

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing Trust

Every characteristic of our lives is affected by trust. Healthy trust is firm belief or confidence in someone or something that can be relied on, affects relationships, involves duty or obligation, does not distrust or doubt, takes on responsibility and includes hope or expectation(s). There is a common misunderstanding of what trust is, especially if one is not being honest or is hiding what they do. This misuse of the word trust is to believe that you trust someone when what you really mean is that they are a person who will cooperate with you but will not confront you or tell someone else if something is wrong or needs to be changed. Healthy dependence is cooperation not control.



Misguided thinking is that to trust someone is to risk being betrayed, being used or becoming a victim. If while, not being totally honest, we feel put down, angry or want to retaliate if someone does not trust us, we need to look carefully at this. While, owning up to, living or paying consequences of misbehavior, it is easy to feel we are being treated unfairly. If someone who is offering help or services makes a mistake or does not have the skill or knowledge we expect from them, to take it personally or feel wronged that we did not get more (or better or faster results) can be a trap. Some may not be competent, but most people are doing the best they can. We need to ask, if the roles were reversed would we be able to offer to them, what they are offering to you.

The concept of a truth or truths amidst **the** truth is an important one here. Someone may say they are being

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April 30, 2018

MEC Spotlight Brian & Ligia Kendall



“Our church received an invitation to an MEC event. The verses in scripture about visiting those in Prison and the idea that Saul brought out that people in jail were more receptive to the gospel influenced me to start. I have been a volunteer with MEC since starting in 2005 at Ramsey County Correctional Facility. At first it was a way to be able to practice guitar when Tom S. and Tim Walsh were willing to have me along.” [for the church service as they shared the message.] In time he ended up sharing the message also and in 2007 started doing a Spanish Bible study on Friday evenings at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center. Brian has grown greatly in his skills and confidence in the Word of God. He says, “I have learned a lot of verses and scripture because of this opportunity to teach classes.”

After they were married, Ligia joined him in teaching on Fridays. He adds that “I have to say that at first I was hesitant to have her come with me, but it has been a great benefit and worked remarkably well.”

Ligia says, “Brian and I call Friday night our date night. It’s been so cool to minister together. He & I did ministry at church, I started attending his church before we were married and it was pretty much he did his ministry and I did mine separately. Now we talk about Friday night and discuss it together during the week and pray for those who will come. It is like a total team; the guards know both of us and it is fun.

Brian is knowledgeable about scripture and can answer questions and break it down so they can really get it. He uses modern situations and their situations like being in jail. When I jump in it is to encourage them that God and the scripture

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honest because they admit they have been dishonest in some a previous situation, so you should trust them now. However the underlying truth of the life they are living is dishonest, masked or hypocritical. An example is the man or woman who says, "I love you," or "I love my family," while not making the commitments that real love involves. They may feel they are sincere at the time, but it does not last, or they may be saying it in order to manipulate and get something they want.



Some think that to trust someone makes you gullible or easily misled. This may be true in some cases; however, true trust is in something or someone who is reliable. Romans 5 says that we have a hope that "does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (NASB) This hope is built on a real God/Man who took our sins and did not leave us alone. The actual life and history of Christ was verified by more accounts than any other history book. His live body was seen after the resurrection by more than 400 witnesses. The Holy Spirit is real. He has put together 66

books by at least 35 authors over many years and it flows amazingly. (It is the most sold and read book - estimated 5 billion copies, Obed Ebenezer) and the Holy Spirit has filled many people, giving them purpose, allowing them to feel love and to love others. (1,2,& 3rd John)

Believing there is a God is different than trusting Him. Beth Moore says it this way. "We can believe in God, but do we believe God. In order to believe Him we need to know what He is really like and what He says. Learning this to replace the negative with His goodness is part of learning trust.

"It is not possible to live responsibly without trusting other people to fulfill particular functions. [It takes trust to go to doctors when needed or for checkups, put money in the bank, allow family members discretion in spending, hire a carpenter, take advice from others and share confidences. Trust is subscribing on faith to what selected

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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

is there for them. If they get rowdy my Momma Bear can come out and say ok [guys] ..and they settle down.

I grew up a good girl. Not using drugs or alcohol but it was around me so I could relate more than the upper middle class suburban life. I experienced poverty and gangs around me and could talk about these things [more openly]. Sometimes it is quiet and my comments can bring a moment of laughter.

My absolute favorite moment in the study is when they share their experiences and one preaches to another or they share with each other. We are there once a week. They are together for much more time, doing this together. We keep it real. We see life happen before our eyes; we talk about what is relevant. It can be frustrating when they are studying many ideas and mixing them together – other religions, and want to talk about things like the Nephilim, the sons of God and the daughters of men so we need to [bring it back and] keep it focused on Jesus. It's crazy trying to help them sort it out. Why does God allow bad things to happen and how is He good?



My faith has grown. I see the potential of every one and how God wants to intervene in their lives and help them grow. God is so gracious – no respecter of persons. Even though I have experience [with God], I still have my own demons and it has helped me to grasp God's word and love for myself? Brian and Liga will be moving to Guatemala soon. Although not together, both of

Liga's parents are there and her mother has some health concerns that they will be able to help with. God put a strong desire in her to be there and we ask you to keep them and her parents in prayer for health, to know Christ and know Him more. Brian and Liga may pursue jail ministry when they are there if God opens those doors.

Pray for volunteers to do the ministry they have been doing here.



Ministry Friend Shout Out

We know that we are not alone in ministry This month our shout out goes to

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people say or do, particularly when we don't have their knowledge and experience. Trust is also not based on the prospect of what we will get, or potential for exploitation or who we can control.]” (“The Criminal Mind”, Yorkelson and Samenow Vol 2 pg. 251)

One problem with recognizing that our current thought process is not working well and the negative impact it has on relationships is that they are fairly ingrained. Thought patterns which are already established need to be understood as not beneficial and challenged. One who thinks they are trusting when they are controlling others needs to see and admit that their understanding is not working well for the relationships and be willing to adjust their thinking and behavior. One has to begin by being honest with themselves and begin to trust others. Faith in another's judgment, integrity or experience is impossible to develop when a person's own character does not have these qualities or if one does not put these tests or trusts out there to start with. It takes time and practice. “We make choices on the basis of estimation of who will fulfill his part of an agreement... [It involves], taking a part and being a doer in order to find out he can trust.” Yorkelson and Samenow Vol 2 pg. 251



Building trust means one must recognize their need and requires that one open their mind and heart to discussing situations with someone who is trustworthy. In working with criminals to change their thinking and behavior Yorkelson and Samenow say that they “Carefully evaluate a variety of situations to assist the criminal in arriving at a decision as to who can be trusted for specific purposes... Learning who to trust ... requires fact finding and is a process of understanding people are complex. [They may be trustworthy in one area and not in another.] Trust is a two-way street, we must demonstrate that we are trustworthy so others will trust us. “This is a slowly evolving process at home, at work, and everywhere else the criminal goes.” 252

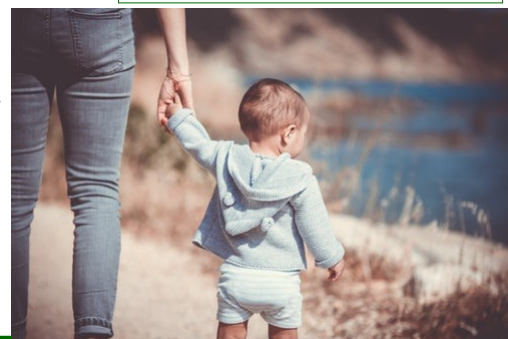


The InnerChange Freedom Initiative, which is now called Prison Academy, was based largely on this idea that working with a mentor for a sustained period of time is one of the best indicators of success for an individual. Pastor Jeff Hill, founder and leader of Serenity Homes and Serenity Village Community Church has said, “We know that when the residents are communicating regularly with their mentors it goes well and if they stop communicating with them it does not bode well.”

Relationships need to include interdependence. Some other ideas to be watched for that can indicate unhealthy dependence is an appearance of dependence but using or controlling the supportive person, believing another will not tell or confront misbehavior, building some trustworthy relationships but continuing untrustworthy behavior with others, wanting to be seen as trustworthy even if not, building some trust at the beginning of a relationship and then not continuing to focus on it, shifting responsibility to appear dependent but avoiding responsibility or not becoming an effective team player.

Everyone must depend on others for some things. If we do not admit that we have a need and find ways to meet that need in a healthy way we will look for unhealthy or ungodly ways to meet it. West Side Story has a song, Gee Officer Krupke, which reflects the common thought that those who do wrong did not have what was needed during their development and turned to drugs or alcohol. This may be true for some who had no good influences around, but for others, the care was there and rejected because of an objection to being vulnerable or search for excitement. If we see the need for support or dependence as a weakness and do not allow some vulnerability, we do not talk about issues. Maybe someone disappointed us and we thought they could not be trusted from then on. It is possible that they were not trustworthy, but it is also possible we did not see that they were tired or stressed, not able to meet us that moment, but could do so when they were rested or had more time. Another more difficult, but healthier response, is to seek out someone who is trustworthy. Our task is to understand the negative patterns we have believed and replace them with the truths of honesty, admitting need (see the Beatitudes in Matthew 5) childlike (not childish) faith, trust and connection. It is not to become independent, but to be appropriately dependent.

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Next Month: Rebuilding Trust When it has Been Broken
Karen Selby .

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