



"Some were persuaded by the things which were spoken and some disbelieved." Acts 28:24

Sharing the Good News of salvation is a high calling we have received from the Lord! I believe fear of what people might say when we witness to them can keep us from telling others about Jesus' love for them! Our courage to speak to others comes from trusting God's presence to go before us!

One of the men who was baptized six years ago is still spreading the Word. I had not visited with him for three months, because sometimes it is difficult to get men to come to the office. The reason is they are either having rec time or they don't hear their name called on the intercom. He had some good news. He was cell mates with a man who did not believe in the Lord. They had many talks about God and the Bible. But now the man is reading the Bible and asking more questions concerning Jesus. Then another man he had been talking with about the Lord is now wanting to know more about Jesus. This man doing the witnessing has admitted to me how dark and discouraging it can get in the prison. He told me, "Sometimes I wish the Lord would just take me to heaven so I could leave this place." I let him know what my Pastor Wheeler says, "When God saved you, He also had other people in mind who you could witness to about Jesus." I encouraged him that he is a light in a dark place, and his prayers, his witnessing in that place will affect others for eternity!

At the last weekly Bible study, I read Psalm 89:14 for opening Scripture which says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of

Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face." One man in the front row said with tears in his eyes, "If God is the God of justice, why did my brother get shot and killed leaving a family gathering?" I told him I was sorry that happened to his brother. We talked about how often we don't understand why bad things happen. Like Job we need God as the foundation of our lives. My plan was to talk about I John 2 during the Bible study, but instead we talked about Psalm 42. The Psalmist in his discouragement continued to remember God as his Rock and as his hope! The Psalm is a reminder that through difficulties in life God needs to remain our hope and our rock! One of the men present commented that we can know if God is our rock by what comes out of our mouth, as Jesus said in the Gospels. At the end of the Bible study one of the men said, "Can you pray a salvation prayer, and we will repeat it after you?" I agreed and reminded them what it meant to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. The thirteen men present prayed the prayer for salvation. Among those present were some saved men, but only God knows the hearts of each person. Praise God for, "So great a salvation!"

This past Monday I visited with some inmates at the county jail. As I came into a dorm of men, the man closest to the door recognized me from being in prison before. He told me, "I just saw you at a gas station last week and I shook your hand and now here you are again. I believe God wants me to get right with Him." God is always on time!

Thank you for your prayer and financial support! Please continue to pray for those who remain in prison and those who are released!

In Christ,

Harlan

Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Make the checks out to: Converge Heartland, or PLF, the address is: 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org