



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

Thanksgiving

In past articles around Thanksgiving, we covered the history of the holiday, reasons or motivations for being thankful and things we can do to increase our gratitude. Here are things individuals who are incarcerated and volunteers are thankful for:

- * Your prayers – Around 500 times inmates have written down their thanks to those of you who are praying or have prayed for them.
- * All of my family and their good health
- * For getting in the kitchen
- * Being able to study God's Word and my father is still on my side



K. Selby

Thanks cont. pg. 2

Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing:

Perfectionism

Regarding perfectionism, when a person demands so much of themselves or others that they cannot accomplish it, eventually discouragement and giving up on goals, responsibilities and relationships results. This can become a sporadic or deeply ingrained pattern which cuts off good. God's word tells us to be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect, so what is the difference between these two ways of looking at being perfect?

PTLH:

Perfectionism cont. pg 3

November 31, 2016 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

Eric Lasley ---

I came from kind of a dysfunctional home; parents divorced when I was young. I have been in and out of the court system since I was young and have a Felony DWI.

My mom and Gary Irwin attended church and somehow Gary started to come and visit me while I was incarcerated. He

shared with me scripture and how important it was to have the Holy Spirit in my life which I was not aware of. My mom also started attending church more.

I was in Hennepin County Jail awaiting a court appearance and felt like I was in limbo, not knowing what to do. I was there for 3 months. I started at St. Cloud and then went to Lino Lakes and from there to Moose Lake & Faribault. Gary visited me at all of them. He sent me a Bible and letters, we talked and he encouraged me.

I was aware of God, but the Bible says people perish for lack of knowledge. I prayed from time to time but was not living right. I was in darkness and did not understand the light. I realized right away while I



Eric Continued on . pg 2

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Thanksgiving from pg. 1

Spotlight Eric from page 1

- * Having my girlfriend and kids still
- * For health and family
- * For God keeping me safe and alive
- * For finding God
- * Sobriety
- * My children, grandson, job, and many years of the Lord keeping me alive.
- * Christ's death and our salvation
- * God hears his prayers, is listening to my words
- * For the volunteers by name

was in the county jail, that I had to make some life choices to be on one side of the street or the other, and if it was the wrong side of the street, it would be a problem. When I read the Bible, Scripture would stand out, I would memorize it. Sometimes it is really hard when you are incarcerated and seeking God or reading the Bible because you have done something really heinous. But if you seek God, [you can be forgiven and know His love].

Gary visiting me while I was in jail and prison [meant a lot] and my life has changed, I am closer to God. I go to a home church and a couple of prayer groups now.

Volunteers

- * Specific prayerful watering of the seeds planted on trip west.

Let us know if you would like a cd of the fall event.

- * Your prayers, your heartfelt prayers
- * You
- * You our prayer partners for these women and in this ministry
- * That there are only 3 weeks left of this semester of school
- * All you do
- * God's guidance and provision
- * Renewed health
- * Being able to volunteer
- * Doctors
- * Testing
- * Seeing inmates and come to Christ
- * Hearing thanks from those they have ministered to



Ministry Friends Shout Out
 We know that we are not alone in ministry, this month's shout out is to Out Post Inc. which was formed to meet the needs of men and women seeking freedom from unwanted same sex attractions .
 This is a ministry part of Twin Cities Justice House of Prayer
www.outpostministries.org

In many recovery groups people introduce themselves and identify why they are there. If a person does not over identify with the problem, this is a way of saying I admit this and I need, desire, resolve and work at not having this problem control me. One gentleman introduced himself as a recovering perfectionist. The irony of not always striving to improve is worth puzzling out. If we do the details very well but get so absorbed in them that we miss the main point, it thwarts our purpose. An example that Yochelson and Samenow give of this type of thinking, is someone who spent so much time getting his uniform ironed and the creases right that he neglected other responsibilities. I would guess these to be tending the house, learning more about the aspects of the job, and building relationships with those he lived with. Criminal and addictive thinking demands perfectionism of one's self and others. Wanting to meet these standards but not being able to leads to giving up or ignoring the conscience. Someone else not meeting them is cause for not accepting or putting that person down.

Your feedback can help inmates! PT&TLH is a series we are hoping to print to give to inmates to help with the growth & transformation which God's Word provides.

Laying a foundation, choosing the priorities and recognizing God's work in us and others help us know and love Him and one another.

Christ gives to us true grace and mercy which provides forgiveness and the understanding that change is possible. It will come, and ongoing fellowship can be restored if we allow it. It is in receiving God's love ourselves and in extending His love to others that we show ourselves to be sons of God and this is the way He asks us to be perfect like Him (see Matt 5:6-48 and Mk. 12:33). Hebrews talks about a foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, Baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection and eternal judgement as foundations.



K. Selby

In "The Best Yes" Lysa TerKeurst talks about the difficulty of admission of our misplaced time and efforts (pg. 4) and of understanding what it means to fear God, which is the beginning of wisdom. Yirah is the Hebrew word for fear that means being in awe of God. This is a deep sense of reverence where we look for God in everything. (pg47) Seeking to know who God is and what He thinks of us is part of the foundation. It amazes me how much coming to know Christ in this way

changes our hearts desires. Our motivation for what is right increases and will bring abundant life..(see Jn 10:10)

Elijah was discouraged to the point of asking God to take his life because he thought he was the only one left following after God. When Elijah fled, God sent an angel to nourish him. When Elijah hid in a cave feeling abandoned, the LORD told him, in a gentle whisper there were 7,000 others who were with him. He then gave instructions to anoint others for their work. Recognizing Gods work in us and in others makes us thankful and lifts the burden of perfectionism from us.

A new foundation, wanting the right choices and deepening our relationships with others. Sounds good to me!

Karen Selby

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