



Order of Malta Federal Association

Prison is not such a bad place if you get to decide when to enter, and when to leave. I go on Tuesdays.

Tuesday nights are *Prayer and Share*. They are run by the Men in White, but to conduct a session, they need at least one volunteer from the outside in attendance. The group (maybe 60 men) joins for a communal prayer, before breaking into small groups of 5 or 6 men. We start and finish with a prayer and song.

The groups have a set of questions:

1. Can you share any moment when you have known that Christ's presence was with you?
2. Have you discovered anything, anywhere (reading, a message, songs, a study) which will help you be a better follower of Jesus?
3. Has there been a time when, through some word or action, you tried to help someone recognize God's love for them?
4. Has there been a time where it has been difficult to show Christ's love for another person?
5. Are there things you are thankful for (situations or struggles) that we can pray about together?

Each man is expected to participate, except those of us from the outside. This is not about us. They are members of a Christian community inside the walls, and they strive to build that community. They are building their church with great energy and enthusiasm.

Even though the volunteers are not members of the small groups, our presence to these men is significant. They are clearly bewildered by why we show up on Tuesdays to be with them. For many, their family and friends rarely, if ever, visit them. Yet, we show up on Tuesdays with hugs, good cheer, laughter, and fellowship. We join them in prayer and song.

It makes them want to know more about the love of Christ.

Most of us would judge these men harshly. Many of us would be skeptical of their conversion. Yet, all of us could learn from their example of building a faith community.

Please pray for them.