

INSIDE VIEW

CIC Ministries

"...when in
prison, you
visited me..."

Matthew 25:36

Summer 2009

Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy of Santa Clara County, Inc

The Circle of Care

Gary and Helga Hubbard provided weekly Bible studies to the women locked up in Elmwood Jail in Milpitas; a class that drew many women who longed to hear of God's love and faithfulness

But then tragedy struck.

On the morning of May 1, Gary mowed the lawn, locked the mower in the shed, and then suffered a massive heart attack. Helga found him later lying by the shed, and despite the efforts of the emergency medics and Helga's CPR, Gary was pronounced dead that day.

Helga received about 11 or 12 cards from the women, many with three or more signatures attached. And officers who worked with the couple also sent their condolences.

"It was wonderful," Helga said of the circle of care that surrounded her. "I looked at some of them again today." One card said, "Please come back to us. We need you."

And so Helga responded, returning to offer Bible studies and one-on-one care through the cell doors for the women who cannot attend. "It felt like I needed to go back," she said. "I had such a desire to be with those women. I just needed to tell them about the Lord."

"Eternity starts now, and whether we're here or there, we're in Christ," she said, adding that she now tells the women she can identify with their pain of separation, which means "We'll just have to hold onto the Lord."

In this time of sorrow, Helga has found that she feels good when she prepares for her Bible lesson. "I get excited about God's word."



An inmate represents God's circle of love.



Gary and Helga
Hubbard

Since she has returned, studies have focused on the Wedding in Cana and the story of Nicodemus.

She didn't know how she would be received when she returned, but with an officer standing right there, everyone

gave her a hug as they came to class.

The circle of care that starts with God's love for us extends through our lives and into the lives of others, who learn generosity of spirit and the peace that surpasses all understanding even as we pass through the trials and tribulations of this life.

Inmates encircle a hurting volunteer with words of love and sympathies.....

I am so deeply sorry that Gary has passed on. I can't even imagine one of you without the other. You two were the precious couple that I've ever laid eyes upon. I know it must be extremely painful to be the one left behind but just remember that the Lord and Gary are always with you, and I ask well. You still have work here that needs to be done and until then Gary will be waiting in the Lord's mighty Kingdom for the day when you will be together again. I'll never forget what the both of you taught me about our Savior Jesus Christ and I will never forget Gary's wonderful smile, or his sense of humor. May God keep you strong and positive throughout these sorrowful times.... Thank you for being so good to us. Your sister always....

I pray God comforts you and wipes away your tears. Please don't leave us. Come back to us when you're ready .

Gary, I always loved how no matter how many of us there was at church, you always remembered each of our names. I will never forget you. You are truly loved and will be missed. Helga, My heart goes out to you and my prayers. We love you so much.



A volunteer surrounded by uniformed worshippers.

-The Linus Project- Women in one dorm at Elmwood, crotchet blankets to be taken to chil- dren who are seriously ill, trauma- tized, or other children in need.



Thank you to Genie Miller and women from Bible Way Christian Center for donations of yarn.



Ethel Sturgis of Raynor Park Christian has served at CCW for over 15 years.



Nelson Noel of Trinity Church has served for over 15 years. The Rev. Fannie Davis of Antioch Baptist Church has been joined by the Rev. Stacey Green and Minister Marianne Burrell for 11 years.

Long time CIC volunteers.....

When men and women answer God's call to serve those who are incarcerated, they generally come to stay.

CIC Ministries has been blessed with a cadre of volunteers who have given years of service to the Lord, serving as living testimonies to God's faithfulness in our lives and God's love for "the least of these."

Here are just a few of the men and women who carry

the Gospel message to men, women and children incarcerated in Santa Clara County.

At one time, they, too, wondered if God was calling them to serve. They answered the call, and the men, women and children they serve has learned of God's faithfulness and God's love embodied in Jesus Christ, our Savior.



Mack Johansen - Has been serving at the Juvenile Boy's ranch for 10 years.



Bejoy Oomman has served with CIC for 4 years, Shilpa Mohan is a new volunteer and Pastor Tom Thomas from Marthoma Church has served for 11 years.

Next Training
for new and veteran
volunteers:
Sun, July 19, 2009.
1:30-5:30 pm
Grace Baptist Church
484 E. San Fernando St
San Jose, CA 95112
(corner of E. San
Fernando and 10th Sts)

CIC MINISTRIES

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From CIC Ministries Director: Rev. David Robinson

Our jails and juvenile facilities often appear to be designed as places of punishment, confinement and conflict. Compassion is a rare solace and a listening ear are longed for by many. In this newsletter you will see some of the people who are reaching out, who are listening, sharing and caring for folks who are locked down. Their love reaches out and is often received with joy and comfort. The Spirit of Fellowship begins and the response back to the volunteer chaplains is often amazing and always a blessing. This is Church. This is a sanctuary of peace for the prisoners and for the ministers of Grace. This is how we see and experience Jesus Inside the jails. Your support through financial gifts, prayer and love comes to us as a gift and is transformed by the Spirit into mercy, compassion and wisdom. You are incorporated into this circle of hope offering opportunities of grace, faith, forgiveness and salvation to thousands of our brothers and sisters. People are responding and are offering their new lives back to the Lord and also to our community.

We are very grateful for your gifts, especially in these difficult economic times. Please consider being part of this circle of hope for the betterment of all our people.

DONATE ONLINE

**Donations can now be made online at our web site:
WWW.CICMINISTRIES.ORG. CIC Ministries is a not for
profit (501c3) ministry. Your donations are tax-deductible.**

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