



BRIDGE FOR PEACE

A Bridge of Healing to the Nations since 1988

August 2017
International Edition

August eNewsletter



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Love poured out in local women's correctional facility

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AN ONLY CHILD

"...the Father's Beloved"

Young women hunched over their plates, picked up chicken cutlets with their hands, and devoured them. I was dumbfounded as they eagerly chomped down the delicious food especially provided by the facility for the special day. Sitting at the table with them, I realized that we had been given plastic forks, but no knives. "Of course," I said to myself, "no one hands out knives in prison—not even plastic."

Two months earlier, Bridge for Peace had received an invitation to minister at the women's annual

retreat at the Riverhead Correctional Facility in New York. I felt honored by the Lord to be asked to care for the spiritual welfare of the female prisoners who would attend.

I asked ladies to serve on the B4P healing team and four jumped at the opportunity—Molly, Lorraine, Karen, and Tracey, who took time off from work that day. Each expressed feelings of being privileged to serve. We submitted paperwork for background checks and prayed for the women while waiting for the big day to arrive.

At last, we met early in the prison parking lot. We took this seriously. We didn't really know what to expect, but the team was lit up, buoyant with Holy Spirit joy. I shook my head in wonder as the women hauled the amplifier, keyboard, microphone system, etc. into the facility with an anointed exuberance, as though they had been invited to a presidential ball! My heart was bursting with pride to serve with them.

Tracey brought sunhats for us.

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“The power of God was released as they made themselves vulnerable before the inmates and the prison guards who secured the area. God has taught B4P that where there is hatred, bring love. Where there is judgement, bring acceptance. Both love and acceptance poured from the hearts of the B4P team.”

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Since I had forgotten mine, I was especially grateful. I knew the June sun could angle beneath the tent in the interior prison courtyard and burn us bright red. Checking in at the desk, the officer said hats couldn't go into the facility. We received keys to lockers and tossed the hats in with our other things.

“Can we take in our Bibles?” I asked.

“Yes, take whatever you need for the program, but no water bottles,” he said pointedly, looking at them in our hands. We gulped down some water and stowed the rest.

I had understood we couldn't wear any jewelry into the prison and had left mine in the car. Wall signs read “No jewelry.” The ladies were removing bracelets and earrings when the officer said, “You can keep your jewelry on.”

As a first timer, I felt confused. What was permitted? What needed to be locked up? Then I thought perhaps we came under staff guidelines, not the rules for visitors or inmates. I wondered about

women coming in as prisoners for the first time. How much confusion and fear had they felt?

As our ID tags were processed we waited by the bench seats, praying for the staff. The sergeant arrived, greeted us, and reviewed the procedures. He added, “If you lose an ID tag, you don't go home until we find it.” Understandable, an inmate could pin ID on and waltz out. Then he looked at me, “And I'm holding you responsible.”

“Agreed, Sergeant! I'm responsible!” I chirped. I rejoiced at taking responsibility for what I knew God would do through the B4P team that day!

I had ministered to inmates on prison grounds and to ex-prisoners many times, but I had never been *in* prison. How would I react to iron gates being locked behind me?

Our escort led us through secured areas. The grating sound of steel gates banging closed again and again was a non-event for me, but some on team found it unsettling. I wondered what it was like for those who entered against their will for an extended period. I thought of

the women I had invited on team who had refused, not yet ready for this particular ministry, fearful at the thought of entering prison.

The women filed in and I extended my hand in greeting saying, “Hello. Good morning.” A few shook my hand, most were taken aback, giving me an uncertain look. A few appeared actually stunned, their faces a total blank.

It was time to minister and the B4P team courageously shared personal stories, some that had never been spoken about in public. They witnessed with tears before a population that had a tough reputation. The power of God was released as they made themselves vulnerable before the inmates and the prison guards who secured the area. God has taught B4P that where there is hatred, bring love. Where there is judgement, bring acceptance. Both love and acceptance poured from the hearts of the B4P team.

I took the platform that afternoon for the last time and spoke about a sensitive issue. I knew many of these truly beautiful young women with creamy complexions and drug

Redesigned website to launch October 1st

To the right is a snapshot of part of the homepage. You can see beneath the photo four icons which navigate you to various portions of the site. Information on every aspect of B4P ministry can be accessed from these buttons.

Resources such as Foundation Courses and CDs can be purchased directly from the web-store. There will be videos, testimonials and more. All to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Bridge for Peace.



(Continued from page 2)

addictions had left their child or children behind when they entered prison. And so I told them Diane's story.

"Diane and her husband prayed for over ten years for children. Then Diane gave birth to twins! A girl and a boy, the lights of her life. When the children turned two years old, Diane learned her husband had a mistress. He'd housed her and provided for her every need.

When Diane discovered his duplicity, he demanded a divorce. Her precious children would be forced to live with her unfaithful husband and his mistress for several days each week. She couldn't bear the pain. How could she give her twins to a pair of self-centered liars? If her husband could not honor his commitment to her, how could she trust him with her totally dependent toddlers?

There was not a sound under the tent. No one moved.

"Many of you have the same situation. You fear for your children.

Some of you grew up in a household where no one cared. Ladies, we have a God Who understands.

"God the Father gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, into our hands. The Father willingly released Jesus to us, knowing exactly what we would do with Him. We rejected Jesus, we lied about Him, and we abused Him. We all did it to the Father's beloved child, His only Son. That's what we did when the Father trusted Jesus into our hands. The Bible says, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.'—John 3: 16

"And Jesus knows, as you do, what it is like to stand trial, to go to court. He went to trial in the middle of the night knowing justice would never be served. His record showed no prior convictions. Only good works, charity, compassion. But, there would be no leniency for Jesus, no plea bargaining.

"Ultimately, God's innocent Son was tortured and murdered. He

stood in our place and took the punishment for the crimes we committed, for our sins! Jesus forgave us. God the Father forgives us, if we sincerely feel sad for the wrong we have done and we ask Him to forgive us. Ask Him today. Ask Him to forgive you and to come into your heart and change your life. Jesus is and always will be our Bridge for Peace."

Many young women gave us their emails to stay in touch with B4P and receive good news online, since they would soon be released. If you are among those we ministered to under the tent, we pray you are going forward with Jesus. Remember, B4P is at the other end of your phone line, ready to pray for you.

OUR THANKS TO MARTHA AND THE RIVERHEAD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY STAFF FOR INVITING US TO MINISTER. GOD BLESS YOU. OUR THANKS TO ALL B4P CONTRIBUTORS. YOU ARE OUR PARTNERS IN BRINGING HEALING TO THE NATIONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

—Annette

Signs and Wonders at Samantha's

"You may sink...but you WON'T drown." Annette emphasized to the assembled at *Samantha's Li'l Bit of Heaven*. Jesus rescued many from deep waters as *Foundation for Healing* graduates prayed for the sick.

One man suffered from MS and had difficulty moving his legs. He'd have to sit on the car seat then use his hands to haul his legs in one at a time. Going up the stairs to his house was a chore that required him to hold the railing and lift his legs.

After receiving prayer he drove home. At some point he realized he

hadn't needed to manually swing his legs in. He stopped the car and got out and in, out and in three times with full cooperation from his legs!

When he arrived home he put his hands behind his back and easily ascended those stairs which challenged him in the past.

Many other miracles occurred that recent night, including a woman who suffered whiplash and had level 9 (out of 10) pain radiating down her arm. Prayer brought it down to a 2! Then, as she was testifying, the pain was completely gone! Praise God!



September

17-Oct 28 Australia Mission, see schedule on this page and please pray

November

30 Healing ministry at *Samantha's Li'l Bit of Heaven*. E Northport 7pm.

Annette's Blog

<http://annetteeckart.blogspot.com>



Facebook Pages

Bridge for Peace
Bridge for Peace: Uganda
Children's Villages

Website—Details on all events

<http://www.bridgeforpeace.org/>

TV times

Hauppauge, Riverhead, Woodbury:
Tues 7a.m. Ch.20
Additional times:
Hauppauge: Wed 9:30am, Thur 12:30am
Riverhead: Wed 9:30am, 4:30pm
Woodbury: Wed. 3pm

MNN (NYC) Monday @ 3:30pm

Contact Us: 631-730-3982

Email: bridgeforpeace@optonline.net

Bridge for Peace Australia Mission 2017

Ed & Annette Eckart's Mission Schedule

<p>Wollongong Saturday 30 September 10.00am-12.00pm Healing Service Coniston United Church 39 Bridge Street Coniston Contact: Jane 0417 458 460</p> <p>Temora Sunday 1 October, 7.00pm Foundations Night <i>This night is for anyone who has attended or completed either Foundation for Healing or Foundation for Freedom Courses.</i> <i>Join us for a night of further impartation from Ed & Annette.</i> Temora Rural Museum 29 Junee Road, Temora Contact: Renae 0477 543 824 <i>See separate flyer</i></p> <p>Temora Tuesday 3 October, 7.00pm Spiritual Secrets of Suicide <i>If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide or know someone who is, this night is for you.</i> Temora Rural Museum 29 Junee Road, Temora Contact: Renae 0477 543 824</p> <p>West Wyalong Saturday 7 October, 7.00pm Healing Service West Wyalong Community Church 17 Church Street, West Wyalong Contact: Geoff 0439 641 569</p>	<p>Concord Wednesday 11 October, 7.00pm Foundations Night <i>This night is for anyone who has attended or completed either Foundation for Healing or Foundation for Freedom Courses.</i> <i>Join us for a night of further impartation from Ed & Annette.</i> Concord Community Centre 1A Gipps Street Concord Contact: Sally 0411 756 232 <i>See separate flyer</i></p> <p>Newcastle Monday 16 October, 7.00pm Adore The Toohey Room 81 Hunter Street Newcastle West Contact: Pauline 0423 053 280</p> <p>Newcastle Tuesday 17 October, 10am-12.30pm Healing Service Life Church 1 Kingspa Close Caves Beach Contact: Gayle 0429 633 694 <i>Light lunch to follow</i></p>	<p>Engadine Thursday 19 October, 7.30pm Spiritual Secrets of Suicide <i>If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide or know someone who is, this night is for you.</i> Hosted by Holy Spirit Prayer Group Mazzarello Hall Barkola Avenue, Engadine (In front of St John Bosco School) Contact: Sarah 0438 600 288 <i>See separate flyer</i></p> <p>Parrish Saturday 21 October, 9.30am-12noon PRAISE CRUISE <i>Join Bridge for Peace for a morning of praise, worship, preaching and prayer as we cruise on the Nepean River</i> <i>After the cruise there will be a BBQ lunch on the banks of the Nepean.</i> <i>See event flyer for details</i></p> <p>Menzel Sunday 22 October, 9.30am Church & Healing Service Hope Community Church Cnr Old Bawarra Rd & Menzel Rd Menzel Contact: Cathie 0435 299 894</p>
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For more information
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For more information about BFP
www.bridgeforpeace.org

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