



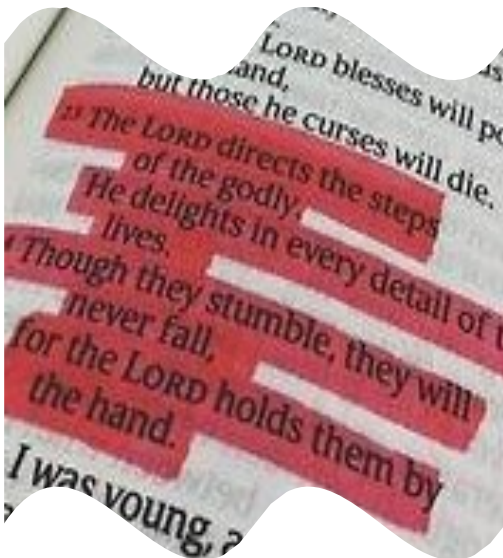
Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

God's Timing

Wondering what God is doing in your life right now?

Be encouraged by these stories involving His timing



June 30th, 2014 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

Jeanne Olerich ends 5 years with MEC

I was called to minister in the jail. I always desired to go someplace & share the gospel... foreign mission field or wherever, but it seemed unlikely. One day, in the fall of 2009, God called me to Ramsey County Correctional Facility! I often chuckled about that, I was "going" but it was only 5 miles away & I was thrilled.



The past 5 years of meeting with the women & bringing the good news of God's love has been tremendously enriching, challenging, exciting, rewarding, & delightful. One of My pastor's favorite verses encapsulates

Cont. on pg 2

The Jail Stalker

The Bible studies we led in jail did not originate with a strategic vision, proposed, refined, and set in motion amidst the sterile confines of a board room. Their origins are rooted in the messy reality that a new attendee of our church took up residence at the jail for a season. Although we did not know him well, he sent word that he would appreciate a visit. The look on his haggard face and the tears of appreciation that welled up in his tough-guy eyes were all it took for me to keep going back to the jail long after he was released and living in another state.

Jesus' words concerning God's final commendation of those who ministered in life to vulnerable

Cont. on pg 3

God's Intervention

Greg Carlson called us with an interesting story of God's intervention in his son's life.

"My church had been praying for our son to come out of addiction and to come to Christ. We had talked about him going to MN A & Teen Challenge but my son & ex-wife had refused to consider it because he did not want to go for 13 months.

One evening I was with

Cont. on pg 4



June Highlights

- The Jail Stalker*pg 1 & 3
- MEC Spotlight -Jeanne Olerich*.....pg 1 & 2
- God's Intervention*.....pg 1 & 4
- Ministry Friends*.....pg 2
- Welcome Joanne Crosby*.....pg 2
- Birds & Flowers of the Fields*.....pg 4



my time with the women in the jail. Philemon 6. "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." As I was active in sharing my faith, I grew more & more gaining a fuller understanding of every good thing I have in Christ. I am not sure if that can occur if we keep our faith to ourselves.

- I grasped a deeper understanding of the love of God for me.
- I trusted Him more, I saw His hand moving everywhere, I felt His presence more deeply. My joy in the Lord increased.

His peace engulfed me.

- I walked closer to Him & held on more tightly & knew He held me even tighter.
- I grew bolder in sharing.... 1 Peter: 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness & respect." I grew in my ability to share with others in the jail & outside the jail, giving them the reason for the hope I have, with gentleness & respect, & now - naturally & with ease.

I could go on ...with all that I reaped from sharing my simple faith in Christ each week. I hope & pray that they gained as well & that my Lord Jesus was honored & exalted.

I am sorry to leave the jail ministry. However I feel God calling me out just as He had called me in. Why is that? I am not sure. But I have learned to listen to His voice & to obey Him, to trust Him. For I love Him with all my heart & I want my will to be His will.

I have indeed gained a fuller understanding & hope to continue to gain even a fuller understanding of every good thing I have in Christ over the next years & to be able to share Him with others, wherever He calls me.

Blessings to you, *Jeanne*

Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in Kingdom work. This month we salute

Hiding, Hurting & Healing & Out of the Shadows

see <http://www.hidinghurtinghealing.com>

See our website for more resources.

Welcome Joanne

Joanne Crosby will be ministering at RCCF (LW) with Gwynder and Jeanne, taking temporarily Jeanne's place at the end of the summer. Her favorite scripture is Ephesians 1:17-21. Paraphrased it says "Paul is praying that the eyes of our understanding might be opened and that we might know what is the hope of His calling, the richness of His inheritance in the saints, and the greatness of His power which he demonstrated when He raised Jesus from the dead."



Joanne has a gift of teaching and ministering, speaks from the heart and knows how to work with hurting people. She created and ministers through "Hiding, Hurting, Healing" a Biblically-based program for women who are seeking healing, from difficult relationships &/or abuse and the follow-up program "Out of the Shadows."

See pg. 3 for more news

people “I was in prison and you came to me” (Matthew 25:36) took on new meaning:

Those receiving this divine accreditation are incredulous: “When did we see you sick or in prison?” they ask. (25:39). “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me’” (25:40).

Our ministry to these marginalized members of society is far from a one-way extension of mercy. As is standard in Christ’s kingdom, those who give much receive more. Any aid we render to inmates is paid back many times over in lessons learned and skin-tingling evidences that God stalks the darkest recesses of our world.

When I had passed this responsibility largely into Paul’s capable hands and he asked me to lead the jail study in his absence. I readily agreed. As the day approached, I found myself overwhelmed with an atypical docket of responsibilities. It seemed wisest to skip and best for Paul to simply pick up where he had left off. No one would miss one study.

Working feverishly in my office, I grew increasingly uneasy and sensed a strong compulsion to set my duties aside and go to the jail. Forgetting the curriculum left no opportunity to ask inmates where Paul had left off. If you are counting that is the third providential roadblock to the topic that would have been taught on that day.

The hardest part was determining which passage of the Bible to teach. It’s a big book. On that short drive I landed on Genesis 4. ...

A sizeable group of men joined the study that day. For an entire hour I unpacked Genesis 4: Cain’s attempt to worship God on his own terms; God’s patient rebuke and call to repentance; Cain’s downward spiral of rejecting God’s counsel, eventuating in the murder of his righteous brother, Abel. I explained at length that we must all worship God on his terms, trusting in the sacrificial death of the ultimate Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (John 1:29; 1 Peter 2:24-25). We must turn from our sins, run to God for forgiveness, and seek reconciliation with him and identity with his persecuted people (Colossians 1:21-22).

The man directly across the table from me sat in total silence for the entire hour. When I finished, he confessed that he knew almost nothing about God or the Bible, but in jail, he concluded it was high time to seek the Lord, so had begun to read the Bible. Coming to Genesis 4, but he could make no sense of it. In his



confusion, he sought out a fellow inmate who told him about the scheduled study.

At the moment the man now sitting across from me learned that a Bible study would be held—the study I had determined to skip and for which another topic was scheduled—no one in the universe knew the passage of study would be Genesis 4. No one, that is, but the King—the King who stalks jails and rejoices to free prisoners everywhere from the chains of sin and death that bind them.

~ Adapted from an article written by Dan Miller



The grass withers,
the flowers fade,
but the word of our God
remains forever.
Isaiah 40:8

Bird, Flower & water photos taken by Karen S,
Newsletter designed by Karen & Sandy H

God's Intervention

Cont. from pg. 1

them and our son had lost his car. His mother was trying to help him get it back. I'm fuming, sitting there in a chair, thinking that the last thing we need to do is get his car back – what we need, is to get him some help.

Our son wanted her to call his buddy to find out where the car was. He called out the number with the wrong prefix. When my wife dialed she reached MEC. Confused, she asked what we did. When Karen explained what MEC does, my wife said, "Maybe you can help us." After she shared the need Karen explained that Saul works at MNATC with the short term programs.

My ex-wife called MNATC and our son got into the short term program and eventually chose the long term. Greg called to tell us about God's intervention and Corey's graduation. "Congratulation's to Corey on your graduation and continuing recovery.



"Learn how the wildflowers of the field grow: they don't labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these! If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't He do much more for you—you of little faith?" Matt. 6:28b-30

In the rush and busyness of summer,

please take a moment to consider a gift to MEC.

4
God's timing is harder to understand when the trials are strong, Dealing with several, one of them a recent call about a friend's son who overdosed, brings me to seeking God's presence. Susan Lenzen has six devotionals. This from [Life is Like Licking Honey Off of a Thorn.](#)

"If trust and love required full understanding, children would never love their parents."



"Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. But even the hairs of your head have all been counted." Matt. 10:28-30

"This is why I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?" Matt. 6:25-26

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us at mec@usfamily.net with REMOVE in the subject line, call 651-408-1300 or write PO 542, Wyoming MN 55092.

Please visit our website to see how you can support MEC. Donate through PayPal or help by doing some of your shopping through links on the website without spending any extra. Visit —

www.mecjailministry.com

Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant Director, Dori Benson & Sandy Hanson Office Administrators