



# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

*Sharing the gospel & Christ's love*

*with those in corrections since 1982*

## God's Messages

Today I am sharing many of the ways God has been working in & communicating to me over the past 7 years.

As many of you know, 7 and a half years ago, I attempted to kill myself and my husband. Through God's grace (even the judge at my sentencing recognized this) I was unsuccessful. While in jail God immediately started working on me. In segregation, I only wanted to die & knew I was far past any forgiveness; I did pray for my husband. I tried to find words to pray & struggled to remember the Lord's Prayer. Christ was suddenly there & told me to "Look up, you have been forgiven." This began my return to Christ Jesus. Before I ever knew of MEC I was feeling the effects of the intercessors' prayers.

While in jail & awaiting sentencing, a new guard was curious about my story & I shared it with him. He shared that he was a Christian. We discussed that I had no idea where I would be going at sentencing – it could be Shakopee women's prison for 15 years, release on probation or something else entirely. It was all in the hands of the judge – and God.

The guard left at the end of his shift. A couple days later he called me over to tell me God put it on his heart to pray for me & had given him a message for me. It was, "God will be with you wherever you go." At first, I thought, this was nice & of course God does promise to be with us throughout the Bible. As I thought about it more, I realized this was a very specific promise given to me by God through one of His sons. I had the assurance God would be with me no matter what the outcome to my sentencing. God would be with me where ever I go. It was true at my sentencing and it was true when I returned home to my husband, even

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## February 28th, 2015 Newsletter

## MEC Spotlight



Bill Hoffman and Dan Luke

We would like to congratulate Dan Luke on his retirement from Washington County. Dan has acted as program director and coordinated the programming, providing service times for and orienting volunteers to the jail since MEC became involved in Washington County in 1982. His role of supervising staff and volunteers has been challenging and rewarding. It has been a blessing to work with him and we anticipate continuing work with the current program staff WCJ.

### Ministry Friends

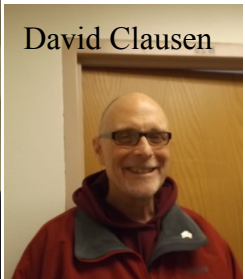
We know that we are not alone in Kingdom work. This month we salute Here's Life Inner Cities <http://www.hlictwincities.org/> Serving and mobilizing the church to minister to the poor so all can grow in Christ and spiritually multiply. see MEC's website for more resources

## February Highlights

Pictures from Anoka County PREA training.....Pg. 2 & 3  
MEC Spotlight on Dan Luke.....Pg. 1  
God's Messages.....Pg. 1 & 4



Keith Kottke



David Clausen



Debbi Nelson



Bob & Susan Stiles



Mary & Christian Zelin



Doug Rogers



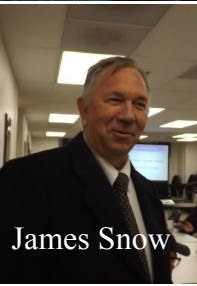
Leon Jaynes



Dale & Gen Jacobson



Cindy Harris



James Snow



Josh Carlson



Ronalee & Todd



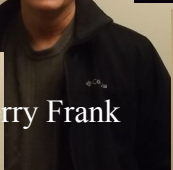
Johantgen



Rob & Jennifer Skime



Jerry Frank



Sandy & Greg



Tim Winn



Jim Carr



Mindy Martinez



Matt Goers



Tronson



Audrey & Ron Misuira



Sir Doctor



Phil Schipper



Heather Butterfield



John Bremseth



Dennis Nicholson



Keith Domino



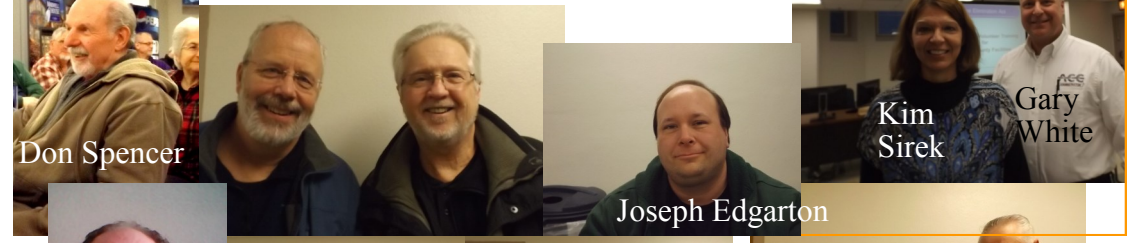
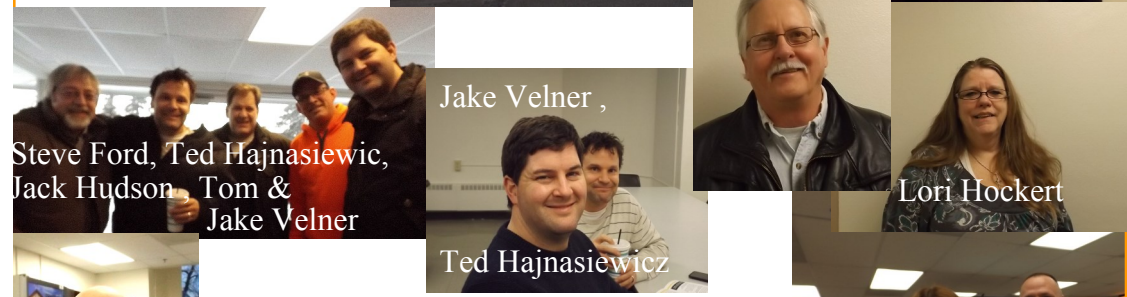
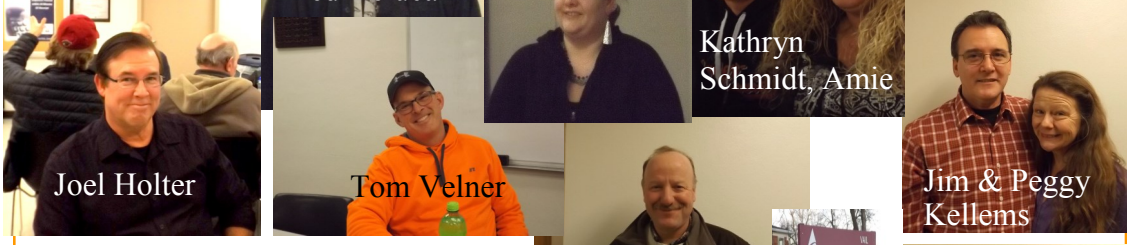
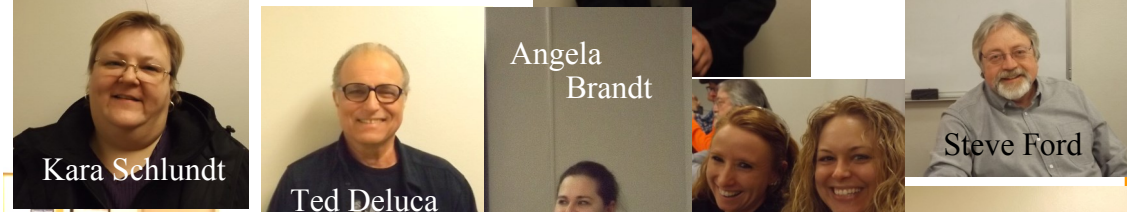
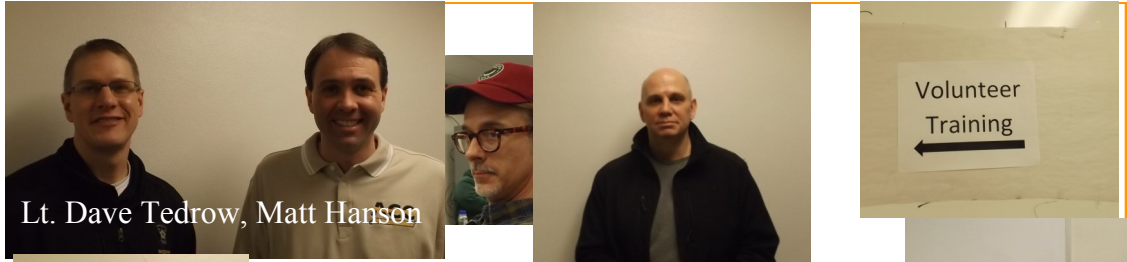
Paul Hunkins, Mike Cocherell



Nancy Ernewein



Brandon Swanson, Keith & Grant Hedges



though he died just a few hours later. God was there comforting me and bringing around people from MEC to support and carry me through that hard time.

Before I became a widow, on my way home from jail, I met a woman at a bus stop. It was her birthday. She was friendly & interested in everything going on around us. She talked of her daughter & said “‘we’ used to do these things together” – I thought, “here is a widow and this is what widowhood is like. She was making the best of her day alone.” As I left I wished her a happy birthday. **I thought how kind and Christian, what a blessing I had been, to be friendly to this stranger.** Little did I know that God was using this chance encounter to prepare me for what lay ahead. **I took away a picture of what life after the death of a spouse could be like.** A pastor pointed out to me that it wasn’t one or the other, but both – that marvelous economy of God ministering to both of us, widow and widow-to-be.

God was with me at the homeless shelter I went to after my husband’s death. I had a



little radio with earbuds & listened to KTIS 24/7. One morning I took out the earbuds to dress. In that moment of quiet I heard a voice, “You will be provided for.” I was astonished and wondered at hearing this voice. As the day progressed I pondered on this. I was in a shelter working with RISE to find an apartment that would accept a felon and I was in danger of being kicked out. But, I heard the words of God – “You will be provided for.”

In a few days RISE found an apartment that I was able to move into. My truck worked for the move and then broke down. Residents helped me push it and I was able to get it repaired and operative at the end of the month when someone volunteered to put in a new starter. I was able to live on the \$200 a month of general assistance from Anoka County. I was able to do my community service at MEC. When I applied for certain benefits I was awarded them on the first application – which rarely happens. When my truck broke down my Bible study group went together to buy me a different vehicle – my blessing mobile – which I drive to this day. When I had to move from the RISE apartment God showed me three choices & guided me to my current home. I fought living there for four years, but now because the city bought the building, I will receive down payment assistance to buy a condo.

God provided in ways I cannot imagine. Ephesians 3:20-21 says it best – “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (NIV)

None of this is because I deserve it—I deserve to be in prison or dead—this is all to the glory of God and because of His grace.

*Sandy Hanson*

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