

JUST News

A Publication of JUST of DuPage

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Our Mission:

JUST of DuPage shares God's love and supports the spiritual journeys of inmates of the DuPage County Jail by providing

- chaplaincy
- educational programs
- addiction recovery
- increased employability
- social services

in order that inmates may make positive changes in their lives.

Helping make incarceration an opportunity for life change

August 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

From the Director by Annie Rose

"The one who has been forgiven much loves much." Recently, while talking with an inmate I'll call Jenny, I was powerfully reminded of this truth and the story it comes from in Luke's gospel.

Jenny is a young woman who has been beat up by life, abused by so many different people it's hard to keep track, lonely, hungry, and in need of hope. Jenny found that hope when she was incarcerated here at DuPage County Jail. Before she even set foot in a JUST class, another inmate shared the love of Christ with Jenny, gave her a New Testament, and helped her pray to receive Christ into her life.

When I talked with Jenny, I saw the passion of a burgeoning faith. In contrast with her fragile frame, Jenny's eyes were wide with the hope of a new life. She told me how she had been reading Scripture voraciously and even quoted a couple passages

that had been an encouragement to her. I was struck by Jenny's tender love for Jesus. This is someone who takes comfort in God's words and knows that they are for her.

Jenny confessed many things to me when I met with her, including a history of prostitution. She bore her shame visibly, rounding her shoulders and dropping her eyes when she described details of her past. At one point she asked, childlike, "Do you think he really forgives me even though I didn't believe before, even if I was bad?" I reassured Jenny, "We all have been bad. That's why Jesus came. He wouldn't have had to come if we were all perfect."

In Luke 7, when a "sinful woman" comes and anoints Jesus, Simon the Pharisee judges her and Jesus. In response, Jesus points out the contrast between the great love of the woman and Simon's small love. The implication is that

Simon loved little because he felt he had only little to be forgiven. The woman, aware of her spiritual deficit, owned her sin, felt the abundance of God's forgiveness, and responded out of gratitude and great love.

This is the sort of love I saw in Jenny when she talked about Jesus. I was challenged by how shameless she was in admitting her need for God.

Sometimes it's easy to forget how much we have been forgiven and to allow a passionate love for God to become a cold obedience. The jail is a place where people are confronted by the ugliness of their sin, and because of that, it is a place where God's forgiveness can elicit great love.

Thank you for partnering with us in this place, where we have the privilege of encouraging new faith and seeing lives changed! It is truly a privilege.

Planting the Seed by Jim Meier, Substance Abuse Program Manager

Addiction is a powerful phenomenon. When my students speak about loved ones at home who don't understand why they can't stop or who want to understand addiction, I often tell them to suggest this: Wake up tomorrow and don't eat breakfast. When lunch comes around, skip it. Try not to think about food come dinner time, and try not to eat before going to bed. If you make it to morning without eating, repeat.

By the second day, you are thinking about food as an addict would about drugs or alcohol. On the third day, you are thinking about food as a chemically dependent person thinks about drugs or alcohol every day, all day. Addiction is as

powerful as that innate starvation response for survival. Give it a try; do you really want to know? (Of course, you should check with a physician before fasting.)

In addiction, people have lost the ability to be true to themselves. I see them day in and day out, literally dying physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Jail is indeed a sad place; the results of the collective insanity of our world come in one at a time day by day without fail, some so close to death that they reek of it and you can see it in their eyes. Many are completely oblivious to the process and are contributing to the collective insanity without remorse.

There are a few, however, who awake from the nightmare. These are the inmates who courageously seek out services and with honesty and humility ask for help. I would love to say that we serve the whole population of the jail, but the truth is only a small percentage of the jail's population receives a significant amount of the services. Why? Because they are the ones who want it—not need it—*want* it.

Of that small percentage, of newly awakened or sometimes reawakened inmates, even fewer know what "it" is or what "it" entails. And when some of them find out what "it" is and
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JUST of DuPage

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JUST Church Event

**Thursday, August 27
10:00-11:30 AM**

Gary United Methodist
Church

224 N. Main St. in Wheaton

If you are a DuPage area church leader, we invite you to join us for a look at what JUST is doing in the DuPage County Jail.

As a part of this event, we will have the opportunity to tour a gallery of inmate artwork entitled "Freedom Beyond Bars" being exhibited by Gary UMC.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by Aug. 17 to office@justofdupage.org.

We hope to see you there!

We're online!

Please help us transition to using electronic communication as much as possible. Email us at office@justofdupage.org so that we can communicate with you via email.

Electronic communication saves money!

Who is Annie Rose? by the JUST Board

As you may have noticed, JUST has recently come under new leadership. In mid-February, Rev. Ray Anderson retired after nearly seven years as Executive Director, and the Board of JUST appointed Annie Rose as his successor.

Annie is young, competent, and an outstanding communicator. She comes to us having served three and a half years as a Director at CareNet Pregnancy

Services of DuPage, following two years as a volunteer. With this comes experience in fund raising, speaking, and grant writing. She has a winsome personality and communicates understanding and acceptance.

Annie's education includes a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Biblical Exegesis from Wheaton College and an M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois.



Among other things, we expect that Annie will be successful in helping enhance our relationships with other community resources and working toward financial stability for our organization.

Planting the Seed, *continued*

what they need to do to get "it," they don't believe "it," think they already have "it," or deny "it." Enough with the "it" already!

The "it" is recovery. And I believe it is not so important to ask "What are we recovering from?" but "What is recovery?"

Step 2 of the Twelve

Steps involves coming "to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." Recovery is about seeking that Power that enables you to find your true self and gives you the power to be true to you. This Power is also an incredible phenomenon; addiction is nothing compared to it. When a person continues to

seek that Power, they will not only recover from and overcome addiction, but will find answers to all problems.

The first seed I plant in those who come to my classes is that no matter who you think you are, and no matter what you think you have done or have not done, have or don't have, You Can RECOVER...

In Memoriam

On April 15, 2009, Jim Newman went to be with the Lord. Jim was a longtime JUST volunteer, having led Bible studies in the jail for over 20 years. He also served as our Board President.

Jim was a very active individual who gave generously of his time in service to God and his community. He will be missed.

Current Needs

Please call the JUST office before donating any items.

- Forever stamps
- PCs with Windows 2003 or XP

JUST Welcomes New Office Manager

In mid-July, Sarah Buki joined the JUST staff as Office Manager. Sarah comes to JUST with an interesting background, having served in various ministry and consultant capacities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She holds a B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies/Youth Ministry, a Masters in Management in Nonprofit Administration, and an M.A. in Christian Ministry, all from North Park University in Chicago. We are very pleased to welcome Sarah to JUST and know that she will be an asset to our team.

Sarah will now be the point person for all volunteer inquiries regarding scheduling, class lists, and audio-visual needs. Please join us in welcoming her!

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