

## PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER July, 2023

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*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" Romans 1:16*

Some people become a Christian soon after they hear the gospel and commit their life to Jesus Christ. Some have gone through many difficulties in life before they realize that Jesus is their only hope of change. Many in prison have made wrong choices that will often bring them to the end of themselves and without hope. From the beginning of my prison ministry my desire was to bring hope to those who had no hope.

I met Rick as I was leaving the prison. He is from Unit C, which is a minimum facility where some of them have jobs on the grounds. Rick asked me, "Are you a pastor?" I told him he was right. "I feel the need to talk to you." He went on to tell me, "I really don't know where to turn in my life. My wife died a year ago and I got angry with God. I made bad decisions after that happened. In fact, I don't know if there is a God. I don't know where to turn and what life is all about. I told him the reason I became a chaplain was to bring people hope when they feel there is no hope in life. Then I explained the gospel to Rick and told him that he was loved dearly by God! Rick said, "You are very passionate about what you are telling me aren't you?" I told him that is because Jesus changed my life, and He would do the same for him. I had the opportunity to pray with him. Afterward he told me how thankful he was that we had talked. I informed him that Pastor Greg has a church service in unit C on Monday evenings, and Greg would love to have him come to it! God's timing is always right! I met Rick a few days ago and he told me now he has cancer and might die from it.

I plan on following up with up Rick. Pray that he will be open to the gospel!

James is familiar with the prison. He has been through the system several times. Every time I visited him in the past, he told me he was saved. This time when I talked with him, he told me that things were different. James said, "I thought I knew the Lord before, but now I realize that all the Bible knowledge I had was just head knowledge. I wanted people to think of me as really knowing the Bible and I was proud of that knowledge. The Lord has shown me that there was no power for me to overcome drugs with all my head knowledge when I didn't know Him from my heart. This time it is different because I know Him with my heart!" James' testimony reminded me of what Jesus said, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life" (John 5:39). It is all about knowing Jesus, not just knowing about Him.

Some of the men who attend church also attend the Native American sweat lodge. Most of them have been encouraged to attend by friends. It is a covered area with heated rocks, and the belief is that they sweat out their sins. Ron is one of the men who I have met with weekly with for over a year. Others were trying to persuade him to attend the sweat lodge. He told them "How can I do that to my Lord and Savior? Jesus paid for my sins on the cross and sat down at the Father's right hand showing His work was complete. There is no other sacrifice for sins, other than Jesus'." I told him that was a great answer, and I was proud of him for standing strong in the Lord!

Praise the Lord for the freedom we have in the US, and the freedom we have in Christ! Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts!

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](mailto:harlan@convergeheartland.org). To listen to inmate testimonies: <https://converge.org/heartland/giving-campaign/sd-prison-chaplains-harlan-moss>