



to

Can you Join Us?

Missionary Evangelism To Corrections Fall Event

Jay Coughlan -Author, Former CEO & Inmate
Speaks On

Christ's Strength Through my Weakness



Jay Coughlan

Jay Coughlan has been a CEO, an author, a national keynote speaker, and a mentor to aspiring business leaders. He is also a convicted felon, and has spent time in prison. While his business success shielded him from a relationship with Christ a personal tragedy enabled it. It was in Jays "Weakness" that he was willing to seek the love and forgiveness that only Christ can provide.

During the dark part of his life, Jay began developing a framework for dealing with the troubles that life inevitably brings. Jay uses lessons gleaned from his own missteps to help change the paths of individuals and organizations. He has combined his passion with his experience as a chief executive, creating TruBalanced™: Building Better Business Leaders and authored Five Bold Choices.

Jay is currently the Chairman of the Board at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge and utilizes his God-given gifts to help others experience the Grace he has received. Elements of his story can be heard on the CBN's 700 Club. Please come and be inspired by his story.

Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2017
6:00-8:30 p.m.
Serenity Village
Community Church
4100 Douglas Drive N
Crystal, MN 55422
Dessert & Fellowship 6-6:45 PM
Program 6:45-8:30 PM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Cost: \$15 — Register at
www.mecjailministry.com
E-mail: mec@usfamily.net or
call (651)-408-1300

Missionary Evangelism
to Corrections
is a local jail ministry.
Through 180 volunteer
ministers we put on 70
services each week that share the
gospel with 800 inmates in 16 different
jails. Attend and learn more.

Sponsors
MN Adult & Teen Challenge
Counseling Care Lake Elmo & Burnsville
Serenity Village Church



Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing: Victim(s) and I can't

Criminals, addicts, and non-criminals are subject to misfortunes and circumstances beyond their control and can blame others for their problems and lack of success. When a person uses negative situations as reasons to avoid accountability, not work out the challenges of life, blame or take advantage of others, or to do illicit activity, it hinders growth and keeps us from being the person God created us to be.

PTLH Victim(s) & I can't Cont. pg 3

July-August 2017

MEC Spotlight

Chris Lyman

Chris Lyman had a few drinks at his work at a restaurant and drove home. At a blind intersection he hit a motorcycle and the man on it died. Much of his story is in the documentary Church of Felons which we screened at Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom MN on August 25th. The specifics of how he came to Christ are not in the movie, but we/he share it here.



"My wife got me out of jail on a massive cash bond and about two days later, after inconsolable grief, guilt, fear and a long list of strong reactions to the man's death and the resulting charges, I thought suicide was the only option. I am an avid gun collector and decided that when my wife stepped out I was going to commit suicide. She was going to go into town and I don't remember much except that she turned around and came back in. Then I remember being in a cop car and ending up in the hospital.

I have kept bees for years and the average age of the beekeepers was 74. There was a younger man whose name was Kevin and I had met with him for 7 months. When I woke up in the psychiatric ward the next morning, he was in my mind and I was obsessed with meeting with him, but did not know how to find him. I told my wife; maybe you could find him through the other beekeepers.

A couple of hours later, he walked into my room. He had [what appeared to me to be] a little suitcase or shaving kit with him. As we talked he opened it up and shared some things from a book that was in it. I had been raised to learn the weight and crush of sin, [but not the answer to this]. To hear that God provided the way out [was wonderful]. I don't remember where it is, but as he shared that God will

Spotlight - Lyman cont.pg. 2

July-August Highlights

October 7th for MEC Fall Event with Jay Coughlin

Spotlight Chris Lyman

Ministry Friends Shout-Out Crossroads Chapel

PTLH—Victim(s) and I can't

Thank You to Twin Cities & National Christian Foundation and 12 Seeds

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Ministry Friends Shout Out

We know we are not alone in Ministry and each month we acknowledge another ministry

This month's shout out goes to

Kids Zone has Archery, remote control Cars Hockey and Crafts. If you or your groups would like to perform or volunteer ministering and influencing people for Christ at the state fair or other events or to see more go to

www.chapelatthefair.com

Jean Hiltner volunteer & Jordon Medrich Producer Documentary Church of Felons

A great portion of the proceeds from the movie help people from Wisconsin go to MN Adult and Teen Challenge



cast your sins into

Spotlight Lyman from page 1

the sea and the Words that God said in Psalm 103 "I will revoke, remove your sins as far as the east is from the west." Then he explained how God came to do that through Christ's atonement. God's Word never returns void, hearing it brought such peace. I never say that I found God, but that He found me. [Micah 7 with New Testament correlations talks about our sins being cast into the sea].

I was facing 35 years with initial charges. It was life changing for me and it could have been so in such a negative way. The DOC, probation and all accounts were saying I should have 5-7 years in prison minimum. I would just be getting out soon. The man's wife recommended I be able to see my family.

The judge went against all recommendations and gave me a year in the Polk county jail. I found out that Kevin was a Chaplain at the Burnett County Jail and started to do victim impact panels with him soon after that and also volunteer in Polk County and a year later in Burnet County. That has been outside the box. It has been miracle after miracle for the last 6 years. The jail ministry goes right with the Word of God, how will they hear, believe and call on Him, unless they hear? And how will they hear unless they are sent? (Romans 10) Kevin dropped everything and came to the psych unit in Cumberland to Christ with me. [Now all of this has resulted and others are now hearing about His life changing love.].

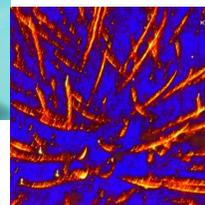


Pictures from Aug 25 Church of Felons screening

Happy 4th of July!!

Here's a link to a past article on

Freedom in Christ.



If someone else reports negative actions, and police, security or others with authority apprehend or take action, those in control can be blamed when it is the individual's actions that need to be confronted. In work or home situations when we blame circumstances or others it can hinder us and keep us from achieving goals or priorities and hinder relationship growth which we need the most.

Blame is often placed on family, institutions, natural forces, personality, environment, discrimination, the devil, the boss, or a significant relationship. In The Criminal Personality volumes, Yochelson and Samenow say that the blame is often placed when the person is apprehended or held accountable. Drug use is often blamed. Patterns of choosing wrong actions and relationships start young. The authors point to others who have equally adverse situations but find healthier ways to cope and to treat others, even those who are difficult to live with. TCP Vol.2 pg. 191-201. It is not what a person is trying to escape, but what they are going towards that is the problem. Boredom, self-pity, anger and tension could be relieved in others ways, but criminals want excitement and to violate rules. Vol. 3pg 14 More than one inmates has said the excitement of getting away with something that they should not holds more sway for them than chemicals. Often chemicals enable them to have the courage to commit acts they would not otherwise do. This energy should be funneled into doing good secretly. Matthew 6 tells us to do so.

One of the prayer requests that came in recently illustrates that responsibility cannot be pigeonholed to one area. "Today was a difficult day; it was hard to hear the pain and the abandonment these women have gone through. ... As we started into the lesson about God's love, little 18 year old Kendra burst out in tears saying she couldn't believe God could love her because He never has been there for her as she has been on her own since she was 14 living in the streets and with friends. She never learned anything about God or went to church and thinks no God would let her go through that... a couple of different women ... jumping in to share [that] they had been on their own since...ages 13 & 14. They shared how angry they were with God, but realize they are the ones responsible for where they are now. One of the women talked quite a bit about how Jesus came to save us from our sins. Most ... had tears. Again the women were honest and real and encouraged each other... the Holy Spirit was leading and it went just the way He intended it to go. Stacy spoke about feeling the demonic spirits around her and she has a pastor friend who is helping her through this. [Names changed for confidentiality].

When trying to help people see God's love can help them change, both experience and reading reflect that, at first, those who use drugs and alcohol are easier to reach. This is especially true when they can see the negative results of their use. But when the change process goes beyond stopping the use of chemicals to deeper interior changes, resistance can be strong. The goal of becoming honest, and to develop an active self-examining conscience is part of what Yochelson and Samenow's work with their clients. (Pg. 15) Change necessary to become responsible and to improve relationships take persistence and time, but is achievable.

Scripture talks about renewing the mind in order to discern, test, know and approve God's will. Galatians 5: 19-26 spells out some specifics of what needs to go and the foundation of thoughts, desires and attitudes that need to be built into our spirits. "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." Since people try to change wording to make attitudes or beliefs sound better, it may surprise you to learn more specifics about some of these words. It is worth looking up each of these individually.

Whether use of chemicals is involved or not, if from a young age learning opportunities are passed by because we cannot grasp them or are unable to perform what is needed or expected - a foundation of fear, anxiety, resentments and lack of trust needs to be uprooted. A foundation of trust and skills need to be put into place. Prejudgments, lies, anger, resentments and hurts need to be exposed to the light, confessed, cleaned out and wounds healed. Sin and temptations cannot adequately fill our hearts, minds, bodies and Spirits as The Holy Spirit can and will. He is a hope that does not disappoint. (Romans 5)

Hebrews 3 points out the necessity of encouragement. "But exhort, encourage, inquire of yourselves, warn

Proverbs 28: 13-14
Whoever
hides or conceals their
sins or transgressions
will not
prosper or succeed,
but
whoever
confesses
and forsakes
them
will find mercy.

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, but those who harden their hearts
are headed for trouble.



If you are following the Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing articles, and want a compilation of the articles so far we can e-mail it to you. Your feedback can help inmates! Share with someone who needs this. Please provide feedback for making corrections to the thoughts before it is made into a booklet.. Let us know if it is valuable and worth pursuing this.

one another every day, day after day, while or as long as it is still called “today,” so that none, not one of you may be hardened by the deception or deceitfulness of sin (and become stubborn).” (Combined versions) Some have not had much encouragement and need to learn how to ask for and accept it. If a root of bitterness has already sprung up it must be rooted out, confessed, and guarded against returning. Sometimes soaking can soften up hard ground. Sometimes soaking is tears, sometimes it is in God’s Word, fellowship, worship or prayer.

One of the attitudes that can be problematic is thinking we cannot do what we really can. Other times we really cannot do what is needed. For others, the words “I can’t” and “I need” have meanings different than the general population uses. For most people “I can’t” means that there is a legitimate reason that they cannot do what is at hand. Because criminals want to be in control they may use “I can’t” to mean I will not or don’t want to. Fear of getting caught, fear of trying, fear of not being able to do something, lacking the ability or practice of applying themselves consistently over time or just wanting something else like excitement or secrecy can be involved. The word “need” may be used to satisfy impulses, compulsion, or strong desire rather than what is necessary to survive, be healthy or thrive. While convincing others that they are victims or cannot do something, they may also convince themselves. Think carefully about how you use these words in different situations.

The solutions to being a victim and not being capable presented to us in scripture are that God can save and heal and He gives power where we do not have it. There is much that we cannot do on our own. Human nature is limited and God’s nature is strong and able, and giving. The first public message Christ shared is recorded in Matthew 5. It tells us that our needs are fulfilled through Him. Mourning, being meek, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, being merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers and being persecuted all have their fulfillment in His comfort, inheriting the earth, being filled, obtaining mercy, seeing God, being His children and inheriting the kingdom of heaven.

Paul talked about God’s response to his asking for a weakness to be removed in 2 Corinthians 10,

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”



Watch out, take care brothers and sisters, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, or wicked unbelieving heart that turns or leads you away from the living God.

But exhort, encourage, inquire of yourselves, warn one another every day, day after day, while or as long as it is still called “today,” so that none, not one of you may be hardened by the deception or deceitfulness of sin (and become stubborn).”

*For we have come to share in Christ and if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.
Hebrews 3: 12-14*



12 Seeds™

Thanks to the Twin Cities
National Christian Foundation

for their donation covering the purchase and donation of

12 Seeds books and workbooks to go into the jails,
especially for re-entry and mentoring .

The 12 Seeds books and teaching has been very well received by inmates.

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www.mecjailministry.com to sign up for the newsletter, volunteer or donate.

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