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Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

Morris Johnson spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on August 27. Mick Guttau met him in January 2006 when he spoke at church. That began his involvement.



Morris Johnson was a boxer. He has spent 24 ½ years in the ministry. He spent the last 12 years in Douglas and Pottawattamie counties.

There are 2.4 million people in jail. Morris calls it a "great harvest field". Jails are now getting a lot of mentally ill people.

There is now a national prison ministry and an international ministry. Morris says he can go into prisons where Christianity cannot be taught. The goal is to "meet the needs of inmates and staff." They also make sure that religious rights are not compromised and facilitate other religions.

Morris said that most inmates are fatherless. His father was killed before he was one. His mother divorced her second husband, choosing God over him. His mother died 14-15 years ago.

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry has a variety of functions in the jail. They offer a life learning program that teach life skills from a biblical perspective. The students have to memorize 21 verses of scripture. It takes 3-4 months to graduate and they get a Bible certificate upon completion.

The Ministry delivers death notifications. They also have a bible study, train and teach volunteers, and

have a women's ministry. They also act as a liaison between church and jail.

97% of men and women in jail have some type of trauma in their lives. The Ministry provides trauma counseling.

Since 1961, all money to fund the Ministry comes from donations. They have a banquet in the spring as a fundraiser.

Prisoners fill out a KITE (visit request form) to have visits.

Morris requested that you "remember people in prisons in your prayers." There is a higher level of suicides in the first 10 days in jail.

He is working on satellite churches, where churches adopt a cell in prison. Cells have 44 beds. 75% of the local cells have been adopted out.

Meeting Minutes

John Klein's called the meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club to order on August 27. He led with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the prayer offered by Dale Willenborg. Judy Guttau, Keith Denton, and Marsha Underwood provided humor.

Judy Guttau celebrated her birthday. She also won the 50/50. Kevin Elwood won attendance drawing, but did not collect because he wasn't at the meeting.

For bragging rights, Mick Guttau contributed to the Youth Fund because TS Bank opened a branch in Corning, IA. John Klein contributed because his son did the landscaping for the new Missouri Valley football field.

On September 3 the club will put up flags after a short meeting. There will be no speaker.

There will be an NFL Combine football fun activity before the football game on homecoming, Sept 30.

Flags will be put up next week. There will be a short meeting, but no speaker.

Some candles were auctioned for \$5.

Chad Guttau, Gary Guttau, Gary Funkhouser, Bill Vorthmann, and John Klein helped with can kennel sorting.

There were 15 members and 1 guest at the meeting.

Calendar

Sept 3 – put up flags Sept 30 - Homecoming

Birthdays

Aug 11 – Chad Guttai (recognized)

Aug 23 – Judy Guttai (recognized)

Anniversaries

Aug 13 – Jerry & Barb Hempel

Aug 25 – Gary & Julia Funkhauser (recognized)

Speakers

Aug 27 – Morris Jackson from Good News Prison Ministry

Sept 3 – No Speaker – put up flags

Sept 10 – SPY Youth report on summer mission trip

Programs

Sept – Ken Graham

Oct – Bill Vorthmann

Nov – Judy Guttai

Dec - Chuck Nielsen

Prayers

Aug 27 – Dale Willenborg

Sept 3 – Gary Funkhouser

Sept 10 – Richard Vorthmann

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