



OWPM COFFEE TALK

Oregon Women's Prison Ministry



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Freedom Behind Bars

As you approach Coffee Creek, the first thing you notice is the fence, 20-30 feet tall with big roles of barbed wire at the top. The gates are always locked, requiring a correctional officer to “buzz” it open. Of course, there isn’t just one gate, but many which require a security pass to get through and again the officer to “buzz” the door open.

Freedom isn’t a word that comes to mind as you walk through the gates and into that harsh environment. And yet, week after week, inmates share how Jesus has set them FREE! It is such a contrast to the reality of their circumstances, and yet it is so true.

This past week one inmate told us how God has absolutely revolutionized her life. She was lost and in a prison of drug abuse and self-loathing, making one bad decision after another. She will be paroled this month, but she no longer is afraid to face her life on the outside because she has experienced true freedom in Jesus Christ and she wouldn’t trade that for anything.

We’ve also witnessed completely changed countenances on many women. Initially they came in looking a little hard, perhaps angry and defensive. But as we reach out to them with the love God has placed in our hearts for them, they respond. Soon smiles

start to appear and eventually they will share their hearts with us. Two such women stayed after last Thursday to ask for prayer for a situation they faced in their prison jobs. They were told they would have to find a new service to attend because they could no longer leave work to come to OWPM. They felt like their boss was just having a bad day and taking it out on them. They were upset because they are

finding freedom and joy they have never known before in the message of the gospel taught each week at the Discipleship Service. We also prayed with them concerning one of the women’s children as she shed tears and struggled to hope God would smile on her in spite of her many mistakes.



When Jesus sets you free,

They come in all shapes, sizes, ethnicities and backgrounds. But the common thread is that they are hurting and brokenhearted. But as they learn to trust Jesus, they find “Freedom Behind Bars”. What a privilege it is to be a part of their lives!



Did You Know?

- OWPM is a non-profit ministry that is dedicated to taking the gospel of Jesus Christ and discipling women inmates incarcerated in the only state prison in Oregon designated for women.
- Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is located in Wilsonville and houses approximately 1,350 inmates.

- Oregon has one of the lowest recidivism rates in the US, due in part to ministries like OWPM, which make a measurable difference in the lives of the women we minister to each week.
- Some inmates, though they have very little money, give out of their poverty to support OWPM because they are so grateful for the ministry. (This giving is **never** solicited)



An Inmate's Story...

Can you imagine being in prison for 3 years? Then finally it comes time for you to be paroled. How exciting, right? Well, in the case of an inmate named Lori, that parole date came and went. Lori had nowhere to go, so she ended up staying at Coffee Creek for an additional month. This is such a shame, but not really all that unusual. There just isn't enough transitional housing for inmates who don't have family in the county they are paroled in. Sometimes exceptions are made and an inmate is allowed to parole to another county, but often times they end up living in really difficult circumstances that many times lead to drinking and drug use, which of course is breaking parole.

In Lori's case, she is living in a low-cost hotel

surrounded by men who have also recently been paroled. She is doing well, so far. She has a job and is trying to get on her feet. She needs an apartment to rent and a car. But for now she uses public transportation and makes the best of the hotel. Lori committed her life to Jesus while at Coffee Creek and is doing her best to honor him with her life. Recently, she spoke at an OWPM fundraising event, explaining how the ministry has helped her find her way.. Would you pray for Lori? Could you perhaps help her in some way? She has many needs, from basic household items and personal items to an apartment to rent and a car. Just contact OWPM if you can help.

The Truth Will Set You Free...

Luke 5:29-32

"Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples,

"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" Jesus answered them,

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."



What's Perking?



- On Tuesday, November 14th, OWPM held a fundraising event at the River Lodge in Oregon City. Three former women inmates shared their testimonies with the audience. Lloyd Sharp also shared from his experience as an inmate and offered autographed copies of his book, "God's Law of Blessings." It was a great evening!

- Weekly Discipleship Services continue in the Medium/Maximum area and the Minimum area of Coffee Creek. We are continuing on with "The Purpose Driven Life" interspersed with some special services.

- Weekly Discipleship Service continues at Washington County Jail as well. Many times Christina will meet a woman at WCJ and then continue the relationship once she arrives at Coffee Creek.

- On Tuesday, December 5, local worship leader "Bob" will share and lead in the Medium/Maximum area.

- A special Christmas Renovare service will be held on Tuesday, December 12th.

- Tuesday, December 26th there will be a special Christmas service.

Inmate Prayer Requests

Julie writes "Pray that my boys will hurry and be approved before the end of the week and that my daughter will take my boys to church and that they will come to know the Lord."

Karri writes "If you could pray for me, I'm getting married in 6 months and I just talked to my DHS worker and they are working on getting the kids on my visiting list. I also found out that my daughter is now in private school. She's doing good and out of gangs. Please pray that I'll be able to see my babies & things will go well"

Hang writes "Pray for everyone in my family to stick together, always stay together and help out each other. Pray for my boyfriend, that he will get over his situation and be happy until I get out."

Delia writes "I need prayer for my negative thinking and my lack of patience and peace of mind. Also healing for my back and my right foot. I have been in lots of pain. For my sister to accept her open adoption decision. That my family and fiancé won't fade, but be stronger. Prayer for my daughter and my nephew and all my family and friends. I would also like your prayers that the doors for me and my friend Gladys won't be shut and that we'll be allowed to continue to come to your service. Please pray for a change of heart in our boss that she sees we need our fellowship with Jesus through OWPM. Thanks!"

Kasi writes "Please pray that I grow closer to the Lord by hearing the Word. Please pray for my grandma and grandpa and for Scott and his family and my children."

Gladys writes "I want to send out a prayer for God to help me out in my situation with my children and legal matters. For my children to be placed somewhere where they'll be happy or for their Aunt Sara to not be discouraged with them. Thank God for everything He's already done and watching over my family."

Nancy writes "Pray God will help me hold my tongue and not say things I don't mean. To be able to help others while I'm in here!! To help me stay safe! To be patient with myself. Also for my nephew, Bart at OSP to be safe. Keep a hand on my sister-in-law, Sherry, who needs our prayers as she's having trouble with her health. Praise! My friend called and said the man that has my grandson said he's doing good at this time!"

Ginger writes "Please pray for my 2 sons for employment and shelter and to know Jesus and the same for their ladies and children. Pray also for my sentence to be amended through my appeal."

Fedosia writes "Pray my addictions go away and my life be filled with the Holy Spirit. Soften Bruce's heart. My girls need peace in their heart and things to be better for them at home. I need a place to live, a job and my kids in my life when I parole in March.

Annemarie writes "I am praying to have the mind of Christ, to have appropriate thoughts, a positive attitude and better discernment of God's word. Also I have court in Clackamas County on Nov. 21st. Also pray that my kids can come to the Christmas part. Daughters Valerie, Jordyn, Grace and parents Curt & Judy. Husband Chris. He needs healing and to accept Jesus. Please pray hard that Laura goes to AIP or Treatment soon if it is God's will.

Laura writes "I really need patience and peace in my heart and for AIP. Really need to feel the Spirit of God. For my depression, sadness and loneliness. Prayer for Grandma and my granddaughter Alexis. For my family to visit and open their hearts and keep them safe. Also for all my friends here and at home."

Nicole writes "I am here because I have issues with addiction. Pray for strength and to have my addiction lifted off of me. Pray that my children will be brought back into my life."

Laura writes "Please lift me up and pray for my detainees to be lifted and for me to go to Turning Point right away. Pray for absolute healing in my body. Pray for my mom's heart to be changed and fill her with the Holy Spirit. May my children come visit me as I want to see them so bad!! God is sooo good to me all the time. They denied my husband initially and changed their mind and approved him. Amen!"

Jessica writes "Pray that my other sisters will be moved to Minimum soon and hopefully to my dorm. In the meantime, that they support each other. Also pray to protect my home and street family. Shower them with Your mercy, love and blessings. Praise! I finally made it to minimum and I got put in the dorm with my 2 best friends. Amen!"

Melissa writes "Please pray my mother sends me a letter!! Also that I get tested so I can get into Treatment. Praise! My husband has been tested. Also I was cleared by my doctors. I received pictures of my mother and family from a family friend."

Theresa writes "I need help with identifying my anger and with weight loss. I need guidance regarding marriage in April '07. Also pray to keep Wes, Tabitha, Jonathon, David and Harriet well and happy. God, keep Glen close to you. Also for tranquility in the dorm."

Le writes "I would like to ask for a prayer for my family (mom, dad, daughter, brother, sister) for good health and peace of mind and heart. I would to pray for Christina, Una and Penny for good health and peace of mind and heart too."

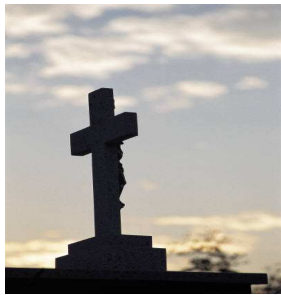
Diana writes "I interviewed for a sewing position here. Please pray that I am hired on in that program. Pray for my Dad and sisters, that God will soften their hearts and help them learn forgiveness and help them to be happy."

Susie writes "I would like to pray for my son, Raul, to make the right choice between going to Astoria to be close to his boys or to stay in Beaverton where he has a good job and an apartment. Keep praying for my friend, Buck, to make it in Treatment. Pray for me that I'll make it here in Coffee Creek"



"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."
Colossians 1:9-10

OREGON WOMEN'S
PRISON MINISTRY



Oregon Women's Prison Ministry
P. O. Box 91186
Portland, OR 97291
E-mail:
owprisonministry@hotmail.com

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so through the website at www.owprisonministry.org
Just click on the Pay Pal link!

Vision for the Future...

While the current ministry of OWPM has proven to be very fruitful, it is limited to a relationship with the inmates only while they are incarcerated. It is becoming clear that these inmates need more in order While the current ministry of OWPM has proven to be very fruitful, it is limited to a relationship with the inmates only while they are incarcerated. It is becoming clear that these inmates need more in order to stay on the path they have chosen while in prison. Once they are paroled, they need jobs and housing, help with learning basic skills such as managing a checking account, writing a resume, filling out a job application, effective interview practices and parenting skills. They also need help finding a church in which to begin serving and worshipping.

God has given Christina a vision for a mission home. This home would be a place to assist women as they are paroled with getting on their



Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

feet and staying clean and sober in the process. Many have no option but to return to situations where they are almost sure to fall back into struggles that led to their arrest. The OWPM mission home would provide housing, but also support and mentoring for that vital transition period between prison and successful living on the outside.

Christina also hopes some day to have a bakery in which former inmates could work and learn useful skills while providing delicious breads for the community.

Would you pray and consider giving a financial gift toward fulfilling the vision for a mission home and bakery? What a wonderful investment in the kingdom of God here on earth! If you can give, just go to our website and click on the Pay Pal link. (www.owprisonministry.org)

Other Ministry Needs...

- Bus Passes
- Office & Equipment
- Small Appliances
- Women's Clothing
- Toiletries/Personal items
- Land to build the mission home
- Storage space for donated items
- Apartments available for rent
- Secretarial Help
- Towels
- Sheets
- Recovery Bibles



Will you help us provide for former inmates as they reenter the community?