

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

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

Save the Date Sunday, June 23



Bill Arnold
Comedian, Entertainer
Radio Host & Minister

6:30-8:30pm Sunday 6/23/2019
Willowbrook Church Forest Lake MN

- Fellowship
- Testimonies
- Encouragement
- Information
- Fun (and fundraiser)

Encouragement For the Right Battle

A supervisor in a treatment center for those recovering from alcohol abuse and addiction had counselors working under him. Among staff working to help the clients learn more about their patterns of addiction and ways to change these patterns there were two Christians who had different personalities, interests and approaches to their work. The differences these two children of God had threatened to divide them. If unresolved, their conflicts had potential to harm their individual relationships with God, with each other and those observing them. Their ability to help those who they had opportunity to minister to, their witness among the staff and the blessings God had for them in this would be threatened. Negative attitudes which are expressed both non-verbally give others the idea that Christianity is about the correct outward actions that we desire or about specific doctrine. Those



Encourage ... cont. pg. 2

March 31, 2019

MEC Spotlight Don Spencer

Don Spencer has volunteered with MEC since the early part of 1990.

When asked what he felt he learned or received in his faithful years of service, he says, "I guess you receive more than you give because you have to study and you learn more when you study. It is rewarding to know God is using you and that you are participating in part of the divine nature.



Back then it was on the job training. He is now involved more in ministries in his church and asks that we pray that we all continue to grow more and more mature in the Lord in these hard times.

Cont. on pg. 3 2Peter1:3-9

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory & excellence. Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, ...

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witnessing the tension may already believe that Christians are hypocritical or that Christian beliefs make life harder because living holy lives means they not being able to live as they want. At the very least they will not be able to see the love of Christ in action by Christians building each other up. Trying to portray Christ's love while covering up tension doesn't work either.

These same dynamics play out in families' homes, jobs, ministries and neighborhoods over and over. There are times when differences must be tolerated and loving at a distance is the best way people can love each other, but I think that Christ had more in mind when He gave us the second commandment.

1st, 2nd and 3rd John has a lot to say on this subject. Chapter one says that practicing righteousness and loving our brother is what distinguishes us as Children of God, contrasted with being children of the devil. 2:3 says "This is how we can be sure that we have come to know Him: if we keep His commandments." Verse 5 says it is how His love is "perfected in" us. 3:14 says when we love we come to life. "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren/ each other. He who does not love his brother abides in death." Third John contrasts Diotrephes who claimed to be a brother but "slandered" and "did not welcome the brothers" and Demetrius, who "received a good testimony." In my experience slander happens when someone voices a hurt or negative perception without the intent to work through it. Welcoming someone encourages them. Hebrews 3:13 says we are to "encourage each other while it is still today"... so that "hearts are not hardened" and "bitterness doesn't take root."



Image: unsplash

Philippians 2:5 says that we should look not only to our own interests, but also the interests of others and verses 14 & 15 say we should "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and perverse generation." It also addresses our witness when it says in doing this we will "shine as lights in the world." Added to this is our encounter with God for reckoning. Paul talks about the good report he will be able to give to God for those who are not complaining or arguing. What account will those we know give to God about us?



He didn't give this command to love one another as one to be obeyed and endured but as one to bring joy. Commandments are not meant to be a burden nor grievous. Growing in faith is often becoming uncomfortable with the old way of seeing things and begin to agree with God. Putting off the old man, renewing our minds and putting on the new is sometimes like changing clothing. Discarding the old leaves us vulnerable and exposed. Certain attitudes may be comfortable but not working. Examining what must be recognized, exposed and changed can be uncomfortable. Admitting we are a part of the clash and conflict and replacing our attitude of dislike with an attitude of looking for what's good, speaking or hearing the truth in love, encouraging and building one another up, changes the dynamics of our relationships. We may need to work through it, but it brings fellowship, blessing and joy.

Sound too optimistic? Jesus said in John 16 that "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". The challenge of this is not easy, but can be an adventure. If Encourage—Cont. on pg. 3

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

International Bible Givers
Giving Gods Word Free since 1989

People who want to give out God's Word for ministry can order some Bibles during the first week of the month and receive them for free at the banquet near the end of the month. IBG Over the years the Anoka chapter has provided thousands - and even more - Bibles for inmates in the jails

Learn more at <https://www.igivebibles.org/>

we take it to heart, give it time to grow, and it will produce fruit beyond just greenery. Whether we take the old thoughts out for cleaning and/or discard them entirely, we need to recognize what we are focusing on and replace lack of encouragement with the new positive attitude of exhortation and encouragement and build one another up.

With enemies we are to return good for evil. (Matt. 5). With anyone I Peter 3:9 tells us “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to you were/are called to this so that you may inherit a blessing. We don’t need to be fighting brothers and sisters. Overlooking differences is a good skill in short term relationships but long-term relationships only develop and do well when conflict is resolved.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34 & 35



Image: John Tyson

“...then make my joy complete by being likeminded/of one and the same mind, of one accord, having the same love, being united in soul and spirit and intent on the same purpose. ”Philippians 2:2

May you be encouraged in your love for Him, for His and for all He is calling to Himself!

Karen Selby

“Contempt is conceived with expectations. Respect is conceived with expressions of gratitude. We can choose which one we will obsess over— expectations, or thanksgivings.”

[Each will reproduce]...

Gary L.

Thomas

Sacred

Marriage

Cont. From pg.1 Spotlight 2 Peter

make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities and continue to grow in them, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever lacks these traits is nearsighted to the point of blindness, having forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

2Peter 1:3-9 Berean Study Bible

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