



# Compassion

Sharing hope...

2018 - Third Quarter



Finding Peace



Why Is It So Hard?



Special Gifts  
& Memorials

IN THIS ISSUE

## No Line In The Sand

Michael was annoyed with a preacher. Not with me – at least not this time. His annoyance was with a pastor he'd heard at the prison worship services recently, and, at least from Michael's viewpoint, was judgmental and divisive. What Michael heard the preacher proclaim was that the prison inmates were all in a different category from the preacher and from the rest of society. They were criminals, and because they were criminals, they were doomed to be rejected by society and by God, unless they repented and changed. That didn't sit well with Michael. None of the other inmates who listened as Michael vented in my prison Bible study were as annoyed as he was, but none of them disagreed, either. Apparently, they all felt they'd been preached down to.

Not knowing what that preacher had actually said, or what his intentions were, I told them that personally, I try to avoid thinking or talking in terms of criminals vs. good citizens. "I look at it this way," I told them, "You guys got caught, and us church people didn't. So's who's better at sinning? We all did a much smarter job of picking our sins than you did! You all are just amateurs!"

I've been reading a book I found at NPH by Carl Madearis called *Speaking of Jesus: The Art of Not-Evangelism* (© 2011, David C. Cook Publishing). In it, he talks about his consistent failures to win people over to his theology and to get them to agree to the plan of salvation he presented. Then he got involved in ministry at a maximum-security prison: "These were tough guys, serving some of the hardest time a federal court could give them. Some had committed unspeakable crimes. There would be no intimidating sermonizing from me, that was for sure." As Carl uneasily faced this group of men, he thought of what Paul the apostle wrote in 1 Corinthians – "When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling" (2:1-3).

continued on page 2

NEWS

**Save the date!**  
This year's Annual  
Delegate Meeting is  
scheduled for Nov. 3  
at St. Paul's in Slinger.

**Matching Gifts!**  
Donations this quarter  
will be matched up  
to \$5,000.

NEWS



## No Line In The Sand

continued from page 1

So, Carl did just what Paul talked about, and “Miraculously, somehow the inmates and I connected. Honest – no bribery involved. After a month of visiting the prison, our numbers did something I’d never seen before. They grew. The inmates were interested in Jesus, and we didn’t even have to give away cigarettes” (p 30).

And that’s what all of us at Institutional Ministries are shooting for. Sometimes we hit closer to the bullseye than other times, but we keep working on it. Rather than trying to get people in the facilities we work in to step over a line in the sand and become Lutherans or become conservatives or become model citizens, we try to introduce them to “Jesus Christ and him crucified,” and let the rest sort itself out.



by Chaplain  
Philip Merten

## Why Is It So Hard?

I had seen her before during a different stay at the jail, but I was never quite sure how to take her lighthearted attitude and silly comments. Women in the jail are dealing with a lot of issues. Some of the women are taxed physically, as they are detoxing and withdrawing from drugs and other addictions. Their usual coping tools are not available to them in the jail, and they may not have developed others yet, so they are often at their wit’s end, struggling and weak.

Mindful of this, I was unsure what to attribute Liz’s attitude. She would randomly blurt out things that didn’t always make sense, may not be appropriate, and always a bit distracting. Was she trying to entertain the group? Was she not able to communicate appropriately? Was she just uncomfortable, or were there other distractions and spiritual issues that I was unaware of?

As we began with prayer requests that day, Liz asked that we pray for her. She wanted help controlling her negative thoughts; she desired strength and spiritual guidance. The depth of Liz’s thinking was shining through her robust personality today. We prayed and began our study. Then, Liz abruptly changed the course of our study by blurting out, “What is it about this book? Why is it so hard for me to read?” She then went on to share, “At first, I thought it was a difference in culture. Some of my people (she was Native American) would not approve of me reading the Bible.” But then she went on to tell us how many of her family had turned to the Lord later in life, as their time on earth was nearing an end.

We talked about how the devil really does not want us to hear God’s Word, since His Word brings us freedom from condemnation and the devil’s power. Liz apologized for diverting the group. I assured her that every question is valuable, and we went on with our study.

I cannot know or see all the distractions that the women are facing, as they sit in our Bible study each week. Nor do I know the daily battle going on in their hearts when they struggle to pick up a Bible, turn to a section of God’s Word, and listen to our Good, Mighty and Loving God speak to them. I could not answer Liz’s question directly when she asked why the Bible is so hard for her, but I do know that God is working in her heart as she continues to join us.

I always encourage the ladies to come back the next week, and as we left the room that day, I heard Liz say in a quiet voice, “I wish I could study with you some more.” The door was already closing when I heard this, so I was unable to follow up. Perhaps this was just the Holy Spirit reaching out to Liz amidst the distractions that fill her life. God certainly knows all the challenges that face these ladies, and day after day, He continues to work in their hearts.



by Chaplain Sarah Guenther

# Finding Peace

I don't know a lot about Justin, but here are a few things that I do know. Justin is from Milwaukee. He's black. He's been in prison for almost six years. And by the grace of God, Justin is a Christian.

Now, Justin wasn't always a Christian. Not too long ago, in fact, Justin had been searching for peace with God through the teachings of Islam. At our Bible study one evening, Justin told us about his experience with Islam.

Because Justin is black, there was a lot of peer pressure to join the Islamic study group when he arrived at the prison. The Islamic believers have made considerable inroads in all the prisons, especially with African-Americans. Justin joined their study group and even continued to study the Islamic faith after he was transferred to another Prison. For nearly two years, Justin diligently and faithfully studied the teachings of Islam.

But then, almost as quickly as he had joined the Islamic faith, Justin dropped out of their study group. No matter how diligently he studied the teachings of Islam and the writings of Mohammed, no matter how faithfully he tried to conform his life to Islam's rules, no matter how much time and effort he expended, nagging doubts about his salvation remained. No matter what Justin did, he always wondered if it was good enough. He was always afraid that Allah was not pleased with him. It was at this point in his story that Justin said, "There is no peace in the Islamic faith. But this," Justin continued, tapping his Bible, "this is peace with God."

By the grace of God, Justin knows about peace with God through faith in Jesus. He believes in Jesus as his Savior from sin. He believes that what we could not do, Jesus has done. He trusts that because of Jesus' perfect life and innocent death on the cross, all his sins are completely forgiven.

Justin knows that he is "not guilty" before a holy God. He is at peace with God, because God's own peace is his through faith in Jesus. Furthermore, Justin shares this good news of peace with God through the Savior Jesus with others.

Being a Christian isn't always easy, especially in prison where the majority, unfortunately, do not believe in Christ Jesus as their Savior. Many unbelievers do their best to pressure or intimidate believers not to attend church services, Bible classes, read their Bible or share their faith.

Justin, by the grace of God, was led from the darkness of unbelief into the light of peace with the triune God. Unfortunately, the devil is working overtime to lead the searching toward an unfulfilling faith in a false god.

As your chaplain, I share the Gospel with inmates in various prisons across the state. Despite all the seeming inroads that various sects, faiths and denominations are making in the prison system, I am constantly reminded that our God is almighty and always prevails over lies, deceit and hate. His Son, Jesus Christ, has won salvation for those who believe in Him.

By His grace, people like Justin continue to find peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ.



*"this is  
peace  
with  
God."*



*by Chaplain Charles Iles, Sr.*





Sharing hope...  
with those who need it most!

Wisconsin Lutheran  
Institutional Ministries, Inc.

1833 Executive Drive, Suite 101B  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

414.259.4370

www.IM.Life



Non Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
Permit No. 4249

## OUR MISSION

*"To provide  
direction, comfort  
and hope by sharing  
God and His love  
with individuals  
(and their families)  
who are, or have been,  
in an institution."*

## Special Gifts & Memorials 4/24/2018 to 7/25/2018

### IN CELEBRATION OF

**Jerry & Pat Murphy**  
50 Years of Marriage  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerhardt Lambrecht  
**Jackson Quinn Schaumburg**  
Confirmation  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meyer  
**Lydia Beth Meyer**  
Confirmation  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meyer  
**Our 63rd Wedding Anniversary**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gebert

### IN HONOR OF

**Adelbert Voigt's 90th Birthday**  
Mrs. Donna Ohrmundt  
**James C. Bryan, Jr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Rupprecht  
**Joe Radsek's Birthday**  
Rev. & Mrs. Joseph Radsek  
**Departed Coworkers**  
**and All Family Members**  
Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth Wenzel  
**Nathan Prell**  
Ms. Eliazabeth Prell  
**Rev. Paul Scharrer**  
**40th Anniversary in Ministry**  
Rev. & Mrs. Russell G. Kobs  
**Pastor Phil Henselin**  
Ms. Shirley Rote  
**Thomas Welch - MLC Graduate**  
Mrs. Barbara Welch

### IN MEMORY OF

**Agnes L Schulz**  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Heckendorf  
**Gerhard & Alice Martin**  
Ms. Joyce Martin  
**Allen Krause**  
Prof. & Mrs. Steven Westphal  
**Arlene Bintz**  
Pamela Stencil  
**Ava Keen Musser**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Finn  
Mr. John Murray & Dr. Jane Murray  
Mrs. Ellen Skaates  
Mrs. Margery Henselin  
Mrs. Randi Andresen  
Rev. & Mrs. Joseph Radsek  
**Beatrice and Henry Wiederhoeft**  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Muelver

**Carol Davidson**  
Mr. Daniel Davidson  
**Carolyn Schaser**  
Mr. George Schaser  
**Charlene Kobs**  
Rev. & Mrs. Russel Kobs  
**Chloe Gessner**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Jackson  
**Daniel Wolfram**  
Rev. & Mrs. Arno Wolfgramm  
**David Larson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Reineck  
**Rev. David A Tetzlaff**  
Anonymous  
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Toepel  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Finn  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Witte  
Mr. & Mrs. David Tetzlaff  
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Gauger  
Mr. & Mrs. John Orvis  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Meihack  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Meier  
Mr. Greg Volland  
Mr. James McCabe  
Mr. John Graese III  
Mr. Larry Debbert  
Mrs. Geraldine Babinec  
Ms. Amy Hartman  
Ms. Renee Rickert  
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Iles  
Rev. & Mrs. Martin Schulz  
Rev. & Mrs. Michael Feuerstahler  
Rev. & Mrs. Paul Reede  
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Pasbrigg  
**Dean Gunn**  
Mrs. Lores Gunn  
**Rev. Deverson Ntambo**  
Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Cox  
**Dolores Griffiths**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cleven  
**Doris Davis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Dobbert  
**Doris Palubecki**  
Mr. Thomas Palubecki  
**Dorothy Kracklow**  
Mr. Daniel Davidson  
**Dorothy Seifert**  
Mr. Loyley Seifert  
**Edwin Sell -- On Our 65th Anniversary!**  
Mrs. Lois Sell

**Elaine Winter Paschke**  
Mr. Todd Paschke  
**My Mother, Eloise Berg**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Elsie Phillips**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerre Duerr  
**Evelyn Nimmer**  
Mr. Edward Nimmer  
**Floyd Schwewe**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Prowatzke  
Rev. & Mrs. LaDonna Schwewe  
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Iles  
**Frank Seeger**  
Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Reineck  
**Gerald Schuelke**  
Mrs. Lois Schuelke  
**Gerald Zeitler**  
Mrs. Edna Zeitler  
**Tom & Gertrude Lawrence**  
Mrs. Gail Maxwell  
**Harvey Zeitler**  
Mrs. Edna Zeitler  
**Henry Berg**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Herbert Seeger**  
Mrs. Lois Seeger  
**James Bitney**  
Mrs. June Bitney  
**Jim Hilden's Birthday**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Jim Hilden**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Jim Shallow**  
Mrs. Margaret Trissel  
**Jeffrey W Knopf**  
Mr. John Murray & Dr. Jane Murray  
**John Pamperin**  
Ms. Ellen Pamperin  
**Rev. John W. Mattek**  
Ms. Elsie Mattek  
**Laraine Williams**  
Rev. & Mrs. Philip Henselin  
**Larry Clark**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Wilhelm  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Deyo  
Ms. Ann Brandau  
**Lloyd Hohenstein**  
Mrs. Virginia Hohenstein  
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Iles  
**Lloyd Lemke**  
Mrs. Dorothy Lemke

**Lorenz V. Wefel**  
Mrs. Audrey Wefel  
**Lynn F. Sackenheim**  
Mrs. Iris Sackenheim  
**Marilyn Paschen**  
Mr. James Paschen  
**Mark Weber**  
Mrs. Lois Weber  
**Martha Sonnenburg**  
Mrs. Sue Wehner  
**Marvin Moldenhauer**  
Mr. Earl Moldenhauer  
**Muriel Manthey**  
Ms. Elsa Manthey  
**Mylon Lange**  
Mrs. Janet Lange  
**Myra Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Niles Wendorf  
**Orval Hintz**  
Mrs. Marilyn Hintz  
**Rand Lange**  
Mrs. Janet Lange  
**Rebecca Hulce**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Nommensen  
**Richard A Berner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Mertz  
**Richard (Dick) Berner**  
Mrs. Carol Berner  
**Richard Hanamann**  
Mrs. Carole Hanamann  
**Dick & Mary Lou Truettner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve A. Ahrens  
**Pastor Roland Welch**  
Mrs. Barbara Welch  
**Ruiland Rochester**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Rochester  
**Russell Neubauer**  
Mrs. May Neubauer  
**Ruth Ann Jaeger**  
Mr. Ken Jaeger  
**Todd Krenek**  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Krenek  
**Tom Kleist**  
Ms. Marilyn Affeldt  
**Tyler Wenzel**  
Ms. Constance Wenzel  
**Wayne Krueger**  
Mrs. Kristin Krueger  
**William J. Polzin**  
Mrs. Lois Polzin  
**Wilma Brehmer**  
Mrs. Patricia Piippo

**Wyman Wenzel**  
Ms. Constance Wenzel

### IN THANKSGIVING FOR Our children

**Blair & Jerry Haddle**  
Blair & Barbara Haddle  
**The Love of My Savior and Family--HE IS RISEN!!**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Hopper  
**Jesus, My Savior**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Neyhart  
**God's Blessings**  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Frey  
**God's Blessings to Us**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Gutermann  
**Christian Parents, Aaron & Mabel Marquart**  
Mr. Harold Marquart  
**Ten Years Cancer-free!**  
**Praise the Lord!**  
Mrs. Jane Eberhardt  
**John Martin Steinke, PhD.**  
Mr. Paul Steinke  
**My Lord & Savior, My Heavenly Father, & the Holy Spirit Who Gives Me Faith**  
June Wedell  
**Leon & Marlene Strutz**  
**56 Years of Marriage**  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Strutz  
**Pastor Leroy Lothert's 90th Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Nommensen  
**Blessings of Children & Grandchildren**  
Ms. Marie Aho  
**Monica Dargelies**  
Ms. Nancy Dargelies  
**God Watching Over Me while Hospitalized and Always!**  
Ms. Muriel McKinley  
**Exec. Dir. Rev. Philip Henselin for his service to this ministry for those in prison**  
Ms. Shirley Rote  
**Our New Grandchildren**  
Rev. & Mrs. Richard Lehmann  
**Our Anniversary**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Mode  
**Jesus Christ**  
Mr. William Bartholomew