

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER Feb. 2023



“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.”

Ephesians 3:20a

God is amazing, He knows everything about us! He knows if we are serious with Him or if we are using Him for our purposes. Isaiah 55 says, “So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” I enjoy hearing the testimonies of men who are serious with the Lord!

One of the men, Les, who I have counseled for the last couple of years has been in and out of segregation for a while. For the last year it has been a joy to see him grow in his faith. He told me that he read a book about authority and how it affected him. Les said, “Most of my past was fighting against the authority of the officers. Now I realize that all this time I was fighting against God! It reminds me that the Apostle Paul thought he was doing right, but God had to show him he was going in the wrong direction. Now I get along with the officers and understand their authority.” Only God can open our eyes to things we need to see!

James who just came back into the prison told me in the hallway that he wanted to talk with me about the goodness of God. When I visited with him, he had some great testimonies of how God was at work in his life. James said, “I deserved so much more time than what the judge gave me. He gave me two years when I deserved many more. God dealt with me while in the jail. I asked the Lord to forgive me and change me. The joy of the Lord came into my life. I started a Bible study with

some of the men there. I sang a few hymns in my cell one evening. The next day a 57 year old man, who was in the cell next to me, told me he was ready to commit suicide the night before, but when he heard me singing hymns it made him change his mind.” James went on to tell me that he wanted to use the two years in prison to grow in his faith and tell others about the love of God!

Fred is a middle aged man who has some physical problems because of living a hard life. At this time he has to get around in a wheelchair. He told me that he was an alcoholic. He drank alcohol trying to cover of the pain and shame of his life. A few years ago he let his brother use his car, knowing that he was going to buy alcohol. His brother was killed that day in an accident with Fred’s vehicle. He was filled with guilt and shame for allowing this to happen to his brother. Fred told me, “I can’t go out in society again with this guilt and shame.” We talked about the plan of salvation and how Jesus wants to take our shame from us. As we talked Fred said, “That is what I need, I want Jesus in my life. I have heard about Jesus and believe in Him, but I have never committed my life to Him.” As we prayed, Fred put his hand on his heart and started to weep. After taking a few deep breathes through his tears, a smile of relief came over him. His whole countenance changed from a depressed look to joy! I look forward visiting Fred in the weeks ahead!

I would welcome the opportunity to speak at your church or Sunday School class to share what the Lord is doing in the prison.

I appreciate your prayer support and financial support for this prison ministry! You’re a blessing!

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>