



March Newsletter 2013

Community Impact Mentoring. Roxanne and I just completed the second Community Impact Mentoring Academy, which trained another 16 mentors to work with Butte County GPS tracking ankle bracelet releasees (a form of flexible house arrest). Lieutenant Brian Flicker, who oversees the Butte County Jail, spoke of the need to establish safe boundaries when working with people who have often learned how to manipulate others for money or drugs. Jesus told us to “Be wise as serpents (prudent, knowledgeable boundaries), but as harmless as doves.”

It was heartening to hear ACS supervising Sergeant Agurkis



express the desire and practical steps his team takes to encourage the

releasees to succeed. We learned some of the physical and psychological effects of drug addiction, and were introduced to a wide variety of low-cost or no-cost resources available to needy releasees. Finally, my mentoree and I spoke about what the mentoring experience meant to each of us, how we each saw the hand of God at work in our relationship, and how we each have learned and grown through our time together. My mentoree sang a song about making the journey back to sobriety with his acoustical guitar (he’s really good!), and many eyes were wet afterward. Lots of the prospective mentors had

questions about specific aspects of our journey together. It has been wonderful to have a front row seat as God carried this young man through this time of transition and learning.

The Academy was recorded on video, and we are hoping we can use a recorded curriculum for future training. Jesus can use these new mentors to help these releasees, and change our community – and He can use you! Pray for the new mentors, that God would use them to bring His freedom to people seeking help, and for the releasees, as they learn to walk in freedom. Pray that Jesus will show you, and many others, how you might be called to help.



Biblical Hunger. I recently visited a young man with gang tattoos all over, who showed me his study Bible (an old one of mine that I had given him). Since I gave it to him a while ago, he had noticed my highlighting of some passages that had been especially meaningful to me, and so he read it through, begats to maps, highlighting every verse, even whole chapters, that spoke to him. He wrote notes in the margins, and had a bunch of questions for me. It was great to see his hunger, and remember God's promises in Isaiah 55:

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon...

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Praises and Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the young woman I introduced to Jesus last month, as she reads her Bible and grows in understanding of her newfound Savior, and for the young man I mentioned, that God would fill him with His Word, and the peace and joy of His presence.
- Our biggest need is for partners to join us. The fields are white, ready for harvest. Nowhere else have I seen such eagerness for the gospel. Nowhere else have I seen such potential to transform our community's life and health. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up workers, teachers, mentors, pray-ers, helpers, and givers in this new year. Pray for churches and Christians in Butte County to hear of the need, and rise to the call of our Savior.
- Please pray that God will raise up prayer warriors and a Prayer Coordinator, someone who would take the initiative to get our specific prayer requests out to those who have committed to hold ARM's ministry to inmates and their families up before our Lord.
- Pray for Roxanne and me as we undergo several days of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training in Rocklin, just east of Sacramento in mid-March. May God use these skills to help us work with people going through crisis and grief.

Thank you for your prayers, your help, and your encouragement. May the God of resurrection work in your life and among us together to bring new life to many inmates and families as we approach Easter, 2013!

I'm excited to watch what God is doing, and anticipate what He is about to do! He is risen, indeed!

Ian and Roxanne Carlisle

