

2009 Missions Report – Testimonies from MEC Volunteers

Anoka County Jail Facility: I ministered to two ex-vice lords who are really getting into the Word of God! One was in ACJF for months and then the HCADC. He was transferred to prison where he met with three vice lords. When he made it clear that he was now following the Lord and would not go in with them, they jumped him. He came back to the HCADC to testify in another case. Now he is back at Leavenworth and asking that a Spirit-filled Bible be sent to him. / Another ex-vice lord had been involved in a gang shooting where a girl sitting in her home died in the crossfire. This got to him and he is now getting into God's Word and wants to preach to kids. – Keith

Anoka County Non-Secure: One young woman began crying at the first line of "Open the Eyes of My Heart" and wept on and off during the message on God's delight in being with us, His crowning creation. One young man made sure he knew exactly which verses I was using so he could find them and follow along. I have seen a more noticeable and encouraging reaction by those at the shelter of late. -Pastor Matt, 7/2/09

Anoka County Sanford & Walker: One young man, in particular, was touched when he asked a question and I responded to it by reading the Isaiah 62:1-3 reference. He said that his girlfriend had just written him a letter telling him to read that same verse. He said he was "feeling like he was high, but different." I talked directly to him, telling him that God has ministry in his future, but he needs to quit messing around and come to Jesus first. We prayed for all of them. The guard was even engaged and allowed us to go past the usual quitting time.–Matt, 4/29/09 - 20 young men came. I believe this is the 2nd or 3rd largest turnout since I have been ministering here. - 7/2/09 - Once again, there was a drawing of the anointing of the LORD in this service. A young man named P., who is soon to be a father, was touched and convicted. Another young man was convicted about unforgiveness toward his mother and asked for prayer. Even those that did not speak were reflecting on the need to allow God to bring them into His Kingdom and worthwhile life. –Matt, 10/7/09

East Central Regional Juvenile Center: For the last couple of weeks we've seen an unusual interest in girls wanting to get saved. Yes, in the past we've talked about salvation and had evangelistic Bible studies and clearly explained the gospel, but this is different. One week, almost before we could even sit down, a girl said, "I want to get re-saved." When I asked what she meant, it was clear that she wanted to repent and turn to Jesus. That evening two of the three girls prayed to be forgiven (for salvation). The third girl was already a Christian. The Holy Spirit seems to be moving at ECRJC. We count ourselves blessed to be involved in such a thing as this. It is our prayer that it continues and that we carefully obey the Lord. We are thankful to the Lord for His powerful working in the hearts and lives of these girls. -Cindy and Jody

Anoka County Medium Security: I was under extreme pressure because of personal problems in my life. I told my wife I'm too stressed to go in today. She said, "You need to go." So I went and stood in the hall as they called out, "Does anyone want Spiritual counseling?" I stood there thinking, "Lord why not send no one today and I'll just go in the little counseling room by myself and cry." Well, they did come. Four of them. From that day till now. If 5 come probably at least 2 will get saved. What a blessing. What really blesses me is they are growing. Saved great! But growing too, WOW! Started the new service at the other jail. No one came. They will! -Gary, 11-28-06

God's House.....I've heard this over and over as I've been volunteering in the jails. I know this is true because of the lives that are being changed. I would like to tell you about a few women I have met and hopefully you will also see that yes it is God's house.

M.- once in jail started reading her Bible and read through the whole Bible in less than 4 months. When we would be reading scripture in class she would say keep going it gets even better. What is amazing is that she read the Bible through in English even though her main language was Spanish. I was able to get her a Spanish study Bible before she left.

L.- Came in the first few weeks and I wondered why she came, her face was so cold and she didn't seem to care. As weeks passed she would come in and her face beamed. You could see a complete transformation happening in her. She even started hugging... When she finally did get to court they said that they had every intention of sending her to prison, but because of the evident change in her she was sent to treatment instead. After treatment she came back to finish her sentence. She said, "When I left for treatment I prayed for 2 things: fuzzy green pajamas and a pink pair of granny underwear." When she got to treatment, her roommate pulled out a pair of pink granny underwear with the tags still on and said, "This is going to sound weird, but you wouldn't want these would you?" L. cried as she told this story...

S.- When she first started coming looked so unhealthy...She said she knew why she was there...She said that she had at one time been really close to the Lord and stopped going to church and reading her Bible and when things got really tough mentally she fell apart. She became a mother hen to the women you just heard about.

At Christmas time I found out that these women, after being released, were still meeting together for Bible study. Just a few weeks ago a woman told me I know this is God's house because when they arrested me and put me in the back of the car I said, "Thank you God!" Week after week when we are reading scriptures someone will say I was reading that this week. The time the women spend in jail is time with the Lord without distraction.... no makeup..... no communication outside....it is time of solitude..... And when they pick up the Bible, God has their full attention... And I am so blessed to be able to witness what God is doing in their lives. -Cheryl

Anoka County Work Release: When I shared the scripture of where Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go to the Father----that I may send you the Comforter" ---, the person of the Holy Spirit came into our midst. I was led to ask them to put their hands up into the air, if they really, really wanted to be baptized by the Holy Ghost. As one, they all shot their hands into the air. There were three of them that asked for prayer, one turned out to be a time of personal deliverance and release. - An inmate shared that she is going to get her medallion for being drug free for a year. She gave the credit to all the volunteers who faithfully come in to the jails and teach how to apply the Word of God to make life changes. That one report made the whole year worthwhile for me! Leon, 1/22/10

Chisago County Jail: PTL 4 inmates accepted Christ. They all came in serious and ready to learn. . - 11/18/09 - We had five inmates come today. All of them had accepted Jesus in the past. A great Thanksgiving - the inmates really appreciate us coming! -Linda, 11/24/09

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center: We had prayer. I shared from the word and they were all very receptive. Some shared about struggles they were having and I believe the Holy Spirit was ministering hope and grace to their hearts. At the end I prayed a sinner's prayer with all those who came. Altogether, there were about 25! -Bruce, 5/26/09

After the video one inmate asked if he could be baptized, unfortunately we can't do that! R. said someone was helping him study the book of Genesis. An adult inmate who knew the Bible very well, had been working with them through the air ducts! God will find a way! Praise God!!! - 3/5/09 - E., who became a Christian a couple of months ago but has been in lockup and was able to come again last week, is a completely different person from the one who sulked in the back of the room, to one who laughs and smiles and loves to read God's word!!! - 9/3/09 - Some of these inmates, literally, have nothing but the clothes on their backs, but were discussing how they could see God working in, changing, and restoring their lives!!! Then we read passages from James on how to live a godly life in this world and to break free from their past! -Kevin, 9/13/09

One of the gals wanted a Bible and we were able to get it to her right away. She is very interested in learning what it is all about. I have so much hope for this one and know the Lord's hand is on her. -5/4/09 The tears were flowing from two gals and the presence of the Lord there lifted my soul today. -Mary Lou, 7/6/09

HCADC Juvenile (waiting to see if they will be tried as adults): I have been having some AWESOME Bible studies this last month. A couple weeks ago 2 inmates accepted Christ!!! I started meeting with these inmates a couple months ago. At the first few meeting E. claimed he couldn't read (now he's one of the first to volunteer to read) and D. was disruptive and disrespectful (now he asks for copies of readings I bring in so he can memorize them

and repeat in his morning prayers!). Last week I was able to present D. with a Study Bible he can take with to prison (is getting sentenced to 7 years). It is just totally amazing to watch God's Spirit come into these guy's lives and completely change them into new Creations!!! -Kevin, 8/12/09

Ramsey County Adult Detention Center: Almost every week, it seems, the inmates ask: "When are you coming back?" THEY ARE HUNGRY FOR GOD'S WORD AND FOR THE CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IT. If the prison staff is willing to schedule more Bible studies, I'm sure inmates would sign up for them. "Pray, therefore, to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out workers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:38) Brian, 11/9/09

All the inmates are receiving Jesus as savior and the LORD has been touching their hearts, to our LORD is the GLORY, because without the HOLY SPIRIT, we can do nothing. -Juan, 5/8/09

Ramsey County Correctional Facility: We are continually seeing men's lives touched by Christ and are encouraging them to get involved at the local church once they are released. -Jeff, 5/5/09 - We read Proverbs chapter 9 (invitations of wisdom and folly). With that as a starting point, the three of them spent the rest of the time discussing how they had been foolish before, how they ended up in jail, the wisdom and power of God's Word, and how they had been changed by it. One in particular had a lot to say about his intentions to use his testimony to win others for Christ. It was tremendously encouraging for me to hear what they had to say, and the inmates also seemed to be greatly encouraged by our time together. - Brian, 12/5/09

Red Wing MN Correctional Facility: The men are a joy to spend time with. They ask lots of questions and have a lot of insights on what the scriptures have to say to us . . . these have had some significant exposure to the gospel . . . There are several men in the cottage that do not attend, and it is those men whom I hope to eventually make inroads with. - Doug, 12/27/09

Roseau County Jail: Although it varies, I have had a great turnout and heard back from many of the inmates who have taken an interest in learning about God. I have been able to go to some of their court situations and the county gave me a key to the courthouse so in addition to the studies for the men and the women in the jail, I am able to do Bible study with some of those who have been released. - Jim, 2009

Scott County Jail: We have been working with a man named E. for a couple of weeks who was addicted to meth. This was a blessing since we were all able to add experiences of our pasts, and scriptures that have helped us in battling the temptations we all face on a day-to-day basis. Seeing other inmates who are walking tightly with Christ and spending much time in the Word gave hope, which has had a huge impact. -Mark, Greg, David, 3/2/09

When I was without a car for a while and taking the bus, I met several people who we had ministered to in jail. [She shared specifics of several situations.] I understood that we had far more impact than I had realized before. -Dorothea, 2009

Washington County Jail: There was a lot of discussion today, few songs. They had lots of questions, comments and there was very good ministry. K. shared a testimony of how God showed Himself real in her life. Very uplifting. We encouraged them to read the Word and be obedient to God. At least 2 out of the 3 women expressed their need to draw closer to Jesus. -Barb, 8/2/09

One of the women shared that she has been sober for a year after Christ lifted her addiction from her. It was a powerful testimony. -Beth, 3/16/09 I feel God answered our prayers, as the women were open to God, repentant, searching, and interested in what we were sharing. There were tears as they understood themselves in the light of God's great sacrifice through His Son, Jesus. -Jane, 4/15/09 - We had a Spirit filled evening that reminded me of the "old days". The five wonderful women were really attentive and involved in the study. -Beth & Jane, 4/29/09 - We had a wonderful time in jail! They were open in sharing and asked thoughtful questions. We had some great dialogue about prayer. -Diane, 6/27/09

Praise! N. came to our Bible study pretty much just to get out of his cell. He listened to our discussion. At the end when I asked for prayer requests he asked for prayer to end suicidal thoughts. R., an inmate sitting next to him, asked if he knew Christ, would he like to. He said yes! - Harry, 5/2/09

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