

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER May, 2026



"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12

The battle is real! I want the new believers to know that they are in a war, and if they don't know that, they will lose every time. It is essential to know who we are as believers. Eph. 2:5-6 says, "God made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus." Therefore, we have authority over the lies and temptations of the evil one.

One of the men who came back to prison after four years asked me if I remembered that we had visited four years ago in the office. He told me he had prayed with me to receive Christ, but that now he realized he was not ready to surrender to Christ's authority at that time. He prayed to surrender all, and to follow Jesus. In the next few weeks of visiting with him, he was hungry for knowing more about the Bible.

A man who I have known for a few years, is getting more responsibilities, because he is faithful in doing his work well. He stays out of the way of trouble. He told me, "I want to surrender to the Lord, but it is like holding on to a rope. God is telling me to let go of the rope. I am getting rope burns from holding on to the rope, when all I need to do is simply let go of the rope. It is so hard to surrender my life into God's hand since I am used to of being in control my whole life." We talked about resting in the God Who saved our soul and knowing He has our best interests in mind!

One of the men who has attended a Bible college, still struggles in his faith. He told me, "Every time I start getting into the Word and get

serious with God, trouble and temptation surround me." We talked about what Jesus said in John 15:18, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you." When we follow Jesus, He never promises us an easy road.

I had the opportunity to visit with a young man who is a kitchen employee. We were waiting outside the prison for the gate to open. I asked him if he had any spiritual beliefs. He told me he was a Baptist, so I asked him if he knew what it meant to be born again from above. He said, "I always wondered what it meant to be born again." We talked about how to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Then as we walked through the gate, he said, "I would like to talk with you again about this subject." The Lord always provides opportunities to share with others the love of Christ and His salvation!

An inmate who had good job was taken to SHU (Security Housing Unit). No one could believe that he did anything wrong, because he was serious about his job and his faith. When an inmate goes to the SHU they lose their job. When I visited with him later, he told me, "I don't know why I went to the SHU. I didn't do anything wrong. I do a few things I should not, but officers don't care about these things. They didn't even write me up for doing anything wrong! We talked about how easy it is to rationalize the little things we do just because we can get away with it. My encouragement to him was that he should live above reproach and listen to the Lord in all that he does. We talked about Proverbs 3:5-7 and not to "Lean to our own understanding...Don't be wise in your own eyes." I want the men to know that the Lord wants everything we do to honor Him and not to compromise!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! C.H. Spurgeon said, "Prayer moves the arm that moves the world." You all are 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