

News & Prayer Letter - September 2023

Serving With First Nations To Reach All Nations



Dear Friends & Prayer Partners

The harsh reality of prison ministry

Shortly after George* got into my car, he received a call. I overheard him saying, "I just got into the car of my 'M2' and we're heading to the bank where I have some business to attend to." ("M2" is an abbreviation for "Men 2 Men," signifying the prison mentorship).

"Yes, we won't take too long. We'll be back by 9:30 AM." After his conversation with the authorities at the halfway house, George turned to me and shared, "Today, we can't meet after the bank appointment. I'm facing some trouble and have to be back for a meeting with the management of our facility." During the brief time we spent together, George appeared noticeably nervous and agitated. As I dropped him off at the halfway house after approximately 30 minutes, he requested, "Please call me around 1:00 PM this afternoon. I had plans to do more in the city today, and we can meet and talk afterward." After 1:00 PM, I sent George a message on my phone, but there was no response. Subsequently, I tried calling him, but he didn't pick up, so I left a message.

After a few days, I attempted to reach George once more to arrange a new meeting. This time, he answered and sounded surprisingly cheerful as he explained that he, along with some others from the halfway house where he was residing, would be traveling to Vancouver daily to work on a video documentary for APTN, an Indigenous Canadian broadcaster. The group would be interviewed about their experiences, stories, and visions for the future. It sounded wonderful, and I felt genuinely happy for George!





I wasn't aware of the duration of these recording sessions, so I called George again the following Monday, a week later. George was unusually brief and had a hint of fear in his voice.

"I don't have much time; I think I'm in real trouble this time. <u>Please pray for me!</u>"

On Wednesday, I received a call from Charles*, the organizational leader for the reintegration program. After his greeting, he asked, "When was the last time you

met with George?" I informed him about George's involvement in the video documentation and his trips to Vancouver with the halfway house group, explaining why we hadn't met recently. "Yes, that was a positive endeavour and great opportunity for George," Charles replied sadly. "Regrettably, George made some bad choices during that time and has been re-incarcerated. Unfortunately, I don't have information about which prison he is currently in."

<u>Please join us in prayer for George</u>, that he may find the help he needs in prison and be open to accepting it. Let us pray that God reaches out to him and brings about a transformation in his life.





Deepening relationships

Over the past few months, I strengthened my connections with the Cheam First Nation - Xwchíyò:m, an indigenous community located north east of Chilliwack, while visiting and helping on several occasions.

In September, I will be leading an archery camp for a group of youth aged 8 and older.

I kindly request your prayers for my ability to establish and nurture fresh connections with the children, teenagers, and their parents, fostering an environment of trust. Please also pray for opportunities to arise that allow me to serve as a testament of faith in that community.

fur·lough noun 'fər-()lō:

- (a) a leave of absence from duty granted especially to a soldier; X

Currently, our plan is for our family to arrive in Germany just before Christmas, with the primary purpose of visiting our families during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Following this, Marc, in particular, will assume additional travel responsibilities in the New Year, aiming to visit many of our Ministry Partners in Germany in person and conduct presentations of our ministry in churches and church groups, while on the road.

Special Request

While we understand that none of you will directly benefit from our furlough, we would like to kindly inquire, "would you consider making an additional one-time donation to help cover the additional needs associated with this furlough and trip to Germany?"

"What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, so is Corrie Ten Boom

Your special gift would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you so much!

Yours in Christ Marc & Sandra + Carrie & John

SUPPORT

To Support this ministry financially, cheques should be made out to NAIM with Project #436 / FROMME in the memo line.

Donations can also be made online at:

www.naim.ca

NAIM OFFICE: PO Box 220, Stn A

Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z6 I 1.888.942.5468

(* = Names have been changed to protect identities)

THANK YOU!



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