

# 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



*Save the Date*  
**Saturday October 26, 2019**

**MEC Fall Program at  
Serenity Village Community Church  
4100 Douglas Drive N  
Crystal, MN 55422  
Worship, Dessert, Fellowship, Speaker  
& Testimonies 6-8:30 PM  
Dr. Tim Walsh speaking on  
*The "Born Again" Brain*  
[Download the Flyer Here](#)**

**August 31, 2019**

## ***MEC Spotlight Grace Schmidt***

I've been asked to be in the spotlight this month! I will start with my childhood, growing up with a Bible believing mom that read to me often. I have always loved Jesus but through my teen age years I strayed somewhat but never forgot Jesus in my heart. Marrying just after high school, I went through many years living with an alcoholic husband, but thanks to the Al anon program, I endured and he finally pursued treatment/rehab. He now has 40 years of sobriety. I prayed continually and things improved as we proceeded to raise 4 children.



We moved to a new area to find a house with a bedroom for my bedridden mother with severe arthritis. I cared for her for 14 years. There were difficult days but I'm so glad I was able to take on that responsibility. I so believe that God led us to a wonderful neighborhood. During that time a Bible Study was started that continues weekly to this day. At that time, I renewed my faith in Jesus and was truly born again. Studying the Bible with others has enriched us by giving me joy and more confidence in my life. Learning more about the beliefs in God's power and the Holy Spirit to give me wisdom and direction strengthens me. Being able to share our needs in our prayers with one another gives me encouragement.

Our oldest son then became addicted to drugs and that brought me strongly to prayer once again. Although he is on a doctor's prescription for methadone, He is now 51 and has been clean for over 2 years. Each trial brought me closer to the Lord.

Through my church family, I found MEC and was led to volunteer in

Spotlight:  
Cont. on page 2

## *Conversation With God*

There is a skit by Matthew Pole called the Lord's Prayer Drama. In it someone is praying the Lord's prayer and God answers. It is a great skit that helps us see the need to talk to God and not recite the prayer by memory without meaning. When using it for teaching I thought about how my relationship with God has grown and I see him in ways I did not see earlier. Listening is part of our prayer and I would challenge you to pray and listen for what you feel God is saying to you – Have a conversation with him. Here is how I think my conversation with him around the LORD's prayer would go at this time.

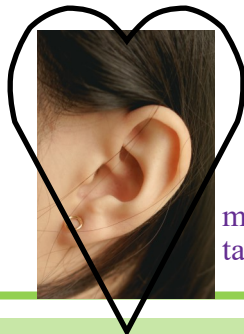
"Our Father who is in heaven."

Good morning! (Or afternoon or evening) I'm so glad you called me.

Oh, you startled me Who are you and what do you want?

I am your father. You called me. Would you like to talk?

Our Father  
cont. pg. 2



**August 31, 2019**

MEC Spotlight Grace Schmidt.....page1,2  
Save the Date MEC Fall Event .....page1  
Conversation with Our Father.....page 1-5  
Ministry Friend Shout Out: Good News jail & Prison Ministry...page 3

the office, as I always enjoyed office work. I have continued to volunteer, working one day a week for Karen, editing/proofing the prayer letter to the intercessors and anything else that is needed, for the past 8 years or more.

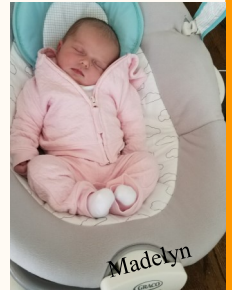
Tom now has 40 years of sobriety. He came to the Lord when He started attending church at Lakes Free Church. We will have been married 57 years this December. We will have been married 57 years this December. He came to the Lord a few years after we started attending church at Lakes Free Church.

Knowing that I'm not alone and can come to Christ in prayer and guidance has brought me through my trials and experiences. We have always had family members living in our home. God has made me a caretaker of many and given me the desire to help friends and family. I am so thankful for all my past, good and bad, and know God has been in control. I rely on that strong belief.

For exercise and enjoyment, my hobby is clogging. This is a rhythmic type of dance that originated in the Appalachian Mountains, using double tap shoes and primarily bluegrass music. Our group does it in Nursing Homes and community events.

Tom and I have recently retired after 39 years of running our family construction business. We have just been blessed with our 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild!

My favorite verse is Philippians 4:13 "I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me." I look forward to retirement but even more so the resurrection day when we are all together in heaven.



Our Father cont. from pg. 1

I was just saying my daily prayer.

Yes, and you have said it before, many times. I have always listened. But this time I thought you were a little more open to meaning it. You have had some needs lately that you have been a little more aware of and might be more open to an ongoing conversation, to talking from the heart instead of mouthing what you have memorized. Just the fact that you are talking with me now helps me think you are more open to listening to me. A little while before teaching this prayer I talked about how those who are poor in spirit will be blessed. Being poor means that you need some things and being poor in spirit means that you are aware of what you need and so I was hoping you would be coming to me to have these conversations about how I can help to fill you and meet those needs.

Interesting, very interesting. I did not talk very openly with my earthly father.

I'm different than your earthly father. Some of them are pretty open to heart to heart communion and some of them have not learned the skills to do that. You know what it is like to cover up hurt with some action.

I sure do. We could have a long conversation about that. But I need to get through this prayer so I can go on with my day. "Hallowed Be your name."

Thank you

What?

Thank you. My name is Hallowed. Do you know what it means?

Not really, good grief! It is just part of the prayer you told us to pray.

That's right! It is. Praying with understanding is part of this conversation. Do you want to know what it means?

Yes, I really do.

It means great! Awesome! Holy. Concentrated, Revered! Wonderful! Understanding a name, my name is understanding character and what is being offered to you in the relationship.

I guess if I get past the idea that you are full of yourself then that is pretty neat.

Yes, Jesus was full of grace and truth.

Makes me think about what I am full of.

Ah yes. What are you full of?



Our Father- cont. on pg. 3

We know we—Missionary Evangelism to Corrections are not alone in Ministry and so each month do a shout-out to others.

This month our Ministry Friends Shout Out is to

**Good News Jail and Prison Ministry**  
**They place full time chaplains in correctional facilities**  
**John Cherico at Hennepin Co ADC and**  
**Jeff Freeman at Henn. Co Jail Facility**  
<https://goodnewsjail.org/us/>  
 click on Minnesota for their information

Our Father cont. from pg. 2

Hey! I'm good! Well most of the time anyway, but then sometimes what I am full of is not so good. In fact, it stinks. Sin seems to be a part of my nature.

True. It takes a lot of courage to recognize it and admit it! But the good news is that growing in faith and love is a great exchange of those actions, attitudes and beliefs with the good of My love.

That's a lot to chew on, to think about.

There is a lot more to know about my character, so learning some of my other names is a great way to start.

Like "the Lord is my Shepard," indicates you will take care of me, of us?

Right! -If you take time to do that you will keep growing, but you have time to do that. For now, go on with your prayer.

"Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Do you mean that?

It sounds like a fairy tale and I don't really believe in those, but I guess sometimes they bring hope. Heaven is supposed to be so perfect, so it would be nice to have it more like that here.

What do you mean by perfect?

I mean like really nice, not having to be perfect, I'm far from that. I mean to have it perfect around you, beautiful and like with God and people.

It's great that you recognize that you are not perfect. Striving to be perfect on your own is such a burden but accepting my gifts bring your life and relationships closer to the way you want things to be. What you described is my kingdom.

Like you are a King, right? Sitting on a throne and all.

Right but not so distant, I am only a prayer away so I am in heaven but when you open your heart to me, I am with you too. At the same time. It's a God thing. When the King is good the people are well taken care of and when you let me in and let me take care of you, sure I deal with some things but you are well taken care of and the things I deal with get replaced with something better.

Imagine you are serving food in a lunch line. If you just do it as a job that doesn't count for much except the little you get paid, plopping food on each plate, not caring about the people, that is the way of or the kingdom of the world. Now if you value each person, see their worth and that you are providing nutrition for their substance, it is very different. If you see them and yourself as my creation and encourage them with a smile and a kind word, they might wonder what you are up to but it is a whole other way of operating. Praying, receiving and then loving others, doing what is right, serving with love is part of bringing my kingdom to the earth. If you live this prayer it revolutionizes you and everything. The word control has a lot of negative connotations for a lot of people. We don't like to give it up, unless you think of it as good being in control.



*Jesus  
was full  
of Grace  
and  
Truth.  
What  
are  
You or  
we  
full  
of?*

That's right! So will you let me have control?

But how do I do that? I get so angry, and my resentment at those who have what I don't... Then I'm nervous or anxious about certain things, money is one of them. I would really like to be free from those hang-ups.

Ah yes, well money is not the root of evil, but loving it more than you love me, is. My will may be specific in some cases, like calling someone to a vocation, but it has more to do with the attitudes, like being and giving thanks, letting me help you see the gifts, even when you are going through hard times.

Like the

silver lining in a cloud, but you probably mean even more than that. Like the gift of being able to see jealousy or attitudes that make me hard so I can see the faithfulness you put in me when am feeling off. When I give them to you and you replace them with love, joy and peace.

Right.

That's good! O.K. Moving on, The next line is "Give us our daily bread".

When you meditate on it, give your mind time to think but don't just let it go blank, read and think about my Word for insight and wisdom. Remember we talked about my names. In addition to taking care of daily needs this one relates to one of my names. Jesus is the bread of life.

This is so different than I imagined a conversation with you would go. I thought

you would just be pointing out all of my faults.

I love you way too much for that to be all of what our relationship is about. Now that freedom that you talked about comes as you understand it and walk in it. When we are communicating well and working together, you're really listening and hearing the love and power, learning and growing with me, I call it abiding in me.

It's one of those metaphors like the kingdom thing.

All right, I am afraid to go on with this prayer.

How come?

I know what you are going to say.

Try me.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us..

What about "You know Who?"

Really!? You know what they did to me? And what they didn't do when I needed it. It is one thing for a stranger but someone who is really supposed to love you? Besides whenever I try to make it better it seems that they take it wrong and it gets worse. So, I have given up. They hurt me quite badly and I want them to hurt.

That's a lot of hurt to hang onto.

It makes me nervous just thinking about it. Can You, would You, make me free from that?

Sometimes it happens quickly and sometimes you have to just keep giving it over and it takes time. But what you do in that time determines how you develop. And yes, I can do that, and would love to, if you will let me.

It is so hard to trust

Sometimes. But it is easier than the defenses and being hurt over and over again. Keep in mind the faith of a child. When offenses come, know that I am on your side, you can run to me and trust, then we can work through it together. If you grieve the pain and loss, then you can let go of some of the pain. Then instead of reacting out of that pain and need, you can respond to new situations and relate to people out of healthier, more solid foundation, with more resilience. In addition, you will have the understanding of that pain and can help provide comfort and support for others who have or are experiencing hurt and pain. With the new foundation, negative perceptions cannot be as strong and when something hard happens you can sort through it easier and see the hard, but also the good, the gifts that come with it. The solid foundation helps you think more clearly and it also lessens the amount of reinjury happening over and over again.



Photo: Unsplash Ben White



I guess if I do that, I would be able to handle things better – I can 't do this on my own though.

It is good that you know that. To know you need my strength is the first step in opening up, asking for and receiving it. When you are ready, you can invite the prayers of others. You are never alone, I am with you always and you also now have a new family. Some people stop talking to me when another walks in the room and there are some things we discuss privately, i.e. praying in the closet, but there are others issues that discussing with me and your brothers and sisters helps.

Kind of like that song that says if you see me on my knees, I'm not weak but am getting stronger – only it is I am weak but getting stronger through you. All right, forgiveness it is.

Thank you – feeling better?

Yes, it is a different kind of fatigue, but relief, and I think I will sleep better.

Now you can feel my forgiveness. Accept it, take it in. Live in it. .... You have covered quite a bit in this prayer. Are you done for the day?

Well there is "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil".

With request you are discovering more about what I did through my life, on the cross, in the resurrection and the power that lives in you now though the Holy Spirit. Learn more about that. And when an evil thought comes to your mind, turn it over to me. How you think in your heart is big. It goes back to understanding those needs. You are going to fill them in some way. Fill your needs with temptation and it will lead you down. Satan is the liar and he came to kill steal and destroy, so he will lie to you and make temptation seem like it is meeting a need, but that is so short-lived and doesn't bring good in the long run. In fact, it brings destruction. Find a Godly way to meet that need and you will experience the blessing. Facing the temptation and saying you are not going to do it needs to be declared but don't keep facing it. Turn your back on it and pursue Me. When you are facing me and walking toward me, sin and temptation will fall off behind you.

It is more of this turning it over and receiving my strength. And don't put yourself into situations that you know you should not be in. Don't face sin, looking at it or walking toward it and then think you are not going to do it. Face me, seek me, follow me and then the sin will fall off behind you. Ask for it, accept and receive my love and power. Then live in it.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. – That is glorious and your glory is so much more. When my dad died, my moth- and her neighbor saw angels who escorted dad to the throne and she could not see you but your feet and knew you were there. When my prayer partner died, she had been studying your glory; when my great nephew died, he sat with Christ and He sent him back to us with the message of your overwhelming love for each of us. Worship songs, your awesome presence – it is all only a portion of your glory.

Forever and ever Amen

What is your concept of forever?

Time that goes on and on and on. I don't really like the concept. boggles my mind, I can't grasp it.

It is not just something to be endured, it is more of a solid assurance, something you can count on, it will not go away, in a good way.

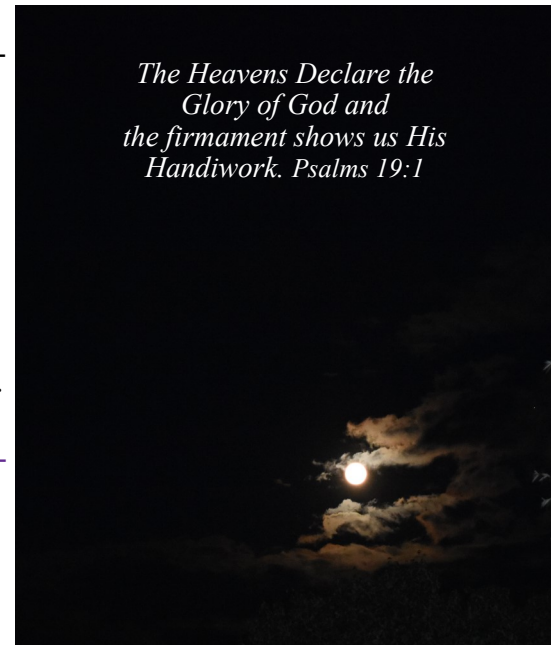
Ah Amen! So be it!!!!

Repentance is changing your mind to agree with Me, with the good and the right. When you know in your heart, right well, then you know what I know and Now we are in agreement.

*Skit and conversation Karen Selby*



Photo: Lenna London Supercoloring.com



*The Heavens Declare the Glory of God and the firmament shows us His Handiwork. Psalms 19:1*

Photo Karen Selby

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us at [mec@usfamily.net](mailto:mec@usfamily.net) with REMOVE in the subject line, call 651-408-1300 or write PO 542, Wyoming MN 55092. Please visit our website to see how you can support MEC. Donate through PayPal or help by doing some of your shopping through links on the website without spending any extra. Visit [www.mecjailministry.com](http://www.mecjailministry.com)  
Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant Director, Sandy Hanson Office Administrator, Grace Schmidt Volunteer