



April 2014

Because you give, part of my job is to go into the Tennessee Prison for Women on Monday nights. Here the women sign up for fifteen minute “one on one’s” to discuss anything they want. They feel free to tell me anything knowing I’m walking out the gate and won’t spread the gossip. Crystal came to me and started sharing part of her story. I have her permission to share! ☺

Crystal is serving time in prison due to a cocaine addiction. She wrote bad checks to Wal Mart and Kroger to help support her habit. She says, “I was raised right. The idea of stealing from a person, selling my body, or selling the drugs was never an option for me. I figured in my “addictive mind” that writing bad checks to big companies wasn’t bad. After all I would pay it back someday and they were big enough to handle my bad checks. She said there was always the idea of God in her life...even during the addiction time.”

She went on to tell me of a time, she went into a Dollar General. It was her birthday, but she had no money to buy herself a gift. She thought, “It’s my birthday. I deserve a present.” So she decided to shoplift this one time. She looked through the t-shirts and found a purple color she liked. She pulled it out, looked at the front. It said “Got Jesus?” She just folded it back up neatly and left the store...without the shirt. ☺ We laughed and laughed together. I said I have to share that one!

I love spending time with these ladies. They are just like me in so many ways... except they are paying for a caught crime and have to wear blue denim all day! Thank you for giving so I can go to prison on a temporary basis! HA!

Blessings,

Vicki Harvey-Helgesen
Executive Director