



Compassion

Sharing hope...

2019 - Thrid Quarter

IN THIS ISSUE



We Are All in One Mission



Growing in the Spirit



Special Gifts & Memorials

Start with Prayer

It happens every so often that Christians in prison share a cell with someone who is not a Christian. Their cellmate may believe in a god who is not the Triune God, he may be someone who is an outspoken agnostic or atheist.

When I met with Joe recently, he told me that he had a new cellmate. Joe also told me that his cellmate was pagan and that he believed in the gods of ancient Scandinavia. I quickly shifted into pastor mode and asked Joe, "So, what do you do first when you want to share the Gospel with someone who is not a Christian?" I assumed that Joe probably needed a brief refresher on evangelism and was ready to guide him through that "refresher."

But Joe was the one who gave me a "refresher" on Evangelism. He told me, "Well, first I pray. I know that I can't make anyone a believer in Jesus. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. So, first, I pray."

I am sure that I smiled when Joe answered my question. And my smile only grew as we spent the remainder of our time talking about sharing Jesus with others. But I wasn't smiling because Joe had all the right answers – as if sharing Jesus with someone is some kind of a test. Rather, I was smiling in thankfulness for the Holy Spirit's work in Joe's mind and heart and soul. And mine, too.

Last week, Joe was transferred to a different prison, one at which I do not serve. I may not see Joe again in this life, but by the grace of God, I look forward to seeing him in heaven.



*by Chaplain
Charles Iles*

NEWS



NEWS

SAVE THE DATE:
The Annual Delegate Meeting will be held on the morning of November 2. More information will be coming your way in mid-October.

We All Are One in Mission

Recently, I was reminded of a line from one of my favorite hymns of how we all work together to spread God's love. For many years we have partnered with the Anderson Prison Ministry family who have supplied us with New Testament Bibles for our work in the jails and prisons throughout the state of Wisconsin. In recent years, however, the demand for just New Testament Bibles has dwindled in our prison ministry (everyone wants the entire Bible). In an attempt to help the Anderson family find other ministries that could still make use of their Bibles, we put them in contact with a pastor who had begun a prison ministry down in Texas. Here's a story he shared with us about his prison work in Texas, where he is putting those Bibles to good use:

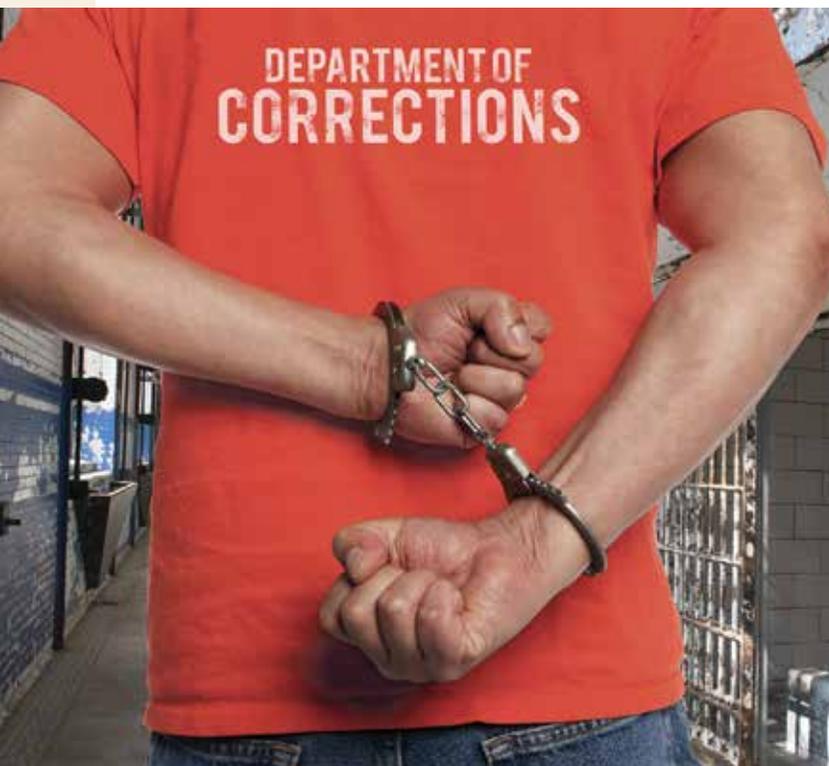
Yesterday, I almost did not go to the jail. I was with a family who was taking a loved one off life support, and I was ready to skip my weekly visit to the jail. I spent time with the family in God's Word and their loved one was hanging on, and the doctors thought it would be a few days.

After some hesitation (I had good excuses to skip my visit), I headed to the jail in a driving rainstorm. When I arrived, the secretary handed me an inmate request from a prisoner. I immediately recognized the name. When I got to his cell in the infirmary and asked the guard to open the door, sure enough, it was him – the guy who got this whole ministry started. He was arrested in the summer of 2017 and asked me to bail him out. I didn't bail him out, but I visited him twice, and those visits began the last 18 months of ministry at the jail.

As I stood at the door of his cell with him, we had a devotion about the day of Pentecost. I told him he was responsible for the Gospel coming to hundreds of souls in this jail. Suddenly it hit me, one visit had opened the door to:

- † 300 - 400 Law/Gospel presentations I have been able to give in that jail
- † 300 devotion books from Special Ministries distributed in that jail
- † 300 Bibles from Julian Anderson distributed and more being given out daily
- † Thousands of our WELS Spanish Bible studies be used in in that jail and these resources are being used by all the chaplains there

I often forget how the Lord uses the little things we do in some big ways. Yesterday made me realize, again, that the Pentecost power of the Gospel is working even when we don't see it. Thanks for all you do to serve our Savior and help to get the Gospel out. – Pastor Brown



The words of the hymnist sum it all up rather well:

We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ the Lord of all.
A single great commission Compels us from above
To plan and work together That all may know Christ's love.

Thank you for your interest in Institutional Ministries.
May we all continue *working together so that all may know Christ's love!*



by Chaplain Joseph Radsek

Growing in the Spirit

It's been about two years since Thomas first walked into my Bible class at the prison. In the months that followed, I soon discovered that he was a *sincere seeker of truth*, one in whom the Holy Spirit was already at work. Having been baptized, and at least for a time, brought up in a Lutheran church, he already had a basic understanding of God's Word. Like so many others, however, Thomas had wandered away from God as he grew older, and by the time I met him, he no longer had a church home.

Shortly after arriving at the prison where I serve, he began showing up at my Bible class every week.

As the months passed, we studied several books of the Bible together, and the Spirit's work was evident as he grew in his knowledge of Scripture. For quite some time, however, he struggled with some of the *deeper* and more *difficult* teachings of Scripture – *predestination, election and free will* – teachings which conflict with human reason and logic, teachings that are “foolishness” to a world that's trying in vain to “understand them,” but sadly never will “because they are spiritually discerned” (1Co. 2:14). It was at this point that I decided to switch from simply studying books of the Bible to studying the basic teachings of our Christian faith – the very *heart* of Scripture.

For the next twenty-plus weeks, I took my class through the fundamentals: Creation, the Fall into sin and the Promise of a Savior. We followed the Messianic prophecies down through the Patriarchs. We studied the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as the birth of the New Testament Church. We covered it all, from the inspiration of Scripture, to the Means of Grace and Ministry of the Keys. And as the months passed, I witnessed again the Spirit working in Thomas' heart, as he grew in knowledge of Jesus and His saving work – *maturing* in his Christian faith, and more importantly, his *child-like* trust in what Scripture teaches.

Eventually, Thomas completed the Adult Instruction class, and a few weeks later, I had the privilege of confirming him. With two of his *brothers* in the faith there to witness – one of whom I confirmed six months earlier – Thomas made his profession of faith and promise of faithfulness and was confirmed. Together, we celebrated the Lord's Supper and rejoiced in the many and gracious blessings that God pours out on His people.

Thank you for your interest, support and partnership in this unique Gospel ministry to the institutionalized. What a privilege it is to serve God with you in this way! In the words of St. Paul: “We always thank God for *all of you* and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1Th. 1:2-3). May the LORD continue to bless our work together.



*“We always
thank God
for all of
you and
continually
mention
you in our
prayers.”*



by Chaplain Joseph Radsek



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

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
Permit No. 4249

Wisconsin Lutheran
Institutional Ministries, Inc.

1833 Executive Drive, Suite 101B
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

414.259.4370

www.IM.Life



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 4/25/2019 to 7/26/2019

IN CELEBRATION OF

Our 65th Anniversary!

Mr. & Ms. Robert Brandau
God's Faithfulness to Us!
Mr. & Mrs. David Voss

Our 69th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Schultz

32 Years of Marriage!!

Mrs. Sandy Anderson

Our 11 Grandchildren

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Krause

Walt & Dene Zimmermann's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Mrs. Lenore Stege

IN HONOR OF

Our 60th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Milbach

Grandson's Graduation

Mr. David Beyer Sr.

Pastor John Moll's 25 Years in the Ministry

Mrs. Carole Hanamann

Joe Radsek's Birthday

Mrs. Dawn Radsek

Pastor Kenneth Lenz

Rev. & Mrs. Paul Zittlow

IN MEMORY OF

Alan Fajvan

Rev. & Mrs. Philip Henselin

Allen Krause

Prof. & Mrs. Steven Westphal

Ed Meyer

Rev. & Mrs. Joseph Radsek

Alton Marwitz

Mrs. Donna Marwitz

Pastor Schroeder

Mrs. Shirley Osgood

Audrey & John Weber

Ms. Ann Nelson

Carol Davidson

Mr. Daniel Davidson

Charles Buettner

Mrs. Eilene Buettner

Chloe Gessner

Mrs. Sally Jackson

Daniel Wolfram

Rev. & Mrs. Arno Wolfram

David Lee Schroeder's Birthday

Mrs. Dorothy Schroeder

Our Anniversary

Mrs. Dorothy Schroeder

Edward & Madelyn Huth

(Together Again in Heaven)

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Huth

Edwin Sell -- On Our 65th Anniversary!

Mrs. Lois Sell

Evelyn A Carstens

Mrs. Ruth Rauch

Evelyn Nimmer

Mr. Edward Nimmer

Fern Kannenberg

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Boehlke

Fred Arthur Bartel

Mr. David Popelier

Fred Bartel

Ms. Ruth Kovaciny

Susan C Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Johnson

Harvey & Gerald Zeitler

Mrs. Edna Zeitler

Helen Zeitler

Ms. Lorraine Kerr

Henry E Mate

Mr. Henry J. Mate

Herman Rohleder

Mrs. Carol Rohleder

Jim Hilden

Mrs. Shirley Hilden

John Pamperin

Ms. Ellen Pamperin

Karen Bartholomew

Mr. William Bartholomew

Leslie Schwantes

Mr. & Mrs. Vilas Hundt

Lloyd Lemke

Mrs. Dorothy Lemke

Loretta Wilsmann

Mrs. Ruth Rauch

Luke Witt

Mrs. Ruth Witt

Marilyn Paschen

Mr. James Paschen

Mark Weber

Mrs. Lois Weber

Orval Hintz

Mrs. Marilyn Hintz

Otto E Wolff

Mrs. Norene Wolff

My Husband, Robert Johnejack

Mrs. Carolyn A. Johnejack

Sandra Stuedmann

Mr. Roland Stuedemann

Tom Benjamin

Rev. & Mrs. Philip Henselin

Wayne Krueger

Ms. Kristin Krueger

IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Everything

Mr. Alvin Ladwig

Our Many Blessings

Dr. Anthony Fiorini & Mrs. Sheila

M. Fiorini

Many Blessings

Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Koepsell

Blair W Haddle, My Husband

Mrs. Barbara Haddle

Carolyn Stephens - 63 Years of

Marriage

Mr. Harold Stephens

Our Precious Grandchildren

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blauvelt

Christian Fathers in Our Family:

My Husband & Alex & Brad

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blauvelt

Our Families

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wilger

John Martin Steinke, PhD.

Mr. Paul Steinke

Heidi & Trever, Our Loving

Children

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Cox

65 Years of Marriage

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Stellick

Pastor Philip Henselin

Mr. Steven Nelson

Rev. Rod Warnecke

Mrs. Carol Berner

Rev. Tim Mueller

Mrs. Carol Berner

Many Blessings

Ms. Ruth Lampe

Our 39th Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Krause