

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER July, 2024



"I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

Praise is vital for every follower of Christ! In Acts the disciples of Christ were beaten and they went away praising the Lord! In my own life when stress was at a high point, praise helped me. In my time alone with the Lord I started to praise Him and I could feel the stress leave my body. Praise releases a lot of stress! Psalm 62:7 says, "Trust in the Lord at all times you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us!" What a great comfort He is for those going through difficult times.

Don, who I baptized last month and wrote about in my last newsletter, has been persecuted verbally from other inmates for his excitement about his baptism. He has his baptism certificate on his wall to remind him of his connection with Christ through baptism! In Bible study with him last week I played the song, "Reason to Praise" and Don worshipped by raising his hands in praise to the Lord. He told me it was a perfect song to release his stress. I remind him that God is using him to convict the other inmates of their ungodly lives. Praise truly does release stress when we focus on worshipping the Lord! Praise helps us focus on the Lord and keeps our minds off our difficult circumstances.

One of the men who has been in prison for eight years told me how stressed out he was from all the unpredictable ways the staff are handling things. He went on to tell me that he didn't know how long he could put up with it. I asked him if I

could pray with him and he agreed. After I finished praying, he had a smile on his face and said, "That was just what I needed!"

Rory was one of the men that was baptized five weeks ago. He has not come to church lately because his GED classes are at the same time, but I visit with him weekly. Rory has had many negative things happen to him while growing up. He did not realize why he was so angry as a child. I find that to be common with many young men who don't know their father. Rory was having nightmares as a child like he was smothering and couldn't get his breath. Later his mother, who was addicted to alcohol, told him that when he was a baby, she tried to smother him with a blanket because he wouldn't stop crying. Rory told me, "I was constantly in trouble and in my teens I ended up in a Juvenile Detention Center. Rory gave his life to Christ a year ago in the county jail before coming to prison but was not growing spiritually. He said, "Since I gave my life to Christ, I am not angry anymore! Rory desires to grow in Christ as we go through the book of John together. I praise God for His work in Rory!

The other day when I was leaving the prison a staff member walked out ahead of me. Our cars were not far apart, and I noticed her crying in her car. I asked her if she was okay. She mentioned that she was going through a very difficult time. I asked her if I could pray with her, she agreed and was thankful for the prayer. She admitted she needed to get back into the Bible and get right with the Lord. God's timing is always right!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support!
Have a blessed July!

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