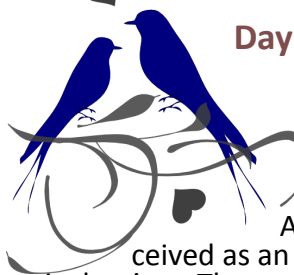




Missionary Evangelism To Corrections

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

Happy  Valentines



Day

February 28 Newsletter

Sound the Trumpet

A few years ago while praying about what to write in a newsletter, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper, "Sound the Alarm." Hesitant of being perceived as an alarmist without cause, I waited. Now is the time. The trumpet can be a call to worship or to battle.

In a CD titled "When A Nation Forgets God," Erwin Lutzer spoke about Nazi Germany and others who suffered atrocious violence. He spoke of people going to churches but without meaning, Christian symbols being removed and holidays being renamed as Winter solstice and Spring Holiday. People were accused of, incarcerated and killed for "abuse of pulpit," which only meant they spoke against the leadership and cultural trends. Government printed money for people to pay debts, laws make evil legal and language was changed to make questionable morals and values acceptable. The state outlawed home schooling and faith based schools were shut down by overregulation.

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

Save the Date

MEC Spring Event

~May 11th 2013

~6:30pm - 8:15pm

~Kim Ketola author of *Cradle my Heart*

Recently a nursing home Chaplin position was diminished, Christian symbols removed, the mission changed from sharing Christ's love to a more general one, yoga is being taught and a hypnotist was invited to speak.

In a study of Hosea, the warnings of neglecting God, turning to cultural comforts and collaborating with Egypt & Assyria sound eerily similar to what we currently see.

The paradox is that as hard as it is to receive warnings, heeding them brings life.

Working with those who are incarcerated we see so many real people coming to services who need to know the freedom Christ provides from drugs, alcohol, crime, theft, anger and deception. Our riches, unhealthy eating, media, self-deception and changing terminology can over shadow the light and love of Christ. (Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20) Trumpets, warnings and alarms need not overwhelm us. They come from God's goodness.

Trumpet continues to pg 2

MEC Spotlight

Prayer & Praise Reports!!!

Marlyn- How I want to walk in Christ again. Keep my wife and children safe. Help me with my employment when I get released and to find a good church. I want to be a better man, husband, son, brother, dad in Christ. Thank you

Qwin – I'm facing a murder case and I need whoever reads this to pray for me. I'm only 19 and I have so much to live for. I promise if I make it out of this, I'll do whatever the good Lord needs me to. I beg for forgiveness but sometimes I don't think He hears me. I won't ever give up, but I still need help. Bless you all.

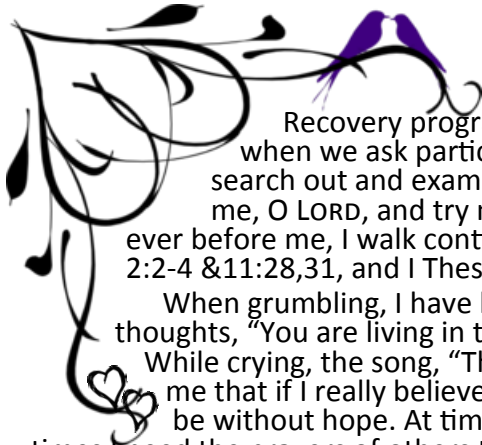
Please pray that the HOLY SPIRIT would touch unbelievers and bring all to glorify the most high God. Thanks! Please pray that the believers who still struggle with alcohol/drugs would commit themselves fully to the service of the Lord and overcome the devil's treacherous poisons. Thank you so much!

Spotlight continues to pg 2

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ~The Goodness of God Pg 2
- ~The Story of St. Valentine Pg 3
- ~MEC SpotLight- Prayer Requests Pg 1 & 2
- ~Sound the Trumpet Pg 1 & 2





Sound the Trumpet

< Trumpet from pg 1

Recovery programs reflect scriptural admonitions to examine ourselves, when we ask participants to do inventory each day (Lam. 3:40 Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord. Psalm 26:2,3 Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, I walk continually in your truth. see also Ps. 11:5, 51 & 139:23. I Cor. 2:2-4 & 11:28,31, and I Thes. 5:21.

When grumbling, I have heard the Lord speak to my thoughts, "You are living in the Promised Land, act like it." While crying, the song, "This is what we believe" convicted me that if I really believed the Lord's promise I wouldn't be without hope. At times it is between God and I and at times I need the prayers of others to clear away the hurt.

His character alone [See the Goodness of God] beckons us. Are we seeking Him with all of our hearts, Loving our neighbors, humbling ourselves, praying and standing for righteousness (Jer. 29, Matt. 22, II Chron. 7)?

Are we giving to and receiving all He has for us? Are we listening to and heeding His call and His love?

We don't earn it, but let's not forget the grace and love of God through Worship, learning, delighting in and manifesting His wonderful character, soaking in His Word, sharing it with others, and fellowshiping with other believers.

The Goodness of God

His working in our lives, His will for us, the works He has created for us to do, His work in us, purpose for us, eternal encouragement & hope in Him, the fight He has called us to, His equipping, the gifts He has given us, the fruit He produces in us, are all good.



Rom. 8:28, 12:2, Eph. 2:10, Phil. 1:6, 2:13, 2Thes. 2:16, I Tim. 1:18,19, Heb. 13:21, Jas 1:16,3:17.

Summary of List compiled in David, Seeking A Heart Like His, by Beth Moore a Lifeway Resource

ADONAI is good, & He is fair; this is why He teaches sinners the way [to live] Ps. 25:8 CJB

The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. Nah 1:7

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. John 10:11

You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes. Ps 119:68



MEC Spotlight Prayer & Praise Reports!!!

< Spotlight from pg 1

Names are changed here for confidentiality, these are samplings of actual prayers and praises from inmates & volunteers which intercessors pray for.

Ginny - Please pray for Dee (the prosecutor) my lawyer, Ann and Tim the judge. I pray that God has his hand and will in my case. I pray for you. Pray you keep the Bible study going while I'm here. I want to go to Adult/Teen MN Challenge.

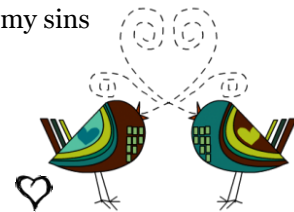
Mike - Restore my relationships, keep me on the straight path. I want prayer for the Judge too. And pray for all the volunteers' families.

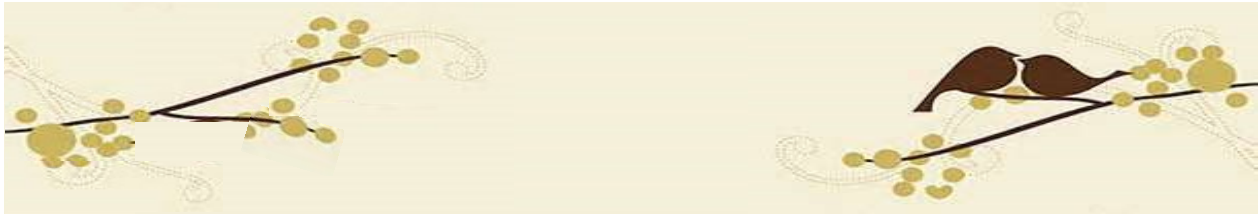
Nicky - Please pray for my children, currently in foster care, to not worry, be safe & heal emotionally.

Malinda - Please pray that I become closer to God., to continue walking with Jesus when I enter treatment, for strength to accept God's will for my life, to maintain sobriety and draw close to God.

Jim - I would love for God to be with me in court and that I keep Him first for the rest of my life. That He be with my family and loved ones, and to show mercy on me, forgive me for my sins and to give me new life. God bless!

Brian Kendall volunteer - There is a lot of error being spread among the inmates. Please pray that all the inmates would come to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and have a correct understanding of God's truth.





The Story of St. Valentine

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. The most popular martyrology associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for all Roman Citizens. Cesar Claudius asked the Roman population to join the fight against the Barbarians and very few joined. Out of anger he forbade marriages, hoping this would increase enlistment. Valentinus was also imprisoned for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire.

When he was arrested he was brought before Claudius, Valentinus not only refused to worship the Roman gods but also told Claudius about Jesus. During his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of Asterius, his jailer. Legend states that before his execution he wrote her a letter "from your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution on February 14th.

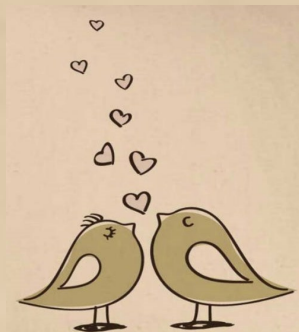
Almost 200 years after Valentinus died, a leader in the church declared February 14th to be the day Christians honor and remember the courageous life of Valentinus. This replaced the Roman holiday that celebrated the goddess Juno and the eve of the Feast of Lupercalia (Odden, C., The Story of St. Valentine, pg. 32)

Valentine's Day is more than chocolates, cards, flowers and candied hearts. It's a day we can remember Valentinus and celebrate his courage to tell the emperor about Jesus, marry couples in secret and love no other god but God alone. (ibid, pg. 38)

MEC Basic Orientation

March 7, 2013
6:30pm-9:00pm

How delightful is your **love**, ... my
bride! How much more pleasing is
your **love** than wine, and the fra-
grance of your perfume



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