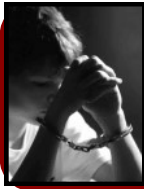


Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982
I was in prison and you came to me Matt. 25:36cESV



January 31, 2019

3 of many Volunteer Reports

Mark Fisher—Going great! Rigo was working with a Spanish man in D-Pod - (General Population), last night named Sosa and it was wonderful for the man to be able to speak to Rigo because Sosa knows very little English. Rigo is sharing the Gospel with Sosa and finding out more about his life. Worked well while the rest of us were going over "True Biblical Salvation" - (had a Somalin man who was searching hard for the truth and who the true Jesus Christ is from the Bible...

The Holy Spirit was convicting the men of their sin through God's Holy Word and also they were seeing how loving Jesus Christ truly is.



Artwork - Inmates at HCADC made artwork from Devotion Snowflakes to teach about Redemption

Are you praying for your Sherriff and their staff?
How about inmates in or returning to your community?

Jeff Benke - The attendance is down as I started the Bible Study after lockdown. Still a good number of 9 - attendees. The Topic from 12 Seeds was on Encouragement. Response of Inmates - Great evening with many inmates giving their testimony. Continued on page 2

Spotlight MEC volunteer Joe Nordstrom New Man Ministries Longtime MEC volunteer

Years ago, I prayed for God to show me who and how to reach those at the back of the line for gospel outreach. God opened the jail doors



(literally) to us and gave you and me the amazing opportunity to preach the gospel, week after week, to men who would likely never have darkened the doors of our churches. Here are a few of them.

- Roger: Grew up on the streets. Never finished school
- Cameron: Addicted to porn and prostitutes
- Jeremy: In and out of jail, can't find legitimate job
- Mohammad: Muslim, depressed, angry, and hopeless
- Dave: Lost his business and his family from addiction & theft
- Jamal: cousin shot in gang fight
- CJ: has seen man shot & involved in gang fights
- Anthony: Selling drugs since a kid, facing decades in prison
- Darrel: Never knew his Dad, five kids from 3 women
- Lonnie: Thinks he's a Christian but works as a pimp.

Marcus became one of the 175-200 men at the back of the line who trusted in Christ this year. I have heard each of these men sincerely confess their sin and ask Jesus to be their Savior and Lord because you have prayed and sent me to them with your support. Please pray for this fruit to multiply into their family's lives as well.

Jamal had come to Bible Study previously and was glad to be back. His smiles and insightful comments were evidence that he indeed was alive in Christ and growing in his new faith. The need to stay committed was discussed, followed by prayer. We request of you who are reading this to pray for them and **If you would like to be able to offer ongoing prayer please talk to us about becoming an intercessor.**

Spotlight Joe Nordstrom Cont. on pg. 2

January Highlights

MEC Spotlight: Joe Nordstrom.....page 1,2
 Have You Prayed for?page 1
 Volunteer Reportspage.1,2
 Ministry Friend Shoutout: Journeymen's Ministry.....page 2

Jan Strub

Wed SCCJ—We had 6 very talkative, engaging women as we discussed the subject of obedience to God. We discussed reasons why we do not obey God; some being fear, pride, independence, and procrastination, and the reasons God gave us Commitments. The women seemed to understand that obedience without an intimate love is fruitless. Also, that what we think we become. We talked about Christ's obedience to the Father, all the way to the Cross, and how much it cost Him. As He surrendered, so must we to truly be free and one with God. Then the Holy Spirit comes in to transform us. They all understood quite well the whispering lies of satan as he tries to keep us from obeying God. One of the women shared how she declares out loud "Get behind me satan!"

Second - Thursday WCJ. Bev and I did the same lesson as 12 women joined us. They were all quite involved and eager to share. There were a lot of questions and spiritual discussions going on. Whoever comes tomorrow night may have a full house again! Thank You God!!

1 John 5: 12,13 says, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life." Even though I was religious, I was afraid to die and face God ... who was holy. ...I knew deep inside my own attempts at goodness to please God ..., I was wrong... I needed to surrender ...trust only in what the Son of God had done for me....He wanted me to KNOW it! J.N. initial app

Joe sometimes shows a movie and after seeing Courageous gets an enthusiastic response from the men about their need to become men of God for their families.

"God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner!" are some of the most beautiful words I have ever heard in my life, and I get to hear them almost every week because you keep sending me to jail. Blair had never read the bible. When I asked him where he thought he stood with God he looked frustrated and said, "Man, I have no idea. I hear all these different ideas out there about God. I came to bible study looking for someone to give it to me straight." I was happy [to do that] for Blair and all the men there.

None of the five men in class knew for certain if they were going to heaven. I'm always amazed at how open they are with me about their sin and frustration. Blair said, "It seems like I just start to try to go right, then I get myself in trouble again! I just can't fix it!"

[As I shared how God created us, we rebelled and became his enemies] ... Blair is now squirming in his chair. He says, "I know I'm in trouble. What am I gonna' do?"

[He] is now ready to hear about God's mercy. As I shared that Jesus was willing to take our judgment and punishment. Blair was among four men who prayed "God have mercy on me, I'm a sinner."



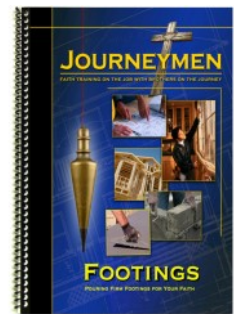
[Many of the men who come show in their demeanor their need for help]. Daren's posture was an unmistakable last gasp cry for help that I

Cont. on pg. 3 Spotlight Joe Nordstrom

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 Joe and Susie Nordstrom's (see this month's spotlight)

Journeyman Ministries

- Journeyman (Men's Discipleship)
- New Man Ministry (Inmate Evangelism and Recovery)
- Starting Strong Marriages (Newlywed Couple Mentoring) and
- Journey to Godly Manhood (Father and Son Discipleship)

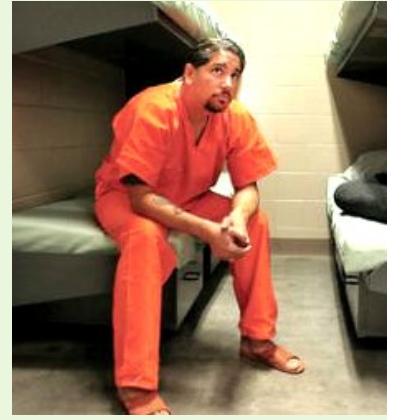


www.journeyministries.com

See training materials and how they will personally help you start these discipleship endeavors.

could hear long before he said a word. When He did speak up, I clearly heard the Holy Spirit leading and guiding me into my assignment for this week's divine appointment. [The men who came this week were young and], open but not broken.

As I shared how God had met and changed me, they began asking questions. Darren shared, "I've done so much wrong that there's no reason God should even listen to my prayers!" The room got very quiet, as he paused. His honest admission of sin and guilt hit the other men with more power and conviction than anything I had said so far.



"I've done so much wrong that there's no reason God should even listen to my prayers!" The room got very quiet as he paused. His honest admission of sin and guilt hit the other men with more power and conviction than anything I had said so far"

Sharing Romans 6, Romans 5 and John 1 helped them see how we are enemies of God and how to be friends with Him. The contrast of Pharisee's and the tax collectors' prayers in Luke 18 gave the men a choice and Darren was the first to pray, "God, have mercy on me. I'm a sinner. Please make me your son." Every other man, followed his example with the same prayer. Then I prayed for them to learn to live like God's sons, God's men, moving forward....Friends and partners, this is the fruit of your prayers and support.

"Eric, why did you come to Bible study today?" said, "Man, I'm 47 years old and I've been in and out of jail for 27 of those years. It's gotta' stop!" [His] face was tight and tone of voice urgent. "I've been through it all, drugs and dealing drugs all over the country, attempted murder, and fighting with the cartels. I'm tired of it all! I have five kids. They're all grown now. I haven't seen my oldest daughter since she was nine. I just learned from another inmate that he knows her. She's working at a restaurant just a block away from this jail and I can't go see her. I'm wasting my life!"

PTLH articles have run in the MEC newsletter for a few years covering around thirty-six topics that identify areas which keep us from growing in our faith or closer to God. They show how God's Word can bring freedom in that area. We are looking for feedback and stories related to them. If you would like to read and provide feedback, please e-mail me at mec@usfamily.net

When I asked, "How do you think coming to Bible study will help you?" He said, "I don't know. I've been running from God, but something is just pushing me to finally give up and let God control my life. I've got family tellin' me I need Jesus, but I've always pushed them off. I have a chance to get into Teen Challenge now. A lot of people have been tellin' me not to, but something keeps pulling me that direction. Nothin's gonna' change if I don't finally get serious. I just know that I need God's help!" ... "I know I've done wrong. I feel like I'm getting closer to God, but then I still want to keep control of my own life, and that just doesn't work." I told Eric, "If you are willing to admit that now, you are a lot closer to God than you think. But, if you're going to stop wasting your life, you'll need to be all-in with God." ... I shared the gospel and how [they] could go from God's enemies to God's sons. Eric was the first man to confess his sin, surrender to God, and receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness. Now he knows he has God as his Father, and His Holy Spirit to help him break free from his old life.

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