

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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



New Year's Prayer

Lord, I hear in my heart and mind you saying to me. "Come my loved one, tell me what you are looking for this morning?"

How will you experience, how will you live this new day, this new year, this new life you have been born to? Hark— give ear, pay attention, become aware and be alive, to the new life you have been given.



Grieve whatever you need to, make room in your heart. If you have done some grieving already, the process may be quick, or it may take some time.

Sometimes you need to move over or move out the old things that are crowding your mind and heart, in order to make room for the new.

Cherish the new spaces, new days, new life, new love.

Differentiate and discard the graveclothes, unbind and let loose new life. Zoe life – full, real, genuine life.

May the time you spend today and each day honor the loved ones who have gone before, those who are with you now and the days to come.

This includes the days and loved ones here on this present earth and after it. Those who have gone before have affected us and are witnesses, those who are with you now are to be loved. May Holy Spirit, who's presence is fully here, calm you and comfort you and give you courage to move forward and to fully experience this new day and this new life."

Yes Lord – may I live this new day, year and abundant life.

Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing: Injury to Others & Failure to Assume Obligation

This week we are going to cover failure to consider injury to others and failure to assume obligation need to change. Living mainly for ourselves damages others and learning to love serving them, enhances our relationships and brings fulfillment.



Here is a summary of Samenow and Yorkelson's writing. In not considering the feelings or injury of others, the criminal child puts others through anguish with lies, shirking responsibility, delinquent activities,

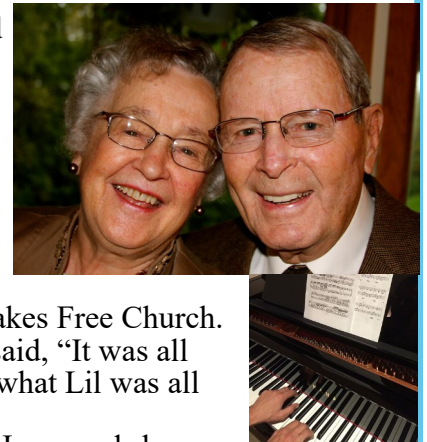
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January 31, 2018

MEC Spotlight

Celebrating Lil's Life

Les and Lil approached me about praying for a family member of theirs and to see if we could provide any insight and suggestions of ways they could help this loved one. They did not just talk with me once but stayed faithful to helping him in any way they could.



Many family and friends of Lil attended her Celebration of Life at Lakes Free Church. As Grace Schmidt said, "It was all about Jesus, that is what Lil was all about."

Lil really loved Jesus and she was very open with everyone about His love. She would often close her conversations with "We love you and so does Jesus." She loved music and many family members had music lessons from her. They honored her request, that a group of them would sing some of the hymns she loved. It was a personal blessing to hear them. Some of them sang her favorite, "I would rather have Jesus."

You can view her obituary on Grandstrand Funeral Home of Lindstrom's website

<http://www.grandstrandfh.com/obituaries/Lillian-C-Johnson?obId=2851964#/obituaryInfo>

Here is much of it.

Lillian Bloom Johnson was born June 27, 1924 into a large family on a dairy farm near Shafer MN. In her childhood she would ski to Long Lake School and began her lifelong passion with music by singing in school and church choirs. She also walked into Shafer for piano lessons where one of the town boys, Les Johnson would sometimes walk her home. During the winter Lil and Les would sit together warming their feet at a woodstove. They became high school

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stealing and exploiting others. Other children suffer from the disruption bullying, fights and intimidation. Adult criminals blame or minimize harm by intimidation, threats or justifying their actions. Saying they need to defend themselves or blaming others for theft by accusations of profit gouging.



Sentimentality may defer one from harming another for a while, but injury to those they profess to love is not always direct. Taking advantage of what others do or have for their own gain hurts or prevents others from growing. Thinking about restitution can make the criminal think themselves a good person but restitution is hardly ever made, especially if it presents difficulty. Feelings of guilt usually lasts for a very short period of time and are cut off by activity. Conscience and accountability are met with resistance and anger.

A failure to assume obligation comes from not wanting to let others be in control. Obligation interferes with what the criminal or addict wants to

do. If one is married, having to be with his wife, doing household chores or fulfilling family obligations conflicts with other desires.

Appointments are only kept if something better does not come up. Promises are made but not kept. Forgetting, neglect of details and lack of follow through are used, especially if the person did not have a say in the assignment. Volunteering only happens for acceptance or recognition. Being able to teach another or causing others involved to be obligated to them can be underlying motivations. Even in these cases, starting with enthusiasm leads to lack of follow through. Ignorance is pleaded with "I did not hear, or did not understand the expectation or request." Disregarding, avoiding, participating only transiently or doing it for exploitation are four ways that criminals fail to assume obligation.

We covered some of the concepts that relate to failure to consider injury to others in the section on Empathy, especially stressing, becoming aware of and relating to others with compassion.

God's Word addresses our responsibility to assume obligation in many ways. The admonition to love our neighbor as ourselves summarizes it. In Exodus God first explains the relationship He desires with us as covenant. Vows in the old testament and in marriage

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sweethearts and married in 1945.

Lil was a devoted and bold disciple of Jesus Christ, readily sharing her faith with all. She loved the Word of God and for many years was a mentor and Bible Study leader. She often ministered to the sick and dying and was a faithful prayer warrior. Not only did she and Les pray for friends and family by name every morning; every phone conversation ended with prayer. Lil lived most of her adult years in Excelsior MN. She served family and community with hospitality and was an excellent cook and homemaker. Everyone was welcome into their home and the coffee pot was always on.

Later they moved to Point Pleasant Senior Center in Chisago City. She played piano for weekly church services, Happy Notes and song fests, which she organized and led. A member in Lakes Free Church and was active in Adult Bible Fellowship.

Lil had a heart attack on Christmas day when she was spending time with the family she loved. She was hospitalized for a few days and unable to speak but interacting with love and concern for others. She did let the family know that she wanted to go home to be with Him and was welcome into her beloved Jesus' arms January 4, 2018.



Ministry Friends

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obligate people to loving actions and service. Romans 13 & 15 say we are obligated to pay taxes and bear the weaknesses of others. I Corinthians talks about Paul's (and therefore our) obligation to preach and share the gospel, thus bringing healing and new life to others. 2 Thessalonians 3 talks about the obligation to work and not be lazy. And Philemon tells us that good works should not be obligations but done out of free will.



When Christ died on the Cross and rose again, He bought and created a new life for us. He took away the debt and the obligation that was against us and gave us a new life. Much of the debt that was against us are the subtle (or not so subtle) deceptions that made us think certain things are good when they lead to sin, darkness, stealing, death or destruction. The love of money is one example; I Timothy 6:10 says, "The love of money is the root of all evils. And some people, craving, longing after or having aspired after money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows." When one is pursuing something, thinking it is good but ignoring the relationships that are neglected or loss of more natural values, the results are painful. At a mentoring workshop, Woodrow Jefferson, ex inmate and criminal asked, "Why did I think that dealing drugs and crime was the only option for me? Other people saying, "Here comes the man', the status, power and esteem from gains or manipulating others to do as you say, bringing others good feelings, but all the while poisoning them [was deception]" The freedom that the Holy Spirit brings is the light to see what is right and good and the Freedom to choose it.

With new life in Christ we gain obligations which bring joy. To encourage one another while it is still today, (Heb.3), serve joyfully (Eph. 6, Psalms 2), pray for others (2Tim. 1), Worship and serve God (Matt. 4, Luke 4)

This is a new life. It is a good life.



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