

# PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER December, 2024

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*"For unto us a Child is born to us a Son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah. 9:6*

What a great gift God gave us, not only of salvation, but also we get all the benefits that go with it! His Word is always right and a blessing to all who seek Him! Romans 15:1 says, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." God did not leave us here without hope, but because of His great love, we can know this awesome God! He is the only one who can give us eternal peace!

I had not visited with Ryan for a few years. Last week he told me that he needed to talk to me. Ryan said, "I have a girlfriend who goes to church, but I also have other things I plan to do when I am released. If I surrender my life to God, He might ask me to give up my plans. This is difficult to do!" I gave Ryan some examples of people who gave up things to put God first in their lives. God blessed them with more than what they gave up. I reminded him that we cannot out give God. It will be interesting to visit with him again.

John was transferred from Jameson Annex five month's ago and moved to the Hill. He was a faithful attender of my Bible studies and the church services. He had strayed from his daily routine devotion times in the Word. John allowed some sinful habits back in his life. He

said, "I am trying to get back to where I was with the Lord. I am being very legalistic in my habit of reading the Bible, but it is more of a burden than a joy! I used to enjoy my time in the Word!" I asked him if he had cleared his life of the sinful things that God was asking him to give up. John's answer was, "No, but I need to." On his own he prayed a prayer from his heart that he was sorry that he had left the Lord's path and wanted the Lord to be first in his life again. He was willing to give up sin in his life. John had a smile on his face when we finished praying. He said, "It was like a burden was lifted!" God will truly give us peace and joy when we stay close to Him!

Joey, who is 25 years old, told me that this was his first time in prison. He did not know much about the Bible but was interested and knew he did not want to continue his life without knowing God. He realized his emptiness without Christ and that he had sinned against God. After we prayed for Christ to forgive him and to trust Jesus as his only hope, he had peace. A week later Joey told me that they were having Bible studies in the back of the room in the evening. This can happen because he is presently in a barracks type area where about 50 other men are housed. Praise the Lord for His work in these men's life.

We are thankful for the good financial support for the Christmas sack program. This is a reminder to the men that they are not forgotten!

It is hard to believe, but another year is coming to a close! I am thankful for all your prayers and financial support. Have a blessed Christmas!

Blessings! *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)