

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



November 30, 2019

MEC Spotlight

Geneva Morstad

Thank you to those who came to our Fall Event and for those who helped!!!!

If you would like an audio of The Born Again Brain, please e-mail us at mec@usfamily.net

If you took any pictures please send them to us

Thanksgiving in the Storm

There is a song based on Philippians 3:10 that goes, "That I may know you, Wonderful Lord! That I may know You Wonderful Lord! To know the power of your great resurrection, to join in fellowship with that of your suffering, and in that being made conformable to your death, that I might know You, Wonderful Lord!"

Singing this for years brings a wonderful feeling of closeness to the LORD. But when we run into the fellowship of His suffering, the feelings are often the opposite. At such times the cry of my heart can be, "How do I do this and allow you to conform me or form me into your likeness instead of feeling sorry for myself or letting the pain overwhelm me?"

When there is no reasonable explanation for the suffering that is at the hands of someone else, or their reasons do not include the entire picture, how do you love them? When one situation overlaps with another and no one sees the whole story, how do you feel validated instead of dismissed and rejected? When



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The Art of Prayer

I would like to share how God revealed to me what it meant to be "born again," John 3:3. One morning I gingerly crept upstairs, went into my son's bedroom, got on my knees and cried out to God to show me what it meant to be "born again." When I got up off my knees, I literally felt like the floor was shaking under me. God showed me what it is like, to be like a new born baby, born into God's family, born supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. Now I realized, I have to grow in God's heavenly family.

I read an article by a physician who starts the morning on his knees with the Lord. When he began this, within a few days his patients started to look like real people instead of a number. His prayer time increased. By the time he wrote the article on prayer, he would pray at least two hours each morning. So, I said to

myself, if this enhanced his life like he said, I will do likewise. My prayer time would also be first thing in the morning on my knees if possible. I would spend a few minutes each morning, to start in prayer. When I saw answers to my prayers, my prayer time increased each morning.

I learned the power of the Gospel is not found in the method but in the Lord and what God reveals to us in the Scriptures. I spent time in prayer learning about the character and promises of God our heavenly Father, about what the Scriptures tell us and why Jesus calls us friends. John 15:15.

I like going into a closet when I pray, even if it is a bathroom. Jesus said to pray to the Father and "thy Father which sees in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6. I pray for God to fulfill His purpose in my life each day. How will we get to know anyone unless we spend time with them? Before I go to bed at night, I get on my knees and give thanks to our God for all He did for me this day, and forgive me of all I should have done and did not do. I pray in Messiah Jesus' Name. Amen.

When living in Perth, Australia, I was invited to attend a fellowship group with women and children. One beautiful morning, I

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Unsplash photo



are not granted the authority to be heard, how do you process it? When your flesh cries out for revenge, how do you respond with the Spirit of Christ?

Corrie ten Boom tells of the supernatural love and grace of God that overcame her when, against her feelings, she extended her hand in forgiveness to the officer who caused the suffering and death of her family members. Meeting her and hearing her speak when I was in

Junior High was meeting a saint. Reading many of her books and seeing *The Hiding Place*, provided inspiration in hard situations.

For years I lived with isolated emotion and a “me and God against the World” mentality. He has taught me to open up to others, prayer partners, pastoral counsel, and develop friendships where you could talk and pray, speak to those on prayer lines and converse with Him audibly or in silent walks and swims. Then major relationships, that had taken time to

develop, went to heaven or moved from my area. Age advanced and when six or seven major trials hit at the same time, I could chalk it up intellectually to spiritual warfare. But when emotions were unearthed and reminders of earlier situations which required forgiveness came up, it seemed

unlivable. The question Mr. Rogers asked in his song, “Won't you be my neighbor?” felt like it was answered with “No!” or “only a distant or a TV one”. That response came from several different directions.



On Way to A K. Selby

all things” (1 Thessalonians 5) and that does not mean ignoring what

When you know that He says to “give Thanks in

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rose early in the morning to go to the hills to pray. I cannot begin to describe the incredible aurora, the roseate glow of that early morning sunrise, awesome beauty as the sun was rising that morning. I knelt down to pray and felt ants crawling all over me. I was kneeling on an ant hill. The ants attacked me. I brushed them off of me and when brushing them off they all took off in perfect harmony to another location. There was one little ant left behind with a load on his back way too heavy for him to carry. He was struggling to keep up with the others and decided it was too much for him. He dropped the load that was on his back. I watched him for some time trying to catch up with his peer group and he did.

God tells us to consider the ants' ways and be wise. Proverbs 6:6-8. And isn't this just like us, also, we carry a load too heavy for us to carry and what we need to do, as the Scriptures tell us to do, is cast the burden on Him, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Matthew 11:29,30.

I always pray for the prisons [and jails] and encourage people to pray for the security around you. We need to pray for the police and the security. There is just so much. Every day there are new beginnings and I pray “Lord, what do you have for today?”

If someone is reading this prayer and has never asked Jesus Messiah into their life, pray this prayer - "Dear Jesus, forgive me for my sins, thank you for the Blood you shed on the cross for my sins. I ask You, Jesus, to come into my heart, I accept You as Lord and Savior of my life. I am now born again. Baptize me with the Holy Spirit and empower me with your gifts. In Messiah Jesus' Name, our God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Amen."



Scriptures tell

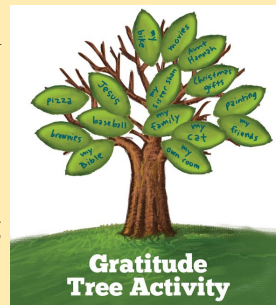


We know we are not alone in Ministry and so each month we do a shout-out to others
This month our Ministry Friend Shout Out is to: Wycliffe Bible Translators

<http://www.wycliffe.org> (see their mission and go to blog to make gratitude tree)

In 1917 a missionary named William Cameron Townsend went to Guatemala to sell Spanish Bibles. But he was shocked when many people couldn't understand the books. They spoke Cakchiquel, a language without a Bible.

Cam believed everyone should understand the Bible, so he started a linguistics school (the Summer Institute of Linguistics, known today as SIL) that trained people to do Bible translation. As the work grew, in 1942 Cam officially founded Wycliffe Bible Translators. Over the following decades, Wycliffe celebrated many milestones — the first translation completed in 1951, all the way to the 500th translation completed in 2000. Their new goal is a Bible translation project started in every language still needing one by 2025.



Roger Hanggi and Ron & JoAnne Krueger are three of the translators who live in this area.
Roger is going to begin as an MEC volunteer soon.



Nancy Crombie brought a chrysalis that hatched during our church service at Lakes Free

is going on, pretending that it is not happening or shouting over the negative emotions, there is an arsenal of weapons for this battle. Confession, prayer, journaling, God's word, worship, thanking and gratitude, fellowship and rest are among them.

Dr. J.D Watson's Book, A Hebrew Word for the Day, reflects on the words "feet" and "slipped" in the Dec 3rd & 4th meditations. Looking at several versions of the verses he mentioned brings a rendering of combined versions which says what I would like to convey.

"When I said, my foot has slipped, it is slipping [I cried out, I am tottering, shaking, slipping, falling]; Your steadfast, faithful and unfailing love and devotion, Thy mercy, O LORD, supported and supports me. It held me and it holds me up."

In the multitude of my thoughts within me, when my anxiety was great and inner thoughts multiplied (or do multiply) and threaten to overwhelm me, when I was (or am) filled with worries, cares, griefs and sorrows, when afflictions and doubts fill(ed) my mind: "Your consolation(s), Your assuring words, bring encouragement and make me feel secure. They sooth, they gave and give me renewed hope and cheer. Thy, Your comforts delight and bring joy to my soul."

Psalm 94: 18-19 Combined versions

All this helps me relate to and leaves me contemplating how those very real individuals in the Bible related to Jesus and then how they related to others. I look forward to meeting them in heaven when that time comes. Christ said it is not those who are well, healthy and strong that need a physician, that He did not come to save the righteous, but sinners (Mk. 2:17). He said it is those who mourn who will be comforted (Matt. 5:4). In many of the interactions people had with Christ, their needs are evident. The woman at the well (Jn.4), the woman who touched Jesus' garment (Matt. 9), the one who washed Jesus' feet (Lk. 7), and the one who compared herself to a dog who welcomed the crumbs (Matt. 15:27), were all able to let Jesus and others see their need and allow Him to meet it. When Jesus washed the Disciples feet (Jn. 13) Simon Peter did not want him to do so, but then opened himself up completely. The centurion whose servant was healed did not feel himself worthy for Jesus to come under his roof. (Mtt.8), Jairus fell at Jesus feet when begging for his daughters healing (Matt. 5). Following those situations some of these people went in separate ways, others were a part of the temple or church communities and needed to relate to each other. The (former?) tax collectors and the leaders in the synagogue and churches needed to relate to those who came to Jesus in need.

In 2 Cor. 11 Paul talks about the commendation of afflictions, hardships, distresses, trials, imprisonments, misunderstanding and the fruits of the spirit that were a part of this commendation. He addresses those who misunderstood him by saying our heart is open to you, please open your heart to us.



Cardinal karen selby



In this culture it can be confusing as to how to relate. Those who come from tough backgrounds and perhaps who's need is more evident and those who are used to being in the church, need to open their hearts to each other and find the ways God wants us to love. We are sometimes uncomfortable allowing our need to be seen but need to take the risk. If, in taking the risk, our need is not met well, forgiveness and figuring out how to and where to present it and meet it in a better way is necessary. When we see need, it should cause us to ask God how he wants us to show His love.

Karen Selby

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