



## September - October Newsletter 2013

I apologize for how long it has been since my last newsletter. Most of you are aware of the medical issues I have been fighting since May, and I appreciate your prayers greatly! I am still experiencing some aching in my legs, and I fatigue easily, but I am mostly back in the saddle. In the meanwhile, God has been at work!

### Certified Jail Ministers

ARM has begun pairing inmates with **Certified Jail Ministers**, and I am excited to tell you that we have three pairs meeting already, and more going through the interview and training process! One of our **CJM**'s wrote:

"I felt the Lord brought old prayers to memory when I had been praying for a ministry to be a part of and serve in...[*this CJM ministry is*] answered prayer. I feel thrilled at the opportunity, actually. She [*the inmate*] seems eager to learn and very thankful someone is there to help her. I love the fact that I am learning while allowing God to use me for teaching. This will be a growing experience for both of us which I think will keep a connection between us... I could feel the spiritual warfare going on around me while there... I am excited to meet with her again, I feel blessed God is allowing me to participate in this ministry and I ask for prayers that nothing but His words would come out of my mouth while teaching. I am excited to see what other women would like to begin this study also... Thank you again for this opportunity!"

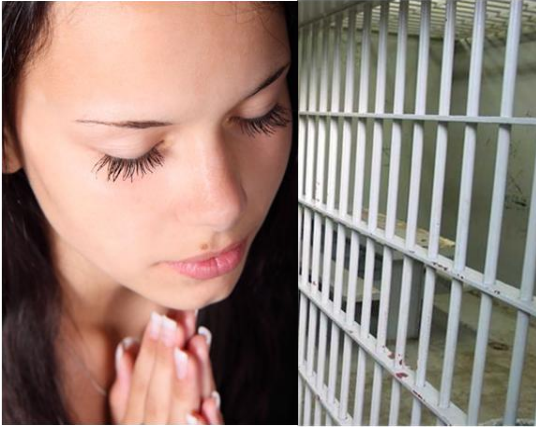


**They just need  
a nudge from someone who cares.**

We all have heard of inmates who get "jailhouse religion," who are all about Jesus in jail, but who seem to leave Him there when they are released. I think much of the problem is that people find a real, honest walk with Jesus in jail, but they need the guidance and example of mature believers to grow in their faith. Predictably, there are not a lot of mature believers in jail! So, while their conversion is sincere, they do not have opportunity to develop the biblical life skills to negotiate the transition from the structure of jail life to the freedoms and dangers of living on the outside.

This is where Jesus can use you! ARM can train and equip you as a **CJM**, and provide the Jail with the certification they require for you to work with inmates one-on-one, studying through the Navigators' Design for Discipleship series with them. You would only need to commit to one hour per week with the inmate, and you would be securely behind the glass visiting window (no reason to be intimidated). You can schedule your visits any time that fits into your week, 8 am – 9 pm. Please pray about whether God would wish to use you in this way, or perhaps to provide materials for a counselor or an inmate. The impact on the inmate's life, and on yours, would be eternal!

## Family Found Behind Bars



I spoke recently to a young woman who had never been exposed to the Word of God growing up, but who had recently found herself trapped by drugs and abandoned in the Butte County Jail, far from home and family. She felt a desperate need to reach out to someone for help, and requested a Bible. She said she flipped to a few passages at random in search of answers to her questions (one was Ezekiel), but couldn't make sense of it.

I took her to John 3, and explained the story of Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus, and what his words there mean for us today. We looked at the "Romans Road," Paul's description in various passages of who we are, what we need, what Christ has done for us,

and how we can receive His gift of forgiveness, adoption into the kingdom of God, and transformation as children growing in His likeness. As our time was drawing to a close, I asked if she was ready to come before her heavenly Father, repent of that hurtful self-centeredness that we all struggle with (sin), receive Jesus' gift personally, and give Him His rightful place as Lord of her life. She answered that she was, and I led her in prayer as the Angels rejoiced, and the Holy Spirit brought another soul into the body of Christ! Yes, Jesus! She is being disciplined weekly now by one of our Certified Jail Ministers. Please keep her in your prayers, that she would grow and experience the peace of being a beloved daughter of her heavenly Father, and that she would be an example of that family likeness in her pod, influencing others to come to peace with God also.

## Food for Grandma

One of our goals as a ministry is to help direct local churches to meet needs of inmates' families in their area. Recently, we took over \$400 worth of groceries to an inmate's grandmother, who is caring for his little brother, and was struggling financially because of the loss of a roommate. If you would like to be available to meet needs like this, let us know, so you and your church can help.

## Prayer Requests:

- Praise God for disciplers who have stepped forward to bring the inmate Certified Jail Ministers program into action in people's lives these last two months. Pray for them as they establish relationships with their inmate mentees, and pray for God to raise many more to meet the needs of many inmates who have expressed their longing for someone to meet with them regularly to help them grow in Christ.
- Thanks so much for all of your prayers for my physical health in the last few months! Please don't stop praying – especially for our finances, after my being down.
- Pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up workers, teachers, mentors, pray-ers, helpers, and givers to bring the gospel to inmates. Pray for churches and Christians in Butte County to hear of the need, and rise to the call of our Savior.

Thank you for your prayers, your help, and your encouragement. May the God of new life and new direction work among us together to bring new life to many inmates and their families in Butte County! We're excited, watching what God is doing, and anticipating what He is about to do next! We serve a great God!

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

"I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me... when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matt. 25:35ff

