

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER September, 2024



"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scoffers." Psalm 1:1

God is always at work around us. Henry Blackaby in his book, "Experiencing God", tells his readers to look around and see where God is at work and join Him in that work. How we do ministry at the prison has changed somewhat this past year. God is faithful and there seems to be opportunities that were not there a few years ago. Some of the new officers are more open to the chaplains.

I gave a card to a young women officer, and on it says, "No Jesus, No Peace." When they move the card a little, it says, "Know Jesus, Know Peace." The back of the card tells how a person can know Jesus as their Savior. I had not seen her for a month, because sometimes officers work in another building. When she saw me she pulled the card out of her pocket, and said to me, "I take your card with me every day." I showed her a little Gideon pocket Bible, and opened it to the back page on how she could know she would go to Heaven when she died. She gladly took it.

I gave a Gideon pocket testament to another officer a few weeks earlier. Later she showed me her clear backpack. She said, "See I carry this little Bible with me every day." Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall My word that goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

I have known Jimmy for the last 14 years. He has

been in and out of prison over the years. Sometimes he was in Administrative Segregation where guys go through a step program and if they stay out of trouble they can move back to general population. It takes about nine months to complete. I met Jimmy back in that section again. This time it was because he refused housing in population. He told me, "Harlan, I am back here because I can't take all the gang games anymore. I am tired of all the games and needed to get alone with God." He showed me the book he had from one of my favorite authors, A.W. Tozer entitled, "The Pursuit of God." He had his Bible open on his little table. Then he told me, "God began working on me years ago when I was back here, and you talked with me about the Lord and gave me Christian literature." Sometimes we don't see God at work until years later, but we should continue to witness to others about Christ!

Justin has been through the system before, but he told me he was tired of failing. He really wanted to understand the gospel. I explained the gospel to him and said that he needed to count the cost of following Jesus. I let him know that he would have to give up old friends who are doing drugs and alcohol. Pastor Greg hung a picture that an inmate drew of Jesus on the cross and people kneeling at the cross. Justin said, "That is what I need to do!" He invited Christ into his life, to forgive his sins, and trust Jesus as his only hope! The last few weeks Justin has been into a beginners Bible study booklet and is excited about his new faith in Jesus Christ! It is great to see God at work!

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