

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

MEC Missions Report 7/2021

MEC is a ministry of those who have been broken and forgiven, sharing Christ's love with those in corrections. Volunteers from churches local to the jails share the Gospel through Church Services, Bible Studies, Outreach classes, Bibles and Christian Literature. We send volunteers into 14 different units and facilities. At times the doors are open wide and volunteers have been welcomed into facilities to share programs on a regular schedule arranged with the jail staff. At other times the reception has been more like Matthew 5 and Luke 6 where we pray for those who misunderstand and speak evil against Him or us.

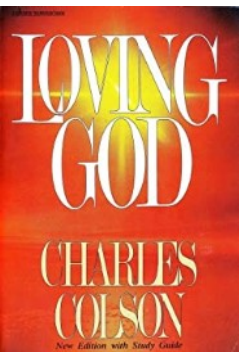
It is clear that this is the LORD's work but sometimes the question if we should quit or are reaching people comes up and is answered by Him bringing an encouraging testimony. Each month our newsletter has an article about the ministry, growing closer to God and those He has given us to love, and a story of an ex-inmate, volunteer or supporter. We add a shout-out to a related ministry such as Parenting with Purpose, Serenity Village, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, Rebuilders, Metro Hope & Healing House, Adult and Teen Challenge, Crossing Home, The Dwelling Place, Freedom Works or others we network with and recommend to inmates who qualify. In addition to the newsletter, we also have an intercession letter which has confidential requests from inmates, volunteers, supporters, letters or calls.

When the mantle for MEC was given to us in the early eighties, most jails had chaplains that were employed by or contracted with the counties. As the idea of separation of church and government became more prevalent, positions like chaplains decreased.

This opened more doors for volunteers. We were asked by program directors to help find people who would do so. As volunteers came forward, the ministry grew. The winds began to change.

After 9/11. Security measures increased, guest speakers and musicians were no longer

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This book part of mantle for MEC being shared with us.



July 2021 MEC News

Spotlight: Steve Shaw

Steve Shaw has been a long time MEC volunteer at the Anoka County Juvenile Facility, faithfully sharing the Word of God with the youth that needed it.

He was in jail, and actually decided to seek God there. God sent another young soldier to lead him to a Bible believing church and through them Steve was saved and found God. It was also through church that Steve came into contact with MEC.

Let's let him say it in his own words:

"Ending my part-time volunteer position with MEC was not an easy decision or one I made lightly.

I was asked to join around June of 1989. At that time Pastor James Snow of First Baptist Church in St. Francis and Tom Gardner headed up the Lino Lakes outreach. In the early days the church youth group would come along and sing.

I have worked with many different people over the past years. We preached, we sang, we brought musical instruments, prayed and even showed "Focus on the Family"

videos. Our goal was to tell the young people about our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ and to bring honor to Him.

But, it has come a time in my life I feel to pass the baton off to someone else and let them run the race. Thank

Shaw cont. pg. 3

Steve's Life Verses Eph. 4:28-29



28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

July 2021

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Testimony of Heaviness Lifted

A month or so ago, I experienced a heaviness and sorrow all day that plagued me. My mind sought answers as to why. A small measure of understanding came when I considered that I may have been 'hungering and thirsting for Righteousness.' I too was grieving due to loss and was troubled by where some of my loved ones were at in their life, coupled by the state of the world and our country.

It is noteworthy to me that not only are we living in the End Times, but that the first words out of Jesus' mouth regarding the sign of His coming (when the Disciples asked Him what to look for) were 'DECEPTION WILL ABOUND.' Our Savior was not kidding.

You are not of those who are deceived. There is a battle raging. We know that our weapons are mighty for the tearing down of strongholds.

To continue the story I began....all day I suffered with this heaviness and sorrow. As I turned into our Cul-de-Sac after a long day of work and errands, that heaviness suddenly lifted. It was tangible and very pronounced. I felt peaceful and free. My first thought was 'Someone is praying for me!' When I walked in the house, the first thing my hubby Gary said was that he had just spent several hours praying fervently and in the Spirit. I did not know it was my husband who had been praying, nor did he know that I was experiencing that awful oppression. Praise God! He IS the Victor and gives us the victory. Jesus tells us that we are MORE than conquerors and that we belong to Him!

Maureen Carlson

(She & Gary are past volunteers and current intercessors)

admitted, treats or outreach gifts for inmates were now considered contraband and, license costs for Christian movies has increased exponentially.

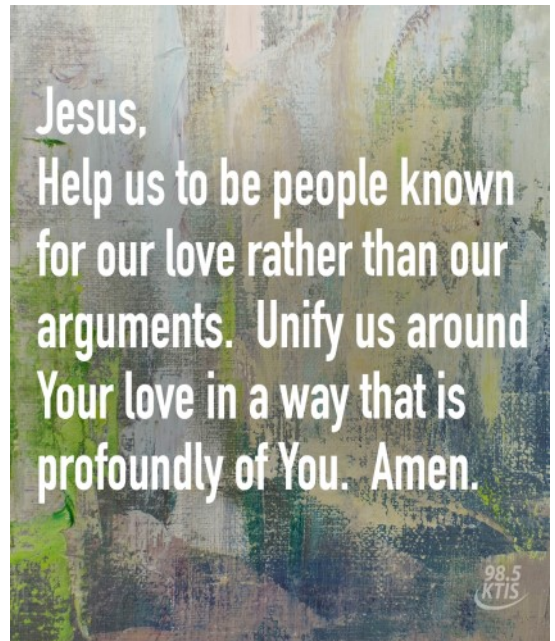
In recent years more secular programming competes for time slots in program rooms in newer and larger jails. The dynamics are constantly changing, but what God has established in the past years leaves a foundation for continuing. What was about 85 services a week in 2018 in Minnesota and Wisconsin had been reduced to 65 in 2020, When Covid 19 and it's restrictions hit, about 35 lesson a week began to be accepted by e-mail. The potential for reaching about 700 was contained in that, how many received them is unknown. Pray that inmates will be asking for and receiving God's Word this way. Fortunately, Bibles and 12 Seeds Relationship materials were and are still being delivered to the jails.

Now that the jails are starting to open up, we are asking the LORD daily for wisdom and clarity of what to focus on. Each facility has different expectations which range from requiring vaccines and masks, renewed training, paperwork and background checks to "Do you have someone who is already cleared and can you have them come this week?"

Some of the volunteers have started to go back (Praise to our God for His glorious name and work!), Some have resigned due to concerns, health or schedule changes, and some are in the process of getting cleared or waiting for restrictions to be lifted. We are currently looking at starting up at least 32 of these per week. Reentry and mentoring are minimal but in prayer.

Saul Selby works at MN Adult and Teen Challenge as the Vice President of Clinical Services for all of the campuses in MN. Although MEC is separate from TC, we are Teen Challenge advocates. He is the Executive Director at MEC and takes care of the board, finances and decision making.

Karen is full time with MEC. She trains, places and supports volunteers, working with churches and jail admin to make this possible.



[Nadine Behrens](#) is here 2-3 days a week as office administrator. Praise Him for her help!

[Sandy Hanson](#) was an ex-inmate who came to do community service, then she worked as office administration for us for 11 years. We are praising God that she is home and doing very well after prolonged hospitalization, She retired during that time and we are praying for God to show His will as to if she would come back one day a week or not.

4th of July Fireworks



True Freedom comes from
and in Christ

Please pray for MEC and for those in corrections.

These are your neighbors who have been living in or visiting your community. (People go to jail in the county they commit their crime or are arrested in) Although much of their activity is hidden and once, they are arrested, it/they is out of sight and often out of mind. Many of them will be returning to your community. It is a front line battle field and place of darkness that needs the light of Christ. You are a part of this community and a part of the body of Christ. Will you pray for those who are incarcerated? Will you pray for the staff, the volunteers, the inmates living near you, and those returning to your community?

If the LORD calls you, will you volunteer in the jails or in the office?

Steve Shaw cont. from pg. 1

Thank You MEC for letting me serve with you.

Thank you Steve! Thank you Steve! for all the years of volunteering for MEC, sharing your heart for the LORD, ministering with your church to the youth at Lino Lakes - especially enjoying sharing your music!



Ministry Shout Out

This month we would like to introduce five prayer lines that are open 24/7 to talk to and pray with people who feel alone, hopeless or are facing hardships and who do not want to share with someone they know.

Crossroads Prayer Line 24h +1 (866) 273-4444

K Love Prayer Line +1 (800) 525-5683

Family Broadcast +1 (800) 365-3732

His Radio +1 (866) 987-7729

Hope for the Heart +1 (800) 488-4673

Prayers can also be posted online and can be anonymous.

Although we are not a prayer line, we also have intercessors you can submit prayer requests for.

For More resources see our website

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us with REMOVE in the subject line, call or write. Please visit our website for articles, studies, prayer aides, resources or to donate.

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