



# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

*Sharing the gospel & Christ's love*

*with those in corrections since 1982*

## MEC's Fall Event

Saturday, October 1st

6 pm—8:30 pm

This year the event will be at

**Serenity Village  
Community Church**  
4100 Douglas Dr N  
Crystal, MN 55422

**Reuben David will speak on  
"World Events,  
Spiritual Warfare and  
Evangelism"**

See our Facebook and download flyer at  
<http://www.mecjailministry.com/>

**August 31, 2016  
Newsletter**

## MEC Spotlight



### Eloise Schmalz

Eloise Schmalz, and her late husband Loren, have supported MEC for years. Eloise ministered to women at the Anoka County

medium security program for 3-4 years before it closed in 2009. When she is asked about the time that she did jail ministry with the women at Lino Lakes, Eloise says, "It was just so joyful. I just liked to see the change in the people after they learned about the Word. I remember when I came

Spotlight Eloise Continued on . pg 2

### Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing *Concrete or Abstract Thinking*

One of the patterns identified with criminal and addictive thinking shows a higher level of concrete thinking in those that are experiencing problems. Concrete thinking is about

specific situations or what can be seen right in front of a person. Abstract thinking generalizes or forms concepts, general ideas or understandings. It can solve related problems and transfer principles from one situation to another. Here is a link that defines the differences. [http://www.mecjailministry.com/newsletter/Concrete\\_Abstract\\_Thinking\\_chart.pdf](http://www.mecjailministry.com/newsletter/Concrete_Abstract_Thinking_chart.pdf)

Concrete thinking does not always lead to more sin because children before age 10 or 11 tend to think concretely and Proverbs 20:11 says, "Even a young man is known by his actions-- if his behavior is pure and upright." But gaining abstract thinking skills can help one increase in wisdom, overcome temptation, achievement and better relationships. How can this be done?

Start by recognizing it is an area that you need to grow in and give yourself the benefit that you can learn. If others have labeled you or put you in a box that defines you as limited or unable to think beyond what is in front of you, it is easy to give up hope. Realize that you have the capability to develop deeper understandings and it is worth investing the time and the energy. The frontal cortex of the brain is the part that carries out mental processes such as thinking, decision making, and planning. (The

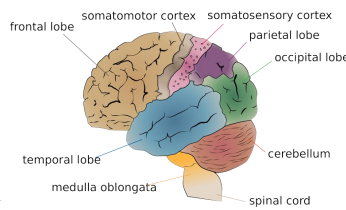
Please send feedback. PT&TLH is a series which we are hoping can be printed to give to inmates and others to help with spiritual growth and transformation which God's Word provides.

Concrete vs Abstract thinking pg 2

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Paul & Karen Beaumont resign to full time ministry		Pg 3

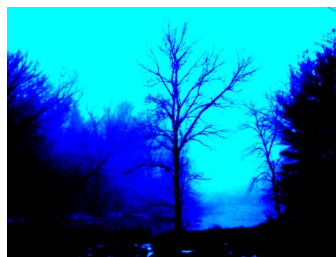
Brain Made Simple – web) This can be damaged or limited with alcohol, chemical use or lack of the right stimulation and input as a person is growing up. But, for most people, these areas can heal and new pathways can be developed.



Those who have criminal and addictive thinking are often thought of as limited but development in other areas shows this is not the case. Areas that have been developed may not contribute to positive relationships. Time spent trying to impress others can take time that is needed to experience and learn new things which helps prepare for the future. The family, people in authority, coworkers, and church and community members need to be viewed as individuals who you can get along with and some are ones you can get to know and trust. If they are viewed mostly as people who give or do not give what you want, or are only to help you accomplish what you aim for, then relationships are thwarted.

A sense of right and wrong needs to come from God and others and needs to be internalized. If you decide on your own what is right or wrong, that view will change with circumstances, Crossing the wrong boundaries to get what you want and forgetting for the time what is right or wrong is what leads to problems. If you learn what is right and wrong and apply it to others but consider that your cases are exceptions, or only do what is right when you are made to do so - then you thwart the relationships that you need.

Areas that need to be worked on and developed are integrity, honesty, reliability, morals, compassion, relationships, understanding. Finding a mentor, sponsor, counselor, spiritual advisor or someone that you can confess to and find encouragement from is one of the strongest pieces. Who you trust and who trusts you are more important than any accomplishment.



*Abstract Tree by karen selby*

There are several ways that one can work on these areas. One is to ask God for wisdom. Proverbs 2:2-4 says, “Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;...” In Psalms 25 David says, “Make

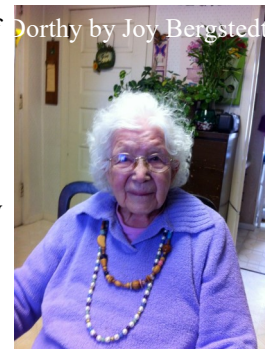
back to minister and there were some of the same people there they had joy. It also helped me grow in my faith because I was more alert to people who needed help, to hear verses from the Bible and [receive] comfort.

Eloise is still a strong prayer partner for MEC. She reflects, “[When I did the studies,] Largely God would give me the lessons to share and prayers at the end. Just because I am not going into the jail it is still important to keep praying for those that need it. I like to read the comments of the volunteers and I pray extra for those that do not have anything to pray about.”

It is a joy and a privilege to have Eloise be with us at MEC and to spotlight her this month.

Photo of Dorothy by Joy Bergstedt

Dorothy Berntson At age 101, nearing 102 years Dorothy Berntson loves Jesus. When she was asked



what she would like to have you know about her she said, “Someone was once asked what their theme for life was and they replied ‘Jesus Loves Me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.’ So, years ago, I decide I could take that [for myself].” Dorothy taught school for many years. She loves children and loves to seeing them learn. She believes deeply in prayer. She receives the prayer letter each month and faithfully prays for inmates, MEC & jail staff and volunteers.



Paul Beaumont



Barb Stampley,  
Karen Beaumont

"Paul and I have had a great time with the men and women at the Scott County facility. Staff were so kind and helpful the entire time we were there. It was a great learning experience, as well. Learning how to meet the spiritual needs of those incarcerated was a challenge and a blessing; reaching those whose hearts were wounded and hardened by life's experiences was rewarding and heart rendering, and we will miss them. We encourage people to set aside their preconceived ideas and go into any facility with open hearts and minds to meet these lovely friends of ours. They might be surprised at the openness of those to whom they will minister; more importantly, they will be ministered to as they reach out to others."

Karen and Paul Beaumont have volunteered for several years and at this time in their lives they are going to pursue full time ministry

**Ministry Friends Shout Out**

We know that we are not alone in ministry, this month's shout out is to  
**National Christian Foundation**  
They have given MEC \$1,800 towards 12 Seeds Books in April and \$3,000 towards 12 Seeds Workbooks in August. These are being used for inmates in the reentry program, for correctional libraries and by request  
<https://www.twincitiesnationalchristian.com/>

me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day." (NASB) He states that those who wait on God will not be disgraced. James 1:5 says if we ask God and do not doubt, He will give us wisdom

Here are some other thoughts adapted from the web (see link at beginning of article) that can help you develop deeper thinking. Searching for positive explanations to your why and how questions, looking for analogies, alternative perspectives, different ways to organize and remember information, evaluating situations and drawing inferences such as, if this is true than what else must be true or related.

Scrutinize your thinking process. Where are the thoughts coming from? What do those thoughts lead to? Pay attention not only to what are the consequences but what should be the consequences. Do grace, mercy and kindness lead to you to think, I can get by with this or does it lead to repentance. Are you continuing to give in or face off with the temptation or are you turning from it. Accept the great exchange of sin for grace, mercy, the desire and power to do and be right. If people want to boast, they should boast about this: They should boast that they understand and know Me. They should boast that they know and understand that I, the LORD, act out of faithfulness, fairness, and justice in the earth and that I desire people to do these things," says the LORD. (Jer. 9:24 NET)

These are the things that will lead to love.



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[www.mecjailministry.com](http://www.mecjailministry.com) to sign up for the newsletter, volunteer or donate.  
Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant D. Sandy Hanson Office Admin.