



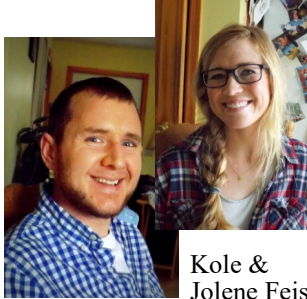
Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

New Volunteers (and support)



Lisa Moshfeghi



Kole & Jolene Feist



Mulbah Meyerkeh

These individuals attended the March 25th orientation. Lord willing, Lisa Moshfeghi will volunteer at Scott County Jail, Kole Feist at Anoka County ADC, Jolene came to learn & support, and Mulbah Meyerkeh will be serving at Hennepin County ACF. See MEC's facebook page April 7, 2015 for Kole's testimony

Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing: **Sexual Integrity**

Today's topic is a difficult one to address as it is not often openly discussed, personal and leads to strong reactions. Sexual sin affects persons in a stronger way than other sins. I Cor. 6:18 says "Run, flee, stay away from and avoid fornication or sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the fornicator or sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (ComVer) The fact that it is so impactful is reason to address it.

This used to be considered primarily a man's problem but in recent years the number of women who have been caught in this problem has increased.

One of the first questions that I had when I was a young volunteer starting out was why does God not want us to have sex before we are married? Looking to feel good or valued through ways that do not bring the satisfaction, meaning fulfillment or purpose we think they do leads to disappointment, negative consequences and pain for both parties. Untangling the deception is important for truth to emerge.

Yochelson and Samenow talk about the thinking that leads to sexual crimes as compensating for not valuing themselves by thinking they are irresistible and accomplished sexually and having power and control over another. The value of the victim as a person is not grasped. A false definition or under

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March 31, 2017

MEC Spotlight

Jim Carr

Jim has played the guitar for the youth at Lino Lakes and prayed with the youth for over 25 years.

In the mid 70's his best friend Mark and some family members invited him to a meeting. He thought it was kind of funny, but [at the same time] the Lord showed him the emptiness and void in his heart that needed to be filled. Jim says "I came to the Lord through friends. The devil was trying to convince me otherwise, I was still drinking and smoking and the Lord took care of that. The Bible says to do those things in moderation.



I was not desperate; I had a job and was working. The Holy Spirit opened my spiritual eyes that I was needing more than I was getting. I was very worldly and realized there was more to life. I was raised catholic and during my 6,7 and 8th grade we went into the Old Testament quite a bit. Then I started hanging with the wrong friends. After being busted twice, I quit the drugs and started drinking more. [After I met Christ], I was involved with a home fellowship and a ministry called Pillars of Praise. We did some retreats and service for the Lord and God helped me learn more [to develop the musical talent I did have and used that in Church.

I met Saul at church and we went to minister at Oak Park Heights, Ramsey Co work release and with the youth at Lino Lakes. After I became a Christian I was seeking a wife and God showed me I had to have peace with myself before I could have peace with a relationship. Shortly after that I met Dolly. We dated and were married.

Through the jail ministry He taught me that we are all on the same playing field needing the Lord and we all have to come to the place where we cannot do it on our own and that we

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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

Safe Families for Children

<http://safefamiliesmn.org/contact-us/>

Safe Families for Children™ is a national movement of compassion that gives hope to families in crisis. Safe, loving homes are provided where parents may voluntarily have their children cared for while parents seek to restore stability in their lives.

Jim Carr from page 1



need eternal life as the Bible tells us. It is a free gift to accept and He has us here for a reason to realize the knowledge of his salvation and to share it with others. I am not into big and fancy things I don't like the light on me but to be in the background and to help people do things. Dolly is involved at AWANA and I still do the music ministry at Living Faith that used to be Galilee Baptist.

Pt&TLH Sexual Integrity from pg. 1

standing of what is natural, manly and automatic influences men. It is not the act itself but the planning, scheming conning, and controlling that occupies the mind.

Even if not criminal, addictive thinking leads to withdrawal (irritation, anxiety, restless, anger, illicit desires or craving, guilt and shame) preoccupation and avoiding responsibilities and self-control is decreased or nonexistent. Work, relationships, health, and finances are affected. Often these are masked in denial or blame.

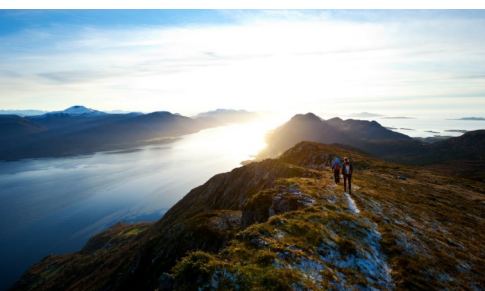
So what are the solutions to addressing this problem directly?

Working at getting to know God and His love, how much He values you and getting to know others and valuing them as much as yourself. The foundation of the two greatest commandments, manifested in all three relationships is necessary for attempts at practical action applications to succeed.

In Yochelson and Samenow program men are required to evaluate and report their thinking and actions and evaluate them for improvement almost constantly. It is while change is being implemented and after changing behavior that they begin to understand themselves' and make changes consistent. Much of psychology and counseling brings or attempts to bring insight or understanding to bring change. With criminal and addictive thinking, change often must be made in order for insight to come. For practical purposes both must be implemented and these concepts work together.

How does one renew the mind as Roman's 12 instructs us? The words that follow in this and the next few chapters expound on how our mind is renewed. Accepting grace, honoring other members of the body and their gifts and loving genuinely, submitting to authority, loving, casting off works of darkness, putting on the Lord Jesus, not passing judgement, causing another to stumble, rejoicing, ministering to and with, pleasing others & striving together in prayer, rejoicing, praising and hoping in Christ. At the end of Romans the individualized greetings and urging to work together demonstrate these principals.

One individual, who has 4 years of triumph in this battle, shared his story with me with permission to share parts of it anonymously. Listening to and reading such personal accounts are helpful and help create good desires and bonds in your relationships. They are more interesting than the summary, but that is all I have space for here.



When asked what has been the most helpful for him he relates "safe, accountability relationships (sponsor), the lies which help support(ed) my addictive thinking, and some of the tools I use when temptation arises. The first (secular) counselor that he tried did not see the problem, thinking since he was an adult, he was legally allowed to participate in the thoughts and activities that were stunting his spiritual, emotional and relational growth. More than one person has had the experience of trying unsuccessfully to use sex (even with in marriage (or with self)) to meet needs for healthy physical touch and emotional closeness. This person met with another Christian counselor who had more knowledge in this area referred him to a 12 step Sex Anonymous group. Honesty and seeing others that were relying on God gave him hope. Pride and fear were uncovered as fundamental to idolatry of self (see those articles in this series) and the saying "Without God I can't and without me He won't" had an impact.

(A) coaching relationship(s) - - with rigorous honesty allowed him to see and tell truths about himself (not God, own selfish will, had not so positive personal relationships) and God (Love, provides, nurtures). This type of relationship may come from a counselor, sponsor, or prayer partner and in looking for one, take into account that some people have the skills to provide this type of assistance in growth and others may not. Do not fault those that cannot but recognize it so that you are not continually trying to receive from someone what they cannot give. Pray and seek until God provides such a person and recognize the value in working through difficulties. Realize also that one person cannot provide everything. It may help to have a counselor and a group.

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part of gaining an understanding and respect for the other person in any relationship. This is what is missing in relationships that are governed by control. Knowing God and truly knowing and caring for others involves developing friendship and interpersonal skills of sharing thoughts, considering another's point of view, developing and showing tenderness and concern, being interested in their mind and treating the other as a respected person. (Combining thoughts from Yorkelson, Samenow & Chapman's, Love and Respect) There are three different words for sexual encounters in scripture, each having a different level of involvement with the relationship. The deepest is for marriage and deeper knowledge of each other, knowing each other at an intellectual, emotional and spiritual level. Some verses that are helpful are in Corinthians and Galatians. "For me, everything is permitted"? Maybe, but not everything is helpful, profitable, lawful, expedient or beneficial. "For me, everything is permissible"? This maybe, but as far as I am concerned, I am not going to let anything master, gain control or have power over me. (I Cor. 6:12 Combined versions). The whole chapter in Galatians 5 addresses freedom, in walking in the Spirit, the deeds which darken our spirit's and the fruits of the Spirit, among them love, joy, many that address understanding others and self-control.

May you grow and walk in the freedom of pure love.

The Lies	The Truth
From The World: 1. I have to have sex to be fulfilled. 2. Sex is a right. 3. The act of sex is meaningless.	1. Sex is optional. I can live a full life without sex. 2. Sex is a gift from God. 3. Sex is a profound/sacred act that communicates love, when it grows out of emotional intimacy.
From the Church: 1. Sexual sin is too terrible to talk about. It is worse than other sins. 2. Sex is dirty.	1. Sexual sin can have serious consequences (1 Cor 6:18b "He who sins sexually, sins against his own body..."), but there is no hierarchy of sin in God's eyes (James 2:10 Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.) 2. Sex is a gift from God and it is good. Genesis 2:24-25 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame." Hebrews 13:4 Combined versions "Both honorable marriage and chastity, the marriage bed should be respected, held in high honor by all. God himself will judge the immoral and adulterers, those who traffic in the bodies of others or defile the relationship of marriage."
From my own mind: 1. I can beat this on my own. I don't need help. 2. I am fundamentally evil. I can't be helped. 3. I am not worth saving. I don't deserve help.	1. I need God's help. (I do that which I do not want to do Romans 7:14-20). 2. I can be helped by God. (Nothing can separate me from the perfect love of God. Romans 8:31-35; Hebrews 2:18) 18 Since he himself has gone through suffering, temptation and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested. 3. God loves me even in my sin. (While I was yet a sinner Christ died for me Romans 5:8).

Techniques for overcoming lust in the moment:

1. Pray for the object of my lust.
2. Pray for help casting out the lust.
3. Phone an accountability partner.
4. Avoid going places where I will be tempted (e.g. magazine rack in the supermarket, certain parts of town, certain sites on the internet).
5. Remember the object of my lust is someone's mother, daughter, sister, or wife.
6. Plan to avoid temptation.

[Link to More Resources](#)

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