, I encourage you to take this dare to the inmates, and to all of you, will you dare you to take this challenge of writing 1,000 gifts.?

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[www.mecjailministry.com](http://www.mecjailministry.com)

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