

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER April, 2026



“So when Jesus received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished’, bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”
John 19:30

Jesus said He came, “To give His life a ransom for many.” What a great plan of salvation God planned from the beginning! Many people today are trying to be good enough to get to heaven. That will never happen. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” it means there is nothing more we can do, except to trust Jesus alone. He loves us unconditionally, but we can only get right by grace through faith in His work!

One of the men who I have known for a long time asked me if I would contact another inmate in his section who was struggling with his faith. When I went to this man’s cell he told me, “I would really like to visit with you, but can we do it later, like tomorrow or next week? I have things I should do.” Then he said, “No I will come now, lets talk.” In the office he told me that he had been struggling with doing enough good things to please God. He told me, “I am really miserable because I don’t know how to be good enough to be at peace with God.” His idea of being right with God was doing good things so he could be right with God. He told me he dreamed about dying and afraid he was not ready. As I explained the gospel to him, he began to understand that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone! The work is finished through Christ. He prayed to trust Jesus as his only hope of salvation! He told the Lord he was not worthy of His forgiveness but wanted Christ to create in him

a new and clean heart. At first when he wanted to put our meeting off till later, it was a spiritual battle. Praise the Lord, God drew him into His kingdom!

One of the new men being processed told me he had been reading the Bible and studying the Bible in the county jail. (Most of the time men are in the county jail before they come to prison. They can be in county anywhere from six months to a year). He wanted to commit his life to Christ which he did in the one on one we had together. He told me that he can’t get enough of studying the Bible. I have placed extra Christian literature in the chapel. He told me that he took extra literature back with him after Bible study. He laid it out on the tables in the day room, and it all was picked up quickly by the other men. When he came into the chapel for Bible study, he told me that some of the men were there because he encouraged them to sign up. He is definitely spreading the good news of Jesus!

Two more men were baptized last week! One of them was the man who I wrote about in the first paragraph. The other young man who was baptized was excited about the Lord and wanted the Bible study books I give out. There are six books in the series. He filled the first one out in two days and asked for the next one! A few days later he had the other one finished. He asked for all six so he could complete them when he was transferred to Springfield. It is great to have young men growing in the knowledge of the faith in Jesus Christ!

I thank God for your prayers and financial support! I pray that we never stop celebrating God’s great plan of salvation! Have a blessed April!

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