

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER September 2022



"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up into Him, and established in the faith, just as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6

Some hymns that I sang in the church growing up still come to my mind. One of those songs was, "Count Your Blessings." The second verse is, "Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings every doubt will fly, and you will keep singing as the days go by." In these days when there are so many discouraging things happening in the world, we must remember all of God's blessings and be thankful for what He has done!

The prison has been having some problems getting enough officers. Sometimes that can result in lock downs. In other words, the men can only go to the dining hall to eat and go back to their cells, everything else is cancelled. This has happened two days this week. That makes for long days for them.

The chaplains were notified from the Secretary of Corrections, that we can no longer go cell to cell. We can only go from the entry of the prison to our designated place, (chapel office, chapel). We can still call for men to come to the office. This seriously limits my passing out Christian literature cell to cell! This is not only discouraging for me, but also for the inmates. For now, I can't visit with them at their cell! Some of the Christian inmates have stepped up by using their job location as a

means to pass out Bibles and Christian literature in their designated areas!

During the Thursday evening church service, the men sang praises from their heart. I do the prayer time during the service, and I always ask for prayer requests from the men. A couple of weeks ago, I thought it would be good to just ask for praises and thanksgivings during our prayer time. It surprised me how many raised their hand to tell of a praise or a thanksgiving. One of the men said he was thankful that God helped him keep his cool that day with an officer! Another read a passage from the Bible about being thankful for salvation. One was thankful for the trials in his life because it has kept him depending on the Lord! Still another was thankful for the peace that God has given him! One man was thankful for the family of God! Another was thankful for the volunteers coming into the prison. There were many more praises and thanksgivings than there usually are prayer requests for their needs. Pastor Greg than had an encouraging message from the Word of God about God's peace!

Brothers-in-Blue took place on a Friday, Saturday, and a Sunday weekend. They spent time in prayer with the men and giving testimonies. This was a real encouragement for the men trying to live a Christian life! We are very thankful for their yearly visit!

Please pray for the volunteer restrictions to be relaxed. Also pray for the staff and inmates because the stress levels are high right now.

All your prayers and financial support are vital for this ministry! Thank you for your support!

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. To listen to inmate testimonies: <https://converge.org/heartland/giving-campaign/sd-prison-chaplains-harlan-moss>