

# PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER March, 2025

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*“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10b*

Some of the inmates grow up in a culture of death. Many of their friends end up dying. I believe they think that it will not happen to them. A few overdose trying to take their own lives because of the hopelessness they feel. I have visited with some of them who believe that God has saved them from dying several times. Many inmates know nothing but death around them. They need the hope that Jesus came to give life and life more abundantly.

I wrote about Rory's baptism last July. He told me that when he ended up in jail a year ago, he was getting ready to kill himself. Rory fell on his knees and said, "God if You are real give me hope, and show me that I have a purpose. Please forgive me for all my sins and change my life!" Then he said, "A peace came over me. There was a change in my life from that time on. So many of my friends have died. I have 12 obituaries of my friends on my wall. It is so sad!" Rory had just found out another one of his friends, only 20 years old, died because of drugs. Rory said that he spent much time with him in JDC during his teenage years. He went on to say, "I could be one of those who died, but God has changed my life. I now have hope, and if possible, I would like to get a college education while I am in prison. I have no one in my life to talk to about these things, but you." God has given Rory hope when he had no hope! That is what God does!

I do some aftercare with men who were in prison a few years ago. One of them is Kevin. He is a young man who had many difficulties during his teenage life. Kevin had been in and out of prison over several years with drug addiction problems. He was

in a car accident several months ago and is paralyzed from the waist down. During our hospital visits and now home visits he has had a very good attitude. He mentioned, "I have never completed anything in my life, but now maybe God set me down so I can get a college education?" I send him Bible verses every morning, and he is very appreciative of them. Kevin said, "Those verses give me something to meditate on and they encourage me." He is in touch with the doctors to get his pain under control. He told me, "I do not want to be on a pain med that can get me addicted to it." Please pray for Kevin to have strength from above to deal with this difficult situation. We know that the Lord can do anything and can heal him completely, which would be awesome!

Henry has been dealing with cancer for a while. For the last six months I stopped by his room weekly. He told he had not given his life to the Lord, but he believed the Bible. Henry said, "I am not ready yet." I told him I was concerned for his soul and where he would spend eternity if he died. As time goes on Henry seems to be getting weaker. Many times, he told me that he didn't need a visit. Last week when I visited him, I could see he had hope written on his face. Henry said, "I asked the Lord to forgive my sins and come into my life. God is so merciful. I don't deserve His forgiveness. My sins are many and yet He has forgiven me!" He asked me for a Bible to read. God is good and patient with all of us!

It is a privilege for me to have some of the staff share their family's health concerns with me, asking me to keep them in prayer!

Thank you for your support through your prayers and financially! You are a blessing!

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