PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER June, 2023



"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God is making His appeal through us, we implore you on behalf of Christ be reconciled to God." II Cor. 5:20

The Westminster Catechism's first question is; "What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." When we glorify God with our lives, we will enjoy Him as well! That will be the natural result. Without God in our lives, sin naturally has it's way. When Jesus becomes the center of our lives we can also enjoy Him!

Tom was coming down the hallway and saw me as I was waiting for the door to open so I could leave the prison. When he approached me he said, "I thought you might be a chaplain. I really want to change my life, I need to visit with you when you have time. I cannot keep living the way I am." When I visited with Tom, he told me that his addiction to drugs had to change. We talked about the gospel and the power of Jesus Christ to change a person. Tom realized that God had not been at the center of his life. We talked about the power to overcome drugs was not through trying harder. Tom is learning that the power is in Jesus and that transforming his mind comes through daily Bible reading and study. He has completed the Bible studies I gave him, and he attends the Christian services. One evening when Tom was scheduled to make a phone call home, he was not allowed to because of some bad actions of other inmates. Therefore no one could use the phone that evening. Instead of getting angry like many of the inmates do, he laid down on his bed and read the Bible. Other inmates asked him why he was not angry. Tom said, "God is in control and I am at peace." He was a witness to the other inmates on how to handle a

disappointing situation. He has a real desire to allow God to change his life.

I go to the Hill prison on Monday mornings to visit with some of the men I know. Last week I called Bobby to the office. I have known him for over ten years, but had not talked with him for a few months. Bobby said, "I am really at a low time in my life, I have no hope. I am not guilty of the crime that was committed and no one seems to care. I don't see any light in the darkness." Bobby does know the Lord but has a problem being in crowds, so he stays to himself. Therefore, he does not have much Christian support. We talked about the hope only the Lord can give us and how He needs to become our life. The problem comes when we focus on the problem and not the Lord, the situation gets bigger in our mind. We talked about the love that God has for him and the importance of refocusing. I encouraged him to get involved in a church there. Bobby told me that the night before he asked God to give him some hope. The next morning I called him to the office to talk. When he was called to the office, he realized God did care. God is always on time with His promptings. Please pray for justice to be done for Bobby.

Ray has done a long time in prison and has lost a few family members through death. He struggles with loneliness. I tried to encourage him to reach out to others who are going through difficulties. Lately he got a job giving out needed necessities to the incoming inmates. Ray told me that he is able to talk with them about the Lord and tell them he will pray for them. This is an answer to prayer for Ray. He now looks encouraged himself.

I thank God for you and your support. You are a blessing to this ministry!

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 (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