

Christian Science Committee for Institutional Work in the State of Washington

15 May 2019

Report from Washington Correctional Center – Shelton, Washington

The message from the State Institutional Committee regarding the *Light in Prison* website was shared with the men at WCC yesterday. We also read and studied 6 sections of the Bible Lesson. There were about a dozen men and the response was very inspiring.

Just after I got to the chapel to meet up with an offender who had requested a one-on-one visit, we had 5 minutes together and there was a “recall.” He had to leave and we were “locked down for 2 1/2 hours.

It was our new chaplain’s first day - a great introduction to life in prison. All staff had to report for face checks. Then we were “at a loose end.”

I used this time to talk with Malik, our new Chaplain. He has been an Air Force Chaplain. and is used to doing interfaith support. He’s very open to sharing ideas. We had a good conversation and I gave him *Science and Health*, which he was happy to receive and said he’d read. He’s looking forward to meeting our other volunteers and would also like to arrange a meeting of all faith group volunteers, which I think would be great.

Also locked down in the chapel with us was the sub superintendent of WCC and I had a good conversation with him, too. I mentioned our problem with Purdy and he was surprised. He also said the changes were coming on many of the topics I approached with him. So my time during the lockdown, far from being wasted, was highly productive. I’m so grateful.

Joy