



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

You Help Us Decide

Call or respond by e-mail with a yes, please do or No, not able to attend or support a spring event

This year we are asking you to decide if we should have our spring event or not. It is a great time for volunteers and those wanting to learn more about the ministry to come together to for learning, fellowship, prayer and to support MEC and those in recovery in your communities.

If we hold the spring event we would have it at Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom on April 22nd. Reply by phone e-mail or clicking on this link.

[Spring Event](#)

Thoughts About Addiction

People acquire skills as they grow and develop. When they run into conflict or distress and they turn to some substance, idea or activity to make them feel better then they miss what they need for that

development. If one does not work through a conflict, have the resources available, or do the necessary work to obtain a skill there is a lack in that area.

This could be task, functional or relationship skills. This lack brings frustration instead of peace, unity and growth. Turning to the wrong area can bring temporary relief but not what is need in the relationship, task or skill. When someone begins recovery they not only need to learn new skills, they need to unlearn the thoughts, ideas, and patterns that are not working.



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MEC Spotlight

Bill & Margie Messer

Bill has done jail ministry in Anoka, Ramsey, Hennepin Counties and Rush City Prison for fifteen or more years .

He shares that, "It is a privilege to be able to share the gospel knowing that it might be the first time they hear it. As we prepare all of that we leave the result to the Lord."



When asked about how He came to the Lord the response is evident of His love. "I was going on 21 when I accepted Christ as my savior. One evening I knelt down by my bedside. After the witness of others, God helped me to see my sinfulness, and that He loved me. His love for me was evident. I had never seen my sin in that light and when God revealed it to me it broke my heart that I could go on in life without Him. He changed me, continues to change me and will do so until the day I die."

When asked how God is changed and is changing him, Bill's answer is clear and encouraging, "It is the daily experience of life and relationships where He shows us we need to be depend-

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February

Highlights

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Ministry Friends Shout-Out Church of Felons

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Ministry Friends Shout Out

We know we are not alone in Ministry and each month we acknowledge another ministry that we network with. This month's shout out goes to

Church of Felons Ministry which helps share stories of four recovering addicts in rural Wisconsin and builds an addiction recovery scholarship fund.

<http://churchoffelons.com/>

See their facebook page for events



Some Thoughts about Addiction from pg. 1

The principals that I have found most helpful are Understanding Who God is, Who He Says We Are, Trust and Truth which are a part of love. Here are some resources for these concepts.

Understanding Who God is (letting go or unlearning who we think He is and learning God is Love) –

see [Other names of Christ](#)



Who does He say we are (His children, saved, redeemed, accepted, no condemnation, family, army, united – Here are three [Identity in Christ](#) sheets

Trust – How do we learn to love and trust Him and His love

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding.

Truth – God's truth to break through denial and lies.

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes onto the Father but by me.

Matthew 28: 37-39

And He said to him, “ YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ “This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’” (NASB)

I Corinthians 13:13

Three things will abide or remain, ie last forever--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love. (Combined versions)



Bill and Margie from page 1

ent on Him for a proper response in all situations. He is such a gracious God in spite of who we are. He changes us though the Word. We must remain in it daily, or be acclimated to the world. There is no perception without it. The journey is interesting. There is heartbreak but with the proper response with the Spirit of God there is still victory. Even if we feel defeated He will complete the work He started in us. It is not just words, but He keeps cleansing us with confession of our sin and He is at work. Warren Wiersbe teaches that 'if you want to see God working, look at the troubles you are experiencing'. God works in the trials. It was over a period of time that God brought me to that realization."

Margie accepted Christ a few days before me. I had been telling her about the lake of fire that my mother taught about. Margie says, "That got me wondering about what happened after life. Bill's younger brother Tom, who was only about 15 had brought some literature and I read a booklet called the Chemistry of the Blood which was written by a physician, Martin DeHann. I started reading the Bible, it was really interesting. I started reading in Genesis. It was really exciting to understand the fall, how sin came into the world and our separation from God. I saw that I needed a Savior. Tom, who was only about 15, asked if I saw that I was a sinner and wanted to accept Christ. I said Yes!. Bill saw the difference it made in me. Bill says, "She accepted and I wanted to do the same."

Bill and Margie have been married for 55 years in April. They have walked together with Christ for 53 of those years. Margie adds, "even on the worst days, their walk with Christ and their marriage just gets better and better."



If you are following the Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing articles, I apologize that I have not made time to finish the article for this month. If you would like a compilation of those articles so far please email me. I can send it for you to read, share with someone who needs this and provide feedback for corrections before it is made into a booklet.

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