



# 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

**June 15th - July Newsletter**

## *Ramsey County Please read and Pray through*

The Ramsey County Corrections Facilities we work with are the Adult Detention Center, and the Ramsey County Correctional Facility. Please pray for these and the youth programs.

The Ramsey County Adult Detention Center (ADC) is run by Sherriff Bob Fletcher (currently in his fifth term) and his department under state law. It is a 500-bed pre-trial facility providing safe and secure detention services to individuals following their arrest until a court disposition is reached and also houses individuals being held for probation or parole violations.

Opened in December 2003, the ADC currently employs nearly 150 detention, law enforcement and medical staff, including mental health staff which includes suicide and overdose prevention. Officers there receive over 250 hours of training as part of correctional officers' academies, Narcan training is taken by officers, diversity in staff is stressed and work life balance schedules were put in place in 2017

When this jail was being built there were some construction workers who were believers and put Bible Verses on some of the foundational boards and there was a lot of prayer for it. There were several Christian volunteers there for years and we were able to start three church services each Sunday and some Bible Studies. There were several volunteer groups involved but less coordination between them than I would have liked to see. Without this coordination and with changes in program directors, this had been decreasing over

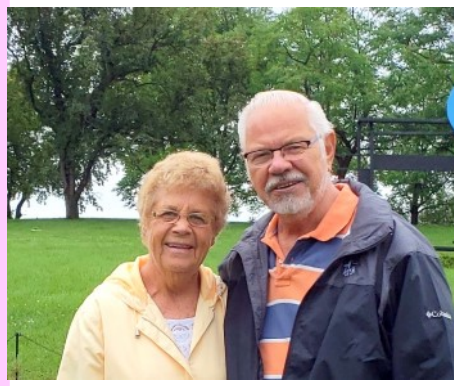
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### SPOTLIGHT: *Ron and Sharon Peterson*

Ron and Sharon Peterson are longtime supporters of MEC in deeds, prayers, finances and encouragement. They have helped with mailings, prayed for and supported us for years.

Sharon Louise Peterson, of Lindstrom, MN, went to be with Jesus on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at her home, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. She was born August 12, 1942, in Forest Lake, MN. She was the daughter of Ellis and Vera Bloom. Ron and Sharon married in 1987.



They love(d) traveling including going to Florida, five mission trips to China, a trip to Israel with a group from Lakes Free Church, as well as many other shorter trips. She loved to travel by car

and always brought preschool projects with her to work on. Her love for children was evident in her teaching preschool for 26 years. Sharon was one of Daniel Selby's preschool teachers. She loved to read and was very active at Lakes Free Church. She also loved to spend time with family and friends.

Sharon's display of Christlike love made you feel special. She always listened with intent and often gave words of encouragement. Sharon was the most selfless, kind, compassionate, caring, forgiving, faithful, loving person you could ever know. It was evident in her smile as she radiated the love of Jesus. It was always good to see Sharon at church, share with her items that celebrated her love for the

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## *June-July Highlights*

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time. Now during COVID no volunteers are allowed in. At this time, they are averaging 12 inmate admissions a day.

The need for prayer is always strong but right now it is even more so. Please, we are pleading that you take time to pray for St. Paul. (See also the last editions article on Minneapolis) You can have a strong part in this. James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults, your trespasses one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."



Please pray for the officers, administration, inmates and volunteers. Pray for Officer David, Officer Bill, and volunteers Seth, Steve, Joel, Nia, Barb and others. Pray that more ministry can be brought in. You can go to the booking reports on the website and pray for those who are admitted to the jail.

The Ramsey County Correctional Facility in Maplewood is where men and women who have been sentenced for up to a year go. They may or may not be eligible for work crew jobs in the kitchen, golf course, nursery, or as dorm cleaners. Or they may be eligible for work/school release. Additional programming there includes Religious Services: Sunday morning services, Values group, one to one counselling, AA Recovery. In the past MEC had a lot of program-

ming but currently we have one church service for men on Saturday evening and one Bible Study there for women on Thursday evening. With COVID they did take 12 Seeds books and workbooks and are considering e-mail lessons. Pray that that offer will be taken up. Pray for Officers John, Jamie and Liz and for volunteers Lori, Debbie, JoAnne, Shelly, Dave, Jeff, Greg, Fran, Brian and Ligia.

It is heart wrenching to sit with a youth and to hear their prayer requests. Especially when they are facing further detention and even incarceration with adults. Pray that there will be more volunteers to work with the youth and that they will be able to get clearance and be able to operate in the ministry.

**The Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center** is a secure 24-hour detention facility for juvenile male and female offenders up to the age of 18 who have been arrested and are waiting for an initial hearing, trial, court disposition or placement. It has a capacity of 44 beds with an approximate length of stay of eight days. There are five living units (called Pods), which have individual rooms and a Special Housing Unit with four rooms. Previously, each year the Juvenile Detention Center temporarily housed approximately 1,000 juveniles admitted from surrounding counties and law enforcement departments.



The population there has decreased and Boys Totem Town closed in 2019. Much of the work with the youth has transitioned and is transitioning to Juvenile Detention Alternatives.

A major player is James Bell, director of W. Haywood Burns Institute. He works with the issue of DMC, or Disproportionate Minority Confinement. Some of the problems are disproportionate times and punishments given, and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.

The goals of these alternatives are to reduce the number of juveniles in secure detention, eliminate the disproportionate representation of juveniles of color in secure detention, bring systematic reform to juvenile detention practices by developing appropriate and effective alternatives for juveniles who should not be held in secure detention.

We are asking that you pray for fairness in the justice system and that these goals of the alternatives will be reached. A lower-cost security system, that youth stay in school, prevention of going further into crime, and communication and practices that help reduce violent crimes. Some of these means are mentors and positive role

models, making restitution/community service, promoting accountability and individual responsibility vs incarceration and its negative effects, changing the way of doing things to make a successful system to lower the number of youths sent to prison!

Much of this information was taken from the website and here are some names of specific people to pray for: Board of Commissioners: Trisha, Jim, Nicole, Rafael, Mary Jo, Toni and Victoria who establish policies and oversee budget and

operations. Directors of St Paul/Ramsey County Health: Anne Barry and Kathy Hedin

Pray for Roger Koskinen who heads Arise Ministries and is a chaplain who works with the St. Paul police . **Pray for the safety of the youth and families, for mental, emotional and of most of all spiritual health for each of them.**



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color yellow and enjoy hugs. We miss her deeply and rejoice that she is with our Father in Heaven, our brother and Savior Jesus Christ and that we share the presence of the Holy Spirit together.

Ron says he does not like the spotlight but is willing to share in order to encourage others. Here are some of his thoughts. "We did a lot of ministry work at Lakes Free and we worked together as Adult Bible Fellowship leaders. I was on the mission board for several years and they told me, 'this is where you should be, it is where your heart is.' We went to China five times and to New Orleans to work after the Hurricane [Katrina]. I led music until they brought in all the instruments and then it went beyond my abilities. I was the church secretary and we taught in AWANA. When the church was new, we met in the school and did Sunday School for the younger kids. Sometime they did not want to cooperate but we helped them to do so and to learn. Where ever there was a need we would do what was needed. We supported missions over the years and I would always tell Sharon, we cannot out give the LORD. We did not have a lot but we always seem to have what we need.

At this age I am wondering what my next place of service is and the Lord has directed me to get a group going for the widows and widowers at church. We have [done a few things together – some went on a trip and more went to eat and to a farmer's market] and they are saying that we should do more of this."

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 Roger Koskinen &

## ARISE Ministries

The staff of Arise Ministries have over 30 years of experience ministering to at-risk teenagers. Arise Ministries provides chaplain groups / Bible studies in juvenile correction facilities located in the greater metro area of the Twin Cities. Through these groups, as well as individual mentoring and discipleship programs.

### **Mission**

To share the gospel of Jesus Christ to every juvenile offender in the state of Minnesota

### **Vision**

To see God permanently and positively change the lives of youth through a coordinated network reaching youthful offenders

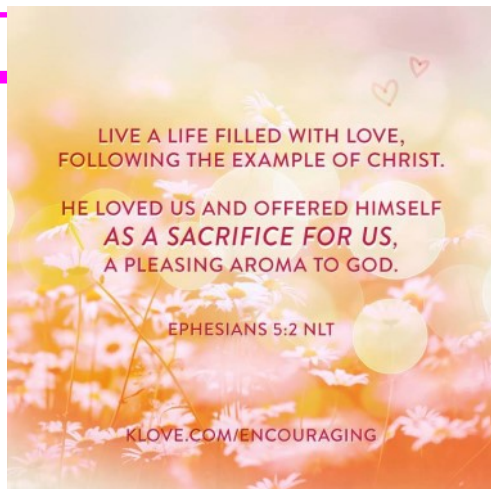
### **Ministry Verse**

"Christ we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." ~Colossians 1:28

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Heavenly Father,

help us to remember the plans you have for all of us.

Help us to keep our faith strong, no matter what challenges come our way.

Give us clear minds, and joyful hearts.

Help us to find calm and comfort in your word, and peace in your love.

We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer from Presidential Prayer website Pray First

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Saul Selby Director, Karen Assistant Director, Sandy Hanson Office Administrator, Grace Schmidt volunteer