



# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

## Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing:

### *Empathy*

The characteristic that stands out as the most beneficial in many reformed individuals is Empathy. Empathy is to have understanding, being aware of and able to identify, sharing or entering into another person's condition, perspective, and frame of reference, especially their feelings or emotions. Putting yourself in another's place and understanding their perspective is a challenge to many people and the biggest hurdle to writing about it is the question of what would motivate a person to want to learn empathy if they do not already have some.



The idea that accepting God into our hearts and having Him adopt us implies that we know we have transgressed, hurt ourselves and others and that we have received forgiveness, grace, love and mercy. We must become aware of our need and come to God and others to meet

that need. Need which we found shameful or met in shameful thoughts, actions or deeds is now understood as good in that it is what draws us to God and we can accept His help. As we accept the grace, mercy and love we also accept the power to change. The Holy Spirit changes our character by His presence in us. He often continues to change it through giving us direction to serve, help, and love others. When we follow these directions, we begin to see and understand things that we were not previously aware of. The steps to changing include learning His precepts, obedience and often trials or challenges that we would otherwise avoid.

Often when we see another's need, we see it through their transgression or through the hurt they have caused and it is easier to judge or to see the correction that is needed. Many times we are aware of another person's feelings or reactions in relation to how it affects us, but not necessarily aware of how they are thinking or feeling. Provided one keeps in step with loving God, others and themselves, leaning how the other feels leads us to assisting them in healthy ways.

Without empathy a person is not aware of other's situation. Examples that Yochelson and Samenow give of reformed criminals learning empathy include ideas that are common among others. Some of them are: considering special days like

PTLH Empathy Cont. pg 2

## November 2017

### MEC Spotlight

Greetings to all in Christ; my name is Lori Hoskins and I am a "Princess of the Most High King."



In 1997 I hit my ultimate lowest point in my addiction; spending the night in the Anoka County Jail with my daughter who was 8 months pregnant. During the night my son who was in on separate charges came in as the trustee to dump the trash. That night I prayed to God to "Please help me!". My son was led to the Lord at the Anoka County Jail by a volunteer. I was still crying out to God and I felt His presence and the words, "You will never have the life you want if you continue to use." At that point the Lord took my desire to use away and recently, I celebrated my 20th year in sobriety.

There have been many battles, both amazing and heartbreakingly debilitating over these 20 years. My son and I attended church together and he did treatment at Unity Hospital. I participated with him in the family program for the first time. On April 29th 1999 he joined his Grandpa in Heaven - he "just stopped breathing in his sleep". He was sober and I am thankful for that. I made a commitment to myself that I would do whatever I could to help others in addiction to seek freedom through the Grace of God. I wanted to go to school for addiction counseling but because of my work history the state would only finance a Logistics Degree. At the age of 55 I graduated St Paul College with an associate's degree.

Celebrate Recovery has been a huge blessing for me personally and in reaching out to others. Celebrate Recovery Inside is a group of women who go into the Anoka County Work-house every Wednesday to

Spotlight Lori pg 2

## November Highlights

- Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing - Empathy
- Spotlight Lori Hoskins
- Ministry Friends Shout-Out Celebrate Recovery
- Needs for Coats and Volunteers
- Benefit for Becky Ham's family

- Pg. 1 - 3
- Pg. 1-2
- Pg. 3
- Pg.. 2
- Pg. 3

## **Ministry Friends Shout Out**

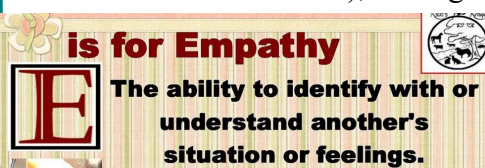
We know we are not alone in Ministry and each month we acknowledge another ministry  
This month's shout out goes to

### **Celebrate Recovery**

Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program to help people overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups.  
This recovery program is based on God's Word, the Bible.

<http://www.celebraterecovery.com/>

mother's day, considering how busy a worker is already and cannot give personal attention - or the boundaries of certain roles, considering purchases and how they affect the family or the preferences of spouse, understanding how lack of consideration in the past sets a pattern for potential reaction, not lying after making a mistake because of the ability to see it would affect others (such as the cook's mistake affecting the waitress and the customer and boss), seeing how having illicit sex af-



fecting the doctors and others that would be needed to vouch for a person in the future, both his family and the families of the other party, how a person could give a touch or kiss that was not meant to be sexual, not reacting to a janitor who reprimanded for a mess, the emotional and cost of theft on others and many others. An employee may demand more wages without understanding that the employer may not be bringing in enough income to grant it. The question one could ask themselves when things are not turning out as expected or someone is not providing what you feel you have a right to, is this; "Why do I expect that person to provide this item or service? Why am I not providing it for them?"

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.

There are near a hundred verses related to empathy when one searches the word and so we can only cover a few in this space. The greatest commandment, loving God with all our heart soul and mind and the second, loving our neighbor as ourselves, cannot be done without empathy. Among other things Romans 12 says we are members of one body, and ... should love without hypocrisy... be diligent to serve...pray...distribute to needs... [be hospitable]... Rejoice or Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep ....feed and give drink to our enemies...and overcome evil with good. Galatians 6:2-3 says we are to "Bear or share each other's burdens, and in this way fulfill or obey the law of Christ. If we think we are

PTLH Empathy cont. on pg. 3

### **Spotlight Lori** from page 1

reach those in "God's Hotel." I have been volunteering here for over 10 years.

May 2014 I lost my mother - she was a Prayer Warrior and prayed for thousands, but especially for me. Leon Janes, a fellow MEC volunteer, brought me into the Church Service Ministry that year.

Currently the Lord has blessed me training in recovery and I am now a Certified Peer Support Specialist at the Anoka County Care Treatment Program. This position is only 20 hours a week, and has given me an opportunity to work with MEC on a part-time basis. All is God's amazing design. Recently Sandy Tronson (another MEC volunteer) and I have been offering Re-Entry resources to the women at the Anoka County Workhouse and have helped over 20 women with informational resources to assist them in their entry back into their community. I am so grateful to God and all He has given me and Praise Him for all things great and small.

- ⇒ Please let us know if you have coats in good condition that inmates who are being released and need one could have
- ⇒ Need additional donations for Life Recovery Bibles
- ⇒ Need for additional volunteers to teach in the jails.
- ⇒ See benefit notice on next page for Becky Ham's family

something when we are not we deceive ourselves, or – If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.” (Combined versions) These instructions are given in the context of understanding that what we sow we will reap and emphasizing the mercy and love of Christ over the law.

We do not earn God’s love through empathy but empathy develops as a result of accepting His gifts and obeying His precepts. Perceive is the root in the word Perception. A study of the word perception reveals that if we want to see God’s perspective we observe, perceive, become aware of, come to understand, appreciate, have unified awareness or agree with Him and what He says. We gain this by being in His Word, cooperating with it.

## *Benefit for BeckyHam!*

On November 24th, Becky went home to be with the Lord. Becky has two boys, Dakota and Isaac, who are the love of her life! We are gathering together to raise funds for her family to improve their quality of life, raise their spirits and to cheer them on!

Come join us for an afternoon of fundraising, food, fellowship, friends and family! We are the hands and feet of God, doing great things for our much loved sister, Becky Ham and her family. Becky Ham went to be with the Lord. on November 24th

She was a member of Celebrate Recovery who came through MEC ministry. Her family needs help with medical expenses.

Tomorrow, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2 PM - 9 PM  
Word of Life Alliance Church  
10730 University Ave NW, Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55448

- -live entertainment with an Elvis impersonator!
- -spaghetti dinner (\$10 a plate)
- - silent auction
- -50/50 raffle
- - bake sale, please do bring a baked goodie for this if you can!

Also, if you would like to donate directly to her Crowdfunding page,

PLEASE VISIT [https://www.youcaring.com/beckyham-971126!](https://www.youcaring.com/beckyham-971126)

To contact us **call** 651-408-1300 or write PO Box 542, Wyoming MN 55092.

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**[www.mecjailministry.com](http://www.mecjailministry.com)** to sign up for the newsletter, volunteer or donate.

Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant Director. Sandy Hanson Office Administrator