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Mimi Neighbors

Tearing Down the Walls

**P. O. Box 24071
Chattanooga, TN 37422
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<http://lynministries.org>**



Our Mission: To encourage and assist women imprisoned by life choices of rebellious sin to be reconciled to God through Christ growing in God's Word by His Spirit into His living epistles.

"I needed a good whack up side the head" by Amy Reynolds



Frannie, Amy, Steph & Keele

"Love, love, love." (remember the old Beatles song?) "All together now, love, love, love." The word "love" sums up my experience at the Silverdale Correction Facility. Wow. Don't you just love when you have a pre-conceived notion about something and God sets you straight?! The Lord did a work in my heart that day. I'll tell you what I thought I was going to experience and then I'll expand on the "love" that I did experience.

I've never been inside a women's correctional facility, so my "notion" was based on other people's stories and the good ole media. (they always put their own spin on things, don't they?) I thought that what I

would encounter would be rude thug-like women with no respect for themselves or other people. I thought that I would be in a room with women who would want to beat me up or even spit on me, give me dirty looks and curse at me. You might ask, if that is what I thought I would encounter, why would I want to go? Well it's what I knew the Lord wanted me to do and I trust Him, so I thought He'd give me the strength to see it through.

I didn't need strength. I needed a good whack up side the head that made the scales from eyes fly off and poke a hole into my heart to let the love of Jesus flow through. I don't mean that I had a heart of stone. I do have a heart of love but I was selective on who received that love. This day was a culmination of what the Lord has been trying to teach me about His love for others. I look at people in the flesh but He wants me to look at people through the Spirit, through love. From the moment that the girls walked into the room they shared nothing but love. I saw their love for Mimi and Mimi's love for them. I saw the exchange of love

between Mandy and them. I saw their love for each other. And I experienced their love for me. For me? They didn't even know me and I'm telling you they had love for me! Most importantly, I saw their love for God. It was so genuine, so real. It was awesome!

With the scales removed, I surveyed their faces. I saw mothers and sisters and business women and wives. I saw children of God. I wonder what they did to get themselves in this place. But it doesn't matter because I realized at that moment that they only thing different between me and them was they got caught. And, in God's eyes the Redeemed all look the same; holy and blameless. He loves us all the same. I'm grateful for my time with these precious ladies because they helped God teach me a lesson on love. As the song ends "Love is all you need."

Amy is now pursuing her training in prison ministry in Memphis, TN. Please join us in prayer for her. "All for Jesus I surrender, all to Him I truly give."

"All For ONE and ONE For All" by Mimi Neighbors

LYN is devoted to the continual work of ministering to Jesus as we "minister to those in prison". Part of these "good works" is Come As You Are aftercare group for female re-entrants but it is just a small part of what re-entrants need. The work of aftercare begins where the bars disappear and a person is released to re-enter their community. Imagine walking out of prison walls to breathe the fresh air

and once again feel the sun on your face. You have great hope of family reconciliation and personal restoration. Then you realize your bags are overloaded with desperate needs for basic daily bread: housing, addiction treatment and a job. Suddenly "It takes a village to raise a child" translates to "It takes a community to transform a LIFE." In 2009 Love Your Neighbor became part of the Tennessee

Re-entry Collaborative in Hamilton County in unity with State, County and faith based community agencies. We are working together to assist re-entrants along their rocky path. Please pray the Church will join in openings its arms and doors to "the least of these". I was born on death row needing a full pardon for my sin to give me hope for new life, how about you?

Donations can be sent to: Love Your Neighbor Ministries P.O. Box 24071 Chattanooga, TN 37422

I Saw the Light...No More Darkness

by Kelley Daugherty



Mimi & Keele

I picked up my phone to find a voicemail “Hey Mimi, this is Keele. You were on my heart this morning so I am just going to use this telephone to pray for you.” Here is Keele’s story:

When you watch Keele Maynor minister at the weekly Come As You Are Bible aftercare group for ex-offenders, it’s hard to believe this woman of prayer and strength is actually awaiting sentencing herself.

Her journey into the “darkness” as she calls it began about six years ago when she succumbed to a deep depression and told her family, friends, and coworkers that she had cancer. As a single mother of three, Keele’s story of cancer sparked a rally of support from fellow employees and the community including gifts and additional leave from work. But when her story was publicly unveiled, it resulted in hurt, frustration, distrust and eventually, charges of theft and possibly years in prison. “I created a humongous lie... from that I got love, attention, and didn’t have to worry about people talking negatively about me or to me,” she said. “I thought it was giving me things that I needed and wanted from people... I realize now I didn’t have to have those things from people.”

The Lord is my Shepherd

In 2008, God opened Keele’s eyes.

“I had been visiting a church for a few months,” she said. “I went to church on Sunday and when I got home, I went into my walk-in closet to change clothes and literally fell to my knees because I was ready to let go.” Keele says she felt like the devil was “literally choking” her as she grappled with exposing her own lies and living in the truth she had been raised to believe. She called her aunt and the next day confessed to a Christian Counselor who was a friend in Christ. “When the light pierced through my darkness that week, the weight was lifted,” she said. “I was alive in spite of all the hurt and pain I had caused, was feeling, and had put upon everyone else.” That week Keele emailed her supervisor and revealed her lies. By that evening, the media picked up her story and her emails were broadcast. “What started as my personal awakening from the Lord turned into a public spotlight,” Keele said. “But I knew if I concealed even a little bit of the lie, I was still letting the enemy win. So I had to let it all out and face the consequences.”

I shall not want... You are with me

After losing her job in Chattanooga, Keele went to her mother’s home in Atlanta where she found two jobs and a church. Despite the crushing consequences of sin, she found God’s presence in these provisions. Then the full impact of her confession came down - Keele was arrested by the Fulton County Sheriff’s Department on February 19, 2009. Yet the Lord never left her. In fact, she fervently prayed for her cellmate who gave her a Bible before she was extradited and sent to the Silverdale Detention Center in Chattanooga.

Again, Keele saw God’s provision in the dorm where she lived within other inmates who participated in a Bible study taught by Mimi Neighbors and Mandy Coley of Love Your Neighbor Ministries. “That was

the only place I was safe to speak,” Keele said. “I wouldn’t talk to anybody outside of that and had been told not to because my case was so high profile.” The next week in class, Mimi announced a new study called “What the Bible Says About Sex.” Keele, who had separated from her husband, knew she was going to be confronted with her sin. “From the first lesson, I knew He was going to make me answer for some things and bring me to conviction,” she said. “I was trying to come out of the darkness and I knew in order to do that I was going to have to be stripped down to nothing.”

He leads me in paths of righteousness

God continued to open doors for her to receive pastoral visits, see her family, and remain in the Word. Following Keele’s release in May, she immediately began attending C.A.Y.A. “It was so important for me to stay accountable,” she said, “because I didn’t want any more of the darkness! Staying connected to the Body of Christ gives me life. I can breathe again.” Keele said C.A.Y.A. helped her realize she was another “sister in Christ that wanted to learn and love on Jesus.” “Everyone is welcome because it is come as you are, not who you were, but who you are striving to be in Christ,” she said. “Now I lead the Praise and Prayer time at C.A.Y.A. and I love to do it.”

Today, though Keele knows more consequences await her, she continues to actively proclaim freedom in Christ to formerly imprisoned women, lives with her husband and is reconciled with her children.

“Now I’m so happy no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.” - Hank Williams