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I Was In Prison...

...and you visited me (Mathew 25:36)



Verna Law Band & friends

Jennifer Allison participated in Bill Glass Ministry Day of Champions for the first time on May 11. This is her story.

Imagine waking up one day and never seeing any of your friends or family again for the rest of your life.

Imagine never holding and loving on your children or even knowing where they are.

Imagine physical wounds so deep and numerous that your entire body is a canvas of brutal scars.

These are just a few of the real life stories I experienced while visiting inmates at Pulaski State Prison.

I was both nervous and excited to volunteer with a prison ministry for the first time. I felt I could possibly relate to inmates there so I decided to go. See, I was sexually

abused and raped as a child. I know hurt, anger, and rejection. I had also been addicted to serious drugs and alcohol for 10 years of my life, so I know about making bad decisions. It is only by the grace of God that I'm alive and not in prison myself. So because God had brought me on a journey of surrender, obedience and blessing, I wanted to tell others that there was hope and forgiveness for them too. But I definitely didn't expect the life-changing impact visiting these inmates would have on ME as well.

Before arriving at the prison, I asked God to lead me to the ones who were hurting the most, or had hurt others the most. Well, God answered my prayers.

After some good old rock n' roll led by Verna Law, and an incredible testimony shared by Kevin Cross, the inmates were told if they wanted to learn more they could speak with any of the volunteers there. We had been given some printed materials that made leading a discussion with them very easy to do.

I had the privilege of speaking with 10 different women. They seemed desperate for someone to talk to since the rest of the world had shunned them completely. Most of them were ready to surrender to Christ for the first time or recommit their lives. It was amazing!

After getting back home I could not stop thinking about these women or the children they could no longer hold. I did some research to see if I could learn more about them. It turns out that I had prayed with women who had committed murder and multiple counts of child abuse and molestation. After reading the details of their crimes and life sentences, I began to weep uncontrollably for the next several hours. See, I knew I had been forgiven of a lot. But when I realized how much God was forgiving them for, my understanding of the depth of God's mercy and love became completely overwhelming.

To look in the eyes of someone who had nothing to live for and say, "There's hope," was beyond words. To encourage someone who had not been visited by friends or family in 10 years and tell them, "God loves you," was beyond anything I can describe.

You don't have to be a theologian, or a PhD Counselor to share the message of Christ with people like this. Many of them are desperate to hear a message of hope and forgiveness. We just need to take it to them.

In dependence on Him,



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