



Missionary Evangelism To Corrections

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

April 30th Newsletter



GOD BLESS Mothers

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

The key word in mothering is relationship. To become a mother one must already be in a relationship. Mom is essential in creating a human being and another relationship. Our existence is due to Mothers. Every mother carries, feeds, cleans, trains, disciplines and nurtures a living being. The definition of mother is one who is pregnant, gives birth, adopts or raises a child. Mother also implies; one who creates, originates or founds something, a woman who holds a position of authority or responsibility, respect, wisdom, age, love tenderness; one who nourishes, protects, and/or watches over. (Free Dictionary by Falex)

Sometimes mothering is wonderful and sometimes painful. The announcement of Christ's coming included the admonition that a sword would pierce Miryam's (Mary's) heart. Other passages about her are; visiting Elizabeth when they were both expecting, prophecies at Yeshua's dedication, moving to protect her child's life, distress when He was missing for 3 days, His objection to her directing His first miracle, Christ telling others that those who did God's will were His mother, sister and brothers, His crucifixion, Jesus commending John to care for her, and her continuing with one accord in prayer and

APRIL 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

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supplication with the disciples, women and Jesus' brothers. (Matt. 2, 12, 26; Luke 2, 23, John 2,19; Mark 3, 15; Acts 1)

In other scriptures Jesus said that loving Him would turn some daughters and mothers against each other, that we must love or hate parents [the emotional hold that would turn us away from Him]. Christ indicated honoring our parents is as significant as not committing adultery, murdering, stealing, or giving false testimony and as loving your neighbor as yourself. In urging us to honor them, he reminded the Pharisees how important it was, even referring to the law of Moses where those who cursed their parents were put to death. (Luke. 12; Matt.19)

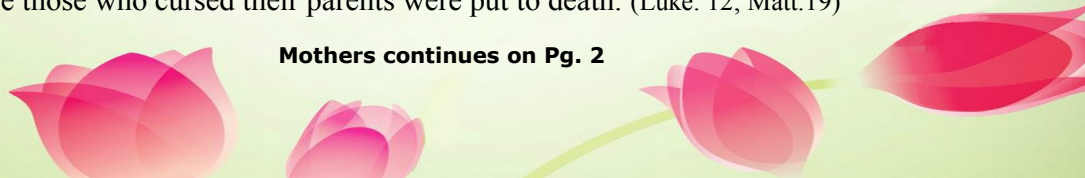
MEC Spotlight God Did That!

I knew God was calling me during a Sunday service when a letter was read from a resident at the jail sharing his appreciation for volunteers. God puts this incredible love & compassion in your heart. The Lord transformed a selfish person like me into someone who wants to make a difference & give back what the He has given us - Hope.

The first time God used the prison ministry to show me what was in my heart, I was talking with a woman in Shakopee who was very upset & in tears. Her crime was vehicular homicide. She explained how many times she has asked the family for forgiveness for killing their loved one while she was driving drunk. They refused to forgive her. I didn't know what to say. Almost paralyzed, I started praying for God to give me words to share with her. He not only gave me words for her, but He showed me the arrogance/haughtiness in my heart. I somehow thought myself better than those who ended up in jail or prison. But God reminded me I had driven my car when I shouldn't

God Did That! continues to Pg. 2

Mothers continues on Pg. 2





April Showers...

God Bless Mothers < Mother's from Pg. 1

A survey of some of the hardest things for mothers are not enough time, fatigue, knowing when a child is headed for trouble or pain, seeing them hurt, letting go, not being able to be what children needed, knowing what you did wrong, and hearing negative views or hate directed at you by ones you love, and thinking your child did not accept Christ. Hard issues children felt were feeling manipulated guilty or guilt-ed; finally accomplishing or not meeting expectations, not doing anything right, rages, and having completely different views in life.

In Biblical Times, Denying someone three times was equal to a divorce and cut off all relationship. After Peter's passionate life with Christ & triple denial, he returned to his old life. When Christ restored him, Peter was grieved that Jesus asked "Do you love me?" three times. Perhaps Christ's implying, feed my lambs, tend my sheep, and feed my sheep was a progression of discipleship and relationship. (John 21) Our mothers said, "I love you", as they fed, tended, and even as adults, nurtured us. Some are able to do so spiritually and when they can't, spiritual mothers and mentors can fill in. (Matt 12, Romans 16, 1 Thess. 2)

The best part of mothering is meeting, having and being with your child. The unconditional love of children, their hugs & smiles, bring joy. Not being alone, continuing to love through it all, learning what they teach you, when they are your friend, watching them become caring adults, seeing them grow in Christ, and for some, being Grandmothers, top the list. Children reported, unconditional love, learning what you want and do not want to do (as a mother), having fun and being friends as favorite positives.

Some have compared the Holy Spirit to a mothering role. Among the many works of the Holy Spirit, He gives strength, changes hearts, gives understanding, counsels, comforts, guides us, and brings peace, unity & truth; all characteristics we attribute to loving mothers. (Jgs. 3; Matt. 12; Lk. 24; Acts 16; Jn. 14, 15 & 16; Eph. 4; 1 Jn. 2), We must open our hearts to receive both the Holy Spirit and our mothers' love.

Please enjoy loving and honoring your mother and spiritual mothers today and this Mothers Day.

< God Did That! from Pg.

MEC Spotlight

have, and of other bad decisions which could have brought me there as well.

...There was no difference; they were just like me. I cannot share how many times God has convicted my heart and changed me as a result of being in this ministry.

The correctional officers and staff at the jail see the volunteers come in and out. They hear us speak during the classes. I've spoken to and ministered to some of the staff at the jail. Amazing how it affects so many people.

The women always shake my hand and say thank you when they leave. Everybody needs someone to show them love and kindness. Kindness and compassion bring a multitude of benefits. I think about when someone pays me a compliment, or takes time to listen to me. Most importantly, when people shared their hope in Jesus Christ, the impact has been profound.

MEC & churches who equip individuals to come in & share with the residents are wonderful. I've met volunteers that have been going in for 20+ years. Incredible people & God is behind all of it. That is what truly amazes me; hearts transformed wanting to serve. In Chaplain Dave's words "Keep on, keeping on!!!"

**See God Did That!
Pg 3!**



Spotlight Highlights

I've noticed many changes in the women that I encounter in jail during art and Bible study classes:

- Faces brighten up when you remember their names & what was shared in weeks prior.
- In bible study they ask sincere questions about basic Christian principles. I know they feel safe & not embarrassed to ask questions.
- Many ask to speak with us & share the overwhelming anxiety they are feeling.
- At times they complain about cell mates; I always use biblical principles to guide them. I've see attitudes change.

God Did That!

In Art class many women start out in frustration & lack of confidence; feeling they just can't do the task, but then something great happens:

- Other women offer their help & suggestions.
 - We walk them through the steps of the project & see confidence increase.
 - Some have crinkled up their projects in frustration & threw them out; we encourage them to start again, "Take your time. Plan it out."
 - Art motivates people to use creative & cognitive skills, what words to write in their cards.
 - Greeting card projects encourage them to reach out to their families. Sending cards, many women share their feelings & tell family members how sorry they are.
- It has a ripple effect; they think about families, & family members, especially their children are blessed by getting something personal.
 - New & undiscovered talents emerge and develop.

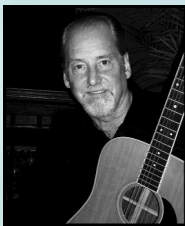
Lack of positive recreational activities is ranked as one of the highest contributors to crime. Previously, many wouldn't have considered arts/crafts as a productive way to spend time alone or with others. Reaching hearts, creatively sharing the Gospel!

MEC Spring Event

Please join us for testimonies from ex-inmates and to be inspired by author Kim Ketola (Jefferies) of Cradle My Heart. Written to encourage those hurt by abortion and equip those who want to help in the healing, her book is also great for discipleship and healing even for those who have not had an abortion.



Steve Gamble, an original member of the "Gamble Family" and prolific song writer, will be blessing us with contemporary easy listening gospel music.



May 11th, 6:30-8:30pm at Lakes Free Church, 29620
Olinda Trl, Lindstrom, MN 55045

To register & for more information; www.mecjailministry.com
or 651-408-1300

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