

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER August, 2025



"There is one body and one Spirit...One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all."
Ephesians 4:4-5

The devil likes to divide Christians because he knows there is no power in division! That is why there are gangs against gangs, and ethnic groups against other ethnic groups. Matthew 12:25 says, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand." When Christians unite the evil one knows he will be defeated!

I have a Bible study every Monday with Mental Health men. I have known three of these men for over 10 years. Usually they have had disagreements among themselves so one will not come to Bible study if the other one is coming. Some of the problems are racial. Therefore, we have talked about the love of Christ that we should have for all races and for all people. At our last Bible study all three were present and I was amazed how they were calling each other brothers in Christ! God's love is certainly at work in these men!

When I was on the Hill a few weeks ago, a young man was looking at some Christian books in the Chapel library. I asked him what kind of books he was looking for and he told me, "Any book that will help me grow as a new Christian." So we talked about how he came to know the Lord. He said, "About a year ago I was feeling hopeless. I had done many sinful things in my life. One night when it was dark in my cell I took some extra

pills to kill myself. I lay down in my bed, and then I knew I didn't want to die. I felt a heavy weight on my chest so I couldn't move. My cellie sleeps in the bed above me and his iPad that was hanging on the wall lit up for no reason. He had a cross that was hanging off the side of his bed. When his iPad lit up, it lit up the cross! I cried out to Jesus to save me and forgive me. The pressure on my chest was gone. I have been a new person ever since. I can't get enough of knowing more about Jesus and growing in His love!" God is always on time!

In early July six men were baptized! We heard some great testimonies of how the Lord had and is working in their lives. One of the men told me that when he was in lockdown, he asked himself "What have I accomplished in my 36 years of life?" He came up with, "Nothing, and I need to change! I want my life to count for eternity." I know he is bringing others with him to church and Bible study. Now he is opening with Scripture and prayer at Bible studies and the church services.

I have enjoyed meeting with a young man, who two years ago overdosed and was not expected to live. It is great to see how he is growing spiritually! He asked me if I could attend his graduation ceremony. He completed a six-month leadership class. I felt honored to be invited to witness 12 men graduate with Mayor Ten Haken as one of the speakers.

Thank you for your prayers. They are vital for my ministry in the prison! Thank you for your financial support as well! Blessings,

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