



WISCONSIN
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COMPASSION

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FOURTH QUARTER
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WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

by Deaconess Sarah Owens

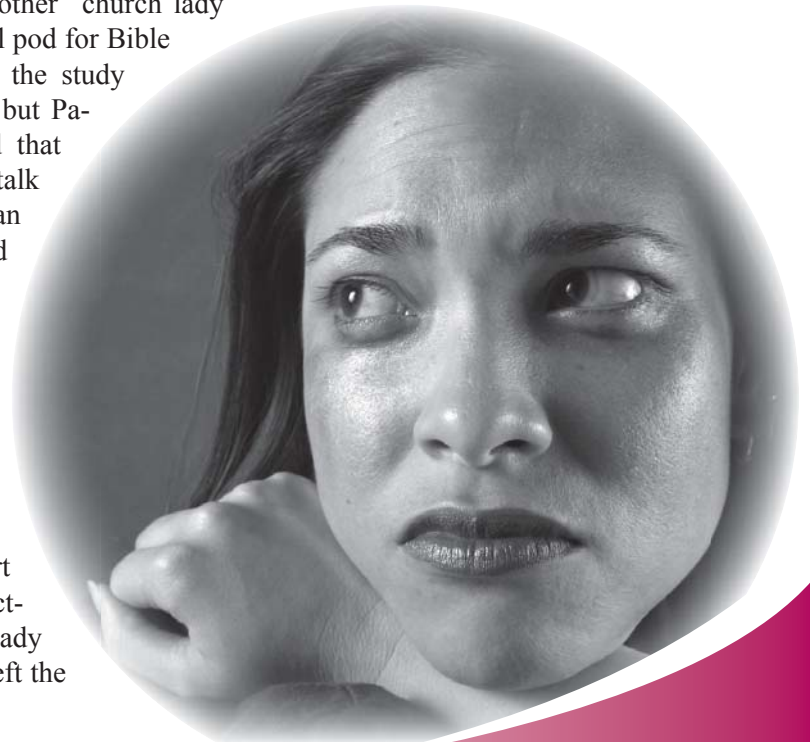
I am often amazed at the level of discernment shown by the women in jail. Recently, I began my lesson in the jail as usual by explaining that this would be a Christian Bible study. We would be using the Bible, which is the truth. The lesson would center on Jesus, our Savior, who is the truth. Immediately one of the ladies, Patrice, asked, "And who do you say Jesus is?" This was unusual; normally, the group members nod their heads after my opening remarks and we open with prayer.

I quickly found out why her question was so immediate and emphatic. The evening before, another "church lady" had come to the jail pod for Bible study. She began the study talking about God but Patrice soon realized that this lady did not talk about Jesus as an equal to God and our Savior. Patrice related that she had had many experiences with Jehovah's Witnesses before and suspected that this lady was a "JW." Patrice's head, heart and soul were objecting to what that lady was teaching and left the study.

In her recounting the story to my group, Patrice demonstrated that she is a strong believer of Jesus. She did not want anyone to confuse her with beliefs contrary to what the Bible said. Others in my group were surprised by what Patrice actually said about the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses. They said that, had they known, they would not have stayed either.

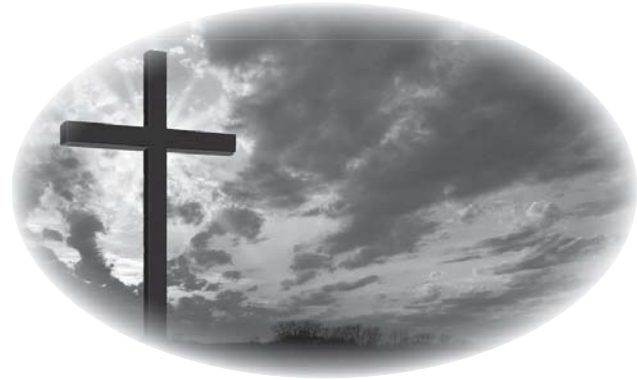
It was awesome that Patrice was not trying to "trash" others but to appreciate the truth of the Word. Patrice said that she really appreciated that we were there that day to

CONTINUED ON PG 4



HEAVEN IS OUR HOME

by Lay Ministry Coordinator Franklin P. Gauger



“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” Matthew 25:21

In his report to WLIM delegates in May, 1996, Franklin Gauger, WLIM’s lay ministry coordinator, wrote: “Someone once said there is so much sadness in a nursing home facility, but there is also so much love given and received, and the feeling of love becomes real in being close to Jesus and in serving others.”

Franklin joined the WLIM staff in 1994 as the part-time lay ministry coordinator after he retired from a 30+ year career in the floral business. He simply wanted to serve in any way he could to bring the Gospel to people, whoever they were and wherever they are.

After 15 years of service to WLIM, working with countless volunteers and thousands of individuals, Franklin has decided to retire again. However, he intends, as long as our gracious God allows, to continue his weekly Bible classes at two senior living centers, including WLCFS’ Living Center in Milwaukee.

Franklin has been an inspiration to the entire WLIM staff. He is a wonderful example of a husband, father, coworker and friend who leads a life as a Christian, professing his love for our Savior and sharing his faith with those he meets, whether in an institution, at his church or in the community.

We will miss seeing Franklin in the WLIM office, but know that he is living his Christian life by sharing his faith. Thank you Franklin!

“Well done, good and faithful servant! . . .”



**Executive Director
Don Borgwardt**

As another church year closes, Jesus assures you and me that we too shall one day arise from the grave and spend eternity with Jesus in the heavenly mansion above.

If we were able to describe what heaven will be like, we would love to admit heaven is beyond our imagination. Lessons taught in Bible study, inspirational poems, and any human words all fail to describe heaven in more than scant detail. Paul writes, *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.”* 1 Cor. 2:9

We have the promise of God, “I will make all things new.” No more wheelchairs, or walkers, no deafness or blindness, no sickness, sorrow or despair, no more prison cells - none of these in heaven. We will bask in joyfulness, faith, and love. The writer to Hebrews 12:22-24 writes, *“But you have come to Mount Zion to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly to the church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

We know the difficulties and problems of Job in the Old Testament and yet he could confess, *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth and after my skin has been destroyed I will see God, I myself will see Him, with my own eyes – I and not another. How my heart yearns within me.”* Job 19:25-26

What a grand scene depicted for us. Jesus says, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust God, trust also in me.”* John 14:1. *“I am the resurrection and the life...”* John 11:25. *“I am the truth, the way and the life...”* John 14:6.

Jesus will be there, we have His promise. How our hearts yearn within us. This is the hope and reassurance that WLIM shares in the institutions.



ANSWER WITH GENTLENESS AND WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

by Chaplain Phil Merten

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience...” 1 Peter 3:15-16

I was reminded about how this works a few weeks ago at the Milwaukee County Correctional Facility-South (formerly, the Milwaukee County House of Correction). And I needed the reminder!

An inmate had requested a meeting with a chaplain. WLIM volunteer Mark and I were there when he arrived. It was not the usual chapel request. The inmate explained that he was not a Christian but rather a disciple of Native American spirituality. He was not looking for any spiritual help from us; he was looking for advice on how to get Native American spiritual leaders into the facility to conduct classes and prayer services.

I told him about how volunteer orientation at the facility works and how he would have to do his own work to contact his spiritual leaders and see if they were interested. But I was feeling really uneasy. I was thinking, “I have to say something! I have to try to convince this man that his belief is wrong and that trusting in Jesus is the only way! This may be the only chance this man has to hear about his Savior!” Peter said to speak out of “a clear conscience”; my conscience was full of the pressure of guilt (e.g. “What kind of a Christian are you if you don’t speak up?”)

Then Mark spoke up. In a very relaxed and friendly way

he asked, “So, with your Native American spirituality, how do you guys deal with guilt? I know how we Christians handle it, by trusting that Jesus paid for our guilt when He died on the cross, but I’d like to hear how your spirituality handles guilt.”

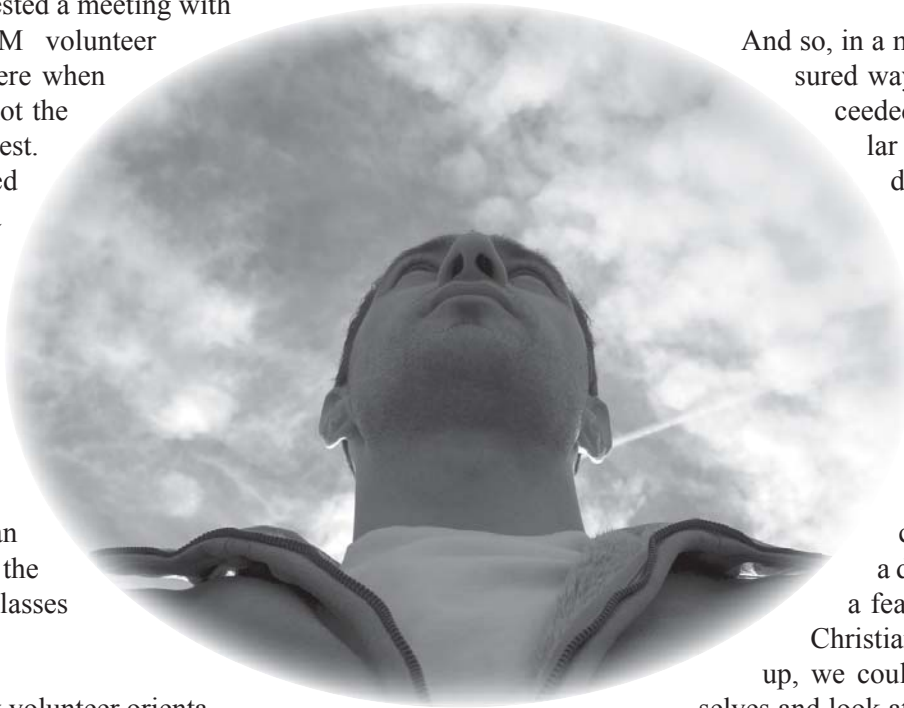
And so, in a most natural and unpressured way, the conversation proceeded. Three men with similar interests and significant differences able to have a friendly discussion about the similarities and the differences in our beliefs. Present were the “gentleness and respect” Peter talked about.

There was the “clear conscience.” Instead of a discussion coming out of a fear that we would be bad Christians if we did not speak up, we could simply consider ourselves and look at the inmate as someone

loved by God and reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus. We could trust that it was up to God, not us, to connect with the inmate’s heart.

The escort officer came for the inmate before we could proceed very far in our conversation. Just a day later, the inmate was shuffled off to another facility, so I do not know what he got out of our time together. But I know what I got.

“Give an answer ... with gentleness and respect ... and with a clear conscience!”



**"WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?"
—CONTINUED FROM PG 1**

teach her and others the truth of Jesus, her Savior.

This experience reinforced for me the fact that just as we are privileged to share our faith to those in jail, so are others who teach false doctrine. This is a spiritual battle, which we cannot ignore. There are people who are very motivated to teach lies about Jesus. They are coming into institutions, so those listening need the blessing of discernment from the Holy Spirit.

Praise God that we have the truth and that institutional doors are open to us! May God always give us a sense of immediacy to share Jesus wherever we go and with whomever we see, not knowing who may have seen them the day before, or will be seeing them tomorrow.

How inefficient this seems to our human reason. Certainly, it is in contrast with the other event that took place in Jerusalem at that time when 3,000 were converted on the Day of Pentecost. But God's economy is not our economy.

Through the work of WLIM, God sends the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who are invisible. In this case, the invisible ones are those who are in prison, hospitals, substance abuse centers, nursing homes, and other institutions.

Just as the Ethiopian quietly asked about the Scripture on the way to Gaza with hardly anyone taking notice except God, so the invisible people need the message of salvation, which was so dearly won for them on the Cross of Calvary. This is the work that WLIM does. The WLIM administration and support staff, chaplains, deaconess and over a hundred volunteers, quietly bring the saving Gospel of the forgiveness of sins to those who are hidden away behind the walls of institutions. There is nothing spectacular happening, only the preaching of the Gospel.

God tells us that there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who comes to repentance. We are indeed privileged to be Christ's ambassadors to bring the Word of God to the invisible people. We thank you for partnering with us and for also remembering those who are so invisible to the world.



THE INVISIBLE ONES

by Staff Minister Allen Krause

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the GOOD NEWS about Jesus." Acts 8:35

Shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven, an event happened in a little-settled region of Israel. An official of Candace the Queen of Ethiopia was returning to his homeland and was reading a portion of the book of Isaiah. This man could not know if Isaiah was referring to himself or someone else when he spoke of the sheep who was led as a lamb to the slaughter. It puzzled him, and he wanted to know more.

Just at that time, Philip appeared near the chariot of this man and asked him if he knew what he was reading. The official replied, "How can I know unless someone explains it to me." "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus."

Then the Ethiopian saw water and asked to be baptized.

This whole incident took place with very few people around. Possibly the only witnesses, besides Philip and the Ethiopian, were a driver and perhaps a few servants. It is almost as if this believer, who sought out the truth, was invisible to the rest of the world. Yet, God sent Philip to this one person to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ and His salvation.





WLIM, CAN YOU HELP?

by Chaplain Dan Krause

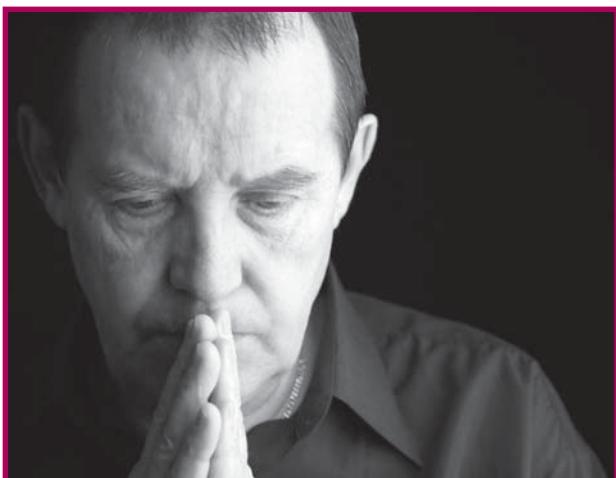
A letter from an inmate arrived at the WLIM office requesting help. The inmate, Tom, explained that he would soon be released after 17 years in prison and would need help finding a job, housing and with other usual needs. I followed up on the letter and learned from the prison authorities that he is Muslim. Nevertheless, I told the guards, "If he wants to talk to me, I'm willing."

After meeting Tom, he explained that WLIM was not only the first to respond to his requests for help but that I was his first visitor in 17 years! Tom, now 34, has been in prison since he was a teenager. He was institutionalized when he was ten. His mother had died, and he did not know his father. He ran away from the juvenile institution in which he was living, became involved with a gang, and was involved during a gang shooting. He was found guilty as an accomplice to murder. Tom has no family or friends outside of prison and had no visitors for his entire stay behind bars!

I encouraged him to talk about his faith. He told me of his bouts with depression while behind bars and his search for truth and direction in his life. That's when he became a Muslim. He said that religion offered him morality and structure, something he did not have as a child. When I asked him about his hope for eternal life, he admitted that he was uncertain about that. He listened to me with great interest as I shared the certainty of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.

Tom and I never did get around to talking about his upcoming release, a job, an apartment, and the many other

CONTINUED ON PG 6



IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES...IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES

by Deaconess Sarah Owens

In doing jail ministry, I was teaching the story of the Adulterous woman. Although I had taught this story many times, I learned something on this visit to the women's side of the jail. We spoke of the embarrassment and shame this woman must have felt when brought into the crowd as a terrible sinner. I asked the women (some of whom had felt the same way) how they might have described that feeling. One woman said, "Naked. She must have felt naked." We spoke of how the woman probably wanted to sink into the ground and disappear. However, we also spoke of how God always has a purpose for everything. One woman stated, "Yeah, I have been taught that God always lets things happen for a reason." I agreed.

The lesson continued. We learned that when people think they are better than others are, they need to "throw down their stones" and walk on. I shared the beautiful words of Jesus, "I don't condemn you either. Now go and leave your life of sin." No condemnation. The woman caught in adultery heard forgiveness with her own ears right from Jesus' mouth. How awesome, especially because we so often hear condemnation from others and even from our own conscience. "You are ugly ... unclean ... disgraceful ... going nowhere. You could never be loved by anyone, especially a holy God."

The woman caught in sin heard from Jesus, "I don't condemn you." What an awesome reassurance! Then it dawned on me. The adulterous woman went from having the worst day of her life to the best. It was such an irony. The Pharisees intended to shame and condemn the woman - and Jesus as well. But what did the evil-intended Pharisees really orchestrate? A beautiful encounter that assured a sinner, the women at the jail, and all of us that Jesus does not condemn. He was not sent to the world to judge it but to save it!

What an awesome God who brings such love and forgiveness. So many experiences that seem so bad turn beautiful in His grace! If you are feeling that things cannot get much worse, you are in the place where Jesus' words are the most precious. There is hope, even if you cannot see it. Let Jesus keep leading your blind eyes to the beauty of His love. Before you know it, the worst of times can turn into the best. Just wait and see.



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OUR MISSION

*“To Share God’s Law and
the Saving Gospel of
Jesus Christ With People
Who Are Institutionalized,
and Their Families.”*

SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIALS

8/26/2009 - 11/25/2009

IN MEMORY OF:

Wm & Edna Buchholz by Mr. Willis Buchholz; **Leonard & Erna Bumhoffer** by Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Rupprecht; **Thomas Carlson** by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson
Carol Davidson by Mr. Daniel Davidson; **Martin Eisenman** by Mrs. Lucille Eisenman; **Hortense Gettelman** by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson; **Julie Haeger** by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson; **Kenneth Hohl** by Mrs. Clara L. Hohl; **James C. Jensen** by Marilyn Jensen; **Audrey Johnsen** by Mr. Richard Johnsen; **Harry C. Mack** by Mrs. Adele Mack; **Howard Maertz** by Mrs. Gertrude Maertz; **Carl Meitner** by Mr. & Mrs. Stephan Meitner; **Evelyn Meitner** by Mr. & Mrs. Stephan Meitner; **William Merten** by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Fischer and Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hoehnke; **Marcelne Moldenhauer** by Mr. Earl Moldenhauer; **Cliff Nilsen** by Mr. & Mrs. James Hilden; **Steve Oros** by Barbara Schultz-Becker; **Jason Ott** by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Ott; **Walter Pamperin** by Ms. Beulah Pamperin; **Gene Schroeder** by Rev. & Mrs. David Tetzlaff; **Joyce Shields** by Mr. Ellsworth Shields; **Elizabeth Ann Sievert** by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sievert; **Mary Sievert** by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sievert; **Patricia Sievert** by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sievert; **Martha Sonnenburg** by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wehner; **June Veteska** by Rev. & Mrs. David Tetzlaff; **Marcus Werth** by Mrs. Esther E. Werth; **Elon Young** by Mr. & Mrs. George Schaser; **Pastor William Zell** by Ms. Beulah Pamperin

IN HONOR OF:

Susan Armstrong by Mr. Michael Page; **The Many Volunteers** by Mrs. Carroll Felch; **Delmar & Imogene Hoeffner 57th wedding anniversary** by Mr. Lloyd Hoeffner; **Elton & Lela Iles 64th wedding anniversary** by Rev. & Mrs. Charles Iles and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Iles Jr.; **Carlton & Margaret Lecker** by Mr. & Mrs. Earl Pappenfuss

IN THANKSGIVING:

Allen & Patricia Mundt Wedding by Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gresens

“WLIM, CAN YOU HELP?” —CONTINUED FROM PG 5

needs of a soon-to-be-released ex-offender. Those are not the most important things. I explained to him what Jesus says about important things: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 Certainly, the needs of a newly released ex-offender are great, but with God all things are possible and I assured Tom that God will provide day-by-day.

While WLIM is ready to offer limited help for physical needs, the ministries’ focus is on what we all need most, a Savior from sin.

Tom left our visit with a Bible in an easy-to-read translation, the invitation to read the Gospel of John, and the offer to talk again. I look forward to my next opportunity to visit with him. I am optimistic that the Holy Spirit is working in his heart through the Word. I am praying that Tom will learn, through the blessing of the Holy Spirit, confidence in eternal salvation through Jesus. I am confident that he will receive the other help he will need at the time of his release.