

# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982



## Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing Ownership

The concept of ownership stretches our thinking because it can exist without the person thinking that they are acting as though they own another person or their possession(s). It is most obvious in crime, such as theft. When a thief enters the premise anything in sight is presumed to belong to him or her. In less obvious ways it is present in relationships. Control is valued more than the other individual or relationship, but the controller is not aware of it. The thinking is so engrained that it is not done with malice. Anger arises when the person who believes they or their rights are more important than others are crossed.



We can see this when a person complies or cooperates as long as it is their idea or decision to do so. Money can be expected to be supplied by others. For example, a bully may take another's money under threats or an employer is expected to pay more than he or she does without the employee

understanding what the employers compacity is. An employer who feels ownership would feel that the employees pay obligates them to servitude more than it does. The employee may feel that the employer is fortunate to have him and tries to set his own pace and schedule, often directing others. Conning, disruption, coercion, cheating, intimidation, may be overt or covert and cause confusion. The server with ownership thinking may be very cooperative currently, with plans or belief that to take ownership will be theirs in the future.

For those who feel ownership in the sexual area, they feel irresistible and a game of moving in to woo, conquer or obtain what is already theirs ensues. The responsible party in the relationship is expected to be ever faithful, while indiscretions of the owner are

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February 28, 2018

## MEC Spotlight

Our spotlight this month is on the inmates and prayer. The stories vary greatly of who the volunteers work with. It could be someone who said something they wish they had not said to planned murder. The time could be only in for a few days and they only come to Church, Bible Study or a Recovery class one time. They are usually waiting for court and could have to go one time or several times. They could be getting out soon to a relatively stable home or they could be in for a close to over a year. They could need treatment or mental health services. They could be in under false accusations or events that they have no memory of.

For our volunteers alone there are 18 facilities which range from 65 to 650 or more inmates. We only cover a portion of the state(s).

With the prayer requests that are turned in, our prayer letter goes out every 10 days and it is often 8-10 pages long with 20-30 requests per page.

Here are a few of the prayer requests. The names have been changed as confidentiality is required. Pray for them with us and as you do, let God stir your heart to pray for the corrections in your community.

They are not far down the road from you.

Correctional officers who deal with difficult people and inmates who are in difficult circumstances need hearts to be softened and that God's people care.



Families of inmates, sheriffs, emergency call workers, police officers., parole or probation officers –who are now called supervising agents all face challenges that many of us may or may not face.

Thank you for reading this & thank you for your prayers.



**Cassy** - Prayer for her children, her family, for all the women in the jail, she is very aware of God working in her life and she is very grateful. She lost a very good young

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### February Highlights

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overlooked or “forgiven”. Money and time of the spouse and children should suit their convenience and personal privacy is utmost while others are expected to not only be open, but also pleasing to the one they are indebted to. Others should not enjoy what he or she cannot, they should gravitate to them, and if they are not the dominate one in a group they become bored or feel put down. If someone with ownership beliefs borrows money, it is a favor for them to return it. If they lend it to others, that is the favor. Laws and rules are important, if they currently benefit from them, but if they are not convenient, they do not apply to him or his situation. Used to taking others for granted and [thinking he knows] how others ...ought to function, the expectation is that others will satisfy his wishes. [Y & S Vol 2, pg232] As these things are present, the one with these thoughts is not aware of them, and if pointed out, would be perceived as a putdown. When control is challenged, disruption ensues because the sense of worth that comes from ownership and control is disturbed. [Y & S Vol. 1, pg. 385]



Studying Proverbs is imperative to growing and maturing in our faith. It exposes us to ideas that we are not aware of that will bring vitality and health to our lives. Learning them can bring joy (Prov. 10, wisdom (P. 1:6), insight, wisdom, discipline, knowledge, discernment and learning (1:2-6). When reading through proverbs many times I was stuck with what I needed to learn and feared I would not remember. One idea that helps to cement these in our hearts is to ask, what is the promise in this verse and what is the way to obtain that promise. Here is a link that breaks down the first two chapters in this way. Be encouraged to study through each chapter asking these questions.

***For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.***  
1 Peter 2:15-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

The change process should be uncompromising and involves several thought changes. I have taken some of the thoughts from Yorkelson and Samenow, added my reactions and supplied verses which have informed this conversation.

- ◆ Replace assumptions with factfinding and consideration of others “Evil men don’t understand justice or judgement, but whoever seeks the LORD understands it all. Proverbs 28:5

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friend a year ago and she went off the deep end falling further into drugs. She couldn't see the sense in a beautiful 23-year-old girl dying way before her time. She no longer calls herself a victim even though she had a very rough life growing up with a mother who only had children so they could be her slaves and do her bidding while she sat on the couch and drank and went out. They were abused, mistreated, and neglected. For many years Lizzie thought of herself as a victim, that she always got the bad end of the deal. God has shown her that He made

her strong to withstand it all and now He has a plan for her life. She had such peace and spoke of God with such love. She came to jail with a gram of heroin in her system that should have killed her, but ...God saved her. She is very thankful and grateful to be in jail to begin to get her life in order. Then she met with a public defender, he asked her about some circumstances and showed her a picture and asked if it was her since it didn't look like her when she was heavy on drugs. She admitted it was her, and the public defender was shocked she would admit that and he could tell from her eyes, that she had a new spirit about her. He told her if she needed any help in the future, to let him know. In [these] ways...God is showing Himself to her. Her court date is on March 1st.



**Jessica** - for the health of my baby with my pregnancy, that I am out before the baby is born and that I can finish treatment and be back with my 10 year old.

**Lesly Keaton & Lisa Kelly** (volunteers) - We had a total of seven ladies today. The oldest is 33 years old, and two (at least) are pregnant. Our focus was on Principal 6, which discusses making amends, forgiveness (to others and ourselves) and God's grace.

Cont. on pg 3 Inmates and Prayer

## Ministry Friends Dwelling Place

The Dwelling Place is a Christian ministry providing healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse through supportive services and a safe place to call home.

<http://www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org/>

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- ◆ Recognizing others will not always like us or do what we want and accepting other people as individuals. Recognize their tastes and preferences and ways of doing things may differ from ours.
- ◆ Look for the good in this and ways you can complement each other and work together. “In doing so they have found themselves [you will find yourself] better informed and have more harmony in relationships) Y & S Vol 2, pg. 232) Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function. In the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts. (Romans 12: 4-6 HCSB)
- ◆ Learn social boundaries with accountability, privacy does not mean secrecy [Prayer fasting and alms and good deeds should not be done to be seen, but should be done before God.] (Matt. 6)
- ◆ We do not have a claim on others and they do not owe us, but others may have some claim on us and we do owe them Be devoted to and love each other with brotherly and genuine affection, delight in honoring each one another above your selves (Romans 10:12 CV)
- ◆ Don't put others so far up that you do not take care of yourself. “Taking action of constructive initiatives, follow-through and self-care is important” (S&Y Vol. 2, 232-232) (The first and second commandments)



Please send us any feedback you have if something is difficult to understand or if it helps you!

**Martina** - Prayer for her family to be safe, for her cousin Prayer cont. from pg. 2 to find sobriety, she is pregnant and due in two weeks.

Martina's court date is March 6 or 8, she had a lot of peace and prays that she can make right decisions and trusts and leaves her fate in God's hand if that is for her to go into treatment or return to prison. She has learned when she spends time with God, He helps guide her but when she forgets about Him, she falls back into her old patterns and hanging out with the wrong crowd. She wants to do things right this time.

**Matt** – Thanksgiving and praise for good health, seeing his dad and his son, son's visit to UND – remove temptations of College Life!

**David** – Loved ones, for mom who turned 91, for all the saints, our Quad and all jail residents. **Jordan** – Pray for the judge, his parole officer, and for himself to be humble and fiancé. **Jamarlo** – Get out and go home, family, restoration of strained relationships. **Pedro** – Son, mom, girlfriend in Mexico, Q-13 guys, case, a closer walk with God. **Devecchio** – Family, walk with the Lord.

**Earl** - Family, case. **Allen** – God to change him, family. **Kwavion** – Case, pregnant girlfriend.

**Pierre** - I pray that God gives me clarity and that He gives me more wisdom, knowledge and understanding. That He leads me in the direction He wants me to go and gives me another chance. And watches over my family. Without loyalty we have nothing.

**Ronald** - Could you please pray that I remain in the Heavenly Father's grace and continue to do His will. Also, please pray for those who do not have 3 meals, or a roof over their head. In Jesus' name, Amen & God bless you.



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