

# OWPM COFFEE TALK

Oregon Women's Prison Ministry Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2006

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## Freedom Behind Bars

Have you ever considered that there are many types of prisons? At Coffee Creek, it is obvious that there are physical prisons where you are locked in and most every movement you make is controlled and monitored. But there are other types of prisons that the inmates talk of: the prison of alcoholism, the prison of drug addiction, the prison of abuse, the prison of low or no self worth, the prison of anger and hatred, the prison of anxiety and fear and the list goes on. These may not have bars and "correctional officers" on guard 24/7, but they imprison none-the-less. In Romans 7:21-24, we find Paul talking of the same idea. "So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and *making me a prisoner of the law of sin* at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me

from this body of death?"

We can be so thankful that there is an answer to this question. It is found in verse 25. "Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!" This is the message the volunteers serving with OWPM teach each week to the women inmates at Coffee Creek.. The lesson might involve The Purpose Driven Life, or a movie, or a testimony, but the message is the same... Freedom is found in Christ alone! All the counseling in drug rehab and anger management will only have so much benefit. But when Jesus sets you free, you are truly free! Even if you physically remain behind bars! Awesome!



## Did You Know?

- Coffee Creek is the only women's prison in the state of Oregon ?
- There are approximately 1,050 women incarcerated at Coffee Creek ?
- The State of Oregon readily supports religious groups coming to the prison in order to provide for the spiritual needs of inmates ?
- That means any religion can come and teach their beliefs, including Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and even Wicca ?

- OWPM is one of a few evangelical Christian voices bringing the Gospel to the women who participate each week ?
- OWPM needs your financial help to continue this ministry ?
- OWPM uses financial gifts to provide bibles, books, pay administrative costs and support Christina, who oversees this ministry ?

## An Inmate's Story...

Recently, one of the inmates in Minimum stayed after the discipleship service to get some one-on-one counseling, a service we offer each week. Jane\* shared how she was struggling with being disobedient. She had fallen and broken her arm while out on a work crew. She knew she should be loving toward others but she just felt angry and under attack. She also shared her concerns about being released in September, knowing that she would face many temptations. Jane\* is an alcoholic and will go home to be with her family. As much as she loves them, they often are the "trigger" which causes her to seek refuge in alcohol.

After praying together for strength to stand against the temptations and for the ability to

love people with the unconditional love of God, Jane\* left us.

Each week since then, she has been at the discipleship service worshipping her God and learning more about how to live a life of victory. She asks for prayer for herself, her mother and her daughter... for inner healing needed to break the generational curses of her family. She states that all three of them want to be strong women of God, but need God's strength in order to love unconditionally.

Will you pray for this inmate?

\*Name changed to protect privacy.



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

## The Truth Will Set You Free...

Matthew 25:34-40 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, **I was in prison and you came to visit me.**

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"



Inside Story Headline

## What's Perking?

- We are continuing our study in The Purpose Driven Life, which answers the question, "What on earth am I here for?" We will be finishing the book in the next few weeks. The final section involves the main idea of "You were made for a mission". We will be encouraging the inmates to write out their personal testimony of finding faith in Christ and sharing it with someone they know who needs to hear it. Please pray for us as we teach these women and as they attempt to live out their faith under difficult circumstances.

- On Friday, September 22, 2006 at 11:30, there will be a luncheon held at Rock Creek Country Club. This is a fundraising luncheon benefiting OWPM. It will be a great time to hear more about the ministry. Testimony will be given by a couple of the inmates whose lives have been impacted by Christ through the ministry of OWPM. Christina will share her vision for the future ministry of OWPM. And everyone will enjoy good food in a really nice atmosphere! Join us, won't you? For more info, email us at [owprisonministry@hotmail.com](mailto:owprisonministry@hotmail.com).



OREGON WOMEN'S PRISON  
MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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



To contact us...

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**If you would like to make a  
donation, you can do so through  
the website at  
[www.owprisonministry.org](http://www.owprisonministry.org)**

## 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 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 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 ar-

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon



rest in the first place. 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.

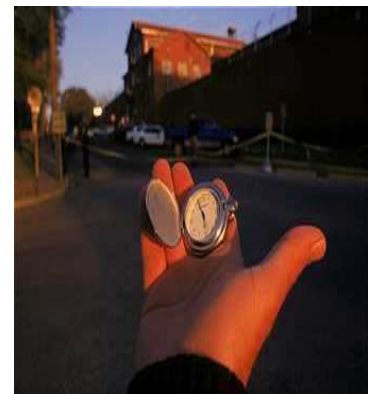
Christina also hopes some day to have a bakery in which former inmates could work and learn useful skills while providing delicious breads for the public.

These are huge goals for one small Korean woman, but she is not alone! "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!" Matt. 19:26

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, please see above for instructions. Donations are tax deductible

### Other Ministry Needs...

- Used Cars
- Secretarial Help
- Furniture
- Towels
- Small Appliances
- Sheets
- Women's Clothing
- Children's Clothing
- Storage space for all of the above



**The future will be here before  
you know it!**