



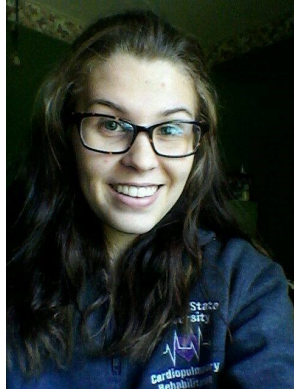
Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

Welcome Anya Waskey!

Greetings MEC Friends,

My name is Anya Waskey, I am new, within the past month, to MEC. I am working in the office once a week and will continue until I go back to school in the fall. I am entering my final year at Winona State University; & will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation. My favorite part of this is doing lab work. Summer/fall of 2016 I hope to be using my skills in cardiac to do missions at a hospital in Africa. Currently, I am in leadership with InterVarsity and lead a Bible study in my dorm hall. I love making the gospel known to others (letting others know the greatness of our Lord, Jesus Christ), reiterating the Gospel to others and reminding myself.



A little more about myself, I have 5 siblings; my entire family is very close. I enjoy running, hiking, swing dancing, rock climbing and canoeing (really anything active and outdoors). I enjoy sitting around a camp fire and long walks with my friends, I like drinking tea and occasionally doing some baking/cooking.

June 30th, 2015 Newsletter

Growing Spiritually Freedom & Love

When Nicodemus met with Jesus, many think that he went at night because he feared the other Pharisees. I also think that it was a time when he could talk about what was on his heart and ask the deeper questions that surface when the work for the day is done and it is quiet. When Christ told him that we need to be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God, he wanted a deeper understanding.

Being born involves
Cont. Pg. 4

MEC Spotlight RCCF Service



Lori, Debbie Lee, Gwynder, JoAnne, and Ann, coordinate together to lead a woman's service at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility in Maplewood/St Paul. All of the individuals in this dynamic group have such a heart for the women they minister to.



Lori Michalski accepted Christ's invitation in 1990. She has taught Sunday School and Release time classes in the public school. She is an RN, has a degree in Psychology, with an emphasis on criminal justice, and loves volunteering. Her gifts are organizing, bringing people together, creativity, seeing people's situations with an open heart and encouragement.

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“We go in with a topic and the scripture and the Holy Spirit shows up, provides a covering, and takes over. There are a lot of women seeking prayers for forgiveness. The conversations get to the heart and resonate. Even if there is a little disagreement between the women, it gets resolved. God shows up; He gives back a blessing when we give our time. The women love to sing, and we do a meditative song. IBG (International Bible Givers) is wonderful. When they provide recovery and other Bibles, it is huge. They have so much information that is helpful to them.”



Debbie Lee opened her eyes and heart to Jesus in her early twenties, at an Amway business meeting, and has been growing - knowing He loves her wholly, and wants others to be His children also. She cares deeply for her family, and due to her daughter being in an accident, she has a special place in her heart for those with handicaps. “Her gifts are mercy, exhortation and compassion.” She shares that “It is my prayer that while the women are in the facility they begin or continue a relationship with Jesus that would give them hope for the future. They really appreciate having individual prayer, and we teach and encourage them to pray together to develop an ongoing pattern of sharing their concerns, [being grateful and

giving thanks. We have seen some significant help and deliverance when praying with them]. They do face harassment from the ones who are there and are negative.

Gwynder Robinson accepted Christ in a parking lot and then grew greatly in her faith through the Word and attending church. She raised her children as a single mother for over 25 years, until the Lord connected her with her spouse Bob. Romans 12:1 and Isaiah 54:17 have encouraged her with family and job responsibilities for over 35 years. She has the gift of wisdom, mercy and teaching.



Here are her thoughts about ministering at RCCF. “What stands out the most is the brokenness of the women, the need to be loved and the forgiveness they need for themselves, those they have been hurt by and those they have hurt. The lack of support is significant; some do not even know where they are going to go when they are released. It is a deep cry for hope. They need to come to know the LORD in order to be able to make it. I have such a love from the LORD for them. Even though I have been doing it for a number of years, I cannot say no, it is a God ordained calling, to give hope for the LORD so they can have a [good] future.



Ann Paulson relies on Phil 4:13 and Romans 8:28. “Both of those verses remind me that I am not in control, God is.” Her references described her as having “knowledge, leadership, discernment, empathy and encouragement. She can work with those with mental illness, tough personalities or different ethnic backgrounds.” She shares, “the women we minister to are in such need. Many of them are looking to better themselves and be better in life, and they are coming to realize that the only way they can do this is with God’s help. It is an honor to be able to share God’s love with them. A few of them are only there to kill time, but most are interested. When someone says, I am back to reading the Bible every day, you just rejoice with them. The RCCF is

well run, providing much and trying to offer them a lot. Going as volunteers we are welcomed, and not treated as a bother. “



JoAnne Crosby was highlighted in the June 2014 MEC newsletter. She continues to direct the ministry, “Hiding Hurting Healing which hosts three classes for hurting women. (see www.hidinghurtinghealing.com) She shares, “It is very gratifying to see how open the women at RCCF are. I was not raised with the Bible or in church but when I prayed the salvation prayer with Billy Graham, my life was changed. I always ask them not to pray unless they are sincere, but [many of them] want to pray for salvation. In one meeting 7 of them prayed. I love to see those who grow in their faith. Sarina is one who grew by leaps and bounds. Someone else taught a class on forgiveness, and it was a real breakthrough. When she shared it with us, you could see how big of a difference it made. Rehanne (names changed) is another. Every time I go she is reading the Bible and asking questions. Coordinating with the other volunteers was a challenge at first but it works out good.”

These women are an inspiration to many as they live their lives having encountered pain and sharing the healing help and strength God provides, in His love, K.S.

Note: Strengths and gifting of individuals noted are taken from volunteers references at the time of their applications.)

Ministry Friends
 We know that we are not alone
 in kingdom work.
 This month we salute
InterVarsity
 IV is a campus ministry that establishes
 and advances at colleges and universities
 witnessing communities of students and
 faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and
 Lord: growing in love for God, God's
 word, God's people of every ethnicity and
 culture and God's purposes in the world.
www.intervarsity.org

Spirit Growth, from pg 1 some growth which has already taken place, and a life of further growth and development. Knowing that Spiritual development is a process gives us hope when we are feeling disoriented and need to know we can grow. Some of the characteristics involved in process and development are that it happens, it is orderly, it is messy, and it needs to be tended. Our spiritual development is affected by choices we make, especially around relationships with peer's authority. We can help to determine if our development stalls or grows. We all grow and progress in some way positive or negative. Tending to God's word and our relationship with him and others, determines what we progress toward.

As a child is born and grows, physical, emotional, and spiritual development happens. After being born again, our spirits grow and progress. If we miss some elements, like learning scripture or participating in teaching relationships, it is like a child that misses learning certain skills. Even though something is missed at a time of key development it does not mean it cannot be learned, but it takes a focused concentration and ongoing effort to learn it later. Although there is some order to development, it also involves some variations; no one progresses exactly as another. This is one reason for us to look at the log in our eyes before helping another remove a speck (Matthew 7:3).

The choices we make with relationships affect what we will spend our time on. Do we have friends that will encourage spiritual growth or are we busy with other pursuits that may lead us to neglect spiritual growth? Are we willing to ask friends to make the right choices or to be challenged by them? (James 1:19 & 1:22) There is a cost or risk in doing so, but hopefully our words and manner will make this easier, and the risk involved will be worth the growth of closeness that results from sharing in suffering and leaning.

Speaking of being challenged, that is our response to friends, family members or authority asking us to do something? What if that request is not convenient or costs you something? Certainly the requests of Christ are challenging. Leaving all, putting God first and others at the same level as yourself, taking up your cross and following, are ones that can stall our development. The one who heeds (gives thought to, understands the matter) the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. (Proverbs 16:20). Understanding Jesus qualified to buy our freedom from sin and bondage. Grasping that He did it, getting to know Him personally, letting His love permeate our hearts and knowing that His yoke is easy and His burden fits us will help us grow in freedom and love. (1Jn 4:16, Mtt. 11:30)



Photo by Karen Selby

Scripture, Worship, Prayer, Fellowship and Service are some key areas that help us with Spiritual development. Participating in them without opening our hearts to take in God's love would lead to legalistic squelching or death of our spirits. Working towards Understanding who God is, what His character is like, how much He loves us and who He says we are, allows us to know Him and grow in love for Him and others. (Jer. 29:13, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27)

Scripture listed in this article are not quotes, but references.

In His Love,
Karen Selby

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