

# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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



June 30, 2018

## **MEC Spotlight** **Marvin Woodworth** **Blessing and Special Prayer** **for family**

## **Problem Thinking** **and the Lord's Healing** **Rebuilding Trust** **When It Has Been** **Broken part 2**



Examining our patterns and asking God to help us form new ones to be able to trust people is part of letting go of the old and renewing our minds and hearts. (Rom. 4 Eph. 12, Ezekiel 36:26). In part one we asked to look at our trust patterns and see how they need to change. In part two we will look at some additional specific changes we can make.

A search of verses on trust will yield many that say to trust God, but to be careful trusting man. God is trustworthy and unregenerate man is not. Those who have accepted God into their hearts and Spirit are more trustworthy because His Spirit lives inside us and transforms us. Watching a person to see what fruit they produce in their lives will tell you if they can be trusted or not. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. When someone is born again, they need to grow. If you can see growth then it is good to be faithful and continue. If you repeatedly see words without the actions, this is not the belief that the Bible talks about. Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." (John 6:29, James.

One can ask if there was trust in the first place. If there was, genuine amends may restore it, but it will take amends, consistency, interaction, faithfulness and time on the part of both parties.

Relationships go through stages. The first is the honeymoon stage. Everything is new and  
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Marvin Woodworth "came to know Jesus Sept 6, 1975." "When my son was born, I read a little book, 'Prison to Praise' by (Merlin Carothers), and found that God really worked in our lives. I prayed the sinner's prayer and accepted HIM. Before that I thought of God more as someone who RULED from a throne, and not as the HELPER, who loved ME. I started to read and understand the BIBLE for the first time. Jesus became so real. I saw what I was like. In Gal. 6-7 it says be not deceived, God is not mocked. I had mocked God with the way I lived and thought. He wanted me to change. He put me in a prayer group and a Bible believing church. He put people around me that helped with the transformation. My wife accepted Jesus at that same time and we could see with our own lives, John 10-10 working. Today, after so much has happened, we can stand on Romans 8:38-39, nothing can separate us from God's LOVE."



"In 1999 while in the ICU, I died 3 times {over 2 days] during bypass. I had an artery to my heart break and I would bleed out. With prayers and praise songs I came back., and we believe that God did His part!!!!"

When Marvin applied to work with MEC his references gave him outstanding recommendations. Chris Lyman (featured in the documentary Church of  
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## **June Highlights**

overall feels good. Brain chemistry produces good chemicals. You are learning new things and even the differences are exciting and seem good. In the second stage you begin to see the differences between your thoughts, feelings and values and conflict emerges. It is the third stage. What happens when conflict arises determines the trajectory of the relationship. The two of you can part ways, ending the relationship or at least it's growth. You can stay together in continued conflict or work through issues leading to a deeper relationship.



Knowing the stages of relationships (and also of grief) gives us hope that we will get through the hard times to more rewarding ones, helps us see progress (or lack of it) and allows us to choose activities that will lead us towards the goals of each stage. If we are in the conflict stage, learning more about communication and resolving conflict assist in navigating it. Getting outside support can lessen the stress, provide validation and encouragement and help us find tools to obtain and have victory over temptation and misunderstandings.

Satan deceives with lies that need replacing with the truth. Conversations help us see the differences. Dialogue, prayers and scriptures such as, the abiding chapter (John 15), the love chapter (I Cor. 13), the faith chapter (Hebrews 11), the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5) and the armor of God (Gal. 5) are worked into our foundation as we study and discuss them.

When asked how do we learn to rebuild trust once it has been broken, Cheryle's response was take responsibility for your actions, make amends, be consistent, and give it time. You could add, communication, forgiveness, honesty and support.

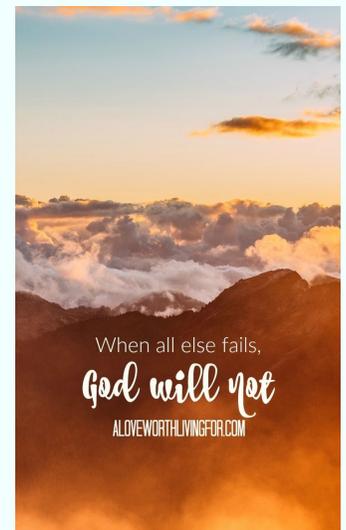
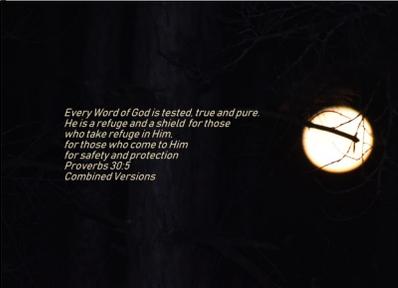
These three basic questions can help ground us when we hit the challenges of building or rebuilding trust. We have asked them before and it is worth examining them. 1) Who is God. 2) How do we trust Him and 3) How do we become trustworthy.

These questions can be asked of ourselves when learning to trust Him and also can be asked of others - 1) What is their character like? 2) How or what can we do to increase our trust of them and 3) Are we trustworthy in our relationship with them?

When learning to trust, the more we know about Cont. on pg. 3 PTLH

Felons) said Marv had ministered to him for a year while he was incarcerated. Bruce Peterson, Chris, Dave Sandman and Bill Chantelois have ministered together with him and describe him as a seasoned Christian, caring, sensitive and spirit filled and teacher and pray-er.

Marv's family has recently been wrenched by crime when his grandson was helping a woman who stabbed and killed him. Please pray for the families involved in this situation. Marv has continued to volunteer to teach and to fill in for others as they are grieving and dealing with this horrific loss.



## **Ministry Friend Shout Out**

*We know that we are not alone in ministry This month our shout out goes to*

### **Twin Cities Ministries**

TCM believes that the church and it's ministries should reach out to those who are working their way out of a life of addiction, crime and incarceration. They minister in corrections, transitional housing and to those in addictions recovery settings through modeling, teaching and providing community for individuals. Seth Evans is a board member for MEC and is in leadership at TCM

Learn more at [www.twincitiesministries.com](http://www.twincitiesministries.com)

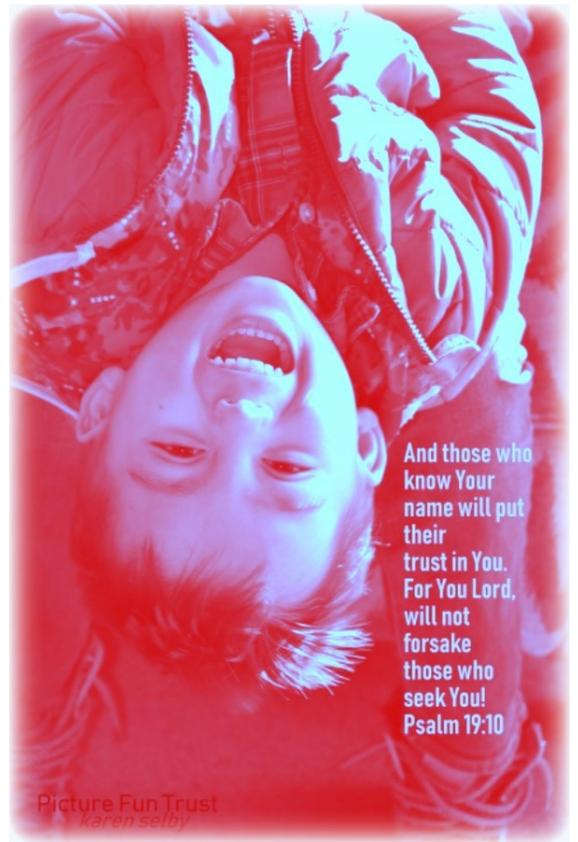
God's character the more we will be able to trust Him. Trusting Him means pouring out our hearts to Him and pouring out our hearts to Him will help us to trust Him. This is circular, but it is a great circle. (Psalm 62:8) Trusting means leaning on Him for support and help, listening to and obeying His requests and commands, and receiving His promises and peace. Find a good list of God's characteristics and ask Him to be that to you and for you. Ask Him to work those characteristics into your being.

In addition to looking at this from "Can I trust another person?" we need to look at the issue from the other perspective of "How much can I be trusted?" Becoming trustworthy ourselves is imperative.

One place to start is to learn definitions of words and how they are used by others and what they mean in the Bible. Earlier we talked about looking at our definition of trust and I hope to cover several words and how they are misused and used correctly in a later article. The more we understand the words of the Bible and what they mean the more we will grow. When discussing the word justification, the noun means "showing something to be right or reasonable." When asking a group who did not know the Biblical definition of it, what came to mind was "When you do something wrong and you give a reason for it." Then we read it in the Bible and talked about how it is used there. It means to be right with God, that He takes our guilt and the penalty of sin, reunites us with God and makes us right in His eyes. He gives us the power to be and do right. Understanding this definition helps correct an attitude that brings destruction and brings new understanding, forgiveness and power to do what is right.

Building and rebuilding trust takes time. It takes a decision and commitment. An honest well thought out and carefully presented apology where you take responsibility for your sins needs to be followed by demonstrating changed behavior. Accepting God's forgiveness for yourself, asking for and receiving His strength will help when asking for forgiveness from the other person. This will be more effective if you expect some defensiveness and venting. Asking the other person for a good time to talk and what it would take for them to trust you involves good listening, acknowledgement of their feelings and time. Transparency and sharing your feelings is important but the timing needs to be when they are ready to listen or your explanations will be heard as though you are not listening to them or as excuses. Empathy is key and unselfish concern needs to accompany it. In the Criminal Triad W. Harmening expounds on the idea that empathy is important but the prevention of crime (and I would add successful relationships) takes empathy and altruism. Altruism is an unselfish concern for the other persons welfare even if it means some disadvantage or harm to yourself is involved. Blessings as you work on these goals

*Keren-Happuch pen name  
Karen Selby*



*Lucija Gos upsplash House Trust as foundation added*

Please let us know if something is difficult to understand or if it helps you! We hope PTLH articles can be helpful and your feedback included in changes to this that will help inmates who are coming to Christ and changing their lives .

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