



“Behold the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23

“God with us”, is a great truth to think about! In Exodus 33:14 God promised Moses His presence would go before him as he led Israel. Moses replied that he did not want to go if God’s presence didn’t go with him. Without His presence we would easily give up, and His kingdom would not move forward!

On November 5, we had a one-day seminar for the men who are being processed through the prison, titled “Not A Fan”, by Kyle Idleman. There were 50 men who attended. Ten of the men are a vital part of the regular church fellowship on Thursday evenings. Two of them were at each table to lead the discussion after each video. The video by Kyle is to help people to see the brevity of life and what is important in life. The men appreciated the seminar and I know it helped them to think about their priorities and their need to get right with the Lord.

Sam, one of the men who attended the seminar asked to visit with me. The next week we talked about his life and what kind of teachings he grew up with. He told me, “The last time I got out of prison, I tried so hard to do the right thing! I observed the church’s teachings and here I am back again.” I went over the gospel with Sam and explained grace and that salvation is a gift of God. I had him read Ephesians 2:8-9 out loud. After reading that he couldn’t work for a gift, he began to weep. Sam started to realize

that all his religious work would not earn any favor with God. Sam prayed and asked the Lord to forgive him, and invited Christ into his life to be His Lord and Savior!

Kody, who has been in prison for several months started to attend my Bible study and the PLF church services. Later I noticed Kody leave before the service started. When I inquired of him why he was leaving, Kody said, “I can’t handle crowds. Before I came to prison, I was in a gang and some guys from another gang jumped me from behind. I was left for dead and when I was in the hospital, I was unconscious for some time. That whole incident left me with paranoia, so I can’t be around crowds.” I thanked him for sharing that with me, so I knew what he is dealing with. We prayed about it and I told Kody that God wants to set him free from the paranoia. At the next church service, he sat in the back through the whole church service! PTL!

When I did a one-on-one Bible study with an inmate the other day, he told me he was going through trials. He had become very discouraged. I told him to open the Bible to Psalm 91. He told me that a few days earlier he had talked with his mother, and she told him to read Psalm 91. He still had not read it. We read, “Because he has known My name, he shall call upon Me and I will answer him, I will be with him in trouble.” God never promised to keep us from trouble, but He will be with us in trouble. When he heard that, he was encouraged and said, “That made my day!” God’s Word is a great encouragement in difficulties!

Thank you for all your generous support this past year by your prayers and financially! Please consider this ministry for your year-end giving. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

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