



# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

April—May, 2017

## Two Special Dates!

Join us for a screening of the movie Church of Felons at Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom on Friday August 25th from 7-9:00PM

This movie, which I think will be a national one, was produced just across the St. Croix River in Wisconsin.

It follows four stories from Polk County, two of people impacted by alcohol, two & more people impacted by meth and the impact on the community.



Come  
Learn  
Fellowship  
Pray  
&  
Impact  
Your  
Community

## MEC Spotlight

### My Life as a Prodigal Son

(Luke 15:11-32) by Brian Connery

I became a casualty of divorce at the age of 3 - my parents were shunned and driven away from church because of divorce. I lived with my mother and younger sister. Dad was not in the picture. Years later when he finally was, due to his upbringing and alcoholism, it was not in a very positive or loving way.

When I was young, a friend ...asked me if I would like to go on an outing with him and a group from his church. I did, and the first thing I noticed was that these kids were different from others. They seemed interested in welcoming and getting to know me. I went on several more trips with them and eventually decided to be part of the church.



I started attending Sunday school and confirmation through most of high school. I was the only one in my family attending, but encouraged some of my other friends to be a part. I was active in sports and the fellowship of Christian athletes [which is]...an awesome organization. [Near] my junior year I rolled my ankle and tore a tendon. Fitting me with a special boot... didn't work. I spent the season on the side lines supporting the team. That was the beginning of the end to my Christian walk.

My mom moved to Seattle, I tried living with Dad. Here I am 16, Mom left me, Dad rejected me once again, and I feel all alone. At this point I decided I wanted my inheritance early and chose to go do life my way. I found several new groups of friends. Drinking, using drugs and girls became priorities in my life. I even wanted to take the same friends I had encouraged to join me in church years before along with me on my path to destruction. I had found a way of dealing with pain ...and it was fun.

After graduation, I

Spotlight - Brian cont.pg. 2

October 7th, 2017 the MEC Fall Event will be at Serenity Village Church in Crystal, MN

6:00-8:30 pm Let us know if you can come!

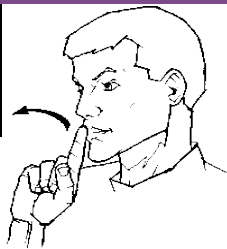
See the ministry shout out for S.V's sandwich ministry

### Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing: Lying and the Truth

Just defining lies and truth is an interesting undertaking. A person's whole view of it shifts with or without faith, relationships are based on it, and our understanding of it can remain limited or grow.

A preview of articles on the internet shows a plethora of information about lying. A limited summery of many of these is as follows. Many people lie deliberately or give misleading information. Dating couples mislead each other more than married couples unless

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ASL sign for truth  
from lifeprint.com

April—May  
Highlights

Save These Dates

Spotlight Brian Connery

Ministry Friends Shout-Out

PTLH - Lying and the Truth

Thank You Trade Transportation Justin & tLori for computers and cabinets!

Also to Renee for shelving

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## Ministry Friends Shout Out

We know we are not alone in Ministry and each month we acknowledge another ministry that we network with. This month's shout out goes to

### Serenity Sandwiches,

an outreach ministry of Serenity Village Community Church. Each week they distribute over 2,000 sandwiches, 100-200 cups of soup and over 10,000 pounds of groceries in Crystal and Minneapolis.

<http://www.serenityvillagecc.org/outreach-2017/>



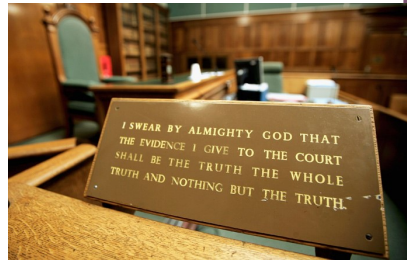
PT&TLH - Lies/Truth from pg. 1

there is betrayal. Lying or telling the truth are skills that develop and tend to become habits. One in four lies are thought to be for the benefit of another person, those wanting to impress others lie more, those with same sex friendships and people who are depressed lie less. Culture can affect honesty. Liars tend to use less personal words such as I or my or less emotion oriented words and people are conflicted about lying. Omission of information is a common form of lying. Lies or truth are keys that destroy or create trust which leads to unhealthy or healthy relationships.

Dawson McAllister's *Understanding Lying* gives several reasons why people lie, lists different types of lies and explains how to stop it. Seeking approval or pleasing others, appearing better, control, compensating, hiding true feelings, protection or power are clarified, with fear often being the underlying motivation for lying. Recognizing it is an issue, asking forgiveness and accountability are among the helps.

[www.thehopeline.com/ebooks](http://www.thehopeline.com/ebooks) is a link to this e-book.

Yorkelson says that criminals lie to achieve an objective such as to avoid punishment or to gain a privilege, to build themselves up. They lie out of habit. Truth can be used deceptively and a person who is manipulating will often not see that they are doing so but view it as the way to obtain a goal. They often know the law but that does not deter them. The process for cutting off the reasons for not doing what they should, allows them to rationalize and do what seems



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## Spotlight Brian from page 1

moved to Seattle to find security and love being with Mom and Sis. It was better than being alone in Minnesota: but, going to school in Portland to be a chef, I made many friends who were on the same destructive path. School, work; drinking, drugs and women were a ...way of dealing with my pain. After a while, I moved back to Minnesota where I had many friends and some family. Now, things were going to be better. Pursuing my new career as a Chef at the Calhoun beach club, working 6 days a week, all holidays and weekends, I lost touch with my family and friends. Now I had a new family and group of friends and guess what? – They were all on the same destructive path. Life was fun but I was starting to burn out. Being arrested for DUI at the age of 20 or 21 did slow my using, but not for long. I began spending more time with a friend I had met when we were 13, it turned serious and we married in 1995. Despite our both coming from families affected by divorce and a lot of crazy behavior, we remained married until she died in 2013.

In 2006 we were separated for a short time. My drinking, although not as extreme, was still a daily way of coping and now escalated. I had spent my whole inheritance, reached rock bottom, and had nothing left. In my garage, wasted, broken and discouraged, I decided to return to my [Heavenly] Father. I cried out to Him to help me. He had been waiting for me to return and even though I was drunk and my life was in shambles, He gave me a hug, put a ring on my finger and clothed me in a robe of righteousness. The next day I woke with hope and a feeling of peace. I was relieved, but unsure of what to do next or what was God going to do. Day two, on the way to work I tuned in to a Christian radio station, instead of [my usual one]. That felt good and right. Day three while listening to the same station I heard an advertisement for Crown Financial Ministries. This,... I thought, could help my marriage. After contacting them, I met with a representative at a church who helped us. We started attending church every week and a 10 week class on finances, followed by training to facilitate the next class. I made a resolution to read the Bible every day and to this day have continued doing so.

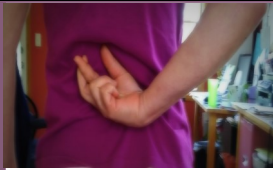


Father Greets Prodigal  
Sweet Publishing  
[freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org)

My wife and I taught Sunday school. I started doing ministry for young

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right at the time. Wordy phrases, generalization, using different meanings for words, being vague, distorting ideas, denial, omission, blame, claiming mitigating

circumstances, using a false alibi, not remembering and maintaining innocence are all forms that the lies take. Presenting partial information and omission of information that allows continuance of impropriety is common for who do not control their thinking in this area.

Anita Kelly, a psychology professor at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, researched the connection between lies and health. [She concluded] that ... Purposefully trying not to lie caused people to tell fewer lies, and that when telling the truth, [people's health and relationships] improved ... telling three fewer minor lies a week translated to four fewer mental health complaints, and three fewer physical complaints. Lying is thought to trigger the release of stress hormones, increasing heart rate and blood pressure. Stress reduces your body's number of infection-fighting white blood cells, and over the years, could contribute to lower-back pain, tension headaches, a rapid heartbeat, menstrual problems, and even infertility. (Angela Haupt Staff Writer for Health at US News)



Jesus' message of truth is founded on the gospel and the Holy Spirit. Paul writes, "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Eph.1:13ESV). Coming to understand and discern what lies are and what is truth involves getting to know God and His Word. Talking with Him, listening, doing and practicing what His word says and relating with others is a part of learning. These things allow building deeper understanding and enable us to understand and live in it more.

Deuteronomy 19:11 says "Do not, you must not lie; you must not act deceptively, deal falsely, defraud or steal from one another." (Combined Versions) In the documentary (Dis)Honesty: The Truth about Lies by Yael Melamede, even people who did not know the ten commandments but were asked to recall what they could about them, did not lie when they were asked to participate in the same experiment that others did lie in.

When Jesus – God Himself – was asked what the way to go was, He said ... "I am the Way the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through me." (John 14:6). Later in the same chapter He said "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask

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adults at the church

**Spotlight Brian** from page 2

which God blessed and grew, but I was too young in the Lord and when adversity came, I quit. God used the wilderness to prepare me for His plan. My drinking was much less but I was still dependent on alcohol to numb pain and deal with stress. Three years and many of God's teachings and lessons later I was working in the garden, stood up and I thought "I can't remember the last time I had a drink!" God had delivered me from my dependence on alcohol. Because He did it and not me, it was seemingly effortless!

While attending men's retreat, a brother shared his struggles with feeling alone going into jail to minister to inmates. That started a chain of events and it wasn't long before I was alongside him ministering as well.

My wife and I separated again, this time for two years. Then, unexpected, she died suddenly from health problems. Now I was on my own to raise my sons, figure out how to do all the things that my wife had taken care of for many years, guide my sons through their grieving and work through my own grief. This was a lot to deal with but not the end. Six months after my wife's death, I was praying, asking God, 'How long would He keep me commuting so far to work and for clear vision for today?' An hour and a half later, He answered, with a layoff. After 10 years with the same company, I was given several hours to pack my things and say goodbye to friends. I explained to them that though I was sad to be leaving, I was excited to see what God had planned for me. I did not speak poorly of the person who made the decision to let me go. because I truly believe he was only carrying out Gods will for me. Three and a half years later I am ministering in the jail several times a week doing services and providing reentry resources planning and goal setting. I receive no direct support or pay for this privilege, but God takes care of me and my family and we have no needs un-fulfilled. Proverbs 3:5&6 says

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and He will make your path straight." (NIV)

In closing what I have learned from God is that He works all things together for the good of those who love him. My family is getting healthier every day. I am able to do what I love and care for our home and my children. We are completely dependent on God for all our needs and happy.



the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17 ESV) The connection between belief and works is evident through the content of the chapter. The deeds do not provide the belief, but the foundation of belief provides the platform and the place for the deeds and relationships based in truth and love to be built. James is a book that talks about the need for works to show the evidence of our faith and he talks about God's message of truth. As a child is born we are born into God's message and truth and as a child grows, our spirits must grow. John 3 speaks of being born again and James brings out the same concept. "Don't be deceived, my dearly loved brothers. Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning. By His own choice, He gave us a new birth by the message of truth so that we would be the first fruits of His creatures." (James 1:16-18). Here is a link to a Bible Study and worksheet that show different practices that can help our Spirit's grow. [Spiritual Development Worksheet](#)



In addition to knowing Jesus as the truth, Jesus made several statements where he said, "I tell you or I guarantee you, this truth." This list is extensive and reviewing it will help us to understand more of His message of faith and truth. Link to [-I tell you this truth link](#).

When we think of Ephesians 4:15 which talks about speaking the truth in love, the context refers to maturing and growing in our beliefs, not just talking about what bothers us in someone else. The further context of the chapter is putting away our old ways, and putting away falsehood and speaking truthfully to our neighbor is mentioned specifically, because we are all members of the same body. Speaking the truth in love pertains to all of our conversations as we are people of His love.

Christ tells us to pray for our enemies and I John gives us a definition of lying and truth.. If we claim to believe, but walk in darkness or do not love our brothers, we are lying We need to fellowship, confess our sins, and love one another. False teaching must be confronted and love must prevail. "God is light, and there is no darkness in him — none! If we claim to have fellowship with him while we are walking in the darkness, we are lying and not living out the truth. But if we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin. If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing." (I John 1:5b-9 CJB)

**our feedback can help inmates! This is a series we are hoping to print and we would like your feedback. Are there parts that are confusing or helpful? Let me know.**

**THANK YOU!**

to Trademark Transportation for the donation of three file cabinets and two tower computers, mice and monitors!

The cabinets will be used in the office and for storage of Bibles, literature and workbooks that will be distributed to the jails.

Thank you to Lori Hoskins for arranging this donation.

Justin Bratnober of Trademark Transportation,



Two of the cabinets & the computers



Thank you also to Renee Roehrick who donated two shelving units for organization

Thank you to those who we will mention in a future newsletter who been donating for Life recovery Bibles!



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