

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER January, 2026



“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

We might begin a new year with some anxiety. But the Lord wants us to depend on and trust Him for this coming year. As He has been with us in the past, so He will be with us in the future! Whenever I find myself getting anxious, the Lord convicts me that I am not trusting Him. We have to believe the passage in Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,” even in all the obstacles in the prison.

The holidays are a difficult time for the men. They miss being with their families. Some of them did not think about their families when they were on the outside. Now they have time on their hands which helps them to remember what is important to them.

It was a blessing to have the privilege to hand out Christmas bags again. We had three inmates help pack the sacks for Jameson Annex. We packed approximately 450 bags. This could not have been possible except through the donations from churches and individuals. The prison staff were very helpful in getting them distributed. The men look forward to this every year and are very thankful. Thank you for your generosity!

Joe, who I wrote about in December, is still interested in meeting me weekly. We read a chapter or two of Scripture and talk about it. He told me, “About fourteen years ago when you came by my cell, I told you I had voices in

my head. You asked me if I wanted to get rid of them and if the voices had names. I told you they did, and I repeated a prayer after you. We prayed for those voices with names to leave me in the name of Jesus Christ. After that I could read the Bible without it looking blurry.” We meet every Tuesday morning, but last Tuesday I forgot. I was distracted with talking to some other men. Joe got my attention. He was waiting for me with his Bible in hand! A relative of Joe asked him what advice would you give a person who was going to spend a few years in prison. Joe told him, “Tell him to use his time in prison as a learning experience. It is like going to school, use your time to grow into a better person.” I was impressed with his advice.

The other day I went down the hall to get an inmate who wanted to visit with me. Another inmate was standing in that area and he asked me who I was. I told him and he said, “I would like to talk with you when you have time.” We went to the office to talk. He wanted to make sure he understood the Bible correctly. His desire was to know more about the Bible. There are no coincidences with God.

It’s a blessing that we will have a chaplain office in another section in the prison, D-floor. D-floor is where the gang fights were last March. These men have been on tight supervision so it has been difficult to visit with them. It will be a blessing to have a presence there. Pray that God will work in that area in a mighty way!

Thank you again for your faithfulness in your prayers and financial support. Please pray for wisdom for the staff in dealing with difficult situations. Also continue to pray for relaxed restrictions as time goes on.

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