

Institutional Committee for the State of Washington
Clallam Bay Correctional Center Report
Susan Anderson - February 10, 2020

Psalms 89:14

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before they face.”

Eccl. 5:8 “If thou seest the oppression of the poor and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

Science and Health pg 379:6

“The real jurisdiction of the world is in Mind, controlling every effect, and recognizing all causation as vested in divine Mind.”

In reading over my notes from every monthly meeting with men at Clallam Bay for 5 years, the theme I see is the willingness of the men to share good and progress and ask thoughtful questions. We have had 1 to 6 men attend our Bible Lesson study. We have heard of healings, renewed family relationships, help given to and diffusing difficult relationships with fellow inmates. Regular attendees have invited other men to join the group by. Some have continued, some not. Nevertheless, Science and Health in English and Spanish and other Christian Science resource books have been shared. We continue to take from 30 – 50 Monitors gathered from Port Townsend, Sequim and our church each month. The Chaplain gets 10 subscriptions supplied by the State Committee. And I play hymns on my ukulele.

I continue to pray 10 minutes a day to support the work and the prison. One occasion that makes the above quote from Ecclesiastes particularly relevant happened last month. One man was given a resentencing hearing which I attended at the Court House in Seattle. Another volunteer worker, a practitioner, also came to support this man. It certainly appeared that there was a “perverting of judgment and justice” and I was very tempted to “marvel..at the matter”. The total lack of forgiveness seemed so wrong. I prayed to calm my thought and know that true justice could not be perverted. The man involved is not angry but working on an appeal. So I continue to pray to see divine justice in operation.

Over this period of time, including the year before 5 of us became official volunteers, we have sponsored 7 Lectures: 2 by Josh Niles, Jose Matta, Tom McElroy, Brian Kissock, and Phillip Hockley. The Port Townsend Church sponsored Heloisa Rivas.

I have gotten to know staff - the Chaplain, who is very supportive, the volunteer coordinator and several guards. Our interactions are always friendly and positive.

As of the State Institutional Committee annual meeting last October. I am serving as the chair of that Committee. I attend the King/Snohomish County Area Committee quarterly meetings. I have had a joint meeting with 2 of their members and 2 of our Board to discuss better communication and coordinating our work. This is ongoing.

I appreciate this prison work greatly. It is church in action for me. And I am especially grateful for the support from Jo Yount, from Port Townsend, who is my partner in this work.