



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections Newsletter

Reaching those in Corrections for Christ: OVERVIEW



This letter is intended to share an overview of MEC.

We share the love of Christ and God's Word to those in Corrections, primarily through church services, Bible studies, individual spiritual counseling and the Victory Over Addictions classes. Some jails allow Christian movie nights or holiday events. Believers in churches nearby the jails share Christ's salvation and power to change, teach, disciple, provide Bibles and help inmates find resources and fellowship in their home community.

Most church services are held by rotation, so inmates get exposure to different churches. Bible studies are presented by volunteers who can go weekly or bimonthly, thus providing consistency, relationship, and discipleship. We minister to men, women, and youth. Groups range in size from one-to-ones, to small groups, to sixty.

Christian books and videos have been donated to jails and are placed in the library or given to inmates. Donated conference tickets are sometimes distributed.

Volunteers are interviewed to determine their potential need for training and placement. Those ministering become dual volunteers for both MEC and the individual jail or county.

We provide a newsletter, an intercession letter, a half-day breakfast and Kingdom Builders conference and one banquet each year. The conference and banquet include music, speakers and testimonies from volunteers and inmates, and are open to anyone who is interested.

Presently MEC minister's in eight counties. Please take one county or site to pray for each day, or use the calendar on the website which lists services and pray for them individually.

ANOKA COUNTY—MEC provides volunteers to the downtown **Anoka Jail Facility Anoka County Workhouse**, and three youth programs, **Sanford and Walker, Non-secure and East Regional Juvenile Center.**

CHISAGO COUNTY—Three Bible studies, church service every three weeks and the Victory Over Addictions class.

GOODHUE COUNTY—The **Adult Detention Center**—Opening for Bible Study and Possibly Victory Over Addictions Class.

HENNEPIN COUNTY—The **Adult Detention Center** downtown Minneapolis—Has church services in four of the housing units and seventeen Bible studies. **Hennepin Workhouse** in Plymouth—One church service and VOAC. **Hennepin Juvenile Center** - Two services and one-to-ones. There is a need here for meeting with juveniles who do not have visitors.

RAMSEY COUNTY—**Ramsey Co Correctional Facility (Workhouse)**— Church services and Bible studies.

Ramsey County Adult Detention Center—Has three church services and one Bible study per week.

ROUSEAU COUNTY—Church and individual spiritual counseling.

SCOTT COUNTY—Three church services and Bible study on three to six units. We are needing individual spiritual counseling and setting up for aftercare.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—Church services and Bible studies for men, women, and youth in the Washington County Jail. Christian movies are a possibility here.

PRIVATE JAILS— *The Volunteers of America run a Halfway house for men and women in Roseville, a boys' youth ranch in St. Francis and a girls' youth ranch in Blaine.* We provide some church services and are recruiting help for both services, Bible studies and VOAC at these corrections facilities.

OPPORTUNITIES TO Grow and Give

- The Victory Over Addictions class or Celebrat Recovery can be started in more jails. This class includes a video which Saul created that combines teaching, interviews of those who have done well in their recovery and discussion questions. It covers 12 topics, including: Temptation, Repentance, Holiness, Identity in Christ, Discipleship and Ministry.

- Bibles are a constant need.
- Present volunteers can use partners and additional services can be added.
- Presently we have four part-time staff members, and around 200 volunteers. Funding is primarily by donations of individuals and a few churches.
- Administrative volunteers
- Literature Distribution

THE IMPACT OF MEC

The gospel became more real to me when I saw people's lives who did not know Christ. No short amount of words can describe praying with an inmate when they find they have 15 years of prison ahead, a parent is ill or has died while they are incarcerated, or that they will be losing their children. The following comments reflect Christ's work here.

"Finally," one young woman sighed, "I have forgiven my father, it is such a relief."

"I have been thinking seriously about what the man said. My fiancé and I really need to get our lives together. My children need a better life. I am going to check into [a Christian rehabilitation program.]"

"I was going to kill myself, and my roommate recommended I 'at least try the Bible study first.' The volunteer told me about Christ, and He gave me life while I was in the county jail."

One of the guards let us know that his "day would be better" because of the inmates having Bible Study.

Pray for us, to walk worthy of the calling, with lowliness, gentleness, longsuffering, love, unity and peace. (Eph. 4 1-3) Saul, Karen, Sheree & Sandy

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