



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

with those in corrections since 1982

Dr. Tim Walsh Speaks On
How God Heals The Brain
Music by People of Hope

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014

6:00-8:00 p.m.

North Heights Church,
1700 Hwy 96 W Arden Hills, MN 55112

August 31th 2015 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

Goodness in Fearing God

Think of something that you sincerely believed when you were younger but then found not to be true? I remember being told that my name needed to be in God's book of life in order for Him to let me into heaven. Since the Bible was Gods Book, I thought this meant that if my name was not in the Bible I would not be able to go to heaven. I searched and searched for it. It was with great relief that I found Keren Happuch and was glad that this name so similar to mine was one of Job's daughters following his restoration. I thought that even though it was not the exact name, God was merciful so He would let me in.

We all have thoughts and beliefs which we find to be faulty when we learn the truth. Some are patterns and
Fear God Cont. Pg. 2

Robert Wiesner

Bob accepted Christ when God answered the prayers of his loving wife and his 10 year old daughter, who asked him to read the Bible. To show his love to his daughter, he " began reading the new testament and about the time I got to Luke 15 when



the prodigal son came home and God ran to him, I was on my knees. I have not been the same since." He has 16 years of sobriety and has volunteered with MEC for 4+ years. His wife describes his gifts as encouragement, compassion, exhortation, hospitality, and if there were a gift of grace, he has it."

Sharing about his experience he says, "I wanted to thank you for the opportunities I've had the past few years in volunteering at the Scott County jail, along side Jon Urich, one of the Scott County commissioners, ... We have witnessed hundreds of people praying to receive Christ. We have seen many tears,... many broken and contrite hearts open to the gospel message. We have shared God's word and left them with words to ponder and discuss, we have prayed for healing and experienced Gods grace and spirit poured out. ... I was humbled and blessed by my experiences at the jail. Also some of the verses I shared most often are Colossians 1: 21-22.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you remain grounded & steadfast in the faith ...

Col 1:21-23a

August Highlights

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Fear God from pg. 1 beliefs which affect our actions, interactions and relationships in many ways. Research has shown that there are several characteristics in thinking in those who commit crimes (Yochelson & Samenow's "The Criminal Personality"). There are also thoughts and belief patterns of which addicts or those prone to addictions develop. Lord willing, in this series of articles we will discuss harmful thinking in a way that will apply to all of us.

Research and psychology can be very helpful in identifying some of the lies that we believe which keep us from healthy growth, and it is the word and Power of God through Christ, the Holy Spirit and Father's Love that works lasting change. *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing in Him, so that you will abound- overflow - in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 1:13CV

Fear is a big issue for criminals, addicts and in many peoples lives. We usually see fear in a negative sense, but we all fear something as some level. Discovering the purpose of fear and learning to fear the right things can cause it to become a positive, growing, life giving entity. Since it has such a prominent place in our lives, this is worth pursuing.

First, allow yourself to realize that you do fear, then consider what you fear and about how much time you spend fearing something. Because it is a deep emotion it can be unpleasant but can also cause a release of chemicals in the brain that are somewhat of a relief and habit forming. Recognizing fear and generalized fear (which is anxiety) will begin to allow you to make it useful.

Fear of being caught for something can stem from having had to hide from someone who was negative, abusive, or never gave any positive reinforcement. At some level you know this is not right but become so used to it that the adrenaline from hiding from scrutiny seems natural or normal. Fear of being caught doing something you know is not right can be a stimulant and when repeated, one's conscience becomes seared. Even sometimes good sounding religious ideas can sound like they are meant to bring you closer to God but are linked to deceit (I Tim. 4).

When Christ becomes our rock, He softens our rock hard hearts and tenderizes them. Ezekiel 36:26 says "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." If we are not doing anything wrong but are still fearful, talking about it, praying and reaffirming that there is nothing to worry about, helps us release fear and anxiety. Admitting what we are doing, or have done that is wrong, is painful: but that pain has a purpose. It is meant to drive

Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone
in Ministry.

This months shout-out is to

Prison Fellowship

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

SAVE THE DATE

PRISON FELLOWSHIP
CONTINUING EDUCATION

Saturday, October 17th, 2015

8:30am to 4:00pm

At

Bridgewood Community Church

11670 Lexington Ave N

Blaine, MN 55449

Featured speakers include

Jim Liske, CEO, Prison Fellowship

John King, Assistant Commissioner,
MN-DOC

Registration will be online





Swallow family at home above the office door



Lunchtime chickadee

A small amount of the Praises we are thankful for.

- ◇ **SCJ** now have Celebrate Recovery every other week. They are asking for weekly and we trust God will provide the right women to do this.
- ◇ **HCADC** -6 ladies at class today - 3 returnees and 3 new. One of them was Yolanda who was sentenced to prison (had attended parenting classes and Bible study in 2013 - 2014 and was in the jail to attend another hearing in court. She shared several times of how God has changed her life after she gave herself over to Him when she was here before and that she understands how important it is to stay clinging to Him and not let go. *Sherry Olsen*
- ◇ **ACJF** . All the women asked for prayer .for family, cases ...[and] anting to be free from drugs and to know who they are in Christ. They wanted to know more about the Holy Spirit. They are so hungry for Jesus. *Sandy Tronson-*
- ◇ **ACJF** -5 men were in class and we discussed what the Bible says about the Seed of encouragement. We also talked about Spiritual Discipline and how to stay on track. *Wes Wiley*
- ◇ **ACWR** -Monday night we had 2 women. We read a book in Psalms about blessings and had some discussion. We also listened to music by Selah (You raise me up). I gave out the resource list to both of them. I also gave them both a bible to keep *Kara Schultz*
- ◇ **ACJ**—I answered a lot of questions, then went over Matthew 13 sower and seed parable in greater depth, added Ephesians 1 discussion of predestined purpose according to His pleasure, spent some time discussing being a man, as opposed to the little toddlers in men's bodies that are all too common. In the 'rocky ground' and 'thorny ground' discussion, I emphasized "jailhouse decisions for Christ" as opposed to a real transformation that sticks when they're out in the world. Three of the young men, including Trever, stayed for a few minutes afterward to talk with me; they meet regularly with Dave from MEC and are growing in their faith. *Matt Goer*
- ◇ **RCCF**—We started with 30 women and Ann Paulson taught on the "Romans Road". She opened it up to discussion and the discussion was very lively. A few women left but most stayed. Three women need prayer. Overall, it was a very successful afternoon--God be praised!! *JoAnne Crosby*
- ◇ Patience and mercy when we do not accomplish all as planned on time.

The letters are for the facilities the volunteer sends the report from See the mecjailministry.com for details.

Transforming Criminal Justice from the Inside Out

Wednesday, October 7, 7:00pm at the Buetow Auditorium Concordia University Saint Paul
15 minutes each, then moderated Q&A with audience

Jim Liske, President/CEO, Prison Fellowship: Framing the broadly recognized problems of crime and incarceration and the opportunities for transformation that these problems offer to the Church

Eddie Miles, Assistant Commissioner, MN Department of Correction: Transforming prison culture and prisoners from the inside out – how that is happening in Minnesota

Jesse Wiese, JD, Director of Ex-Offender Network, Prison Fellowship: Transforming the reentry process – ending incarceration at the prison door (introducing the Second Pris-



Fireworks at Paradise Park

Fear God from pg. 2 us to God to receive and embrace His love. Grace, mercy, forgiveness and love can replace the wrong and our acceptance or love of what is wrong. Rather than accepting wrong, it names and renounces it: releasing the hold it has on us. Forgiveness for ourselves and for others brings relief and healing. Trust can replace fear. “Trust in the LORD always/forever, because in Yah, Jehovah, the LORD, is an everlasting eternal strength, rock/protector !” (Isa. 26:4 CV)

Several times the Bible tells us not to fear. Even when angels brought news from God, people were afraid and told not to be so. “The reality of the resurrection brings joy... When you are afraid remember the resurrection. (NIV Life application study Bible notes)

Although we describe fear as a negative thing, every reference I can find in scripture in relation to fearing God is a positive. God’s love and character are so perfect that even something so negative in other respects becomes a positive in respect to Him. The Hebrew definition lists afraid, cautious & terrible but also includes awe, awesome things & reverence. Here are some verses on the fear of God.

Psalm 66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God: let me tell you ... what he has done for me. ...

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

Revelation 14:7 He said in a loud voice, Fear God and give him .glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.

Press this link to see a more comprehensive list of verses on Fearing God
<http://www.mecjailministry.com/resources/VersesOnFearOfTheLord.pdf>

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

Plato

*In Him,
Karen Selby*

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