



OWPM COFFEE TALK

Oregon Women's Prison Ministry Newsletter



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Freedom Behind Bars

You might think being locked behind bars is one of the worst possible things that could happen to a woman. But week after week we are hearing stories of how God is working in the lives of women *because they are behind bars.* Somehow during this crisis, God is able to get the attention of women in a way He just isn't able to accomplish when she is out there living her life with all the choices in the world and all the temptations that go with it. Just this week, a woman I will call Rene said "I'm really excited to have this chance to really focus on God and try to get my life right so that I never come back to prison again." Another inmate expressed

how she for the first time in her life is thinking about marriage, children, having a home and going to church when she gets out. She prayed to receive Jesus for the first time.

The ministry of OWPM is helping these women to know how dearly loved they are by God. For some women, just that thought is overwhelming! They have never experienced unconditional love from a human, and many have only heard of a very negative God who is ready to punish each mistake. But as they come to the Discipleship Service, they hear such truths as "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you



Christina Gould faithfully brings the message of hope to the inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matt.11:28-29) and "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will **set you free.**'" (John 8:31-32)



Did You Know?

Did you know that Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is the only women's prison in the state of Oregon?

Did you know that Christina Gould has been going to Coffee Creek and Washington County Jail for about 8 years?

Did you know that OWPM

has discipleship services in the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center on Mondays, in the Medium/Maximum/Intake area on Tuesdays and in the Minimum facility on Thursdays, as well as at the Washington County Jail on Monday evenings?

Did you know that OWPM

provides Recovery Bibles and copies of The Purpose Driven Life free to inmates who express a desire to come to the discipleship service?

Did you know OWPM is a 501C-3 non-profit organization with tax-exempt status, which means your donations are tax deductible?

New Volunteers to Join OWPM

For the last eight years, Christina Gould has been, for the most part, going alone to the jail and prison in order to minister to the inmates each week. But in the last few months, several people have gotten involved with OWPM and are in the process of becoming volunteers.

The process begins with getting a background clearance, which allows you to visit the prison during the OWPM services, but also requires the

chaplain to escort you in and out of the prison. This is limited because it is dependent on the Chaplain's busy schedule.

The next step involves going to a Dept. of Corrections training day in which all of the rules and regulations for volunteers are taught, as well as lots of information about the Oregon prison system.

Next, there is an orientation at Coffee Creek, which in-

cludes fingerprinting and taking photos for a badge.

And then, TA DA, you are an official Volunteer!

Those who have completed this training or are in the process are Melba McDaniel, Daniel Heu, Christie Rowe, Penny Mole, Liz Martin, Deena Rardin and Una Stonehocker. Several others have expressed interest or offered help in some other way. This is truly an answer to prayer.



Working together to bring the Gospel to women inmates at Coffee Creek.

The Truth Will Set You Free...

Matthew 18:10-14

(Jesus speaking)

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in Heaven. What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of

them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost."



What's Perking?

~ Recently, the women at Coffee Creek were treated to a beautiful service presented by Liz Martin. The reneavire service combines music and scriptures with meditation to produce an experience of worship. The theme was forgiveness—God's forgiveness offered to us and our command to forgive others.

It was a moving experience and seemed to be enjoyed by all in attendance.

~ Another first for OWPM! Recently the women were served communion during the Discipleship Service. Several expressed their appreciation for this opportunity.

~ The fundraising luncheon

held at Rock Creek Country Club on May 4, 2006, was informative and successful. Two former inmates gave their testimonies of how God has renovated their lives. Another luncheon is in the works for September. More information to follow.



*Oregon Women's Prison Ministry
Dedicated to taking the message of
the Gospel of Christ to
women inmates.*



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Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon.

**If you would like to make a
donation, you can do so through
the website at
www.owprisonministry.org**

Vision for the Future...

The question posed in Rick Warren's New York Times Best Seller is this...What on earth am I here for? Christina Gould has been teaching through this book for the last several months, helping inmates to discover that their life has purpose. We are nearing the end of the book and the discussion has been about mission and ministry. Even these women who are behind bars, many of them with long sentences, are learning about their mission and how they can minister to other inmates and even the guards while they are incarcerated.

What about you? Have you

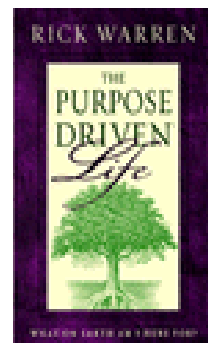
figured out "What on earth you are here for?" Each one of us has gifts and abilities that God wants to use to his glory. The challenge is to surrender the control of our lives to him. But the blessing and fulfillment we experience when we do are priceless.

Christina's vision for the ministry at Coffee Creek doesn't end with the current ministry. She believes God is showing her a bigger dream, one that includes building a mission home for inmates who are committed to growing in their faith. This will require many people giving time, money and prayer to accomplish the

task.

Would you consider praying about how God might use you to build the OWPM Mission Home? There are many details to work out. Do you have some talent that could be used?

Let us know what you think...



**Rick Warren's Best
Selling Book**