

“And Jesus said unto them, ‘I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.’”

John 6:35

Since the days of the early church, Christians have regarded the period of Lent as a time for repentance and reflection. It is invariably marked by fasting by giving up something during Lent, and by taking on new study habits that will increase one’s devotion to Christ.

In our church, we are fortunate to have many opportunities for study and growth in Christ. In addition to our Sunday worship services, Sunday school classes, Monday lunch Bible study, Wednesday night Bible studies, Women’s circles and Bible studies, and other programs, there are individual activities that one can pursue which can be a real blessing.

One of these opportunities is the Crossroads Ministry to prisoners. Mary & I got involved in Crossroads over 3 years ago at the urging of Rev. Piersma. Being able to share our faith with inmates in letters has been a real blessing to us. Many times the prisoners feel they have been deserted by their friends and turn more to God for His love and forgiveness. Last week’s letter was a good example. An inmate wrote: “I can tell you, that coming to jail locks you out of the world. At first people will help and feel sorry, but over the months doubt sets in, and then separation happens, and you are left all alone, except for God. If I did not have Jesus in a place like this, there would be no one to protect me.” All of their stories are touching, humbling and make you admire them as they have grown in their faith under difficult circumstances. The Crossroads lessons are very well done and we have learned so much in reviewing their papers. Our message for Lent is that if you want to add a very worthwhile Christian endeavor, Crossroads is something that can make a difference in your life, while helping people that are in need of encouragement and God’s love.

Dear Father, We thank You for Your love and wonder at Your mighty acts. We pray that our efforts ministering to prisoners will be an encouragement to them to follow Your plan. We thank You for Your church and all the blessings that You have bestowed upon us. In Christ name we pray, Amen.

Pete and Mary Mitchell

(Submitted in 2009)

