



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

with those in corrections since 1982

May 31st 2015 Newsletter

Did God Really Say Go Have Fun?

Did God really say “Go have some fun?”

When I heard “and God said, “Go have fun!”” my response was. “What,? Did He really say that?” in times past, my reaction may even have been, “It doesn’t say that in the Bible.” I am more familiar with sections that address our responsibilities, like Prv 6:6 “Go to the ant, you slacker (sluggard, lazybones) ! Observe its ways and become wise.” Exo. 20:9 & Duet. 5:13”Six days you shall labor ..., or Ps 104:23 Man goes out to his work and to his labor until evening. (HCSB)

If we examine our beliefs, we sometimes find that what we learned or perceived may emphasize one particular principle while ignoring another. Part of putting off

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MEC Spotlight

Ben Martin has volunteered at HCADC with the New Hope team for a year. The Lord reached him in 2008 and then showed him that he could not return to old temptations even at a lesser level in 2013.

Romans 5:8 impacted him, “knowing that Christ loved me when I was at my worst ... truly highlights the stark contrast between the forgiving, just and loving way of Christ and the unforgiving, superficial, judgmental, and cold way of the world.” He was described in his references as “being incredibly bright, mature and professional —emotionally & spiritually and ...guided by his faith and heart”. Another described him as “devout, open-minded, prudent, with great knowledge and the ability to respond to hot button issues”.

Ben will be leaving us to attend law school in Iowa City. He describes his success and this opportunity as “not even possible or fathomable without Christ ...“Christ can work miracles in people’s lives, not because of who they are, but because of who He is.”

We want to thank Ben and asked him to share what he enjoyed and/or learned from participating in MEC.. His response, ..“I would say that the most important thing I've learned ... is that Christ is definitely working in the downtown jail in Minneapolis, MN. Considering there are good Christian men and women working on the prison ministry

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Join us!!!

June 20th 6:30 –8:30PM

MEC Spring Event

Laughter by Bill Arnold from Triple Espresso & Real Recovery

Music Jeromy Darling

The of Salvage Project

Testimonies from ex-inmates

Lakes Free Church 29620 Olinda Trail
Lindstrom, MN 55045

Obtain flyer &/or register
mecjailministry.com,
mec@usfamily.net

651-408-1300 or

POB542 Wyoming MN 55092



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Spotlight Ben Martin
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team at New Hope Church,
I could have safely assumed

that this was the case. But seeing it first-hand is certainly special.”

There is always a need for more volunteers to share Christ with those who are there that have not heard. Many people’s conceptions of those who are incarcerated involve thinking that it is pretty simple for them to make the right choices. A statement that impacted me was that accepting Christ gives us the ability to choose. Ben observes “Moreover, I’ve learned that there are a lot of unique and intelligent people that unfortunately make mistakes and end up in jail. But what’s so amazing is that Christ uses the poor decisions we make to steer us to Him. I know this is how He brought me to Him.

I must add that I also learned how important the prayer team is to the prison ministry. While the people who physically go to the jail are perhaps a more visible part of the team, those who have acquired the empathy, patience, and kindness to dutifully pray to God for these men and women in jail and prison are an integral part of the prison ministry team. Kudos to them!

It has been my privilege to volunteer with MEC. I have likely learned just as much, if not more, from these men, as they’ve learned

Karen Selby

Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in Kingdom work.
This month we salute

International Bible Givers

Every month IBG members meet in fellowship and give Bibles to couriers. These couriers then distribute these Bibles throughout their ministries, providing Bibles to those in need free of charge

<http://www.igivebibles.org/>

see MEC’s website
for more resources



Wally & Tiger Johnson

Tribute to Naomi “Tiger” Johnson

Naomi (Tiger) Johnson went to be with the Lord on May 19, 2015. The loves of Naomi’s life included God, family, church and community, and educating. She was a painter, writer and poet who created newsletters for Mercy Hospital Auxiliary and International Bible Givers. She represented the auxiliary to the hospital board, was a pianist and taught Sunday School at the Anoka Methodist and Wesleyan churches. She enjoyed history, exploring cemeteries and her Swedish heritage. She was co-founder with Wally of International Bible Givers. Her love for people of all ages was evident to all who knew her. We at MEC will miss Tiger greatly and look forward to the day we will see her again.

Memorials may be designated to Anoka Wesleyan Church, International Bible Givers, the 4-H Foundation, the Anoka County Historical Society or to the Naomi Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Adapted from thurston-lindberg.com

Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Energy
- ◆ God's perspective
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities to be filled in jails and from home
- ◆ June 20th
- ◆ Inmates to follow-through with their commitments to Christ
- ◆ Families to be reunited and Homes to be untied
- ◆ Praise that Anya Waskey will be helping once a week in the office

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the old man and putting on the new or renewing our minds is examining our concepts and allowing room for some we may have disregarded. For example many of us learned the acronym JOY equals – Jesus first, others next, and yourself last. What Jesus really said was to: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself.



Photo from website scripturebypicture

(Luke 10:27, HCSB) This places yourself and your neighbor on equal footing. Having learned the former concept strongly, caring for oneself may sound selfish and believing that you must always put others first can lead someone to not taking care of themselves, the person God gave us the most responsibility for. In the long run this causes distrust and lack of faith. The converse of placing ourselves above our neighbors does not let the fruits of the spirit, longsuffering and gentleness, flourish.

At one of my lowest points in life, when I had to drag myself from the bathroom to the bed to get more rest and was asking, "How can I go on?" The LORD put a verse from Malachi 4:2 in my path.

"But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture." (NLT)

Amongst the materials inmates select often when asked what they need to help them be successful and avoid recidivism or re-incarceration is materials that will help them find positive ways to spend free time. One woman told us that whenever she got bored, she went crazy and would leave treatment early.

Replacing our concepts of what God is like with who He says He is and who He says we are (and calls us to be) is crucial to our spiritual growth and learning to love. Can we really love one another if we do not spend time together having fun? Leaping with joy like calves let out sounds like fun. Learning to have fun is part of that healing God promised. I hope you can join us June 20th for some fun.

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www.mecjailministry.com

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