

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



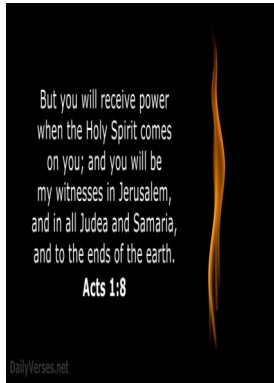
July 31, 2019

Need Some Encouragement? Read these Snippets of July Reports!

MEC Spotlight Jim and Ginny Bratton

Our flesh can be skeptical and more than once Holy Spirit has gently and lovingly convicted me. His words to Peter and to the disciples were "O you of little faith, Why are you afraid or why [do]/did you doubt?" (Matt. 14 & Luke & Matt. 8) I am reminded of my unworthiness and God's awesome work in the following excerpts from the volunteers. The newsletter contains bits. Intercessors receive more for their prayers

Michael Murphy – We discussed Suffering and Why are we supposed to rejoice in it. The Holy Spirit took this in a direction that I had not anticipated. We got started late as the nurse was distributing medicine. I wondered if anyone would show as it was already 8:10am. Nine men came then, I knew most of them from previous weeks. As we discussed suffering, one of them said that he tries to follow Jesus but his flesh keeps getting in the way.



We talked about sanctification and that the Lord cleans us up as we follow. I also mentioned that sometimes we need deliverance from evil spirits that we've allowed in. One of the guys said that he was just talking about that with most of these guys two nights ago. I said that we would pray over him at the end of the study.

Sometimes we need deliverance!



Photo: God Gives Gideon Victory
ministrytochildren.com

By this time, it was 8:50am so I thought it best to wrap and pray. We gathered around the man and began to pray for him, binding spirits of addiction and anger. We were louder than usual as all the men were praying. We finished and, visibly moved, he got up, and said that he felt something leave him. That opened the floodgates, so we prayed for each of the men – binding spirits of addiction, anger, rejection, pornography, etc. I prayed to bind the spirit of religion

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Michael M.
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Ginny is Home

Ginny Bratton was an intercessor who went home to be with Jesus in February this year. Her Celebration of Life was Friday July 12 and such



a blessing. Jim was an MEC volunteer with Kevin Dooley and Gary Irwin at the medium security in Lino Lakes when it was in existence. His story impacted inmates because he had been there. Jim and Ginny ministered to many ex-inmates and at least three of them were at the service. Pastor Chris Reinertson shared about the couple's relationship, that they had welcomed him and his family. Jim had noticed that Ginny needed to be treated better than she was, and saved her from her old boyfriend. When Jim ended up going to prison, Ginny procured a trailer and raised their son alone, until Jim was able to come home.

Jim accepted Christ when he was in prison and Ginny was skeptical, but she watched him for a year and saw the changes Christ brought, and then decided, she needed Christ too.

Jim and Ginny provided mentorship and housing to a number of women. One of these women is Lisa Daly. Lisa wrote a tribute to Ginny which was read at her Celebration of Life. We include it here:

If I were to list every kind, loving, caring and generous act I witnessed and knew of Ginny doing this would be a book. Ginny always, ALWAYS, saw the good in everyone and ALWAYS gave them the benefit of the doubt. Every time I looked at her beautiful face or she walked in

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Spotlight Jim & Ginny Bratton cont. from pg. 1

*“LORD, help!”
Then they cried out
to the LORD in
their trouble; He
delivered them out
of their distresses.*

Psalms 107:6
combined versions



Phot: unsplash

our door she always had a big bright smile on her face. Even when I knew her struggle was there; she always managed to smile and praise the Lord. I know without a doubt that God placed Ginny and Jim in my life at a very crucial time. I had lost everything except my soul and it was my last and final time to make it right and start fresh. They gave me a safe loving Christian environment to figure out Gods next plans for my future.

They were wonderful! I lived with them for a year and a half, until I married my amazing and loving husband, (Jason). Ginny and I always remained close. She played a mother role, best friend and confidant in my life. For the better part of our 9-year marriage, Ginny has come to our home for Thursday night Bible study. Later Jim decided to join her. We’ve gone to many Christian concerts together. Ginny has been a constant part of our life since 2008. Last Christmas she gave us a Christmas card and in it reminded me that she thinks of me as a daughter 😊. That warmed my heart and I was so thankful to have her in my life. I miss her deeply on a daily basis and I know I always will.

Every time I picture her face it has that big smile that we all knew so well.

Ginny, until we meet again, I will remember your glowing face. Give Jesus a big hug for me.

Tracy Patterson presenting a tribute to Ginny mentioned that Ginny made every place she was in a sanctuary. Ginny drove school bus and made that a sanctuary for the children Ginny safely conveyed to and from school. She was in the nursery at her church and she made that a sanctuary by introducing those young ones to Jesus love. Jim and Ginny were the ones to welcome their pastor and his family and to help make the church more welcoming and open people’s hearts to deeper fellowship. Their participation on small group made Daly’s home even more of a sanctuary. Ginny made Sunday worship special by always dressing up in her best – after all it was a special occasion to worship her Lord.

We know that Ginny is dressed in the finest of robes and is home worshipping the Lord Jesus.

Sandy Hanson



Reports Michael M. from pg. 1

over one of the men that I’ve seen for many weeks (who was also looking into Islam). He got up, walked out of the room, came back a couple minutes later and said ‘I just dumped all of my crap!’ there was rejoicing!] The correctional officer came in as we had 2 men left to go – I asked him if we were too loud, he said no, but, [we] needed to wrap it up. We finished praying and I left... Many of these men received deliverance from the Lord today!!

Mike responded to the idea that every man needs to ask the Spirit to fill them so that that others worse do not come back. (Matthew 12), We absolutely did this with each man! Pray that these men walk a closer walk with the Lord Jesus, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and hear His voice., will find the path and the plans that the Father has for them. Praise for the leading of the Spirit!

Sue Janick - Yesterday Barb and I had nine women attend the art class. This was a real answer to prayer! I shared the "Message from the Firefly" devotion which



Photo: Firefly 1 Sue Janick does inmate art & Devotion

Reports Sue J.- cont. on pg. 3

We know we are not alone in Ministry and so each month do a shout-out to others.
 This month our Ministry Friends Shout Out is to

Changing Gaits is a faith based ministry which used equine therapy for healing, education, mentoring & life skills. They also have residential sober living and services for men guides their personal growth in recovery and independence.



www.changinggaits.com



Photos: C.G. website and face book page

Reports Susan J. cont. from pg. 2

illustrates how Jesus came into this world to bring life and light to a dark world, just as the firefly brings light into the night.

At first, no one responded to the invitation to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, but in the middle of our acrylic painting lesson, one of our ladies told Barb that she was ready to commit her life to Jesus Christ. After she said this, another woman said she would also like to pray! So, everyone stopped to join together with these two to pray to receive Jesus. God gave Barb discernment to know which woman she needed to talk to individually. After some conversation, she was ready to open her heart to the Lord! Our art was more complicated today, but we were still able to finish in exactly the right amount of time. In spite of some roadblocks by the evil one to keep me away yesterday, God prevailed, and all went smoothly. Thank you for praying!



Sometimes, like yesterday, I can really feel the attacks.

Your prayers for us, and for the women are vital!

**Your prayers for us,
 and for the women
 [the men and the
 teens also] are vital!**

But I, the Lord, *search all hearts*
 and examine secret motives.
I give all people their due rewards,
according to what their actions deserve.
Jeremiah 17:10

Bob Eddleston – Praise for a good job and being able to work days now 3:30 am to 2:30 or 5 instead of nights. Pray for C. who is strong, she is completing some things for her recovery. It is a real blessing. She had been working at a church daycare and they kept her on ... on a limited basis. The whole element of trust has to be rebuilt. If you enjoy what you are doing and that is where you are working. [it is good to be able to stay] It would be easy to check out and work somewhere else. That is a loving church who is willing to stand by their flock. I pray for calm and not anxiety.

Reports Bob E. - cont. on pg. 4

Reports Bob E- cont. from

At the jail we covered lesson 3 for Celebrate Recovery Inside – Hope. One was distracting and I should have called the guard but wanted to see if he would calm down. I encourage them to read the scripture. They all participated except one. We talked about ...addictions, [and that with them], your testimony is all you have. Are you willing to trust yourself or God? You have choices to make and help with close friends, church and professionals, but you have an advocate in your corner you with God! One felt defeated with sin and we talked about confession and repentance – he felt reassured when we talked about Satan telling you the lie that God doesn't love you anymore. Whatever addictions or trials we go through there is always an out, if we trust Him.

Last Saturday there had been a fight before the first service and only 10 came. I utilized the time the best I could. The second service was 30 and the Holy Spirit was there – with only one person giving God's word and testimony [it is hard] to hold their attention ...[but]...God did. They were able to take it back with them and have a changed heart. We talked about temptation and how God doesn't give you more than you can bear when it comes to sin and what happens [with] redemption and restoration. It is easy for one to talk about the way to resist or the faithfulness of God but a big part of my testimony is not just overcoming, but to have life as you do – eternal life! God cares about you, It is the very character of who He is - God can help you, and you can say no. I often use the illustration of the bank teller to give you \$10.00 more than he should and ask how inclined are you to give it back? Most will say it is God's grace on me – but it is about doing the right thing, otherwise you are stealing. When you return what is not yours, you feel lifting and joy. ... Everyone hits bottom. Glory to God that there was no side chat. Conviction and being drawn to the light [was/were there.]

Dan and Rosalind Miller -20 tonight, our topic was -Hoping in Jesus. Isaiah 61:1-3. We talked about Jesus' promises to heal, to bind up, to free, us. We are feeling inadequate to be able to describe the indescribable. We witnessed an out pouring of the Holy Spirit in that place last night. It brought to mind, Isaiah 55:11 His word will not return unto Him void but will accomplish what He desires, and achieve the purpose for which He sent it. I can tell you this, that hearts are being changed, eyes and ears that were once blind and deaf are being opened. The Gospel is advancing. And the gates of hell will not prevail against it! We can't thank you enough for all your prayers. It is through them that the Father is doing this wonderful work.

One line from several other reports --There is just a spirit of earnestness with these men. They shared that they have scripture reading and prayer every day at 9:30pm. They are encouraging one another, praying for each other and seeking the Lord together.

Karen Selby, Sandy Hanson and MEC volunteers



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