



Missionary Evangelism To Corrections

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

August 31, 2012 Newsletter

W -The Word, (John 1) God Himself
O - Others and yourself
R - Relationships, righteousness
D - Deeds

The words we use are extremely important. Utmost in our minds are the words we have heard, are going to say or have said, and the words which we dwell on. God used words to communicate with us. The words we choose to dwell on and the meaning we give them, affect our decisions, actions and lives.

James, Jesus' (half) brother, tells us that the tongue is a little member set among the parts of our body. It determines our course as a bit guides a horse and the rudder, a ship. Words can burn, like a small flame can set a large fire and the wrong words can be a poison from hell. Thank God that in the same chapter, he tells us we can ask God for wisdom and He will give it liberally without upbraiding or criticizing.

Good words need to be followed by deeds and although the government limits what can be done by volunteers, providing resource information for inmates leads to meeting practical needs. Those who are going into the corrections settings are carrying out Matthew 25. We have met with over 100 inmates to provide resources and need more volunteers to help.

One of the most common concerns staff, volunteers and inmates have is what happens after release. Inmates often ask, "How can I avoid temptation?" and "Will this commitment to God stay with me?". There is enough "jailhouse religion" (external, temporary, insincere) to make this concern a real one. For years I answered these questions in general ways, but studying and memorizing James and recalling the scriptures from James through third John, address these questions more directly.

Inmates are not the only who need this. As long as we're processing information for ourselves, internalizing it, and not projecting it on others, it changes the course of our lives. One message, impressed upon me for a young man who was asking if God and Christianity were real, was this.

Asking God for wisdom, trusting Christ's mercy, using kind words and carrying out loving deeds makes Christ and Christianity a reality that would not otherwise exist and impacts our lives greatly. ~Karen Selby

MEC Spotlight

MEC Fall BANQUET

Sept 22 5-8:30pm at North Heights Church in Arden Hills, Mn

We want to see you there!

~Sherriff Richard Stanek

~Steve Gamble, music

~Testimonies, Fellowship, Inspiration

Coming up fast. Don't take MEC for granted—If you haven't signed up or invited anyone yet, please do so! If you can help call us!

Details at:

<http://www.mecjailministry.com/banquet.php>

Join us in Prayer

Don't forget to send us prayer requests for our upcoming Prayer Initiative for your city, county, sheriff's department, and local corrections settings.

Ongoing Intercessors receive about 180 requests per month but the 15-30 Days of Prayer Initiative will be special requests open to all.

Correction: The North Heights group was incorrectly reported as having served at the WCJ for 17 years. It has been 19. Some from that team were recently honored for 40 years of service at the Prison.

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