

Partners In Hope Recovery Society

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Hello Friends,

When I woke up this morning all I could see out the windows was the building across the street. The rest of the city and the river and out into the Fraser Valley was covered with clouds. Then, as it so often does here, just a few minutes ago the clouds moved on and a bit of sunshine broke through. It's a startling change - though welcome!!

It made me think of the many months we felt "stuck in the fog" trying to get the book of daily meditations, "Life With God In Recovery" published. We believed God had directed us to get it written and everything was ready to go at this time last year and then we ran into a problem that stalled the process for many months. Then, a few weeks ago, in amazing "only God could do it" fashion, the impasse was broken and we have published in both print editions and e-book. Here's where you can find and purchase:

Print book and e-book editions on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.ca/LIFE-GOD-RECOVERY-DAILY-MEDITATIONS/dp/1708518231/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1576089410&sr=8-1

E-book on Kobo: https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/life-with-god-in-recovery

The proceeds from the sale of these books goes towards funding the more than 2500 free copies we continue to distribute to recovery centers and prisons on a monthly basis.

We receive a regular stream of correspondence and phone calls from folks who receive these booklets. God is working in lives. People are coming to faith and being encouraged in their walk with Jesus as they read these meditations and speak with God. As someone has said, if only 25% of these booklets are picked up each day, we are reaching more than 600 people daily with God's truth. We are humbled, grateful, and amazed at the goodness of God to choose us to serve Him. An Advent meditation I read today spoke about how God loves to add "extra" onto "ordinary." He's good at that. From a boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish to the simple reflections on a few verses from His word, God is able to multiply and do amazing things. In January 2016 we printed about 150 copies and handed them out in the Downtown Eastside to friends. Look where we are today.

Evelyn and I facilitated 4 chapels services over the weekend in a local prison and once again we are struck with how many individuals have absolutely no knowledge of Jesus and what He has to do with the Christmas celebration. In one chapel eyes were filled with tears as one-by-one Evelyn prayed a blessing over them. In another it was the eyes of someone who had committed a horrific crime (and they knew it) who asked if God's forgiveness could cover someone who had done that and then filled with amazement when we affirmed God's willingness to forgive anyone who would turn to Him in faith. Still others had "the light turned on" when we spoke about what Jesus has done for us being like us standing before a judge after the evidence has been presented (and every one of them had obviously been in that position), having the guilty verdict announced and the length of prison sentence imposed. But then the judge taking off his robes, coming off the bench and offering to take both the criminal record and the sentence in place of the convicted person. The gospel really is good news for everyone.

Monday – Wednesday next week (December 16-18) we lead in Christmas parties in all the units of that prison. It's the one time of year we have a chance to share with all the inmates – not just those who choose to come to chapels. Pray that hearts will be soft and ready to receive the good news and that we will express God's heart for these women with clarity and anointing. We give thanks for all the volunteers who donated towards the Christmas gift bags we provide for each inmate.

So, once again, thanks for your interest and prayers in what God is doing. With whatever God gives us in the upcoming years, we pray to be faithful to His plan and see many people coming to know, love and serve Him. Thanks for your part in all we get to do.

Sincerely

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Elsie Quick Program Director

P.S. We know there are many worthy causes to which you can direct your charitable giving. We'd love to be considered as you prayerfully respond to God's direction in your giving. Any gift is appreciated in any amount. Monthly planned giving is so helpful for us as we plan and move forward.

You can find several giving options (credit card, debit authorization, e-mail or text transfer from your bank, cheque) at: <u>http://www.partnersinhope.ca/contact-us/giving-hope/</u>