

Coffee Talk

Winter/Spring 2009

- OWPM offers three weekly programs at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon. Service locations include: medium/maximum security, minimum security and the treatment facility.
- OWPM ministers and prays with anywhere from 50 to 100 women inmates a week.
- OWPM offers aftercare for inmates upon release. Aftercare includes, basic household items and gift cards for clothing purchases.
- OWPM provides Bibles and Bible study texts to inmates free of charge.

Following His Commands *by Christina Gould, OWPM Executive Director*

For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Matthew 25:35-40
Jesus gave us two com-

mands in Mark 12: 30-31.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second commandment is much like the first, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus went on to say, "There is no other commandment greater than these."

Loving God is doing the will of God. Because he created all people in a special way and in His image, we can show God to others by loving them. It's by loving and taking care of those of whom society considers to be not worthy that we can truly follow His commands.

How often we say that we love God and yet don't follow His commandments? We often think the will of God is care and love the people around us, our friends and our family. But He commands us to love and care for the strangers, those in prison, and the sick and the naked.

God considers each inmate as special and His own. With your prayers and support we are privileged to serve our King every week in Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. We thank-you for joining with us in this ministry and we invite you to attend our spring fundraising event on Saturday, May 30 in Wilsonville, OR. Details are on the back of the newsletter.

Inside this issue:

Following His Commands	1
God's Time	1
Inmate Prayer Requests	3
Fundraising Event	4

God's Time *submitted by a CCCF Inmate*

This article was written by a current CCCF inmate specifically for our newsletter. Her inspiring story demonstrates the power of God's love.

Time. When you're a child waiting those final days before Christmas morning, to run to the beautifully decorated tree and rip open the brightly wrapped presents, time seem stand still. The night before that anticipated morning you

honestly believe the clock has stopped all together, even as you watch the second hand wind around the face, over and over again. How can a minute, a mere 60 seconds seem so everlasting? Yet, that moment of time does feel eternal. Will Christmas ever come?

That anticipation, the desperate waiting of that special moment to arrive, is what

being an inmate is like. Only instead of counting the days and hours, we count the months and years. Instead of awaiting gifts under the tree, we look forward to our impending release date. Some are closer than others to that precious moment, but we all share the common feeling of being a wishful clock watcher, a dutiful calendar marker.

(Continued on page 2)





“I am on God’s time now. He is my protector and His plan is the only one I wish to follow.”



(Continued from page 1)

Wishing that today was already past and tomorrow was well underway.

Time. It is our perception of time that alters our emotions, our mental state, our willingness to accept what we cannot change. At any given moment, time has the ability to change our perception, enforce reflection, and if you are willing, find salvation.

That is what happened to me. My journey started many years ago. I made wrong choices, which led to worse decisions that laid the foundation for the crossroads I came to. I was never a spiritual person. I had only believed in my own abilities to make my own way in this world. The only faith I possessed was the complete knowledge that humanity was a harsh existence and if you wanted to survive you were on your own.

My childhood instilled this belief early and ingrained an agnostic view of the world. I had to see it to believe it. The Bible was just a bund of old stories, right? God is just a myth, isn’t he?

My life finally led me to stand in front of a judge. I was told that I was to serve a 24 year sentence. Unprepared for such a large number, I went into a state of shock. I barely remember the ride from jail to Coffee Creek. I barely remember that first day of Intake. All I saw was a mountainous 24. Those first weeks of incarceration were a living nightmare. Every kind of negative and hostile interaction possible became my

new daily existence. So much hatred concentrated in one large group of women. Since I was not affiliated with anyone before arriving to prison, I became an instant target of united attacks. I was victimized daily.

I was full of fear, completely lost and alone. I saw no way out of this long tunnel of despair. Nothing to give me hope of any kind. I became suicidal for the first time in my life. 24 years. Why should I endure all of this persecution and negativity for 24 years? Those thoughts woke me in the morning and put me to bed at night. My third week on Intake, I did something I never thought I would. I attended a religious service, OWPM.

The person who sat in the back row, scared to shake hands with the volunteers, not wishing to meet anyone’s eyes, unsure of why I was even there – was not me. By that point in time, I was just a shell of a person, part of me had already given up.

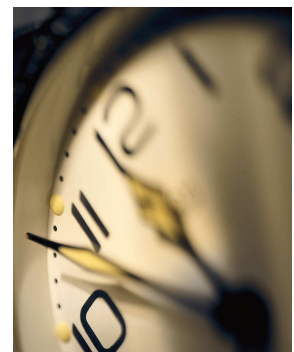
That service began a spark within me that soon ignited my complete surrender to God. It would be three more weeks before I fully accepted that I did have faith in God. That Jesus died for my salvation. That I could find a positive light at the end of this long tunnel. And that light burns so brightly that I shine within it.

I am on God’s time now. He is my protector and His plan is the only one I wish to follow. The day I left my fear at His feet and gave Him my

complete attention and faith, my entire life changed and it just keeps getting better. I no longer perceive time in the same way. I am no longer a clock watcher, a calendar market. Every morning I greet God with a wholehearted thank-you for allowing me to see one more day He created. Every night I pray to Jesus to help me heal from a lifetime of bad behaviors and choices.

Hope is now in my heart. Faith is now within me. God’s love, mercy, patience, and grace are part of my daily existence now. Christmas morning is everyday for me and God’s gifts are unending and permanent. The Bible is now long just a book of old stories to me, but a daily nourishment to my starving soul. God is not a myth, He is my true father. I never had such a loving parent.

The future is still unknown to me. But time is no longer something to fear. I am not wasting away watching the second hand wind around the face. I am on God’s time and that’s all that matters, right?



Inmate Prayer Requests

Tammy S - Please pray for my friend Jennifer that she has an easy time on LOP and it goes by fast. Please pray for my time to go easy and that I don't have any more trouble. The Lord is always with me. Pray for my ma and Tiffany to be okay in life. Also pray for my little brother to get well, clean and sober. Pray for Larry and Mato to get along.

Rachel H – Help me to let go of the guilt I feel inside due to loneliness I have inflicted upon my family, especially my three year old son who now lives in my absence. Pray for the release of the guilt felt by all the other women in the H and G units.

Corrinn L – Pray for continued strength and understanding. Pray for healing for my daughter who is fighting melanoma and for strength and protection for the rest of my family. Praise – My daughter (who has melanoma) got her insurance reinstated so she doesn't have to stress where treatment payments will come from. Thank-you Jesus.

Sharlene D – I want God in my life. Pray for my mother, dad, children, grandchildren and husband.

Bimla B – Help me find a Christian home to parole to in Eugene. Pray that my family is healthy and happy.

Pray for me, I am very nervous about paroling. Praise – I am healthy and my children are doing good.

Karen B – Pray for comfort while I continue to grieve for my mom. Some days are really hard. Pray also for my family. I would like to be baptized. Praise – I am down to 4 days on my Purpose Driven Life book. Best eye opening book I've ever read. Thank-you so much for blessing me with it.

Nicole H – Pray that I get answers about my sentence. Pray that my kids and grandbaby are healthy and safe

Amber A – Pray that my baby and his father are safe and that they don't forget me. Please.

Geraldo – Please pray for my wisdom to grow in Christ. My family needs prayer for strength and guidance, deliverance and healing from physical illness. Pray for the women at CCCF, that they would respect the church and the volunteers when they come to service. Praise – I will be getting visits with my daughter after five years of asking in prayer and keeping my faith. Thank-you

Vashtiana G - Pray for Elijah and Charissa. Also pray for my faith, my upcoming marriage and that I can take all the hatred from the other women.

Marilyn C – I want to be able to understand the Bible more. Pray that my family will keep their faith strong. Pray for my mom Terri and my son Stephen to get a job. Praise – The Lord is helping me with my tough time here.

Kathy J – Please pray for the Johnson family. Pray that I see my family again in and outside of prison. Pray that I win my appeal and I can be free to make it the best way I can in prison. Pray for my daughter to leave her husband and get a place of her own and provide for her children. Pray for safety and money for her family. Praise – that He sees me through all things and He keeps his hand in my life. I love you God.

Rebecca R – Pray for my sister to go to storage and get my leg!! I don't know what is taking her so long. Please pray that my other sister is strong enough to deal with all my stuff being her and having my daughter until I go home. Pray that my best friend is ok, again he has lung cancer.

Linda B – Please pray for strength for me at this time. Pray for my family and for all.

Amber H – Pray that my walk with God gets stronger. Pray that my family copes with death and me being gone.



“Pray for me. I am very nervous about paroling”



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TRANSFORMED
Into His Likeness



An Evening of Eternal Purpose

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM. And we, who with unveiled faces, all reflect the Lord's Glory are being transformed into His Likeness with ever increasing Glory which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
2 Cor 3:17,18

Please join the OWPM team in Wilsonville, OR on Saturday May 30 for an evening of worship and sharing. This is a ministry fundraising event and if you are interested in sponsoring a table, please contact Christina Gould at 503-317-2005.

Employment Bulletin Board

Upon release, ex-inmates need meaningful employment, but it can be difficult for them to find work. Please note, this information is provided as a service and OWPM has not pre-screened or interviewed any of the following potential employees.

Mykal is looking for a warehouse or driving job, he has a clean driving record and a valid Oregon drivers license and insurance, but will do any type of work. He is hard working and reliable and has personal and job references.

He has been working in a warehouse for about a year but his hours are being cut due to the economy. Mykal has a felony so he is having a very difficult time finding employment. He can operate a forklift and other duties needed for warehouse work. He can be reached at 503-757-1330.

Paula has a experience in office administration, customer service and has been a restaurant manager. She can be reached at 503-225-0721



Coffee Creek Correctional Facility