



Dear Family and Friends,

November 2022

DO I HAVE A PRAISE TO SHARE WITH YOU!!!

We had two teenagers at the juvenile detention center make the decision to follow Jesus Christ. While this is truly exciting, there is more to the story...

After going over God's love with lots of Scripture, we ended a three-week series with an invitation to respond. About 30 detainees were in the room, and 25 of them responded by getting up to move to a different part of the room so that we could talk more about receiving God's gift found in Jesus Christ. I was questioning what was going on and even thought they misunderstood. Of course, some of the teens were just being a distraction.

We got the twenty-ish teens who responded in a circle, and asking "Larry" and "Mic" (two guys we have been asking prayer for), **"have you made that decision to follow Jesus?"** They both responded with an enthusiastic **"YES!"** Then I asked if they would help me by reading the verses from the Roman's Road, and they had no issue with doing so.

After the **guys read the verses**, we asked the group again if they were ready to get right with God by receiving His gift of Jesus Christ and then beginning a new journey with Him. **Larry led** a sample prayer written out for him, **inviting the teens to repeat after him**. We could hear many voices, but I still wasn't sure what was happening! After they finished the prayer, I asked who had said this prayer from their heart for the first time. **Two hands went up**, and I quickly zeroed in on these two, and we continued talking about this decision. **THEN** I asked Larry and Mic if they had shown someone with Scripture how to begin a new life with Jesus. They both said no, but Larry added, **"But I have now!"** Just...so...cool! **Thank you, LORD!**



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Stories like this, family and friends, is what you are helping to make possible. The eternal importance of what is taking place in the lives of teens in the detention center and our communities is what you continue to be part of. Thank you! *Please keep Larry and Mic in your prayers, as they seem to be excited about growing in the LORD. Once they return home, I am concerned...but God is who we need to trust. Also, please pray for these two new believers.*

How about you? Are you reading this, realizing for the first time that it's time to be more involved with teens who are incarcerated? If so, I would enjoy speaking with you. We have many ways for individuals and groups to help have an eternal impact.

Trusting In HIM,

Kari Gathany

JJM Director

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

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