

# PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER May, 2024

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*"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10*

God is patient with each of us! God gives people many opportunities to get right with Him! He goes after those who are lost and desperate for hope. It says in John 15:16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you...that you should go and bear fruit." As I have heard it said, "When God saved you, He had someone else in mind for you to share the gospel with in your oikos," (People you encounter daily).

God is allowing inmates and staff to witness a miracle! I came to know James the last few years by meeting him in the hallway and talking about spiritual things. He has a job, so he is out of his cell during the day. One morning as I was walking in the hallway, James was in a wheelchair very sick, he was pale and gagging, waiting to be taken to the hospital. I put my hand on his shoulder and said, "Lord Jesus, touch James." He overdosed on the medicine which he had taken for years. The officer who went with James to the hospital and also on an airplane to an out of state hospital, was talking with three other officers about him. I asked the officer how James was doing. He told me, "He is hanging on by a thread and his heart quit twice. If he lives there could be brain damage." I asked the officers if we could say a prayer together for James to be healed and they agreed. This was an opportunity for God to show His healing power through prayer. I am sure many prayers went up for James' recovery. James returned to the prison two weeks later with some mild side effects and is now walking around. Some of the nurses at the hospital did not expect him to live, and if he did, he would have some brain damage, or a stroke.

**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

James realizes that he had not been serious with God before this all happened, but now has no doubt God was with him and delivered him from death and hell! The officers and inmates have seen the power of prayer! James has some PTSD from childhood that he is still working through. We visit weekly talking about growing in the Lord and letting the Word of God transform his thinking!

It is often difficult to get inmates to the Hill office, but instead, while waiting for inmates, God gave me the opportunity to talk about Christ with a non-believer officer last week! The privilege to share the love of Christ with the officer was God appointed. He is not a believer, but after I visited with him he wanted to read the booklet I offered him, "The Case for Christ," by Lee Stroebel. His wife is a Christian, but he is not.

On the third Sunday of each month, I do a church service at the prison. At the last service only one man came. Sometimes there are too many things going on and the church service is not announced, or the men are not released for it. It was disappointing at first, but it was an opportunity to get to know him and explain the gospel of Jesus Christ to him! He told me about a short dream he had. In his dream he saw a pulpit, and on it a Bible was opened to Ecclesiastes, so he read it. We talked about how life is meaningless without Jesus, and that God wanted him to understand that life is about fearing God and obeying Him. He prayed to trust Christ as his Lord and Savior! It has been a growing time for me. Things are not the same as they were but God's timing is always right!

Continue to pray that the light of Christ will continue to shine in the darkness. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts, you are a blessing!

In Christ, Harlan