

# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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



## Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing Fear of Fear

This month the topic is fear of fear. It introduces lack of trust and refusal to be dependent which we will discuss in the next section. We have addressed fear to some extent before but the distinction here is that a healthy fear will "guide ... behavior along responsible lines. Healthy fear serves a purpose – Going to the doctor out of fear for our health, taking out insurance to provide for our family, preventative dental work are some examples. Fear has different degrees – doubt, concern, apprehension and anxiety. Fear to a criminal is a putdown and leads to feelings of worthlessness. (Yochelson Samenow 386)

If we do not see fear as signifying there is something we need to overcome and find a healthy way to overcome it, it can begin a downward spiral. If fear triggers feelings of worthlessness or we focus on an inability to accomplish what we need to do and allow negativity to take over, we do not grow from the experience. If fear is overcome by ignoring it, aggression or excitement that is dangerous or illegal, it can catch a person up in habits that bring them to a place they do not want to be. If we do not resolve it in a healthy way ourselves and we see fear in others, we perceive them negatively. Criminals who see fear in others point it out, scorn it or exploit it. (Yochelson Samenow 386)

When looking at Bible verses that say do not fear, they all have the reason why we should not fear is because of putting our trust in God and that He will provide for us. Psalm 56:3 says "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Joshua 1:9 says "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you" Cont. on pg. 2 PTLH

### Prayer from Someone on the Fence

Dear God,

*I'm on the fence. I can't decide if I should follow you or stay in the world. The world is what I've known, it's familiar to me and it has a strong pull. In some ways it is threatening and, in some ways, it is easy.*

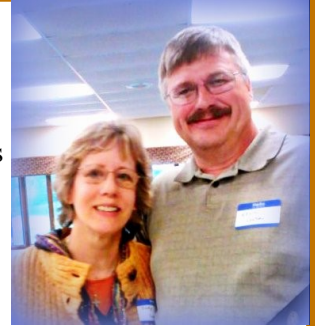


*You say to pray to you in a closet, in secret, but it is not that kind of secret that is bad, it is the kind of closet/secret that means just between you and me. I'm kind* Cont. on pg. 3 Fence

March 31, 2018

## MEC Spotlight Kevin Lovdal

An excellent, and exceptional man, Kevin Lovdal volunteered with us for 9 years. March 9, He and Jody were in a head-on collision. He is now fully in God's presence. Jody has been an intercessor with us in the past. She is home healing.



How precious it was to know him. The transformation from a heavy drug dealer who brought destruction to many to the man we all knew was profound and inspiring. I can hardly compose anything about him that could give the honor he deserved, so here are some portions of his Celebration of life. If you would like to see a more complete transcript of it, including the songs, and the tributes given during the reception click on the link at the end of this spotlight article.

As "I Can Only Imagine" played, many pictures of Kevin with his friends and family, young and old, captured in all of them showed his love for people. Sports, camping, fishing, leisure time and work – and always a smile! A video clip showed him explaining his bionic arm.

Kevin was a father, husband, friend, and more who is surely now hearing from his Father in heaven, "Well done ... Good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:23) ... our Lord is the Prince of Peace. He tells us in Psalms 55:22 to "Cast all of our cares upon the Lord and He will sustain you. He will not allow the righteous to fall." We know that Kevin was trusted and loved and we praise you for what you did in his life, and then through him, you are honored and glorified. "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone" was sung.

Jill Boltin read Isaiah 40:28-31 NIV "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator ..... He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Cont. on pg. 2

### March Highlights

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wherever you go.” Isaiah 41:13 says “For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, Fear not, I am the one who helps you.” (ESV).

This tells us that we overcome fear in a healthy way by trusting in Him and the right things. Unhealthy thinking that tells us that we cannot trust, disguises itself. It does not say, you are the one that does not trust. It says, there is nothing there that you can trust. Our definition of trust also plays a part here. Defining words is a whole discussion in itself. If by saying or feeling that we trust someone, we mean that that person is someone who will not share with another person what we are wanting to remain secret (but we call it confidential), or we define trust as someone who will not confront us, then we are using it to mean something different than it really is. If our relationship with or belief in God is only that we ask for help when we want or need it, but then are not willing to cooperate if He asks us to do something, we are not really understanding who He really is or trusting in Him. Trust is defined as “belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of, it includes assurance, character, and trustworthiness.” (Internet and Webster)

There is an interesting play and interaction in our minds and hearts between trusting God and trusting other people. For years I trusted God to help me, but I did not trust other people very much. When I was in my 40's God used a counselor, a sponsor and a prayer partner to help me develop trusting relationships. When He did so it was my trust in Him that allowed me to begin to trust them and in turn trusting them allowed my love for Him to deepen. Without trusting Him, I would have given up when something they did disappointed me. Without trusting them with what I felt He wanted me to share with them, my love for others and for Him was less. I was learning more about the first two commandments and about I John 4:18 which says “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”

In the next section we will talk about trusting others and healthy dependence or interdependence.

Please let us know if something is difficult to understand or if it helps you! We hope PTLH articles will be made into a manuscript that can be helpful and would like your feedback



Nancy Schave read Revelation 21:1-5 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Dennis Nelson spoke, "To honor Kevin is to honor Christ. He knew God’s mercy, love and grace and to talk to him, the only thing is to give God our sin and to receive His love and His righteousness. He did not go to prisons to be saved, but because he was saved.... Kevin knew he and we were worth the death of God’s Son. He is loving and merciful. Thank You, Lord, thank you Kevin for loving [so many]. I also want to honor my sister Jody – Her faith from the hospital bed as she was Praising God gives me chills, [she knows] God, Jesus and the Power of the Resurrection. Thank you, Kevin, for believing and walking [with God].

Song – You will Always Be in My Heart - Carolann & Scott Rosenthal and Aaron Spading

There is not much in this church that has not been impacted by Kevin. The lights above you, the projection on the screen, the telephone system, the locks and security, the door handle in my office. More significantly, than the impact on the building, is the impact he had on the lives. His influence and testimony ... He loved fun, camping, McCarthy Beach, the annual Men’s Retreat/Advance [and all of you that have been there and are here]. He would raise his arms in worship and one day his bionic arm went flying. Kevin taught Sunday School, was in Adult Bible Fellowship, did Prison Ministry, Jason’s 12-year-old son Caleb followed him around the church [many times as he was working].

Where do we go when we die?... See a transcript of the Celebration of Life and the tributes at the reception at this link

<http://mecjailministry.com/KevinLovdalTribute.pdf>

## **Ministry Friend Shout Out**

*We know that we are not alone in ministry so this shout out goes to*

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*of uncomfortable in there. There are things in there I don't want to discuss or let go of. On the other hand, there are things in there that are making it cramped and rough. If I touch on them they can hurt. I am afraid to let them go because if I do I don't know what others will think or what hole, emptiness, pain or needs it might create.*

*I am talking to you so that probably means something.*

*What's that? You say I can come to you, to the throne of grace, in my time of need. You say you can be a rock, a refuge, a strong tower as shelter from the storm. You can cover me with shelter pinions/wings. You are a Shepherd. What are those things?*

*Grace/Mercy, getting or not getting the judgement/consequences I deserve. Getting the good that I don't deserve. Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, especially for salvation. Mercy is compassion or forgiveness without the punishment I deserve.*

*There it is right there.*

*I have to admit that some of these things in the closet are not so good or are even bad. Being humble is not my forte. Humility is not something I have too much of, but I guess You have plenty of it. Maybe You can give me some? If you could, please, that would be great. But make sure that what I get is humility and not humiliation. I had enough humiliation and shame to last a lifetime. That's why I built the wall.*

*Can you really be a stable rock I can stand on and not like the rocks others have thrown? Ok ...I guess I've thrown a few myself. You're going to have to show me the difference between rocks that are thrown and how to depend on you as a solid rock.*

*What's that? – You say when the men who dragged out the woman caught in adultery, they were told that whoever had not sinned could throw the first stone. Then everyone went away. The oldest ones left first. (John 8) Maybe the older they got, the wiser they got. Maybe as time went on they matured enough to see their own sin. I'm mature enough to see I've got some sin and have thrown some rocks. Maybe I don't always see the consequences of either of those. Again, let me learn the difference between the rocks and be able to stand on you as a solid rock. (Psalms 18, Ps 62, 2 Sam. 22 consequences of when they forgot He was).*

*What's that? You say you are a refuge, strong tower, shelter from the storm. (Ps 27, Ps 31, Ps 81, Ps 91, Isa. 17) I guess I've seen a few storms. We have all seen some and yes there are going to be more to come. Do I have enough sense, you ask, to get out of the storm? There are plenty of places to go to get out of the storms. Are you the best place to go to? Pinions are the soft feathers under the harder waterproof ones. That must mean they are soft and tough. I read about a mother chicken who did something interesting. When danger approached she called all her young ones to her and they came running. Help me to run to you and not away from you. The fence is getting pretty uncomfortable; People can't stay up on here forever. Maybe it would be good to get off before I fall. There is a song that says "If I fall, let me fall on you".*

*A Shepherd is one you can trust, one who guides, leads, warns, carries, provides, feeds and cares for his sheep. Perhaps that is my inner restlessness. To learn to trust and find the excitement of it. Help me to dare to let You do and be those things for me.*

*Sincerely,*

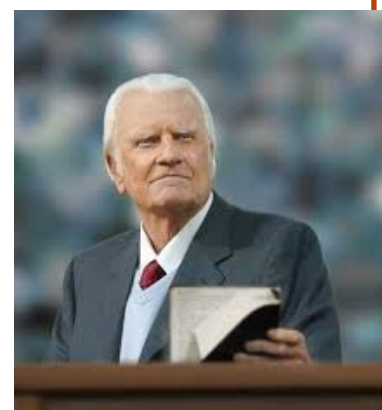
*One getting off the fence.*

## Billy Graham Tribute

Many of us were affected by Billy Graham's ministry and so we wanted to pay a tribute to him. If you google Billy Graham's funeral you can watch it in full.. The You Tube video showing his children's tributes is heartwarming.

His was truly a life well lived. He used the gifts God gave him to an extraordinary degree. He touched my life as he did so many others. I was fortunate to have heard him speak in person back in the 70's at the State Fair grounds. The ministry of KTIS radio which he started over 60 years ago is still alive, strong and touching thousands of people every day.

We thank God for him and rejoice that he is home with Christ.



Sandy Hanson

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