

Newletter

Disciplers

BIBLE STUDIES

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Shepherd's Heart Leaders at Fountain Correctional Center



FOUNTAIN CORRECTIONAL CENTER, Rocky Mount, NC

A note from Carole Wilber, teaching-leader: "This year we celebrated 10 years of taking Disciplers Bible study to the dear women of Fountain Correctional. We have had as many as 110 in one night. Every woman who comes is by Divine appointment! Whether they return or not, we know they heard what God wanted them to hear. I am thankful for our faithful leaders. It is their dedication and love for the ladies that makes Shepherd's Heart the largest attended Bible study at this minimum-security facility. After facing the year with a possible closure, we are thanking God for answering our prayer to keep the prison open this year!" We are excited to return and serve.

The women who minister God's word in the prisons tell us it is the hardest thing they have ever done, but also the most rewarding. Please join us in praying that the doors will stay open for these classes and that they will have favor with the prison administrations. Pray for hearts to be drawn by God's love to the true Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Welcome back to Bible Study! Summer has flown by and I hope you are excited to be back to study with your group and discover what God has to teach you this year. I know some of you meet year-round with your classes and we at Disciplers cheer you on for that! We are honored and blessed to serve you all and always love to hear from you. I am joyfully looking forward to another year of study, praying that God will bless each and every one of you with wisdom and understanding as He draws you nearer to Himself, conforming you more and more to the image of Christ.

We have kept busy this summer and now have two more studies available for download on our website. 1 and 2 Thessalonians is a brand new seven-week study; a wonderful encouragement from the apostle Paul to stand firm in our faith and live holy lives as we await Christ's return. Also, Pearl Hamilton's study of Luke has been edited and updated and is available for download. Pearl's studies are so thoughtful, with deep insights into the Scriptures, encouraging our love for God and His Son Jesus Christ. We hope you will consider these studies for the future.

Edie has been at work on our website and it is growing. Please check out our blog and great photo gallery. Many thanks to those of you who have sent pictures! I find myself constantly going back to look at them. You all are my inspiration! If you have not yet sent a picture, please do so. It is extra special to have a visual as we pray for your class.

In this newsletter, we would like to introduce you to two prison ministries currently using Disciplers Studies. Both Shepherd's Heart and Changed Hearts work within the North Carolina prison system. We have great admiration for these women who take the word of God into the prisons. They are making a huge difference in the lives of many by giving love, hope, comfort, and truth to women enduring difficult times in their lives. I hope your hearts will be touched as you see the pictures and read a bit about the classes.

This newsletter is dedicated with love to the precious women who attend those classes. It comes to you with much joy in the Lord, thanking Him for the great salvation we share and the hope He has set before us (Hebrews 6:18). Even though our classes are spread over thousands of miles and we may never meet in this life, I am looking forward to eternity with you, my fellow Disciplers.

With great joy in serving the Lord,
Suzie Klein, Director of Disciplers Bible Studies

HISTORY OF SHEPHERD'S HEART MINISTRY

The ministry of Shepherd's Heart grew out of the termination of another ministry that had been providing Bible study at North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCI) in Raleigh, NC

Truly, we have seen the Lord do exceedingly more than we could have ever asked or dreamed. It was our heart's cry for



SOUTHERN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, Troy, NC

Southern Correctional Institution is a medium-close women's facility. Angela Stanley, the leader of Shepherd's Heart at SCI, refers to the women who attend the Disciplers class as "God's imprisoned Beloveds". She writes, "They are so radiant with the Spirit of Christ! In their eyes you can see a deep hunger for God's Word. I wish you could hear the in-depth answers these women share on the Disciplers Bible Studies questions! Wow! They are not just prisoners, they are Prisoners of Hope. They are Worship Warriors who have accepted God's call to use their 'time' as His time, regardless of the consequences they may face from other prisoners! Their walk is so vibrant and victorious that they've acquired a nickname in the North Carolina Correctional System; they are called The Jesus Camp."



for fourteen years. When that class closed in 1997, the leaders of the class, feeling a heavy burden for the inmates, began to pray together. God answered. The tool of Disciplers lessons was provided, paving the way for the birthing of Shepherd's Heart ministry. Linda Horton, leader of Shepherd's Heart in Raleigh says, "It is amazing how it all came together.

this ministry to expand and impact more lives and again, God answered. He gave us the privilege of starting two sister classes in prisons in Troy and Rocky Mount, NC. Shepherd's Heart goal is to be a part of dispelling the darkness in women's prisons by bringing the Light of the World to inmates."

One time may be God's appointed time to open a woman's heart to Him.
- Dale Hardin

CHANGED HEARTS at NCCI

Changed Hearts is an outreach and sister study of Saltshakers Bible study in Raleigh, N.C. They share Disciplers Bible studies with an average of 25 women each week in the minimum-security facility of NCCI. Dale Hardin, leader of the group says, "One time may be God's appointed time to open a woman's heart to Him. Many of our members state emphatically that it was God who brought them to prison to save and transform their lives through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit." Dale asks for prayer that God will "keep the doors open for us to continue this Bible study. As long as He does we will gladly continue to go." Dale also shared some comments from the class members. "Before prison I lived for myself and did

whatever I wanted to from drugs to prostitution. I didn't care about anyone else. Since being in prison and realizing what Jesus did for me, all I live for is to share this love with my 3 year old daughter. I want her to know Him and His Word. So I have to know it first." To see more comments from these precious women, check out the blog post about Changed Hearts on our website.



Changed Heart Leaders at NCCI

SHEPHERD'S HEART at NCCI

The Shepherd's Heart team has been ministering for 17 years in the maximum-security facility of NCCI. Leader, Linda Horton, shares about their ministry. "Because of our burden for the prisoners, we have prayed we would be able lead them in a personal relationship with the Lord. God has answered our prayers and we have touched the lives of thousands of women. We want to keep demonstrating the true Shepherd's love to these women who feel they have no hope and are abandoned by their families and society. They are so appreciative of our coming and always thank us. It is so moving to watch them stand in line waiting to get in. One woman asked if I saved my outlines from the lessons. When I told her I did she gave a long list of the lessons she wanted. When I asked her why she needed them, she looked me in the eye and said, "When I get out of here, I'm going to teach these lessons to my children."



Shepherd's Heart Leaders at NCCI
Warden Bianca Harris (2nd row, 3rd from right)