

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982
I was in prison and you came to me Matt. 25:36cESV



Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing Deferring Small Goals

When we talk about gaining a better time perspective that involves attitudes and actions that hold us back and lead to success, we need to take a special look at deferment. In making changes necessary to succeed small goals or sub goals that lead to accomplishment of larger goals cannot be put off. If achieving the sub-goals is deferred, even for good reasons, the larger goal will not be achieved. As this continues a downward spiral is created, further negative consequences and situations are added and the cycle is even harder to break.

Remember we are approaching this material with the understanding that those in crime and addiction have more extreme patterns but everyone has some of these thoughts and understanding the changes necessary can lead us further along in our lives. "Criminals "put things off" in three distinct areas, committing a crime that is bigger or better than what they have been involved in, thinking that one day they will quit crime, go straight and settle down, and deferring the minor routine responsibilities of life – paying a bill, writing a letter, filing a tax return." (Yochelson & Samenow Vol. 2) We may not have crime in mind but can apply this to a bad habit such as procrastinating. Participating in any addiction, even those that are not drugs or alcohol "keeps you from being able to do what you want to do. It keeps you from getting or doing a job, studying or building relationships." (Rouvem P. MEC volunteer)



When the smaller goals are put off long enough, not only are the larger goals not able to be accomplished, but further adverse consequences come into play. Dealing with these takes further

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September—October, 2018

MEC Spotlight

Eloise Schmalz:
Singing with the Angel's!



I met this physically small, spiritually tall and strong, woman at the Lino Lakes Medium Security Anoka County facility. She was very warm and enthusiastic with her message straight from the gospel.

I was there for 8 months so got to know Eloise over that time period. One week I had one of the songs from Handel's Messiah Suite

repeating itself in my mind. I only knew one of the lines from it and mentioned this to Eloise. She surprised me by singing the song in its entirety – quite the acapella performance.

On the day of my release from jail my husband died that evening. This was traumatic and the police had me sent to the emergency room fearing that I might try to commit suicide. That next morning, I reached out for help and called the Lino Lakes facility since I knew there was a Bible study that morning. I asked the guard if I could talk to the MEC volunteer who happened to be Eloise. She came to the phone and prayed with me which was a great comfort and encouragement to me.

We would talk occasionally the last few years. It was always a joy to hear from her. Her spirit was always alight and her faith strong. She was and is an inspiration to me.

Sandy Hanson

October 21, 2018 Eloise joined the heavenly choir and is now singing with God and the Angels!

You can read a wonderful note from her daughter in which she shared many of Eloise's thoughts from her journal, the past MEC newsletter article or her obituary by going to the links at the end of this article. Ruth, one of her daughters says "...My mom was just a living testimony ... She has

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Sept.—Oct. Highlights

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time and energy. If we can prevent or break the downward cycle it makes life much easier.

If we are open to that assistance in the early stage's prevention is possible. If we have already reached the stage where we cannot achieve the goals, and additional consequences are happening, we are more aware of needing help in breaking that cycle. It takes humility and accountability to break out of this. These qualities allow us to admit that the way we have operated is not working, we cannot do it by ourselves, and bring willingness to adopt new ideas we may have defended ourselves against before.

When we realize that we are seeing others negatively, even suspecting intent when no or positive intent was there, and that this is not helpful, we also need to replace this with God's view it is helpful to read and reflect on what His view is. Respect, care, wisdom of identifying the true need and receiving the Godly way of meeting that need it helps us do so. When we meet needs in an ungodly way it brings pain and consequences. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a) The pain we cause ourselves and others when we do not trust can be sharp. The consequences can keep us from going forward.



It takes humility and real courage to admit that our current views are not good and are hurting us. This is not an easy process. When Christ was on the cross, He cried out for forgiveness for them, that they did not know what they were doing and to feel God's presence. We can cry out to God to help us love others who He has placed in our lives.

If we have already rejected one of the ways that He provided for us, our route becomes that much more challenging. There were many trials and miracles in the freeing of the Israelites from Egypt. "When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." (Ex 13:17 NLT) When they did not believe that they - or God through them - could bring victory, they refused to go. They were seeing the negative

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mountains of notes and journals that she has written over the years.... She was "no joke" when it came to prayer.... She made it a daily practice to fellowship with her Lord and Savior and her prayer lists were VERY specific. She had over the years structured her prayer..... Monday-Sunday and of course it was for a wide variety of people and topics ranging from our President to ... grandchildren and ...[she lists over 35 topics of prayer] ...

Journal article http://www.mecjailministry.com/newsletter/Eloise_Schmalz_Journal.pdf

Obituary <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/saint-paul-mn/eloise-schmalz-8030767>

Go to the MEC website , click Newsletters and then August 2016



Ministry Friend Shout Out to Christian Radio Stations

We cannot include them all; let us know which one you enjoy!

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possibilities instead of the positive outcome that would happen if they had trusted God and trusted Joshua and Caleb, the two leaders that did trust God. "God the Lord said to Moses, 'How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?'" (Numbers 14:11a)

If reconciliation is possible, going back to that relationship as a new person with a different attitude will create a new relationship. It takes the change of underlying attitudes of unbelief to the positive belief. Christ's most often challenge was that people were of little faith or had unbelief. We sometimes categorize that in our mind as belief in Him or in His forgiveness for our sins, but it includes more than that. His first two commandments were to love Him and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It takes belief in Him and belief in our neighbor.



If we cannot go back and repair that relationship or situation, we need to take the new attitude with us into future relationships. Although it may be painful, letting go of suspicion and bitterness and seeking understanding can replace frustration and anger. Proverbs says to "cry out for understanding and to look to the end of a matter". Loving Him includes the willingness to love others and work cooperatively with them. When we do this, we will have clearer thinking, increased communication and the motivation to understand what the smaller goals are and to complete them instead of deferring them. Accountability, prayer, and accomplishment becomes the cycle. Completing the smaller and larger goals will be possible if we work on trusting both Him and those who He puts in our lives to help give us the motivation and skill to do so.



If we see the people that can help us in a negative light, it keeps us from understanding and internalizing the information we need, forming the bonds that can help us and adopting the attitudes that will help us become stronger and accomplish our goals. Not respecting a boss, teacher, counselor, staff member or friend will keep us from learning information and prevent relating positively to them, creating an atmosphere that thwarts mutual goals. Admitting vulnerability, assessing and meeting needs, and learning new understanding of people and relationships come into play. Admission of a negative attitude towards people and ingratitude, and adopting gratitude and treating people with respect can replace the anger and frustration that thwarts cooperation. Submission to God's will is not submission to an unjust overseer. Working together with one of the servants He puts over us is not a put down. These are skills we need to heal and to work with anyone in authority in the future. When we seek God with all of our hearts we will find Him and His good plans. (Jeremiah 29)

Fall Event at
Serenity Village Church in
Crystal MN
November 3, 2018
Teen Challenge CEO, Rich
Scherber
Serenity Village Worship
Team
Four Testimonies

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