PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER Nov. 2022



"Let your conduct be without covetousness, be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

God is faithful to do what He has promised to do. He will never leave or forsake His people and He will give the strength that is needed for each problem or trial. We are not alone; we have the Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us until we reach our eternal home!

Some of the inmates own only what they have in their cells and are content with God's presence. Don is one of these men who continues to grow spiritually! He has not been out of mental health hold for 20 years. This means that he is not in population, but in his cell most of the day. I gave him a Bible in 2015, and he claims that God used the Bible to help him learn to read. In the last year he has been growing deeper in the faith. I meet with him for an hour weekly for a one-on-one Bible study. Many of the men in his section are jealous of him because I have visited with him weekly and sent him Bible studies when we couldn't go into the prison because of Covid 19. The men call Don all kinds of names when he comes to my Bible study. He continues to want to go deeper with the Lord, but it is a spiritual battle because of all the negativity in his area. He writes gospel rap songs that he likes me to hear. The other day when he was discouraged, he felt the presence of the Lord come so powerfully into his cell. At first he was a little fearful, but then he recognized it was the Lord's presence. It was like the Lord encompassed him with His love and then he felt the presence leave. He felt the Lord gave him a song right after that, and he called it, "Running to Receive." He said we are to run to Jesus to receive His grace, love, and forgiveness. It was one of the

best Scriptural rap songs he had ever written. Don went on to tell how free he feels since Christ has set him free. Others have asked him to share some of his old gang rap songs, but he tells them that is from his old life. Then other inmates ask him, "Don, what happened to you?" He tells them, "Jesus happened to me!"

Brady, who is a church member, came to me very discouraged and upset about what happened to him with the staff and other inmates. He claimed they treated him unfairly. He said to me, "I have been doing well this past year and now look at what happened to me. I try to do the right thing, and this happens!" Brady went on to say, "I gave some of my commissary to another guy. This guy promised to pay me back but never did pay me back. Then I let anger against him control me and this caused me to confront him. I ended up losing my joy, and maybe I will have longer time in prison." We talked about what Jesus would have done and how He would have handled the situation. We talked about being truthful with the Lord. I know the Holy Spirit was at work in him! Later that day at Bible Study and at the Thursday night church service he admitted in front of everyone that he had not be living right in the past few months. He knew he was doing things he should not be doing, and it caught up with him. Brady said God convicted him that he was living two lives. He asked everyone to forgive him for not living right and being a bad example of a Christian. This could only be work of the Holy Spirit in Brady!

If you would like to give for the Christmas sacks for the inmates please give online only before the 10th of November: https://www.simplechurchgiving.net/App/Form/2b7a49e1-d3dc-43e7-a1d3-f17ebfec0df4

I am thankful for all your prayers and financial support! Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

In Christ, Harlan

<u>Please designate my name in the memo section of your check.</u> Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship (PLF) or South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (<u>SDPCA</u>), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, <u>SD 57108</u>. 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