

Partners In Hope Recovery Society

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Hello friends,

I trust your Christmas celebration has been meaningful. No pandemic can change the reality that God has come. Jesus has been born. He has died for our sins and He lives today to offer hope, healing, forgiveness, and new life to anyone who dares believe and respond to His wonderful invitation.

Nothing's changed since I last wrote in terms of correctional facility doors having their doors closed to volunteers having face-to-face contact inside for the foreseeable future. We were given the opportunity to prepare and send in Christmas gift bags for all the inmates at our local prison and also prepare a "virtual Christmas program" similar to what we've provided in person in previous years. We trust that some of the positive messages in songs and video clips touched the hearts of the women there.

A local newspaper did an article about this: <u>Click here for article.</u>

We are busy preparing the meditation booklets for each months mail-out. We've crossed over 3500 copies each month (I think we were at 2600 in my last update) so we give thanks.

Just crossing my desk this morning are two more requests for booklets in two treatment facilities in British Columbia.

I am a staff member at an Addiction Recovery Program in Vancouver. I have a client who is interested in getting some of your monthly booklets for the clients here to read. He is particularly interested in January and February booklets. Is this possible to have some sent here?

I am an Addictions Counsellor in Fort McMurray AB; I have a client who has been reading your daily meditations for December that he was given before entering treatment. He has asked if I could find one for January ... (after a response from us) ... my client will be overjoyed. I just spoke with my supervisor, and yes, we would love to have some on hand to give to clients that would like them.

Also, this heartwarming message from someone:

I was recently incarcerated for 16 months and just released in early November. It was a very challenging time for me then and continues to be now. I came across your monthly daily meditations book while in solitary confinement. The words and scriptures shared have been deeply impactful and encouraging to me. Since released, I continue to read your daily devotional, and the impact has been as relevant as ever. I also listen daily to your audio reading of the devotional - the lady who does it seems so genuinely filled with kindness - it is like having an encouraging friend during a very challenging period in my life. Thank you for all that you are doing to help make every person feel they have worth, their life matters, and that God can be trusted to accomplish his purposes in us regardless of our past failings. May God continue to bless all of you in this coming year and always

We continue to make resources available on our website:

Website: www.partnersinhope.ca

There are links to the daily blogs there (Life With God In Recovery meditation blog and Prayer blog). You can also find them directly at:

Daily Meditation online: <u>http://pihtoday.blogspot.com/</u>

Video and text: <u>www.pihprayer.blogspot.com</u>

Video: YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEE8tGSPVII4 FNIKwkoi6g

This material continues to go around the world through these means. It's always interesting to look at which kinds of topics are most accessed each day. During the past 6 months from our meditation blog it was: *Treating God's Power With Respect; Control; The Will to Make Amends; What is My Heart Longing For?; Wisdom For The Journey; Trusting; Don't Give Up - Hard Work Pays Off In The End; Fear And Insecurity.* From the daily prayer blog topics at the top of the list included: *To Live One Day At A Time; Stop Lying; Help in Overcoming Denial About A Problem; Overcoming Shame; Setting Healthy Boundaries; A Fresh Start; Living As Free People Who Do No Harm To Others; When We Don't Have Words To Pray.*

So today we are giving thanks for how God is using simple people with simple tools to reach out to others with the Good News of the Gospel. We are in the process of producing some further teaching materials to provide to folks who are contacting us on issues such as anger and relationship difficulties etc. These are often requested both by those in institutions whoa re reading the meditation booklets as well as those who are moving forward in their recovery

After several months of difficulty and shut downs with our photocopier we have had two months trouble free. The company we work with have persisted and it looks like things are finally sorted out. That is a great relief and answer to prayer.

Over and over again I tell people that we are "five loaves and two fish" folk who are constantly amazed at how God takes the little bit we hand to Him and touches the lives of so many.

We need your prayers for ongoing insight into God's word and the ability to make it clear for the many who have little or no background in the Bible, and for those who are just maybe thinking about what it could mean for them to turn their will and their life over to the care of God

Thank you for the ways you support us in prayer and financially. As we come to the end of 2020, we are so amazed at how God has provided for our needs. So many of you have "stepped up to the plate" in what must certainly have been sacrificial ways during the financial challenges of this season of the pandemic. We pray that God's blessing will come back to you in great measure.

With joy in God's presence among us now and going forward, Elsie Quick

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>