



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

Pray for your Neighbors in Washington County

June 2021 MEC News

Spotlight Della Antilla

The Washington County Jail is a 200-bed direct supervision facility that opened in June of 1993. The jail holds male and female offenders, houses both pre-trial and sentenced inmates; and operates a temporary eight-day juvenile holding facility. The jail also has a fully operational laundry and kitchen facility, its own medical unit with several exam rooms, and a dentist's office. The jail operates a transport unit that operates five days per week.



In 1982 Dan Luke called MEC and said that he had heard that we would be able to help the jail to find volunteers. We worked with him to set up three church services each Sunday for the different units and eight Bible Studies during the week. When Dan retired (see MEC newsletter Feb. 2015) Bill Hoffman worked in programs, and now David Stumpner is the program director. The church services are done by volunteers from different churches, so that the inmates get exposure to those, Bible Studies and Victory Over Addictions Classes by people who go weekly so that the inmates get some consistency with discipleship.

There have been a lot of testimonies which came from the ministry at WCJ. At least 11 Spotlights in our newsletters (which can be seen on the MEC website) have come from there. In the early days, volunteers were able to bring in cookies or treats and sometimes inmates would come for those and find the Gospel and the LORD, which of course was what they really needed. At that time, we were able to bring in guest speakers and people could observe the ministry to determine if they would like to volunteer or not. In 2013 Merlin Morken said, "We were so blessed to be at Washington County Jail for Easter Sunday. While checking in, the staff thanked us for being there and we began with a good Spirit. At the second service the attendance was so large, we had to move into the gym, both women and men were allowed to be together. The message was well received: many opened up, asking if they could give their life to Jesus. It was a

(Continued on page 2)

Della and Gerald Antilla have been intercessors and supporters of MEC for years. Della has great enthusiasm and when asked what she would like to share with you.



"I am so thankful for my heritage. Daddy came over from England and even though he walked with a limp and had to wear a built-up shoe, he passed the physical. He later met my mother who sang beautifully, played the guitar and the piano. They are with Jesus now, but I will see them someday in heaven.

When my father was in the United States, he was driving alone in the car and he heard the word, "Manistique." He did not understand what that was, but when he attended a service and told those who were there about it, one of the people praised the LORD and said, "The gospel is going to be shared in my city!." It turned out to be a city in Michigan where He was called to do ministry. Daddy met my dear Mom Ruth and they ministered together for years. Although they were poor, God always provided (sometimes they would find food at the front door).

It was through Daddy's coming over from England and his ministry that Gerry's folks came to the LORD and made a beautiful commitment. Through them, I met Gerald. He graduated from Moose Lake Community School and attended North Central Bible College. Later he married the love of his life, Della Smitham. We had 3 children and raised them for the LORD. We embarked on new adventures including hotel and property management. Gerry loved spending time with family and friends and playing the piano. I accompanied him on the violin and together we made quite a team sharing our talents and love for the

(Continued on page 4)

June 2021

Washington County Jail.....page 1-2
MEC Spotlight - Della Antilla.....page 1&4
Happy Father's Day.....page 3
Ministry Shout-Out: Parenting with Purpose & Father Project.....page 4

pleasure to pray for their salvation, receiving the Holy Spirit and rededication. He has "RISEN INDEED" at the WCJ! We also gave them the book "Who is this Jesus?" by Campus Crusade for Christ. With changes in the jail, services are smaller with less momentum but the Holy Spirit still works. More studies need to be held to reach the numbers of inmates who would come.

The reach is smaller now, but still significant. Over the years the culture of most of the jails and the security measures have changed. Volunteers need to make a commitment and take training before they are allowed into the facilities. Volunteer programming also competes for program times and rooms with professional services which are being introduced to the facilities.

When Covid began, and I put out a call for prayer to the different facilities, there were two jails that several people volunteered to pray for inmates specifically. Washington County was one of them and they began accepting e-mail lessons which programs staff would print out for inmates who wanted them. Inmates were taking them 50-60 percent but this has slacked off. Please pray that the inmates will ask for the lessons, that God's Word will take root in their hearts, grow and, produce fruit.

Near the beginning of Covid the number of incarcerated people sank dramatically, but the severity of the crimes was higher and WCJ was also taking federal cases. Now the number of inmates is increasing with an average of fifteen admissions a day. You can go to the website and pray for individual inmates or ask us to assign some to you. Pray that livestream programming will begin to take place, and that volunteers will resume in-person Bible studies soon.

When volunteers do resume, it is expected that the daytime programs will not be able to be held, but that programming will be scheduled only on evenings and weekends. Other volunteer programs such as AA will also shift times. This would mean at least three of our Bible Studies and maybe more will be discontinued. Will you please pray that God will make a way for the ministry here to continue and not be decreased?

Please pray for the county staff and the volunteers. Some of the county staff include Sheriff Dan Starry, Commander Roger Heinen, Assistant Jail Administrator John Warneke, Operations Sergeant Jacqueline Dahms, Transport & Juvenile Sergeant Jeff Boyden, Support Service Sergeant Garret Kleinendorst, and Programs Sergeant David Stumpner. Cindy Doty recently retired and Lori Hanson and Denise Eichten also work in programs. We are grateful for their support and help in coordinating the Bible studies at WCJ.

Please keep praying for our volunteers: David Pedersen, Doug and Sharon Jackson, Merlin Morken, Brent Howe, Nap Bruneau, Todd Johantgen, Greg Tronson, Bobby Chavez, Grace Krumm, Marie Jones, Sue Rogowski, Mike Rygh, Rich Mauricio, Ted Gonia, Gary Struss, Brain Connery, Jean Strub, Lori Golden, Bruce Peterson, Jeff Lynn, Glenn Larson, Jim Johnson, Keith Heintz, Paul Manders, Kyle Loing, Paul Ylonen, Mary Nesvig, Marilyn Wood, and Brad Reis. We thank all of them for their hard work and commitment in bringing God's Word to those in jail.

"It's been so long since we were able to attend a session, it is truly a Blessing that we get back ASAP! I just would like to give praise to God for allowing us to live in a free country to this point, which allows us to go into public facilities and speak of God, our Creator, and what Jesus did for us on the cross. Also, I praise Him for Jeff, Jeanie, and the other men and women who participate in jail ministry throughout this state and country!" Blessings.

Bruce Peterson (long-time volunteer at 3 jails).



WCJ staff receive 3 rewards photo from Facebook



Sargent David Stumpner receives coats from MEC which Teri Graham delivered in February

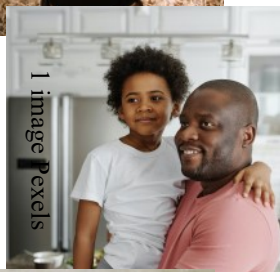
Thank You for donating
Over 300 Coats!!!
 Most went to inmates at the following County programs:
 Hennepin
 Washington
 Polk (Wisc.)
 Anoka - Jail, Juvenile, WorkRelease and Stepping Stone ErH
 State programs - Redwing
 Some went to treatment programs
 CARE
 MNA&T Challenge
 Metro Hope Healing House



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



- ◇ Like a parent feels compassion for their children, so the LORD pities and has compassion on those who fear Him. Psalm 103: 13
- ◇ Then his father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.” Luke 15:31
- ◇ “He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.” Malachi 4:6
- ◇ “And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven.” Matthew 23:5
- ◇ “Then I said to you, ‘Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.’” Duet. 1:29-31
- ◇ “Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.” Proverbs 14:26
- ◇ “Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” Matthew 7:9-11



"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:18



1 image Pixels

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Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in **Ministry**. This month MEC's shout-out is to
Parenting with Purpose

Through mentoring, education and support, Parenting With Purpose brings healing, restoration and liberty to families affected by incarceration.

<http://parentingwithpurpose.org>

and

The Father Project

FATHER (Fostering Actions To Help Earnings and Responsibility) Project was originally administered by the City of Minneapolis and became a program of Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota in 2004. Since then, the FATHER Project has served hundreds of fathers in the community through our extensive network of collaborative partners.

<https://www.goodwilleasterseals.org/services/family-stability/father>

Della Antilla, continued from page 1

LORD. He enjoyed gardening very much, we were married for almost 66 years and we did a lot of traveling. We have had many blessings and miracles in our life and a heritage of faith.

As a child, I cried because I did not want to be a missionary. But God fulfilled my call to being one when He enabled me to write a tract called "Be encouraged". It is about when Gerry's mother had a beautiful healing from TB of the spine." In it she shares their joy when there were "no more pills to be taking or brace to be wearing!" She thanks God that "Your servant was sent—He obeyed and by Your Holy Spirit, was made aware of a care and said a prayer." She talks about the God of the Universe knowing, caring about and loving us individually and how He brings peace, joy, love and forgiveness of sins within.

"One day, we were at a banquet for people in India. After the banquet, we met brother Kurien who was also a pastor in India. I gave to him some readings, including one of those tracts. Later, I mailed him some money. When he sent us a thank you, he included my tract - translated into the language of India, most likely Malayalam, the most common language in Nilambur, Kerala. It has been translated by the thousands in India and Scripture Press has sent it to prisons. I have heard from inmates and even from people in Africa.

Reverend Kurian has a small church and was also a director of a free Bible correspondence course which has had thousands of students. At least of five tracts he translated are "Be Encouraged", "I found peace in a Prison cell", "Be Strong in the LORD", "I am So Glad! Are You?" and "After Death...What? These translated tracts have been put into lessons and he has shared some of the responses with us. It is so encouraging! Yes, the ministry goes on in different ways.

Della's words to you are, "I want everyone to be encouraged and know the LORD."

Sadly, in 2021 Gerald went home to be with the Lord, but faithful as He is; the Lord honored Della's prayer of being able to see his children again and that they would not be alone. They were able to be with loved ones for just one-night in Lamar Missouri before Jesus took him to be home.

Della likes people to be encouraged in the Lord and she often sends us poems and Scripture verses.

*Psalm 4:8 - In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."*

Della A. Karen S & Nadine N.

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