



*“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Mark 2:17*

Jesus makes it clear that when people think they will go to heaven because of their good deeds, they are mistaken. He is near to those who are broken in spirit and who realize they have sinned against a holy God. As a believer we realize that there is no hope for us apart from Jesus Christ! The Lord has compassion on those who were looked down on by society. Some of those I work with have recognized their hopelessness apart from Jesus Christ!

I wrote about Joe last month, who told me, “I can’t get enough of reading the Bible.” That was good to hear because when he first came to Christ, he struggled reading the Bible. We have talked about baptism, and he is excited about being baptized this month! His mother informed him that his 26-year-old cousin was found dead. Joe said, “So many of my family and friends have died from living a lifestyle similar to how I used to live. I am not going back to that life, I want to serve the Lord! It is great to see his desire and his excitement to follow the Lord!

Ned, one of the men in the infirmary, has a badly infected knee from a motorcycle accident. He told me, “I was trying to outrun the cops and hit a pickup going 55 miles an hour.” I told him that God has a plan for him and has kept him alive for a reason. Then he told me, “I am a Satanist because I tried all the other religions, and they didn’t work. When I was

a teenager, I prayed to God that my father would quit beating my mother, but that prayer was not answered!” I reminded Ned that his mother could have left his dad rather than take the abuse! Ned admitted that he has a lot of bitterness. I told him that bitterness would keep him in his own prison and eat at him like a cancer. Ned admitted that he felt empty. I visit with Ned weekly, and he tells me that he reads the Christian literature I bring him. Ned said he would read the book of John as well! Please pray for Ned that the Lord would soften his heart and he would look to Jesus for his salvation! The Lord is working on him!

As Jim talked with me about his crime, I could see his brokenness over the crime he committed. He informed me that he had given his life to Christ in jail before coming to prison, and he is going to be in prison for 85 years. Jim is hungry to learn more about Jesus and His Word. He told me that there was a strong pull by his celli to go back to his old religion. His celli had been coaxing him to go to his former religious service. When the door opened for that service Jim began to walk out and go to this meeting, then he stopped. The Holy Spirit convicted him, “What are you doing Jim?” He turned around and went back to his cell. He told me he couldn’t go back to his former religion because Jesus had saved his soul, and his old religion was not for him anymore!

Please pray for God’s presence in the prison! There is much negativity and unrest at the present time!

Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts! God is definitely at work among the staff and the inmates!

In Christ, Harlan

**Please designate my name in the memo section of your check.** Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship (PLF) or South Dakota Prison Chaplain’s Association (SDPCA), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: [harlan@convergeheartland.org](mailto:harlan@convergeheartland.org)