



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

THIS IS WORTH YOUR TIME TO READ ⌚

This is a letter that was posted on the Chisago County Website on March 6th 2022, at 2:17 pm. It has gone viral and is an encouragement to many families and staff. Jim Lorge is now a supervisor at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge and on the board at Roxie's Hope., which provides assistance domestic violence victims. He wrote this to thank and encourage the man who took him into jail the last time he was arrested. The demeanor and the words of the officer led to Jim getting help, leaving darkness and pain, and bringing light to his family and our community.



The following letter was sent to Sgt. Sheppeck and Sheriff Thyen a few days ago. It speaks to the power of words. We never know when a conversation can literally change the trajectory of someone's life for good, forever.

Thankfully Sgt. Sheppeck realized that 14 years ago, and helped that change begin.

"I was 25 years old and was running two family businesses when I tried meth for the first time. Within a couple of months, I was manufacturing it...right in my family's business in a local industrial park. This went on for years. When I got caught in 2003, law enforcement came in large numbers while everyone was hard at work. I brought darkness to my family and came close to not only ruining what my parents spent years building, but almost caused the loss of jobs to everyone they employed. From then on, the pain, the constant run-ins with "the law" were taking their toll on me to the point that the first thing I would think of when getting hand-cuffed was how I could succeed in taking my own life when I got to jail. I was feeling more and more defeated, worthless and filled with shame and guilt. Many failed treatments and stints in jail had me feeling like I would die an addict.

However, I'm a firm believer that God had chosen Sgt. Sheppeck to be my

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April-May 2022 MEC Newsletter

MEC Spotlight Note From a Mother

We receive a number of prayer requests from people for their loved ones and a mother's heart is especially for their children. Here is a letter which Jennifer wrote after Jim sent the letter to officer Sheppeck and Chisago Co. Sherriff's Office posted it on their website.

"This letter was written by my son Jim, whom I am very proud of. I was ready for the court to lock him up and throw away the key for 84 months. At least I would know he was safe and warm and my husband and I could get some sleep instead of wondering if he was lying dead in a snowbank or abandoned building.

As parents, we were the last to know he was addicted to meth, much less the fact that he was manufacturing it in a shed attached to our business



where he was working as manager. It's amazing how blind parents can be to their own children's destructive behavior. We thought he had narcolepsy when he kept falling asleep at work or not even showing up. He always had an excuse as to why he never made it to the doctor appointments I set for him.

My prayers go out to the parents of addicts for strength, for your marriage to survive the stress and for healing. I wanted Jim to go to jail after he repeatedly lied and used while on probation and stole money from our business. I couldn't bear the ripping apart of my marriage because my husband said he would divorce me if I turned Jim in. I felt gutted when my husband chose to support Jim, even if he went back to using. When we were

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last arresting officer. 2007 was the last time I was arrested and incarcerated by Sgt. Shepeck and I can't remember many details from the 8 years I was getting high, but I can remember this night so clearly, it still feels like yesterday. He spoke to me in such an affirming and encouraging way, that the entire trip to Center City, my thoughts changed. The man, who was TAKING ME TO JAIL, took the time to speak life into me and tell me that I could beat this addiction! He told me I'm better than this, that my family still loves me and wants me to get better, and that meth doesn't have to control my life. He told me to ask for help in jail and get connected with someone that could assess me and help me get into treatment. I did exactly what he said, but more than that, I believed what he said to me just by the way he said it. It was genuine and empathetic. No other officer had ever spoken to me or encouraged me the way he did. That was the last day I ever touched a drug and now it's been 15 years.

Since then, I got off probation 23 years early. I got my son back from child protection after treatment (and he just turned 16). My relationship with my family has been fully restored and is actually better than it was even before I started using. We sold all of the businesses and I went back to school. I have been working and am now the Treatment Director at an 84 bed men's residential treatment facility in Minneapolis; and I am going to be eligible for a pardon next October!

All this was set off by a conversation in the backseat of Sgt. Shepeck's squad car on the way to the jail in Center City in the middle of the night. I will be forever grateful, and forever appreciative of your departments role in catching me and taking me off the street. And I'm forever grateful that Sgt. Shepeck chose to speak life into me rather than turn up the radio that night. It has also given me the opportunity to pour into the lives of many clients that have spent time in jail before transferring to my program.

Again, thank you both for all you do and for saving my life! You sadly have a rather thankless job, but I THANK YOU, and my family and friends thank you!"

I'm not posting for kudos to Cliff. The message needs to be shared for many reasons other than that.

I'll be forever grateful he took the time to share his story. "

Jim Lorge



Ministry Shout Out

Moms in Prayer International



Moms all over the world get together in local groups to pray for their children to find and walk with Jesus, for their schools and teachers to uphold biblical values and high moral standards as well as for each other as they carry heavy burdens for their children..

To start or join a Moms in Prayer group check out their website

www.momsinprayer.org

in the family group session at one of his rehabs, the counsellors and other parents were shocked that he could sit there and state he would throw away over thirty years of marriage to continue to enable his son if he went back on drugs. Only by the grace and intervention of God did I survive that night.

My husband later stated he was afraid he would never be able to embrace his son again, if he went to prison. My husband had received a heart transplant in 1994 and did not think he would live long enough to see Jim released from prison. As it turns out, my husband was diagnosed with stage 4 bone cancer while Jim was in jail. He died a year later, when Jim was in the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge long-term program.

Jim was able to spend time with his dad on weekends, but my husband did not live long enough to see Jim graduate from Teen Challenge and become a loving father to his own son.

Jennifer Lorge



Happy Mother's Day

We give thanks to Lord for our mothers, grand-mothers, mothers-to-be, adoptive mothers and, yes, for our mothers-in-law too.

What will you say?

https://youtu.be/5H6LGT_hM3A

Google this and many mothers day videos will come up. Thank you Mom! Interviews with Mom., More Than Enough, Mother's Knees songs May they be a blessing to you and to you Moms!



Proverbs 31 28-31

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.



Thank you, Mom!



May 5th is National Day of Prayer

Although this newsletter may not reach you in time for the official Day of Prayer, we would like to encourage you that every day is a good day to pray for God's guidance and blessing for our nation.

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."



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