

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

with those in corrections since 1982

October 31, 2016 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

A special **Thank You** to everyone who attended & contributed to our Fall Event. Many helped to make the evening a success.



Mark & Sue Deiman

More on pg. 4

Let us know if you would like a cd of the event.

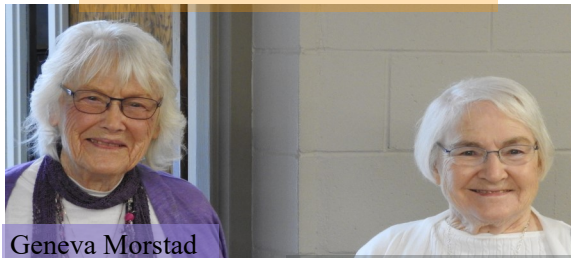
My name is Kaylyn Knopp. I am a 34 year old mother of 2 beautiful children. I am a grateful believer in recovery but just a few years ago I sat in a jail cell lost, broken, hopeless and alone. That is when God had the opportunity to start to break back into my hardened heart.



After a 13 year addiction to drugs and specifically alcohol, I was sentenced to 3 months in jail at the Hennepin County Workhouse after my 3rd DUI. I had spent a few nights in jail over the years, never more than a few days though. I was scared. I was going to have to leave my job and kids to do my time.

I grew up in a big Christian family but alcohol and sin had me very distant from God. The father of my children had

Spotlight Continued on . pg 2



Geneva Morstad

MEC intercessor

Mary Crouse volunteers for mailings & events. You may have even have received a call from her!

Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing:

Unique Loners

Even as criminal and addictive thinking are extremes, they can sometimes indicate ideas that are somewhat correct but still off. Looking at these patterns can help us see areas we need corrected or help us rejoice in what God is already doing.

Thinking of ourselves as totally unique and different from others is good if we see it the way David saw it in Psalms 139. In criminal and addictive thinking, a person considers themselves different from family and peers, searches for others like themselves and refuses to trust or get involved with responsible people and activities. Shutting others out and having secrets, claiming others do not understand them, closing channels for communication, and self-imposed isolation keep others at a distance. As opposed to the belief that we/they have not been loved which seems necessary to convey to others, they "deprive parents [or others] the chance to love." Looking down on classmates, co-workers, or other group members, criminals think that they can do the job better even without training. It is very uncomfortable to admit that they do not know something or that they are wrong. Laws and rules are not for them, but should be made

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October Highlights

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by them. Believing they should not suffer and any advice is irritating, angry indignation results if restrictions, consequences or correction are given to them.

Although they may separate himself from responsible people, interactions with others, especially criminals, or those they want something from, can be very engaging. People are divided into those who are for them or against them. Those who are for him are those who know or help him, or those who do not know much of his thinking or activities and still trust him. Those who are against him or her are those who placed boundaries and/or limitations which thwart goals or desires, or who expect accountability.

Sharing openly is viewed as vulnerability and may allow others to control, expose, oppose or interfere with his/her goals. Groups become a place where he can tell others what to do, use or exploit others, achieve power, participate in crime or build up their opinion of themselves. Common interests may be pursued for scoring points with authorities who gauge socialization, be short term, or be used to enter relationships that can later be taken advantage of. The basis of relationships is possession or control of another person or the advantage that having a relationship with the other person provides, not companionship itself.



K. Selby

The meanings of words are different from what healthy relationships reflect. To say he likes someone "usually means he is deriving some benefit that serves his needs, building him up, recognizing talents or knowledge and admiring his association in crime. Love means that someone totally accepts him or her with no boundaries or expectations" or that the other person does as he desires. (Samenow 328) Loving others in a true sense is not sought out. That would mean trusting and giving up some control.

Sentimentality towards elderly, babies, those who do what he wants or those who do not have any control over this individual can be strong and provide feelings of love. Not expressing these and

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Spotlight Kaylyn Knopp from page 1

kicked me out to the street after my last DUI and he was fighting to take away my custody. My going into jail was the perfect opportunity for him to do this once and for all.

During my time in jail I looked forward to the volunteers that would come and speak to us about the Word of God. One time in particular this woman asked if she could pray for me. I gave her my request and broke down. I told her that I didn't want to lose my children. I told her that I was scared to lose the gift that was given to me to be their mother. She was so kind and she prayed for me that day. She prayed to God that my children would remain with me. And they did.

I felt so distant from God that I didn't believe He was listening to my prayers anymore but I truly believed that He was listening to hers. This gave me hope - the hope that I needed to get through my time in jail and make the decision to go to MN Adult and Teen Challenge.

This changed my life. I took the seed of hope and love that was planted in me in that jail and let it grow. My life has never been the same.

Now, I work for an amazing ministry helping women in crisis pregnancies and abortion recovery. I run 2 ministries feeding the homeless on the streets of Minneapolis and in a homeless shelter. We serve a TON of food to people suffering out there every week. I volunteer and mentor women at MNT. The best part is that I get to do all of this with my 2 best friends - Grace and Sam, and they love Jesus and love to serve the Lord with all of their hearts. I get to be the mother that God intended me to be. I am forever grateful and the Lord has blessed me beyond words.

All because someone extended that love to me. When no one else on this earth believed that I should have my children, she did: and most importantly, God did.

the vulnerability of being close keeps the relationships from developing. Criminals can be affable, congenial and humorous but knowing themselves to be untrustworthy keeps them from trusting others. “The criminal lives His life without truly knowing another person... Always seeking, satisfied only for short periods of time, and control are issues. True warmth and companionship is missing. Secrecy and belief in their uniqueness causes the inability to trust.” (Samenow & Yochelson paraphrase)

Recognizing these characteristics or tendencies is convicting, and begs change. What are the solutions in God’s Word?

God is good and He has created us individually. Each one of us and you in particular, as one of His works are great! (Ps. 139). Our uniqueness is meant to help us see His creativity and the differing gifts He gives us. Satan’s counterfeit makes us think that we are unique and different, inferior or superior, independent and must look out for ourselves alone. When we believe this this, it is ugly so it is often goes hand in hand or is disguised and as hurt or bitterness. The compensating counter belief that we are as good as or better than others but are not valued, always or often misunderstood and mistreated may be grounded in some truth, but these beliefs are a way of compensating for what we need and they keep us from knowing God and others. Not believing that He is, that He created us, and not participating in the relationships He offers because we are covering the need up with activity, acquaintances, or accomplishments can never fill us. Love, worship, fellowship - connecting with Him and His loved ones can fill us. Oh that I could take back the years and times of “me and God against the world” and the damage that it did to relationships. God redeems and makes up for losses. He says (Isa. 61, Joel 2, Lk 4) His Spirit makes us able to be what we were not and love as we could not do so before (Titus 3, Col. 3 I Peter 2&3). God’s truth shows us that we are exceptionally unique in ways that should be treasured and that we should treasure in others. Our unique makeup and gifts are given to us to help us work together and to experience love, joy, and peace. (I Cor.12 & 13, Rom. 12) “The Trinity [and living in Christ] is the ultimate expression of diversity and unity.” (Ravi Zacharias)

James says that Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, is this: to visit, to help, to look after orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unspotted - not be overcome, by the world or the evil in it. Looking intently, (that is fixing your eyes, mind and heart), into the perfect law of liberty or freedom, abiding by it, not forgetting, but doing it, is the foundation of being able



On Way to Retreat

Karen Selby

Ministry Friends Shout Out

We know that we are not alone in ministry, this month’s shout out is to

New Life Family Services

New Life operates four pregnancy center locations, known as First Care Pregnancy Center, throughout the Twin Cities and Rochester communities. Each center is equipped with social workers, nurses, and trained staff who provide free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, pregnancy-related counseling, referrals, resources and more.

New Life Family Services has been licensed to provide adoption services since 1980.

www.nlfs.org | facebook.com/newlifefamilyservices
612.866.7643

Your feedback can help inmates! PT&TLH is a series we are hoping to print to give to inmates to help with the growth & transformation which God’s Word provides.

to do so. Looking into our heart, letting God cleanse it, affects our words and actions. One of the first things people notice when they accept Christ is that, even if they were a regular part of their lives before, negative and profane words start to bother them. God's word is alive and His Spirit puts new life, desires, intents and the ability to follow though in us.

Do you want God's blessing? Lean more; seek after, look intently into that perfect law of liberty.
(Jas. 1)

-Many of the concepts of criminal thinking come from Samuel & Yochelson Stanton Samenow,'s "The Criminal Mind".
-Scriptures listed may be references or combined versions and not exact quotations

Volunteer Opportunity!

We need 2 or 3 volunteers for a day to sort and stamp books and transport them to a jail.

Call us so we can organize a day for you to do this.

651-408-1300

We also need people to help with Bible distribution on a regular basis

Reuben David speaking at MEC Fall Event



More Pictures of event to come on face-book

Free course at Concordia University

An Introduction to Correctional Ministry

No prerequisites required. Lay people and pastors are welcome. This course is free for those who do not wish college credit. Students who wish to enroll for credit will have to pay tuition.

Jim Seemann, Ph.D. will provide a general overview of strategies to help those who are incarcerated to find reconciliation, rehabilitation, and redemption within the context of the Christian Gospel, and to mentor and support all those who come to faith. A diverse group of preachers, missionaries, and former prisoners will serve as guest speakers on a number of topics which are sure to challenge and to provide fresh perspectives to this age old problem.

The text is free. Online learning is also available.

Classes meet six times Monday nights from 7-9 PM beginning Oct 31. The room is 113 Poehler Administration Building located on Concordia University Campus, 275 Syndicate Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55104

Interested? R.S.V.P. seemann@csp.edu

To remove your name from MEC's mailing, please email mec@usfamily.net with REMOVE in the subject line, call 651-408-1300 or write PO Box 542, Wyoming MN 55092. www.mecjailministry.com to sign up for the newsletter, volunteer or donate.

Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant D. Sandy Hanson Office Admin.