

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER August, 2021



"Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord." Isaiah 50:10b

According to reports, anxiety is at an all-time high in these uncertain times. The media does not help to calm us. All their negative news would spike anyone's fears. One author said, "There has never been a time when fears have been so high in the U.S., and yet the fear of the Lord is so low." I believe that statement is true. If we are focused on God, His awesomeness & His great love, our anxieties will decrease. Our Heavenly Father is truly in control and cares for each of His children.

An inmate told me he is trying to change his life for the better, but he is easily influenced by the wrong crowd. He enjoys reading the Psalms. In the past he tried to block out all the Christian stations on his TV. He chuckled when he told me, "All the Christian channels I have blocked on my TV keep coming back on my television!" God works in mysterious ways.

Jim has been through a lot of difficulties with family issues. He said, "Because of all my troubles I want to give up on the Lord, but He doesn't give up on me. God allowed me to be in prison for a long time, so He could work on me. I get discouraged when I think about how many people I have hurt before I came to prison. I was not a very nice person, and I don't deserve God's grace, but He keeps drawing me back to Himself. I didn't choose God, He chose me, and when I want to give up, He keeps loving me. How can I ever repay the Lord!" I reminded him of the story behind the song, "Amazing Grace," by John Newton. That afternoon Jim

came to my A & O (men who are still being processed into the prison) Bible study. Jim has never attended before because he is working, but this day he didn't have to be at his job. During the Bible study we were looking at Proverbs 1 and talking about true wisdom. Jim talked about what God has been teaching him while in prison. He mentioned the importance of having a teachable spirit. I could see that the other 20 men were listening intently to what he had to say. After the Bible study I could see the joy on Jim's face from sharing his testimony with them. I know that God is doing a work in Jim so he can know that God has a purpose for him even in prison.

I have known Henry for a few years since he gave his life to Christ. Henry has approximately eight years prison time to do. At his work place he has shared Biblical wisdom and they joked about him being a Bible thumper. I reminded him of what Jesus said, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." Henry said, "Some days I wish Jesus would take me away from here, so it would be just Him and me." Henry knows where his strength comes from!

I want to thank you for all your prayers and financial support! Spreading the gospel always involves spiritual warfare. Therefore, I know and believe your prayers are vital as the gospel goes out! I pray all of you have a blessed August.

In Christ, Harlan

Prayer requests: Pray for the staff leadership at the prison as they go through transition. There is a shortage of officers which makes it difficult for the existing officers at the prison. Pray for the hiring of good Christian officers.

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. To listen to inmate testimonies: <https://converge.org/heartland/giving-campaign/sd-prison-chaplains-harlan-moss>