



# OWPM COFFEE TALK

Oregon Women's Prison Ministry



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## Freedom Behind Bars...

Remember the heat wave of the summer of 2006? I do! I was in central California and it was 113 degrees. The heat was oppressive. Cattle were dying by the hundreds. Nothing had been seen like this in decades.

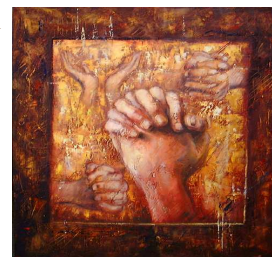
Well recently an inmate, Cynthia, shared how God had rescued her from the streets and saved her life. She explained that she had ran from charges in Oregon and ended up in southern California. She said she was strung out on cocaine and was prostituting herself for a pimp. She was in really bad shape when that heat wave hit and she collapsed somewhere in an alley. When she came to, she thought she had died and had gone to hell. She was asking, "Am I in hell? Am I in hell?", as the paramedics attended to her.

Cynthia spent the next couple of weeks in the hospital intensive care unit. Her kidneys had failed and she was in a life-threatening situation. One of the nurses told her that "if you leave, you will die!"

Her husband came and got her and brought her home to Oregon so she could be reunited with her

children. But shortly after arriving home, the police came and arrested her. Her husband had called them in an effort to save her life from self-destruction.

So now Cynthia is an inmate at Coffee Creek. She has committed her life to Jesus and attends our weekly discipleship services. She is growing in her new faith and is eager to get her life on the right track. We are so excited to be a part of the process. An investment with eternal dividends.



**Can being in prison be For God's glory?**

As she shared her story, Cynthia answered the question, "How can being in prison be for God's glory?" "I would be dead if I were not in here!", she stated emphatically. "Now I'm here, clean and sober and learning more about God every day. And all the glory goes to God!"

Will you pray for Cynthia and others like her? And for us as we invest in these new sisters?



## Did You Know?

- Most of the women at Coffee Creek have children who are being cared for by the State or by family members?
- Often times the children are not allowed to visit for weeks or months or even years at a time because of legal issues or Department of Corrections criteria or because family members won't bring them?
- The greatest heartbreak for the women we minister to is the realization of how their children are suffering because of their incarceration?
- These women and children need your compassion and prayers?

## An Inmate's Story

Recently, an inmate shared some poems that she had written. They truly express the realization that many women make as they are incarcerated. In her own words, from the pen of Terry, Coffee Creek inmate and child of God...

### "Jesus Heals"

Created by Terry and written for all lost souls.

There once was a soul, inside of me  
 So pure, so innocent, so trouble free  
 With no confusions, no anger or hate  
 So virgin to sin, to the world, Satan's bait  
 The day it changed, was never too clear  
 But all of a sudden, I felt pain and fear  
 I did crazy things, from thoughts in my head  
 Immoral, illegal, and bad things I said  
 At first I was told, it's all just for fun

Then why did I feel, I needed to run?  
 A loud voice came to me, one dreary day  
 Instructed me once more, to come out and play  
 I sat there that day, and searched my sick soul  
 Afraid I had lost it, and it left a big hole  
 I cried and I cried, and I screamed out God's name  
 I told Him my soul's gone, and myself was to blame  
 But Jesus came closely, and told me to rest  
 Just learn from your life, all this was a test  
 He said that my soul, was lost one long day  
 To me it was years, my hair had turned gray  
 So I had to live, through life as I had  
 To learn what is good, to learn what is bad  
 And when I had reached, the top of my hill  
 Instead of jumping, I did something real  
 I dropped to my knees, and screamed out His name  
 The only one pure, and without any blame.  
 The only one who could fill up my hole  
 Yes, Jesus came down to heal my sick soul.



**Only Jesus can heal the pain that comes with incarceration.**

## The Truth Will Set You Free

Luke 15:1-7

"Now the tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' Then Jesus told them this parable; 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep

until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."



## What's Perking?

We're off to a busy start this year, with many events in addition to our regular, weekly ministry times at Coffee Creek and Washington County Jail. Christina traveled to Minnesota in December to visit an old friend and also speak in a local church about OWPM. She also traveled to Los Angeles in January to speak to a church there about OWPM. God is opening doors even as far away as Belize, where trees will eventually produce support for OWPM. Wow!

In addition to these activities, there was a concert at Coffee Creek with the Bethel Band on January 28th. The inmates loved it and several committed their lives to Jesus.

And on February 20th, the inmates in the Medium/Maximum facility will enjoy a Renovare service. This is a wonderful way to blend music and meditation on God's word.

And last, but not least, we will be celebrating the Lord's supper in Minimum on Thursday, February 22.



## Inmate Prayer Requests

Barbara - Patience, freedom outside of prison, win appeal, keep son educated, sound and happy heart.

Lisa - for my mind, heart and soul, keep my family from harm and that I would get to go home soon.

Lisa (Wendy) - I am asking for open doors - for a job in maintenance to open for me and also for god to make a way for me to finish my carpenter apprenticeship. Let me follow him mentally and physically, please. Pray to keep my family safe, for god to reveal Himself to my x-husband, Vince and women living with Darcy and also to reveal Himself to Sadee (my daughter) and Ethan (Darcy's son). Be with the judge that oversees my mom and dad's divorce, also to let justice avail in my discipline report that was a falsification - untruth.

Selina - For me to remember the word, be into the word. To be a leader for God not a follower of others. Pray for my families' salvation, safety and forgiveness and hope.

Ashley - Give me the strength to do right when I am released from here. Pray my family will be okay and understand why I am here. Give Derek the strength to do right when his released and to help him be strong for himself his family and me.

Christina - Pray for the bondage's of addiction can be broken. My 3 sons - Jordan, Jarod, and Jalen and my mother Mary Lou. Please pray for Cindy, Buttens, Casey, Mirian, Crystal, Nicole, Debbie, Ally, Lisa and Teresa.

Robin - Pray that the charges in other counties will be resolved according to God's will. That my ex-husband receives my letter with a willing heart to enable me to reconcile to my 3 young children. - Albert (husband) - Nikki (11), Hailey (8), Nathan (6). Settle my heart regarding Rick. Praise for peace and joy and faith during this trial. Praise for putting me through the refining fire.

Rebecca - Pray for my appeal. For my Uncle Chuck who is dying, Ashley my cousin - cancer, for Mike and Susan who struggle with drugs, Wendy my sis who is drinking.

Laura - Pray that God would open the doors to recovery and treatment and for inner peace and safety for my children that they'll all come see me and that I can get close to my kids.

Jamie - Pray for my mother-in-law who had a heart attack when I came here. She has lots of problems and pray for my husband and new baby Kamryn.

Kerry - That I get help with my alcohol addiction. That Ron finds a new home for us and that I have patients to get through this stuff.

Nicole - That I continue to walk with Jesus and that I can clearly see his will in my life. Pray my Grandpa Fred, he just found out he has bladder and kidney cancer. For my Grandma's peace of mind. She has gone through the death of a son, grandson and me in prison, she is raising my three kids and now Grandpa is sick. Praise God my kids got to see me yesterday

Alison - Pray that I stay focused on the word when I am reading it and that I learn some scriptures and memorize also. Pray that my family stay healthy and happy. Pray for all the women who don't know God at CCCF.

Amanda - Pray that my unborn baby gets to go home with grandma, my mom and that my privileged visits gets approved soon so I can see my mom and son. Pray to keep my family safe and let them know I love and miss them. Give them strength to make it through this time. Pray that when I am paroled I get to go to my mom's and kids.

Renee - Pray for me to have strength to get through each day and to do what I need for DHS to my kids back. For my 5 kids to get through each day while mom is in prison so we can be a family again. Help Carlos get through each day that He won't be sad and to do treatment and make his visit with our baby go well.

Nicole - I want to work toward getting to know god more so I can share my testimony also that I keep my sobriety. That my children know in their heart I love them and that are safe and continue to know God. Pleas pray for my friend Mike K. Who is looking at doing some time in jail?

Tina - Pray for my cravings. For Steve, Jason, Joshua, Steven, Jeremy and Jennifer that Steve and I can live together and get married when I get out. Praise God I got to see my sons.

Shellie - Pray that I get over my addiction to meth and learn to live clean and sober and remember that God will help me threw all of my situations of life and to let God take care of me and my family. I want my family to be safe and to forgive me for what I am putting them through.

Diane - Pray God would lift my spirit and the worry of my family I have everyday - to guide me through my incarceration. Pray for Ashley, Rodney, Leaven. Pray God will guide my fiancée to a better life with me and God. Praise God for keeping me healthy.

Renee - Pray for direct guidance - what the Lord wants me to do with my life. Pray for my unborn baby and my entire family. Also for the father of my baby - Rodney. Pray for the circumstances I am in right now. Praise God, he has given me peace that passes all understanding.

Jennifer - Pray that I stay focused on God and to not get involved in fighting and drama. Pray I stay strong and keep faith in God -- that God would provide a way to provide for me -- hygiene and maybe some correspondence. Thank you very much.



*“Be joyful always;  
pray continually; give  
thanks in all  
circumstances, for  
this is God’s will for  
you in Christ Jesus.”  
1 Thes. 5:16-18*

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](http://www.owprisonministry.org) Just click on the Pay Pal link!



Coffee Creek Correctional Facility—Wilsonville, OR

## Vision for the Future...

Two thousand, seven is off with a bang at Coffee Creek! It is so wonderful to see lives totally revolutionized by God. We are seeing increased numbers in all of our meetings. Inmates are leading other inmates to Jesus Christ. Volunteers are growing as God enables them in this ministry. In short... this ministry is growing! God is so good!

But we are not satisfied with staying where we are. There is so much to do. So many women who need help. So many lives that need the touch of God's gracious hand.

As we minister each week, we keep in mind the future of this ministry. As we have said before—many inmates have no options when they release from CCCF. They need a place to stay, a good job and a church family to encourage their continued walk with God. OWPM is planning for a mission home and a bakery in the future. A place for continued ministry with inmates after they are paroled and a place for them to work

and better their lives.

Would you pray and consider giving a financial gift toward fulfilling the vision for a mission home and bakery? Perhaps you have land you would donate or skills in building construction. 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](http://www.owprisonministry.org)) or email us with your ideas. We are only limited by our imaginations!

### 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



Time Waits for No One