



# 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

## Christ Suffered For Us. Will We Join in His Suffering and Resurrection?

Easter is coming and we love to celebrate the resurrection. On the way to the resurrection is the suffering and death of Christ. The cost that He paid was indescribable and as we continue in our faith it comes with the invitation to join Him in His suffering and in the power of the resurrection.



Many people have rejected God because of the suffering that is in the world. Why the suffering, the rejection, the torture and murder? It is God who we turn to alleviate and deliver us from it. It amazes me that He experienced everything we have experienced and He walks through all of our life and experiences with us. Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Philippians 3:10 tells us that we need to press on and if we want to know Him, we will join in the "fellowship of His sufferings" and be "conformed to His death". Our human nature wants to skip that and just know the "power of His resurrection".

Mark 8:34 & Luke 9:23 tell us that, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."

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## March 2022 MEC Newsletter

### SpotLight LeRoy & Carolee Beckman

Carolee and Leroy have been wonderful friends to many people. Carolee attended Hayden Heights Baptist Church for much of her life until she and Leroy came up to the Lindstrom area and began attending Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom. Here they were very active with their Adult Bible Fellowship Cross Roads (the name has changed to Ambassadors in recent years).

We had a wonderful time of remembering her during a reception where family and friends shared their stories.

Carolee became an intercessor in January of 2016 and has prayed for MEC for all that time. Leroy and Carol were blessed to come together later in life and had 15 wonderful years of marriage. She was Grandma Carolee to his 13 grand-children and their 8 great-grandchildren. She loved fellowship with the Christian Woman's club "Red Hats", Sewing Club, the Swedish Club and gave Karl Oscar House visitor and children's tours. Those at her celebration of life, talked of the good friendship they shared. Baking, singing to the birds and family were among her loves.

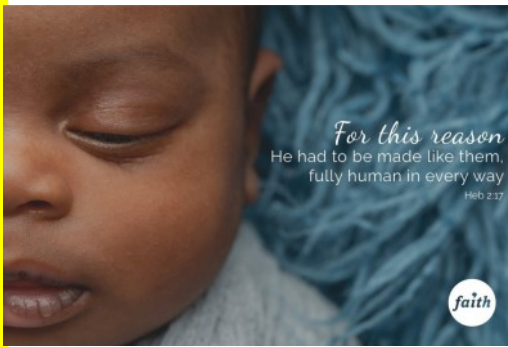
Leroy is a man of few words. He enjoyed hunting, especially bird hunting with his dogs and the horses. He grew up on the farm and really loved his three girls. He was a big part of the church, playing guitar and being involved in leadership. Both Carolee and Leroy are people of deep faith..



Picture from Lifetouch

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2 Corinthians 1:5 tells us that, “For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, (NIV; the Beran Study Bible says that they “overflow in us”) so also our comfort is abundant and overflows in us through Christ.”

1 Peter 4:13 says, “But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.” The NLT words it like this, “Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.” (Scriptures from knowing-jesus.com)

Faith can involve a lot of things. One aspect is intellectual, looking at the history and the conclusions of the events and legal implications before God. Another is emotional and building on the results of that belief. Trying to talk out or explain some of the trials we go through may sound to those who do not have open ears as though we are complaining. To those who have empathy for what Christ went through and for the trials we go through there can come a deeper understanding of faith. What are the benefits of persevering in faith through trials? There are many and this is a short list. Keeping these in mind can help us to forgive and grow in character without blaming ourselves or feeling sorry for ourselves or labeling others as the enemy.

It is helpful to keep in mind that the enemy is not other people involved in situations, but that the enemy is lies, accusations, hurt and disunity. The truth that we need to join with is Christ and His love. Our love for God and for others is a gift which we should not allow the enemy to steal from us, destroying or killing our spirit and our love for God and others.

The fellowship of His suffering grows us in ways nothing else will.  
That growth in character causes us to love Him and others better.  
His death brings forgiveness and purity. His resurrection brings new life and joy.

- Causes us to know we need God
- Causes us to reach out for help
- Shows us that we are not in control
- Helps us reach out to others for help
- Helps us reach out to help others
- Deepens our fellowship
- Motivates us to study and learn more



## Ministry Shout Out

We are not alone in ministry or God’s family, Here is a shoutout to

**Arrive Ministries** is dedicated to living out God's command to welcome refugees and immigrants in Minnesota. We seek to love refugees and immigrants practically, socially and spiritually by providing direct program services, mobilizing the Church, and calling our communities to respond biblically.

1515 E 66th St, Richfield, MN 55423, United States 612 798 4332 (also have an office in Wilmar, MN)  
<https://arriveministries.org/>

- Teaches us to relate to others
- Helps us understand that having all of our needs met is not to be taken for granted
- Makes us grateful for little things, for others, for food and shelter, for life itself in ways we would not ever have been able to be
- Provides forgiveness
- Understanding that we need a new life of love, not selfishness

Let us not gloss over the suffering that we or others experience by ignoring it, distracting ourselves with the world or not sharing in it. Let's not waste a good trial or more than one. My prayer is that we can turn to Him in our pain and suffering and then dwell In Him. Paul does not describe us as Christians, but over and over again,

he says as people who are "in Christ". Peter 1:5-7 (Beran SB) explains that we "through faith are shielded by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials, so that the proven character of your faith—more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ..."



May we be encouraged that our trials will lead us closer to Him, to the love He gives. May our participation in them allow us to experience His resurrection power in a new and glorious way.

God consents to be pushed out of the world and onto the cross; God is weak and powerless in the world and in precisely this way, and only so, is at our side and helps us. Matt. 8:17 makes it quite clear that Christ helps us not by virtue of his omnipotence but rather by virtue of his weakness and suffering! This is the crucial distinction between Christianity and all religions. Human religiosity directs people in need to the power of God in the world, God as deus ex machina. The Bible directs people toward the powerlessness and the suffering of God; only the suffering God can help.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

