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**Stan Latta, Chaplain
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry**



Stan Latta, Chaplain for Pott. Co. and Sarpy Co. Jails and Youth Detention Centers, spoke to the Optimists on Saturday. Latta is a Missionary through Good News Jail & Prison Ministry (GNJP) and is responsible for raising his own support through individuals, churches and businesses. Funds are also raised to provide

materials and Bibles for use in these facilities. The government does not provide support for the chaplains except for office space, a computer, and a phone.

Latta stated that there are 2.1million people confined in the US alone. At least 70% will get out of jail, and most very soon. The daily presence of a chaplain is what GNJP believes is the most effective tool for ministering to the needs of inmates and staff.

If a person just sits behind bars, then when they are released, most are more set in their ways. They learn from other inmates, and also become more angry and determined. GNJP tries to "catch them before the concrete sets" - while the offenders are open to change.

Volunteers also help GNJP by going into the jail one or more times per week, teaching classes, leading worship services, and helping with the Christian Library book cart. Some spend time visiting, mentoring, and even grading lessons.

Latta stated that 99% of the inmates are just like us if you subtract the guidance out of your own life. Church, education, and family life are the things that make us healthy productive citizens. Stan stated his background was one that could have set him up to be a criminal. He shared that by the grace of God his life changed.

After becoming a Christian, Chaplain Latta taught at Grace University for 10 years, was Director of Men's Recovery at Open Door Mission, and became a professional counselor. He then became a chaplain,

after having stated he would never work in a jail, but his heart changed as he became friends with other chaplains.

Stan shared heart-warming stories of his interactions and conversations with hard-core criminals, sharing the truth of the Gospel with them. His own human feelings may cause him to struggle when speaking to these criminals, but the Gospel doesn't change and is for all. That is what he shares. He stated that God hasn't called him to go evaluate or judge, but simply to take the Good News into the jail and trust Christ to make the difference.

GNJP is an evangelistic ministry behind the walls; it is not an aftercare agency. However, chaplains spend time discussing realistic plans with inmates for when they get out. Aftercare agencies are having an impact, but more help is needed.

From the web site, the goals of GNJP are to have an impact on incarceration rates, recidivism rates, families, and communities.

Next week's speaker will be Melanie Schuler, Spanish Teacher at Treynor Community School.

"An optimist understands that life can be a bumpy road, but at least it is leading somewhere. They learn from mistakes and failures and are not afraid to fail again." - Harvey MacKay

Meeting Minutes

Jordan Campbell, club Vice President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were 18 members and four guests, Stan Latta, Robert Engel, Stanley Engel, Henry Engel. Jordan Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the opening prayer.

Doug Dillivan won the 50/50 drawing. Marsha Underwood won the attendance drawing.

Robert Engel, Boy Scout Master and two sons, Stanley and Henry, were present to pick up their can kennel check and to help put up flags. They will use their funds to help with the costs of camp in Cody, WY

in June. Raised funds were also used for a troop trailer.



L-R: Boy Scouts Stanley, Henry, and their dad, Robert Engel, Scout Master.

A short business meeting was held today to allow time for the Optimists to put up flags after the meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR

I thought growing old would take longer!

Went to an antique show and people were bidding on me!

One minute you're young and fun. The next, you're turning down the car radio to see better!



Putting up flags in Treynor for Memorial Day: Optimists Chad Gutttau and Jerry Hempel

Calendar

June 7 Optimist Zone Meeting Potluck
Hoy Kilnowski, CB

Birthdays

June 16 Dale Willenborg
June 20 Jeff Jorgensen

Anniversaries

June 5 Steve and Debra Irvin
June 15 Steve and Jeannie Chambers
June 28 Mick and Judy Gutttau
June 29 Dave and Linda Danker

Programs

June Dale Willenborg & Judy Gutttau
July Kirk Vorthmann (first two)
Doug Dillivan (last two)

Speakers

June 5 Melanie Schuler –Spanish teacher
June 12 Gary Spooner, Experiences in
Romania
June 19 Lori McGoldrick
June 26 Aaron Terry, Ass't FB Coach IWCC

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575