

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

Problem Thinking and the Lord's Healing: Some Conclusions

There are so many areas we have discussed with problems that can be discovered in our thinking. Growth in faith is very often discovering what is not correct (lies) and what God says in His word that can help us grow and receive what we need. Just looking at this list can be overwhelming but taking it slow and integrating the concepts one at a time can lead to great reward. Over the time of writing this I have learned about areas of thinking that I was not even aware were problems. If you want a compilation of these articles, if it has helped you to be reading these or if you have a question, edit or a story that could be added to help clarify things, please let me know. You can contribute to people who really need to hear it and may affect their lives.

To think that we can have a better understanding of who our God really is – what He is like, how He loves and treats us with honesty and the ability to change is astonishing. That He can take from us anger, pride, false religion, failure to do or experience so many things and give us love, joy,

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January 31, 2019

MEC Spotlight Lesly Keaton



I had desired to serve God in the capacity of prison ministry for quite some time. He is so able to move beyond circumstances and make His way become amazingly possible! Widely opening this door for me was a powerful lesson learned, and I am so grateful for seeing His mighty hand

work in my behalf, allowing me to serve Him in the lives of the inmates at Scott County Jail.

Why did I desire this? God is so good at putting the desires of His heart into our heart, as we “delight ourselves in Him”. Speaking into the lives of women was (and is) one of those desires He has placed and fulfilled within my heart, and I am eternally grateful.

I do believe God has used me to speak His word to the ladies, as well as other words of encouragement. My ministry partner Lisa and I were always in sync, being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to use us as He willed: through sing-

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Victories Amidst Battles

In a monthly newsletter there is no way to share with you the depth and breath of what the volunteers experience and the ways they minister to those in such deep need. The difference of us being in warm houses and offices with families, jobs, church communities (even with all their struggles) and someone who is homeless, may or may not have a phone is the literal physical difference for some of the inmates. The spiritual need is just as real and just as strong. In many situations they are parallel. Although it is not as stark every time, here are six stories among the many, that represent this.

Praise

To see seven young men file into a room with fairly somber faces, some appearing strong and some very weak, but all very much in need can be daunting. Knowing their lives have brought them to the point of incarceration in a maximum-security facility, we yearn for them to find answers. It is also exciting to know that God is going to work in their hearts. Then to have the privilege of hearing them follow the lead of a fellow volunteer who has musical ability in singing praises to the Lord for a full half hour and see their countenance lift was amazing. At the end of worship, one of the young men who has been coming regularly was taken aback. He had a great smile

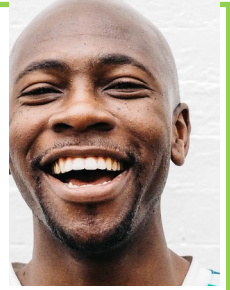
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and exclaimed, “that was really powerful!”

Following that, most of them read a paragraph from Luke 15, “The Lost Son” and were picking up the parallels to their lives. That the prodigal and they themselves had been leaving what was holy and good and the need to return to their Father in Heaven who loves them brought tears to some and I believe relief to all of these young men. To seek family, either theirs or Christian family, that would bring them closer to Him and each other by approaching this with intention and words were concepts that the Holy Spirit poured out in the discussion. The same young man who found the worship powerful, related to the older brother and said, “to see myself in the Bible. [Wow! That is really something!]”.



This type of service makes it worthwhile to be out on a cold night and emphasizes the importance of your prayers. Because around the same time there have been some challenging situations and reports of spiritual warfare and difficulties getting to and in some of the services. Your prayers make a difference, thank you for praying! *Karen.S.*

Battles

Three came on Sunday. Mad Hatter kept yelling at the field mouse, telling her how the service was supposed to go, then espousing on various topics of science, life orbs, and astrology ... Field mouse would go off on topics I couldn't recognize at virtually anything I could say as if she were having a great epiphany on some subject of her own. The third woman sat alone at the far end of the table and said nothing.

Oh yes, the enemy was definitely in the room! I've had something like this before, once or twice, but it manifested slightly differently. Yesterday I felt completely inadequate, I'm thankful this doesn't happen often.

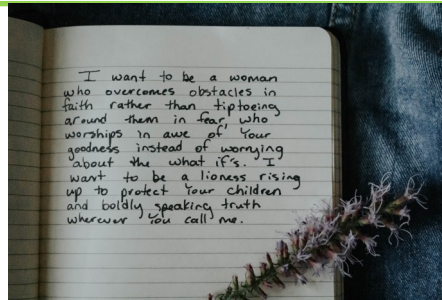
There was no one from “B” pod interested at 11:30 so that session had no problems.

So, we go on, we persevere, because that's what unconditional love does. Hey! Two reports in a row, I'll keep trying to remember.

Steve B.

There is one specific mod that is noticing and feeling the presence of a dark force. One of the ladies thinks it is targeting her but the others are feeling it too. They were visibly shaken and con-

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ing to Him, Bible understanding and how to apply it to life situations, sharing testimonies, the CR lessons, praying, discussing the meaning of salvation, (so many salvations have occurred!), sharing of laughter, disappointments, pain and victories.....I really could go on and on!

Looking into the eyes of the inmates, seeing the desire for Christ and wanting to become like Him; the desire to become free of the habits, addictions, sins, abuse, neglect; the longing for a true relationship with Jesus; the broken-heartedness due to separation from children and loved ones; all of these things and more, always brought recognition that I was in the right place at the right time. Most of them are like sponges, wanting more and more of the knowledge of Christ. They are so appreciative of our being there for them. It has been such an honor to be used in this way for the glory of God.

I am grateful that the environment allowed for the Holy Spirit to always come into the room and do whatever He desired to do in both their hearts and lives, and in ours. What a joyful experience to witness salvation and growth in these precious lives.

But I must say that I was repeatedly blessed, time after time. Yes, it is “better to give than to receive”. But giving in this manner, to God's amazing creations, for me has been like no other giving experience. I've learned, through obedience, aspects of joy in the Father that only comes from ministering to those who are lost in ways so devastating. Believing in my heart that God is using me to make a difference in their lives has consistently brought “joy unspeakable” into my own life.

I pray that others are encouraged to become involved. God is so wonderful at putting His words into our mouths. It's not about us, but it's all about Him. Its often a matter of overcoming fear and stepping out in faith, knowing He puts His words in our mouths, speaking what He desires to say. Your life will never be the same!

I desire your prayers as I venture onto new territories, following God's leading to California. Thank you!
May God's direction always be the path you choose!

Your Sister in Christ, *Lesly Keaton*

cerned. We asked for specific prayer in the powerful name of Jesus for the schemes of the devil to be thwarted and thanked Jesus for already conquering sin and for protection from the evil one who wants to destroy them. Ironically, our topic was on children and violence and many of the ladies talked of wanting to stop that cycle in their lives and the lives of their children and how to go about doing that.

Continue to pray for me that I would not say anything that would be contrary to the Word of God or confusing that leads to misinterpretation. May God's words be my words. The next day 5 different women came and asked great questions. Four out of the five prayed earnestly to receive Christ as their savior
Sherry Olsen

Praise

Five lively engaged women ... chose from different categories; discouragement, Faith, forgiveness, fear and courage were some of their favorites. I mentioned they are ours when we give our self to Christ. They were eagerly writing down more than a few of the Bible verses and where they were found in The Bible so that they could keep them for future use. We talked about memorizing them, claiming them and using them as an arsenal against Satan. Thank you for your precious prayers. *Jeannie S.*

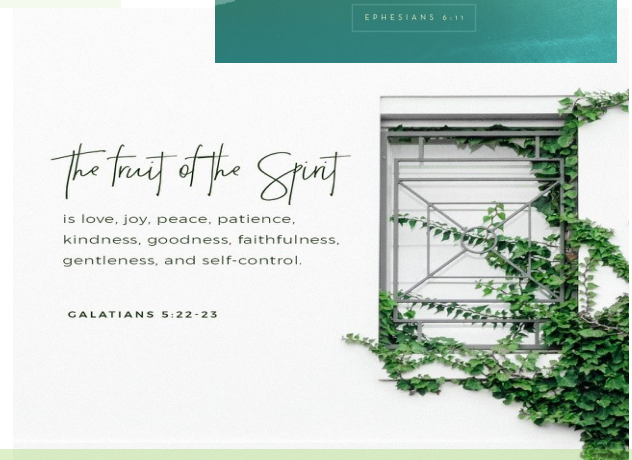
Last Saturday Grant and I had a great service with maybe 12 men professing Christ as Savior. Wednesday, we had 13 men, showed the [A DVD] ... "Unlocking the Mystery of Life" (you can look it up, definitely worth viewing) and had a very fruitful 20 minutes preaching on how the world shapes us into its way and not God's way. They all seemed to profess Christ. God bless.
Keith Hedges

cont. from pg.1 PTLH Some Conclusions

peace, wisdom, confidence and victory is far beyond what we can hope for without faith in Him. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably, abundantly, indefinitely, exceedingly above more than all we ask, think or imagine, according to His mighty power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)

The greatest commandment to Love the Lord Your God with all of your heart, soul and mind can help us the most. It will lead to the second one, which is to love our neighbor as ourselves. (See Matthew 22)

PTLH articles have run in the MEC newsletter for a few years and this is the conclusion to that series. Covering around thirty-six topics, they help identify areas that can be problematic and how God's Word can bring freedom in that area. Please let us know if something is difficult to understand or if it helps you! We hope PTLH articles can be published. Your feedback included in changes to this will help those who are coming to Christ and changing lives, please let us know.



We know we are not alone in Ministry and so each month do a shout-out to others
 This month our Ministry Friend Shout Out is to

Stephens Ministry

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people in and around their congregations, who are hurting, through one-to-one lay caring ministry

<https://www.stephenministries.org/default.cfm>

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