



OWPM COFFEE TALK

Oregon Women's Prison Ministry



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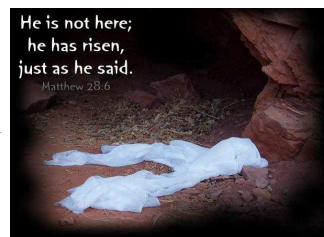
Freedom Behind Bars...

If you ever saw the movie, Braveheart, you must remember the scene near the end of the movie where William Wallace is being tortured. He is given the chance to surrender over and over. He only needs say one word... Mercy. And then suddenly he yells with the determination only a revolutionary could muster...FREEDOM!

Wallace was willing to die for the freedom of the Scots from English rule. He gave it all. And eventually the Scots had their freedom from the English. But his death only affected the external day-to-day freedom of his people. They still had the struggle in their hearts with the "sin that so easily entangles us" (Heb. 12:1).

When Jesus died on the cross over 2,000 years ago and then rose again on the third day, he provided freedom that transcends our physical bodies and releases the heart from bondage. Week after week women at Coffee Creek express how they have found the FREEDOM that goes beyond the bars that hold them. It is so wonderful to be a part of the process and to help them grow and learn of Jesus.

Aren't you thankful for the empty tomb? As we showed the Passion of the Christ two weeks ago, we talked about the fact that the crucifixion itself wasn't the thing that bought our freedom. Many people were crucified in Jesus' day. The POWER was in the resurrection! Jesus conquered death and paid the penalty for all of our sins. This is the message we bring to the women at Coffee Creek. Many of them have never heard of the love that reaches to drug addicts and prostitutes, identity thieves and burglars and says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you 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. 11:28-30) Praise God for FREEDOM in Christ!



**The Empty Tomb...
It's what gives all of us the ability to be free!**

Did You Know?

- When a woman comes to Coffee Creek, she goes through a process called "Intake". During this process, an assessment is made of the inmate's needs, such as educational and physical needs. After taking everything into account, a plan is made for the time she is incarcerated. Eligibility for different programs is based on the crimes committed, behavior during the process and compliance with the rules, among other things.
- AIP stands for Alternative Incarceration Program. It allows inmates to go to a "boot camp" setting and saves time off their sentences.
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment is just what it sounds like. Inmates also save time off their sentences.
- Inmates have almost no warning when they are taken into a new program. They are told, they pack their things and go.
- When they leave the areas where we minister, we really miss them and feel a sense of loss. We often have a hard time finding them in the system, even though we try to follow up and continue encouraging their spiritual growth.



An Inmate's Story

Hello. My name is Ginger. I'm 47 and this is my first time in prison. When I arrived, one of the first questions I asked myself was, "What am I doing here?" Then as I began to embrace and work through my problems with the aid of some of the programs here at CCCF, I realized that I needed to explore my spiritual relationship with our Heavenly Father, which is why I like the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" written by Rick Warren. On the bottom of the cover it reads, "What on earth am I here for?" What a perfect time to reflect on this question. I was introduced to this book about 9 months ago through Christina's Discipleship Service. I also met 3 very loving, caring and anointed women whom I now refer to as my sisters in Christ. They are the OWPM volunteers, Christina, Penny and Una. Over the last 9 months I have met many sisters who

have walked through the door every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Christina, Una and Penny always have a warm smile and a hug for each and every one of us. We worship, sing and listen to the testimonies of answered prayers and triumphs. We listen to the heavy and broken-hearted and offer them comfort and prayer. The OWPM volunteers really care. They offer their support to those who are paroling. They care about our dreams and successful transition from the gate into the community. I support OWPM's efforts in trying to realize their vision of a transitional house and a bakery for women on parole. Thank and God bless you!

Side note... Ginger shared with us that she read the entire bible in her first 30 days of incarceration. She had such a hunger for God, that she couldn't put it down. She faithfully attends each week and is growing strong in her newfound faith. God is using her to lead other women to Him. Would you pray for Ginger?



The Truth Will Set You Free



Isaiah 53:3-6

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and

afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and ***by his wounds we are healed.*** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

What's Perking?

- Two weeks before Easter, the movie, The Passion of the Christ, was shown in Minimum. The women were thankful for the opportunity to prepare their hearts for Easter in this way.
- On Maundy Thursday, communion was served to the women in Minimum, again in an attempt to prepare for Easter.
- On March 27 and 29 we were allowed to bring a crew into the different areas of the prison to film our services and also inmate testimonies. There was much excitement and energy as women had the opportunity to share how God had changed their lives and how he is using OWPM in the process.
- On May 8 there will be a healing service held in Medium. Pray for a great outpouring from the Holy Spirit for emotional and physical healing.
- Save the Date! September 29th at the Embassy Suites near Washington Square. OWPM will host a dinner and will showcase the ministry. Join us for an inspiring evening including former inmates sharing their experiences in person and through the video which was just recorded.



Inmate Prayer Requests

Tammy - To give me patience and to fill me with love for others. Also pray for me to go into Treatment soon so I can be home by Christmas. Pray for my mom for God to heal her lungs so she won't have to use the oxygen machine. Pray for my brother Dale to be delivered from drugs. My dad's salvation. To also restore me back with my daughter, Nicole.

Ginger—My sentence to be amended to AIP eligibility and gatetime off my sentence. Pray for my sons Jason and Kyle and for my daughter Angela. Kyle and Angela's baby Jewell, that we get her back. Pray for Doug to get on track. Please keep all the darkness and evil drugs away from them all. Please pray for Becky to be comforted, that she feels God's love and our love.

Billie—Pray that today Terry has a safe happy birthday today. Pray for us women who want it so badly to go to treatment. Pray that I can stay focused until treatment. God and I are ready!

Deborah—Treatment ASAP. God/Holy Spirit to direct me towards my path. Prosperity for myself and family, new home. Draw closer to the Father.

Tarrance—That my family will be taken care of and He will help them with everything they need. That my brother-in-law will be all right. That my best half will be okay. No matter where he goes and that he will stay close so I can visit him.

Kimberley - To pray for my family's health and my grandbaby, Faith, to be healthy and be able to see and stay healthy and grow up with us..

Melinda—Two of my children have relocated since my arrest. Moved to different cities. One is Kandi (22) relocated to Portland from Dallas. I would like prayer for her to continue her education and find a school close to her new home. And to be safe. Kori (19) my son was recently diagnosed with schizophrenia and was placed in his own apartment through state funding in West Salem. Please pray for his safety and to find comfort in his new home (friends too!) Gabriel is my 13 year old. Please pray for his comfort without his mother.

Jennifer—To find Jesus for me, to help Calvin with me being gone, to find the strength not to do dumb things cause of my depression, to take away my pain, to help my nightmares. To help me! (find God)

Nicole—I just found out that I have a detainer which is holding me back from going into AIP. I

pray it gets resolved quickly so I can go forward with my AIP. I also would like you to pray for a friend of mine, Jennifer, who is feeling very depressed lately.

Diana - Pray for my fiancé to be strong during my absence. Pray for my daughter and granddaughter (Ashley and Heaven). Pray for my mom and her husband in their new home. Please have landlord forgive my fiancé and let him repair things in our home.

April - For me to have the strength to stay out of the drug life and for me to get into treatment soon and time to go by even faster, please.

Crystal - I would like to pray for my children's father this week. He just had another baby 2 months old. He's juggling a lot right now and he needs some help. As always, pray for my babies.

Deitra—My family, Amanda and baby Robert, my dog Baby, mom, dad and sister's, brother, nephew, friend's Jeremy, Swazy, Harold, Michael, Andy, Mike, Brooke. Pray that I can go to AIP soon, pray that my family does the right thing. Pray that I stay focused in my walk.

Shelley— I just want to thank you for helping me in all my life's problems. You women have helped me so much. I love you very much.

Valerie—Pray that Danny's phone # gets apprved. I haven't talked to him for a week and a half and feel very disconnected from the outside. Keep him safe in Seattle. I am struggling with my job right now and I once liked it so much. I want to get back to that. Allison to get and keep a job and for she and Taylor to stay safe and have their needs met.

Elvira—My father has cancer in his right kidney. Also I have two children (Gregory 15 and Adrian 14) Pray to keep them safe and out of trouble. And my boyfriend, Jeffrey. Give him strength to be able to handle the boys and to stay on the right path and away from pills.

Barbara—I'm having trouble finding a suitable job here in prison. I keep putting out kytes, however I'm not finding anything available for me. I know there is something out there just for me. I would just like to ask for prayer in helping me find the right job for me.

Tracy—My mom (Pat) for spiritual healing. My son (Nick) for strength, to wait patiently on God. Vernon (Nick's dad) to soften his heart.

Kimberli—Please pray that my relationship with God continues to grow closer, that I can be a light to others. Also please pray that I am moved to Turning Point soon. Finally, ask God to protect me from evil influence and to continue protecting and providing for my family.



*“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2*

OREGON WOMEN'S
PRISON MINISTRY



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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!



Coffee Creek Correctional Facility—Wilsonville, OR

Vision for the Future...

We have shared in the past newsletters our long-term vision for this ministry. This begins with a mission home, or to use Department of Corrections terminology, transitional housing. There is a real need for this in Washington County, and all the counties in Oregon for that matter. We also hope to build a bakery so that the released inmates will have a place to work and learn new job skills.

We also have a shorter term vision for the ministry which includes a ministry center. This would include office space (so that Christina's home could once again be for family purposes), storage space for donated items, a meeting room for OWPM volunteer meetings and a place where ex-inmates could come to work on job skills, job searches, making phone calls, typing resumes, etc.

We have shared this vision with the women at Coffee Creek and they are so excited! Some of

them have even given financially to support the ministry out of their meager wage earned in prison.

What we would ask of you is for you to pray and ask God whether he would have you support this ministry. We know you probably get many requests for support and you can't possibly give to all of them, even though they are worthy. But if we all seek God and then obediently give as He leads, all the ministries will have what they need. Thanks in advance for taking the time to consider OWPM and the women we minister to.

Ministry Needs: Financial support, Fresh Start kits (basic necessities), Apartments available for rent, a car or van for ministry use, volunteers with willing hearts to serve these women who so desperately need our help.



The time to act is NOW!!!