

“Letter From M.O.M.”

Quarterly newsletter of **Moving On Ministry**

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com (Since April 2001)

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 104 – Apr. May /June 2019 (Published since Oct. 2003)

“I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we are continuing with more of the testimonies of “How God Changes Lives” as well as some more of our own written articles. We can truly say that the “high” that many of our inmates have been trying to get through the wrong methods, is being surpassed by those putting God in **ownership** of their lives.

Watch our website
www.MovingOnMinistry.com

We are also affiliated with International Prison Fellowship
www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Fellowship

With the crashing of the computer, we are building a new mail list. We got behind on letter replies, and may occasionally miss one. Please write back if we do not answer, and write clearly so we can get the mailing information correct.

Intentions & Wishes

The intentions of this newsletter are to allow an understanding of jail & prison ministries. It is our intentions to get input from those incarcerated as well as those “free” to visit. Life experiences of the faith and fellowship from those locked up in the facilities are always desired to let others know of the value of “visitation”. I am certain that each of us have many stories of the miracles God has done in our lives.

Our wishes are that we would have a list of supportive churches and programs that individuals might look forward to attending, once released.

A list of services, such as housing, employment and counseling services, as well as some individuals available for friendly fellowship are also much needed items (Resource List).

God’s Word says if a man stumbles, how can he continue lest there be another to help him up. **Ecc. 4:10** “For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him [that is] alone when he falleth; for [he hath] not another to help him up.” **Proverbs 24:17** “Rejoice not when thy enemy falleth, and let not thy heart be glad when he stumbleth.” John **11:10** “But if a man walketh in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.”

Please help us with input for this newsletter as we strive to serve God. We appreciate any articles or input.

Missing M.O.M. ?

We must constantly remind individuals that we need to be notified of changes of address or facilities. If we get returned mail (about 20 each month), we remove that individual from the files. If you have, or you are going to be moved, please drop us a note to keep your file active. We get mail returned for bad ID #'s, no cell #, and no bed #. Make sure that your return address is inside the envelope as well as on the envelope – we get many damaged envelopes that are unreadable.

Letters that Express it All

We like to post real life situations, because God works in real lives and He is the one that gives “Eternal Life.”

For those of you that communicate with individuals that have computer access, we have added quite a bit to our web site. The “**Resource List**” (56 pages), ALL past newsletters (“**Letter From M.O.M.**”), inmate lookup links, and artwork are available to be viewed or you may download.

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

I would like to add that we have shared many wonderful testimonies. Many individuals are afraid to share their testimony because they are not sure what to write or feel inadequate in their writing ability. God’s Word says in **Jeremiah 17:9** that “**the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**”

Sharing Your Testimony

There are 4 parts to an individual’s testimony;

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus.
2. How I realized I needed Jesus.
3. How I committed my life to Jesus.
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life.

The importance is not what you have done, but what God is doing.

1. Your testimony Your life lessons
2. Your godly passions
3. The Good News

PLEASE Pray that the churches, friends and relatives of inmates would become supporters of this Jail/Prison ministry.

We have downsized the mailing list according to those responding with profile sheet updates

We have dropped to getting 60 to 100 letters/requests per month. Let those on the outside know of how much good M.O.M. does for inmates.

A New View of Life

I came to know God in a whole different aspect of life. God came to me in a dream with my dead dad at His side and said: " If you do not choose to change, your life will surely end shortly. Take leap son and come with Me." This is how I came to know God.

He called me to come to Him and I did. My life before I met Jesus was chaotic, violent and aggressive. I was like a ticking time bomb that one false word could set me off.

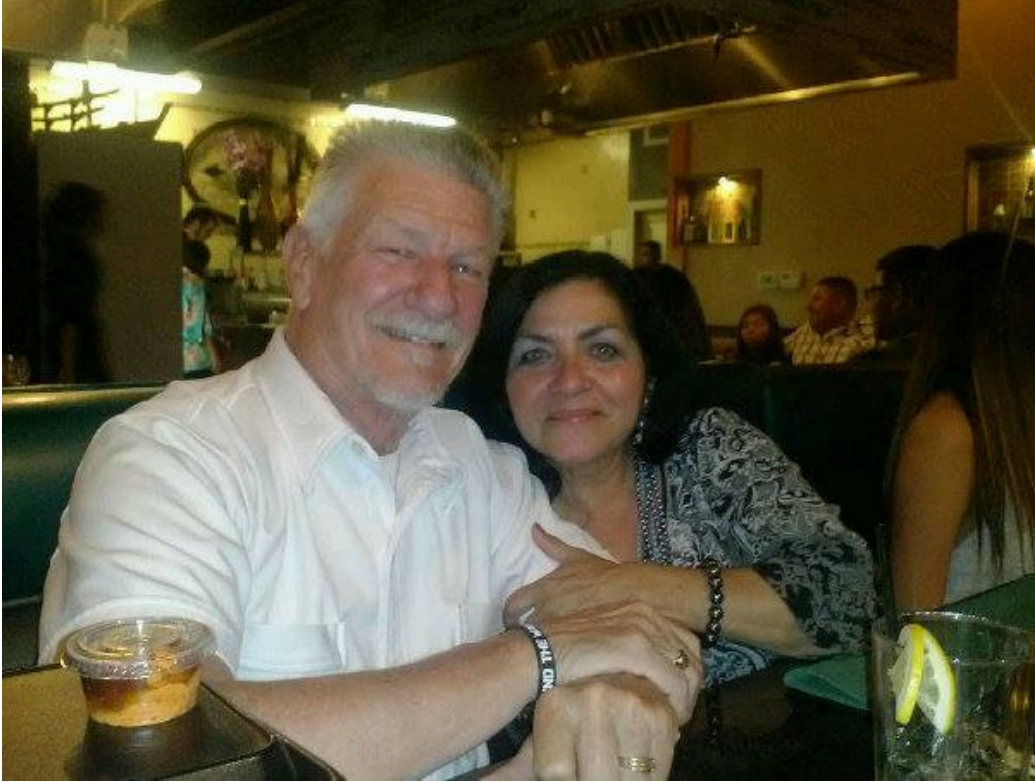
How I realized I need Christ was when I really started to look back on my sins.☹ I committed my life to Jesus right after I really saw what wrong my sins caused others and how much I hurt them.

The difference Jesus has made in my life is a tremendous gift. He gave me a reason to show my inner peace when one is with Jesus. He gave His Life for my sin and I am grateful, happy and loved to have such an all-powerful loving Heavenly Father.

God is Great all the time. AMEN. ☺

P.S. God has done so much in me that it's like a beautiful flower "re-sprouting and taking over all bad roots and growing new ones".

Sincerely, Joseph Dean Grierson 2019



Some of the beautiful times together

For the time I've spent in my cell
It made me believe it's almost like hell.
The consequences I've seen were very high
But the crime I did just wasn't a lie.
His daily work I do in confinement yet
He still sets the rules and gives me assignments.

By Morrie Jay James
Nov. 2018

p.s. from Linda: Morrie, keep up the "God" Work :)

Many are familiar with the 56 page “**Resources From M.O.M.**” that has approximately 650 listings in various categories (downloadable online). We can mail with donated 6” X 9” S.A.S.E, and \$.92 postage and \$1.96 copy fee.

.....
For individuals being released to one of California’s 58 counties, there are internet listings of services and programs available. **Have a loved one print them out.**

<https://www.calpia.ca.gov/offender-development/resource-guide-directory/?CALPIAProviderMgaction=IEPProviders%3AProviders.list>

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Community_Partnerships/Resource_Directory.aspx

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Community_Partnerships/SearchByCounty.aspx?ct=?????

The areas of Service listings are as follows;

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Adult Services | Homeless Services |
| AIDS/HIV Services | Housing Services |
| CDCR Contracted Services | Legal Services |
| Child Care Services | Mental Health Services |
| Child Support Services | Mentoring Services |
| Clothing Services | Native American Services |
| Counselling Services | Physical Health Services |
| Disability Services | Police / Sheriff / Parole |
| Documentation & Identification | Referral Services |
| Domestic Violence Services | Religious Services |
| Education Services | Substance Abuse Treatment |
| Emergency Services | Tattoo Removal |
| Family Services | Transportation Services |
| Financial Services | Veterans Services |
| Food Services | Vocational Services |
| Gender Specific – Female | Volunteer Services |
| Gender Specific – Male | |

Copies at \$.07 per page and send S.A.S.E. (# 10 envelope for up to 30 pages, 6 X 9 for up to 50 pages / 9 X 12 for printouts above 50 pages) Flat Rate Envelopes (12-1/2" x 9-1/2" or smaller): \$5.75, Small Flat Rate Box: \$5.95, Medium Flat Rate Boxes: \$12.65

Postage (up to # pages)

Addresses to contact the Ministry Volunteers

Keep Believing Ministries
P.O. Box 257
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Marlene Henderson
P.O. Box 1315
Westville, OK 74965-1315

Otto & Jennie Ball
c/o Crossroads Ministry
P.O. Box 363
Hyde, PA 16843

LaVoz de La Esperanza
101 W. Cochran St.
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Set Free Prison Ministries
Bible Correspondence Course
P.O. Box 5540
Riverside, CA. 92517-9986

Ministero de Prison
P.O. Box 543
Live Oak, FL 32064

Jesus People Info. Center
4338 Third Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817

Crossroad Bible Institute
P.O. Box 900
Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900

Calvary Chapel Prison Ministry
Attn: Carmine Aleprete
P.O. Box 1965
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Little Lambs, Inc
John & Eileen Sala
P.O. Box 32
Sebring, FL 33871-0032

The Felony Foundation (TFF)
P.O. Box 190806
Dallas, TX 75212-0806
(Pen-pals)

El Concilio Del Condado
301 So. C St.
Oxnard, CA 93030

Iglesia Puerta de Salvacion
202 Lafayette Ave.
Lindsay, CA 93247

World Challenge
P.O. Box 8930
Pueblo, CO 81008-8930

International Prison Ministry
Bible, Dictionary, Concordance
P.O. Box 1088
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1088

Ministry vs. Job (Continued)

Continuing with what determines if you have a ministry? What determines if you have a job? What do each of them provide?

Previously we mentioned to see if it is a ministry or a job, stop the money and see if the individual stops. The results are more like that of a job than a ministry. Now, we do believe a man / (woman) of God is worthy of their hire or keep. However, some of the best messages we have heard were preached by inmates that were doing LWOP and spent their “free” time

Another test is to see what the individual puts down on a resume or application for “employment.” Is it some of the following? Youth minister, pastor, chaplain,

In our previous example of an outreach ministry that had 4 ‘employees’ and a \$200,000 overhead just for payroll, we noted that the organization started out with an additional debt for payroll, above and beyond the expense costs of travel, meals, motels, event registration, mail follow-up, Bibles, possibly building expense and utilities, and the list just goes on,

The “Church” has a purpose to train and disciple its people to go out and present the Gospel bringing its contacts to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I have a hard time justifying charging for something that our Lord offers for free. I know my pay grade is way below that of Jesus. “Freely you have received, freely also give.”

[Matthew 10:8](#)

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely** ye have **received**, **freely** give.

[1 Corinthians 2:12](#)

Now we have **received**, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are **freely** given to us of God.

"WHEN"

**When are you coming back, Dear Lord?
You've been away so long!
I search the skies more often now?
These signs cannot be wrong.
Your children seem more restless Lord,
than they have ever been.
There seems to be more urgency
to bring the lost ones in.
I've such a hungry longing
for something I can't explain.
Like wanting to be home again,
so much, it's almost pain.
I hunger and I thirst, Dear Lord,
I long to see Your Face.
I'm homesick for my final home.
My Eternal Resting Place.
When are you coming back again?
This is my prayer, my song:
COME QUICKLY! LORD JESUS, COME,
YOU'VE BEEN AWAY SO LONG.**

From John Fordley 2019

When I receive letters, you all ask me about my pen pal service. Well, I'm the only one in my ministry who writes to men and women inmates, so if you want to write to me – I will write back. I love meeting new people to share what God has done for me. I'm not someone who brings others together – that's God's department, not mine.
Thank you and God bless you,
Marlene H

Postage 101-C

1. This is the 3rd time of modifying and printing the changing rates of postage. First as a reminder, 5 sheets of letter (8 ½ X 11) paper with the envelope equals 1 ounce. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has announced new postage rates for 2019, The First Class Mail letter (1 oz.) rate for postage purchased at the Post Office is increasing by five cents to \$0.55 from \$0.50. Each additional ounce for a First Class Mail letter will cost an extra \$0.15 (a decrease from \$0.21 in 2018) for 2nd or 3rd oz. First Class Mail Flats/Large Envelope rates are an additional \$.55 increasing in 2019, at **\$1.10 (1 oz.), with additional ounces costing \$0.15**. Avoid placing two Forever Stamps on a mail piece for heavier mail. Additional ounces are much cheaper costing only \$0.15 per additional ounce up to 3 oz., and each ½ oz thereafter,. If you add two Forever Stamps to a 2 ounce letter, you would be paying \$1.10 for an item that should only cost \$0.70.

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1.0 – 2.0 oz. - z-	-	-	-	-	-	\$.55 + .15 = \$.70
2.0 – 3.0 oz. - z-	-	-	-	-	-	\$.55 + .30 = \$.85
3.0 – 3.5 oz. - z-	-	-	-	-	-	\$.55 + .45 = \$1.00
3.5 – 4.0 ox. - z-	-	-	-	-	-	\$.55 + .60 = \$1.15

NOTE: If envelope is over ¼” thick or larger than 6” X 9” you will have to add an additional \$.55 postage.

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	<u>C</u> hrist’s	<u>Y</u> ou
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<u>H</u>		<u>B</u> asic
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	<u>U</u> <u>R</u> in the middle	<u>B</u> efore
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<u>H</u>	<u>Y</u> ourself	



I just have to let you all know why I went on this adventurous Skydive :) ☺ ☺ One day my husband, Chaplain Bob, who has done 97 skydive jumps himself, asked me if I wanted to go with him to Lodi so he could go jump again ☺ I just told him probably not, go ahead and go.

Okay, well before I go on Years

and years ago I asked my daughter and my son Christopher if they would like to go skydive for their birthdays. Okay, well my daughter Marlena went and had a great jump...so happy....and my son could not go as he had to work instead ☹ okay maybe later he could go. So time went by.... My son was killed in an auto accident. ☹ ☹ Okay, the only way I am able to live now is that God showed me to live in a way that would give HIM glory and I was able to go on living and not feel depressed/sad but with HOPE and knowing God was in control and not Linda. PRAISE THE LORD.

....okay back to the beginning... Well, that night... I had a dream. I woke up at 4am from a very real dream that I was: 1. In car going to Lodi, 2. Paying for Skydive Jump, 3. Watching skydive training video, 4. Putting on skydive safety harness, 5. Going in tram to plane, 6. Boarding plane, 7. Looking down from plane window at the land/earth from on high, 8. Jumping out.....WHAT!!!!?????? I woke with a startle as at that immediate moment I knew I was going to jump for Christopher. WOW....I knew in a second!! Okay Let's do this....I am going for my son. Well, I wake up Bob and ask him if he is going...not sure...okay but I want to go jump....OKAY...here we go. Well***** exactly as my dream: : 1. In car going to Lodi, 2. Paying for Skydive Jump, 3. Watching skydive training video, 4. Putting on skydive safety harness, 5. Going in tram to plane, 6. Boarding plane, 7. Looking down from plane window at the land/earth from on high, 8. Jumping out, 9. I DID IT AND WAS NOT SCARED. The LORD showed me that HE INDEED IS IN CONTROL. I laughed all the way down. I jumped for Christopher! YEAHHH.... Don't ever let the enemy put any negative things in your head about anything. If I can do it...you can too and for sure, LET THE LORD BE IN CONTROL NOT YOU. AMEN. God Bless, Linda

**ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME
BY FRANK S RODRIGUEZ**

I have been meaning to write you both sooner. The place they have me has been consuming my time. They have me in the computer class learning how to operate it. I'm happy to say that I'm already recognized by Microsoft due to the fact that I already "PASSED!" one of their tests. I have three more tests and then I'm done. ☺ ☺ ☺

In case you're wondering if I believe God had a play in this..... the answer is "YES!" I don't think that I could have done it alone. Before God came into my life, I was a failure. Moving on again this letter is to thank you for all the newsletters and cards that you've been sending me. In closing: May God continually work in your lives as HE has in mine.

In the Name of His Son Jesus Christ, AMEN, AMEN.

Signed: "PANCHO"

(as I type this I am praying for more adventures in Pancho's life☺)

Hi Brothers and Sisters,

Jan 22, 2019

My name is Brother Joe and it's been some time now in life. My last testimony I wrote was in volume 64 (January-February 2011 newsletter) of M.O.M.

I am still on the good path with our Lord Jesus Christ.....andEven though I am still living this prison life, I am free inside. I have peace and joy in my heart. It has been a long journey in my life coming from a young age at 15 being a gang member. Then at age 16 I started to use heroin and in and out of jails and prisons. :(I have been through so much in my lifetime, lost in the darkness of sin, but, that's all behind me. I have accepted our Lord Jesus Christ in 1999.

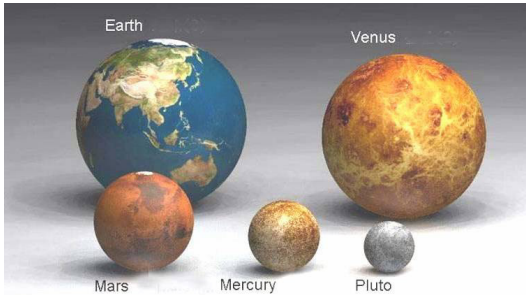
Keeping on the good pathwhich.....it's not easy at times having to live in these prisons with all of the ups and downs and the sadness of being away from family and good friends, but, I stay strong because I stay on the path with our Lord Jesus Christ. I know in my heart that one day soon the blessings I have been praying for will come to be. I am a new man, a man of God, and I will be walking out of these prisons one day soon. So Brothers and Sisters I encourage you all to stay on the good path with our Lord Jesus Christ. Don't look back, don't look side to side, look straight ahead and walk strong with our Lord Jesus Christ. God hears our prayers and knows our hearts! Our blessings will be in Jesus Christ. AMEN

Love Brother,
Joey

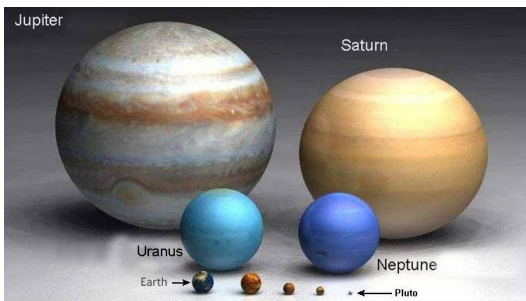
Significance

I would like to do a short article on “Significance.” I would like to look at “man’s” significance, when looking through Man’s eyes, and when looking through God’s eyes.

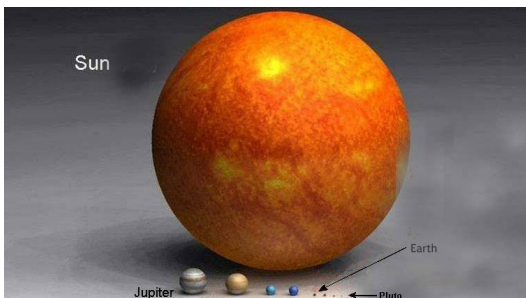
As we look at man, he is one of about 7 billion of his species on this planet, known as 3rd ball from the Sun, we call Earth.



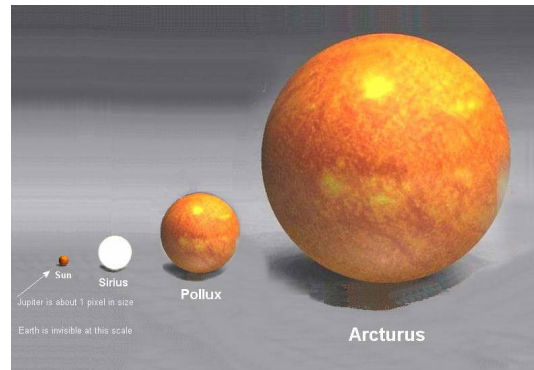
Earth is one of 9 planets (actually 8 now since Pluto has lost its status as a planet) that is larger than the other 4. The Earth is 6.55 times the diameter of Pluto



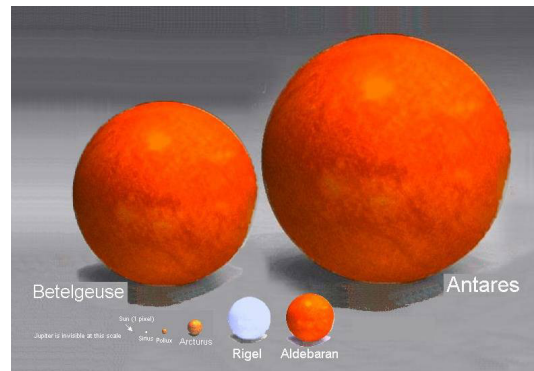
Earth is dwarfed in size, when we compare Earth to the other 4 planets, Jupiter being the largest at 11 times the Earth’s diameter.



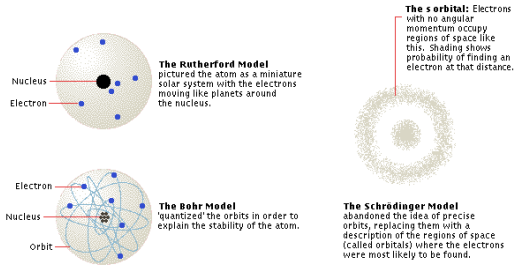
As we compare the size of the 9 planets to our own Sun, we see that even Jupiter is dwarfed in size by our own Sun, which has a diameter of 9.68 times that of Jupiter..



As we reach out further into space (known as the heavens), we find super stars of other galaxies. In the comparison of our Sun to Arcturus, our own sun is a mere glimmer in the presence of Arcturus, which has a solar radius of 15.9.



And yet the significance continues. Comparing Arcturus to Antares, again makes Arcturus barely noticeable. Antares has a solar radius of 700 (700 times that of our own sun). Epsilon Aurigae is said to be 2800 times the size of our sun.



How as we look the other direction of Order and examine the atom, there seems to be the unlimited range displayed. The atom is said to have a diameter of .1 to .5 nm (10^{-8} mm). The nucleus of the atom has a diameter of 10^{-12} mm. The classical radius of a free proton or neutron is taken to be about 1×10^{-15} . The radius of the free electron that orbits about the nucleus is said to be 3×10^{-15} m. The size of atomic and sub-atomic particles loses its meaning because these "particles" behave as though they are waves, or wave packets. So, "size" becomes kind of "squishy." We would think this was the end of the structure, yet scientists discovered the "quark." I do not know that anyone really thinks of quarks and other sub-atomic particles as having a particular "size," in fact their masses are usually given in energy units of c^2 from Einstein's Theory of Relativity which states $E = mc^2$.

As we look at the lower end of the spectrum of particles such as the quarks, that are infinitesimally small and make up the other sub-atomic particles, to the opposite end of the spectrum to the giant and mega stars that are as large as solar systems, we ask how significant am I God?

Gods Word states the following;

Psalms 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 115:12 The Lord hath been mindful of us: he will bless [us]; . . .

Matthew 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Realizing that God is mindful of us in this vast universe. from the sub-atomic particles such as the quarks, to the mega stellar bodies such as Epsilon Aurigae, we realize that man is significant to God. Knowing he has every detail on us (down to the number of hairs on our head) shows his attention to detail on us. And when we read of his greatest gift to us, we know of our significance because of his love displayed;

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

I Love Ruthie

By Phil A. Smouse

It can't be true! I can't go on!
Oh, everything we had is gone!
Naomi wept. Poor Ruthie cried.
Naomi's precious sons had died!

And oh, one precious, priceless son,
Naomi's son, that very one,
Was Ruthie's *husband!* Lord above!
Her one-and-only one true love!

Now, sometimes when it rains it pours,
And this time it would pour for sure!

For evil people ruled the land
As evil people sometimes can
And sometimes will and sometimes do,
When you and I allow them to!

From here to there, from there to here,
The food began to disappear!
It filled the people full of fear –
Yes, full of fear from ear to ear!

“Orpah! Ruth!” Naomi cried.
“The time has come. We must decide.
We have to leave. We cannot stay.
We cannot stay, not now no way!

From north to south, from west to east,
The men are gone. Extinct, Deceased!
Without a man,” Naomi said,
**“WE'RE ALL ABOUT AS GOOD AS
DEAD!”**

Now be cool,
some things were different then,
so don't get too upset,
amen?

“Just look at me! I'm old and wrinkled,
Sagged and bagged and crook'd and
crinkled,
Crumpled, puckered, nooked and
crannied,
Rip-Van-Winkled, gray and grannied!

Oh, there's just no hope in sight
To find another Mister Right,
Or even just a Daffy Duck,
An Elmer Fudd, or Mister Yuck!

The time has come! The time is now.
The time has come right now and how!
You must return, you *must*, I say,
Return back home, right now, today!”

Naomi prayed that they would bite
And Orpah knew that she was right.
She packed her bags without a fight
And left for home that very night.

But oh, not Ruth.
Not her. No way!
She had a thing
Or two to say . . .

“I can't return. I want to stay.
I will NOT go 'right now, today!”

“For where you are is where I'll be.
And when you stay, you'll stay with me.
And when you die, I'll die with you.
And THAT is what I'm going to do!

Your God will by MY God and He
Will surely care for you and me!"
Oh, what a thing for Ruth to say.
That kind of thing can make your day,
And make you shout "hip-hip hooray!"

They hugged and kissed, then packed up
tight
And left for Bethlehem that night.

"Naomi! Is it true?
What happened, girl? Just look at you!

Your hair! Your clothes! Your shoes!
Your toes!
Your eyes, your ears, your mouth, your
nose!
You're looking pale. You're looking
thin.
In fact, if we may say akin
to something that the cat dragged in!"

(Well, things looked bad, the way things
can,
But listen now, God had a plan . . .)

"Oh Naomi, please don't cry.
Oh please don't cry. I'll tell you why!

I'll find a farm. I'll be real nice.
I'll ask them once or maybe twice
To take our jugs and jars and snacks
And fill them of treats and snacks.

Yes, crumbs and morsels, flakes and
flecks,
Leftover kernels, crumbs and specks.
A black banana! Bagels! Lox!
Some cheese stuck to a pizza box!

I'll beg and plead. I'll sob and bleat!
I'll ask them for a tasty treat –
An itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny
Tiny scrap for us to eat!"

So off she went. She did her thing.
She did it never noticing
That someone had been fastening
His bulging eyes on everything!

"Who IS that girl out in my field
And what's she doing?" Boaz squealed.
Look AT that hair. Look AT those eyes!
Excuse me just one minute, guys,
I've got to go and socialize!

(No, Boaz wasn't one to miss
an opportunity like this!)

He shaved his toes. He licked his lips.
He checked his teeth for cracks and
chips.
He combed the bugs out of his hair,
Yes, Don Juan double-debonair
With savoir-faire extraordinaire!

(Now, don't be quick to judge, amen?
Well, don't think what you're thinking
then!
For Boaz was a gentleman.)

Please stay with us. Take what you
need.
Take what you need and more, indeed!"

He loaded up all Ruthie's sacks
And jugs and jars with treats and snacks.
Yes, it WAS true love at first sight –
A double thumping-heart delight!

She headed home. Oh, what she'd
found!
Her world was turning upside-down.
She ran the whole way back to town
And ten feet above the ground.

"I'm telling you, tonight's the night,"
Naomi grinned, "and if I'm right,
There's only one thing left to do
To get that man to say I DO!

(So do they did. Oh, DID they do . . .)
They fluffed and puffed. They crimped
and curled.
They powdered, sweet-perfumed, and
pearled!
They thanked the Lord. They sang His
praise!
They marveled at His wondrous ways!

And off she went into the night
To have and hold her Mister Right –
Her Mister Shining-Armored Knight –
Her straight from heaven-sent delight!

Now, as I'm sure that you supposed
Boaz said "YES!" when Ruth proposed!
Yes, *RUTH* proposed. That's what I
said.
Just look it up, go right ahead.

They tied the knot and lived to be
Quite happy ever-after-ly.
And soon God blessed them with a son,
a precious, little baby one!

But wait! This story's far from done.
Because their son, he was the one
who had a son, who had a kid
known as King David. Yes, he did!

And David was the Great, Great, Great,
Great, Great (times three, times one plus
eight)
Great Grand-dad of a man whose wife
You've probably heard of all your life.

A man whose son, to be precise,
Was Jesus. No?! YES! *Jesus Christ!*

Just take a second, think it through
Oh, what God will go and do!
The kindest that you'll ever find,
The kindest that you'll ever see,
That's something else, don't you agree!?

CONQUERING COMPROMISE Daniel 1:1-21

I had read an article written by Lane Palmer. The following message is an extension of that article and one I shared at Corcoran State Prison in California on Sunday, July 23, 2006, during four chapel services the wife and I conducted.

Many of you have heard my wife, Linda, give her testimony. Some of you may have read a part of it in **volume 15** or **volume 32** of **Letter From M.O.M.** Linda talked about compromise and the consequences. She lost her 19 year old son to drunk driving - consequences. But yet she

perseveres through the hard times just like the good times.

Those that have heard, or read, my testimony, know that I was living what I considered a "safe" life, but I would have been headed to hell – consequences. I ended up in some ungodly situations with women I had met – consequences. I did not make as strong of spiritual stand with my family as I should have – consequences. I gave into lust – consequences. Then as I let Christ take over more of my life (even today I am still doing the letting go and letting Christ) I saw the better results

in my life, my children's life, and grand-children's life – consequences. (See the article titled **"My Heart, Christ's Home"** in **this volume 12** of **Letter From M.O.M.**)

My youngest brother was found dead with two fresh tracks from heroin – consequences.

Intro: In the early part of this century, an American ship was wrecked off the Sicily Isles near the coast of England. The sea had been calm and the weather clear, but the vessel was caught in a treacherous current that slowly lured it off its course. Before the captain and the crew realized what had happened, the ship had crashed into the rocks.

In life, too, powerful currents of compromise can catch the soul and carry it to shipwreck. Spiritual drifting is usually a slow and imperceptible process. We know it has occurred when we have lost the strong resistance to evil and the passionate desire for truth that we once knew.

Compromise is defined as

- 1.** a settlement of differences by mutual concessions; an agreement reached by adjustment of conflicting or opposing claims, principles, etc., by reciprocal modification of demands.
- 2.** the result of such a settlement.
- 3.** something intermediate between different things

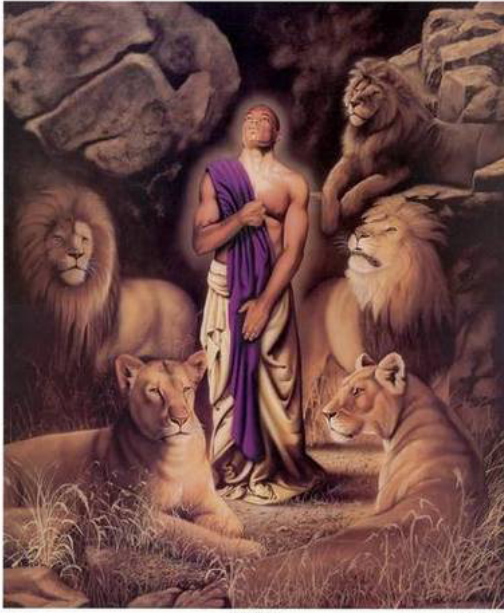
Often, life is filled with compromises. We are given a choice as to how we

will live our lives and what path we are going to follow through life. When we come to these times of decision, it is imperative that we make godly choices. Because the choices we make at the cross roads of life will determine our usefulness to God and our effectiveness in His kingdom work. We look at the effectiveness of the fruit in our life through our children, our friends, etc. Who do we hook up with?



Three Men Invited to a Bar-B-Q

Our text today is about four men who came to a time of decision in their lives. They could either compromise and go with the flow, or they could stand their ground and live for the Lord. The circumstances they faced and the decisions they made set the course for the rest of their lives. Since this incident occurred, the names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego have stood tall as the names of great heroes of the faith. These three men were not only invited to the "Bar-B-Q" but were to be the Bar-B-Q (which was cranked up 7 times as hot). As the story went, they could not get them cooked above "rare."



A Man and His Cats

And, what of Daniel? Who would have ever have heard of Daniel if he had compromised at this early stage of life? His name would be unknown to modern man, and we would never have received this wonderful book. With that in mind, it is good to be able to say that these young men stood their test and as a result, we are all blessed this day. We want to realize that we are remembered for only two things, our accomplishments, and our failures.

As you and I go through life, there will always be times where we are going to have to make decisions to do the right thing. When these times come, and they most certainly will, we will either decide to go with God despite the cost. Or, we will choose to compromise. The truths contained in this passage will help us as we face the serious crossroads of life. Today, I would like to speak for a little while on this thought, Conquering Compromise. My prayer

is that we can glean the strength that we need to always make our stand for the Lord.

I.. V. 1-7 **THE PROBLEMS AT HAND**

A. These Hebrew boys faced several problems. Each of these had the potential to derail them and lead them off on a spiritual tangent. However, the problems they faced, were not that different from those we face daily in our world.

See how the following four items compare to prison or military life.

1. V. 1-2 A New Home - These boys had been brought up in and around Jerusalem. There they were constantly reminded of their God and of His importance to life. The Temple with its sacrifices was there. The priests and the scribes were there teaching. The prophets were preaching the message of Jehovah. Now, they are slaves and have been hauled off the Babylon. Here, they are surrounded by heathen worship, heathen images and heathen people. It would be easy to conform just to fit in (for the Christian, the danger is just as real). It is easy to be spiritual in church. It is easy to be Godly around Godly people. However, when we separate from the Godly influences around us (how many spend lots of time with ungodly friends/relatives), we are placing ourselves in a dangerous position. We are opening up our lives to the possibility of compromise. Therefore, it is important that we are consistent in our church attendance, Heb. 10:25. It is essential that we

surround ourselves with God's people, 1 Cor. 15:33 It is easy to compromise and conform with the world when we are away from the influence of Godliness. Let us examine the music we listen to, the television we watch, the people we have over, and the things we display in the home.

2. V. 3-4 New Knowledge - These young men were taught a new language and new ways of looking at life. All their lives, they had been exposed to Jewish wisdom. Now, they are being taught the wisdom of Babylon. They are being exposed to things they have never been exposed to before. It is becoming a dangerous time for them. There is much pressure being exerted on them to conform to the new world around them. (The same dangers face the Christian in this world today. We are constantly being exposed to new ways of thinking and are being told that our way of looking at the world, through the eyes of God in the Bible, is outdated, ancient and intolerant. There is much pressure being placed on the Christian community to conform to the world's way of thinking. We are told to accept homosexuality, alcohol usage, cursing, promiscuous sexual activity, etc. However, God has not changed His mind about a single thing! What He said 4,000, 3,000, or 2,000 years ago still stands today! It doesn't matter if it hairlips the devil and if the entire world stands against it, the Word of God is sure, it is settled and it is right! Psa. 119:89; Isa. 40:8)

Do we have a new set of rules and expectations?

3. V. 5 A New Diet - All their lives, these four young men had lived by the dietary laws handed down by the Lord. Now, they are faced with new food. Most likely, this food was unclean, by Jewish standards, and most of the meat had probably been sacrificed to idols. Therefore, it would have defiled these men and made them unclean before the Lord. (As Christians, we too are faced with choices that run contrary to the best that God has purposed for us. There are decisions about our choice of entertainment, our music we listen to, choices in our personal relationships. We are confronted daily by choices to either do or not do certain things that can cause us to be defiled. Now, I am saved, (if really saved) and nothing will ever change that! But, the choices I make in life can either build me up, or tear me down as a servant of God. I can never be lost again, but I can become defiled and put on the shelf by God, 1 Cor. 9:27. Therefore, it is extremely important that we constantly guard ourselves in this matter of what we take into our lives. (David had a good plan - Psa. 101:3))

We all know that the diet in prison and military is not the same as the diet on the outside of the walls.

4. V. 6-7 New Names - When these young men arrived in Babylon, they came carrying wonderful names. Each name carried with it a testimony to the person of God.

- a. Daniel - God is my judge
- b. Hananiah - God is gracious
- c. Mishael - God is without equal
- d. Azariah - The Lord is my helper

When they arrived in Babylon, they were given new names.

- a. Daniel became Belteshazzar - Which means, "Bel will protect."
- b. Hananiah became Shadrach - Which means, "Inspiration of the Sun."
- c. Mishael became Meshach - Which means, "Belonging to Aku."
- d. Azariah became Abednego - Which means, "Servant of Nego."

Nebuchadnezzar's goal was to change their identity and hopefully their way of thinking. However, it is plain to see as one reads the book of Daniel, that even though their names were changed their character remained in tact. (The world and the devil will try every tactic to force us to fit into their mold. However, no matter what they say to us, call us, do to us or throw at us in life, they will never be able to change what we are, 1 John 3:1-2! We must never forget that we are the twice born children of the living God!

B. As we journey through life, there are going to be constant attempts by the enemy to get us to let down our guard, to conform to the world's standards and to do things we know to be wrong. However, these times

of testing and trial can be weathered safely and securely. God Himself has promised to help us when we face times of testing - 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 4:15.

C. Looking at the stand these four young men took there in Babylon will help us when we are faced with a crossroads in life. We see not only **The Problems At Hand**, but next we see **The Purpose Of Their Hearts.**

II. V. 8-16 THE PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS

A. V. 8 Their Dedication - The Babylonians could change their homes, their diet, their names, and their education, but they could never change their hearts! These men had decided that they were going to serve the Lord, whatever the cost! It would have been easy to say, "Well, it's all right, everyone else is doing it!" Or "We had better do what the king says." Or "We'll obey the king outwardly, but we'll just keep our faith to ourselves." These options weren't good enough for these men! They were willing to commit themselves to God's will despite the consequences. In the military and prison, we become a number. We are still the same individual and we must separate the lie from the truth. Christians need this same level of determined commitment! Many of us seem to find it too easy to give in to compromise. We need to dedicate ourselves to God and His plan for our lives, even if it costs us our lives! Our duty is to faithfully serve the Lord with all we have and are, the details are His problem, Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58!

B. V. 9-14 Their Desire - In an effort to maintain their ceremonial purity before the Lord, they requested that they not be forced to eat the king's meat. They knew they would be fed defiled and defiling foods, therefore, they requested that they be allowed to have vegetables and water for a ten-day period. Daniel and his friends knew that a vegetarian diet would not defile them and they knew that God would honor their faith in Him. They were willing to put God to the test. It will not always be the easiest thing, nor will it be the most popular thing for you to take your stand with God. It will not always be understood by those around you. However, it is always the right thing! If we will be willing to stand our ground for the Lord, He will certainly honor our stand and bless us. Matt. 6:33. God's Word says that to him that is faithful in a little, to him will He give much.

C. The whole point of this section of the text is that these young men made up their minds that they were going to live for the Lord, and they allowed nothing to change them or to turn them from their purpose! As you follow them through the rest of their lives, you see they stuck to their guns more than once. In chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to die rather than compromise. In chapter 6, Daniel, an 80-+ year old man, risked death in the lion's den rather than compromise in his walk with God. What about us, do we have that same level of resolve and commitment to the Lord and His work? Would you be willing to die before compromising with the

enemy? What do we allow in our homes? How do we raise our children? Do we speak with boldness and no apology?

D. Probably not! We compromise in many ways. In our speech, in our dress, in our lifestyles, in our music. They had decided in their hearts that they would die before they would compromise with the world, the flesh or the devil. We need to strive for that same standard in our own lives. There are a lot of God's children who need to recommit (or perhaps "really" commit) themselves to the Lord today! There are many who have let down their guard and have compromised in one or more issues. Others are flirting dangerously close to doing the same thing. It is time for God's children to resolve in their hearts that come what may, they will not disgrace the name of Jesus, and they will not compromise in any area of their life!

E. The dedication of these men can be summed up in 2 words, **Faith** and **Obedience**. They were willing to trust God to do what He had promised, and they were willing to follow Him, regardless of the personal cost. What about you? If you do not want the destination, don't start the trip. We do not need to see how far down the road we can go, when we have no business on it.

III. V. 17-21 THE PROMOTION FROM HEAVEN

A. V. 15-16 Their Experience - Daniels experiment worked! God honored His Word and these men were healthier than the others.

These 4 men knew something that many of us never get, and it is this: "If we will do as God says, He will never fail us, even in the slightest way. He will be absolutely faithful to honor His Word and His servants who trust that Word and do as He says. Lam. 3:23; Heb. 6:13-19. Come what may, you can count on the Lord!

B. V. 17-20 Their Excellence - After 3 years, (Notice that they maintained their resolve all during this time!), they stood before the king. When he interviewed them, He found that they were head and shoulders above all the others and that they were 10 times better than his wisest counselors. Again, this reminds us that God honors those who honor Him. This does not teach that serving God faithfully will make you smart, attractive and famous. It does teach us that serving God has with it the benefit of being promoted in His work. God placed these men where He could use them in that day, and He did use them in wonderful ways for His glory. He will place us in this day and use us here and now if we will serve Him as we should. The key is to never compromise, even in what we think is the smallest of areas! This is not just a day, week, month, or year, it is for eternity with integrity. God's Word says "**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.**" Matt. 5:48

C. V. 21 Their Endurance - We are not told how long Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego served there in Babylon, but we are told that Daniel endured, in a place of power

and prominence, for over 70 years. In fact, he was nearing 90 when he faced the lions. This just encourages my heart because it reminds me that no matter how long I live, or where I go in life, if I will always seek to honor the Lord, He will consistently bless me and use me for His glory. God is always looking for vessels which He can fill up and pour out for His glory. However, to be usable, we have to be clean, and to be clean, we must learn to never be guilty of compromise - 2 Tim. 2:20-21. God's house is filled with all kinds of vessels. Some are honorable and are being used for His glory. Others are defiled through compromise in one or more areas of life and cannot be used. Which best describes your life? I tell the individuals that I visit, the **CDC** on their pants (**C**alifornia **D**epartment of **C**orrections) actually stands for "**C**an't **D**efeat **C**hristians" or "**C**an't **D**efile **C**hristians"

Conc: "A giant 400-year-old redwood came crashing down one day, no one could figure out why. The tree had survived four centuries of storms, lightning, and earthquakes--what had felled it?"

"On closer inspection, investigators found that tiny beetles had found their way inside its trunk and had begun eating away its life-giving fibers, weakening its mighty bulk from the inside out.

"In much the same way, the devil tries to bring Christians down through a steady drone of small, seemingly insignificant temptations. While we are fighting and resisting him in one area, he may be setting

up house in another area of our lives. Satan will find ways to creep into our lives for the purpose of eroding our foundations until our fibers have become undone and we come crashing down to the ground. **"Show me a person who has fallen away from their walk with the Lord, and I will show you a person who started making compromises in his or her life long ago."** Are there areas in your life where you have begun to let your guard down? Are you allowing things in you life that you used to think were wrong? **If you have begun the downward spiral of compromise, I am glad I can tell you that Jesus allows u-turns!** He has promised us that we can find unconditional forgiveness when we come home to Him, 1 John 1:9. Where do you find yourself today? If the little beetles of Do as you say, "Sharing God's Word with **BOLDNESS** and **NO** apology."

compromise are whittling away at your walk with God, then come back home and allow the Lord to put you back where He wants you to be. Will you look deep inside and do what you need to do tonight? If so, then come to the lord and allow Him to have His way in your life.

As I was getting ready to finish this article, the Lord said, "**Bob, what about tolerance?**" I thought, "Lord, what do you mean?" The Lord replied, "If you tolerate something that goes against My teachings, are you not supporting the sinful nature that I said for you to turn away from?" "But Lord, there is so much sin accepted in the world today." Christ replied, "Remember my Word says to be in the world, but not of it."

Thank You

Thank you,
For I know not how I lived a
single day
Without you in my heart.
Nor how I faced this troubled
world
Or even had the will to start.

Now, I draw my strength from
you
In everything I do,
Life had nothing to offer me
Until I accepted you.

For when my life got harder
and seemed to turn cold,
You gave me the courage to
endure,

For I know your hand was
holding mine.

You have given my life new
meaning
For when worries and sorrows
came my way
You were there to give me
wisdom
To make it through another day.

Yes, my life was harder,
yesterday,
Before I let you in.
Now you live in my heart
And I'm safe and filled
With a peace that lasts

Thank You God

Jonah

By David Marsh

God spoke to Jonah on his knees
Hear these words, dear Jonah, please
I need your help, my prophet, true
I need some help, some help from you

A journey, far, for me you'll go
To tell some folks what they should
know
Tell them soon, they must repent
And heed these words, that I have sent

Where is this Lord, you'd have me go
To tell these folks what they should
know
I'll tell them soon, they must repent
And from the Lord, I have been sent.

You'll take my words to Nineveh
The capital of Assyria
And straight from me, you have been
sent
Remind them of our covenant

Now, Jonah thought, why must this be
They don't deserve, divine mercy
They are pagan thugs, both tried and true
They don't deserve, a chance from You

So Jonah left, off on his trip
To thwart his God, he took a ship
To Tarshish, soon the ship would sail
God's plan for him, he meant to fail.

The ship took to sail the sea
While Jonah slept defiantly
It tossed and pitched while Jonah slept
With mighty waves the decks were
swept

They cast their lots to find the curse
And while they did the storm got worse
They tossed their load into the sea
And prayed their gods would let them be

And Jonah said it just might be
My God is mad, He's mad at me
To save your lives, to set you free
Then cast me out into the sea

They listened close to Jonah's voice
And knew quite well they had no choice
They tossed him quickly out on the seas
It calmed the waves, and stopped the
breeze

Now God's great plan for Jonah meant
He still must go where he'd been sent
And Nineveh must yet be saved
God raised his hands, His hands he
waived

Then from the deep, there rose a fish
A giant fish, as God had wished
He found the man, an ate him whole
He swallowed him, flesh, clothes and
soul

Now Jonah prayed while in the fish
Lord set me free, this is my wish
Three days and nights, he stayed inside
God prepared his soul, and cured his
pride

The fish obeyed the Lord's demand
And coughed him up, upon dry land
To Nineveh, then Jonah went
And told them there, why he'd been sent

In 40 days, your end is due
For God is mad, so mad at you
And without change, he'll take the life
Of boys and girls, each man and wife.

“To be continued . . . “

Companies That Hire Felons

HelpforFelons.org	ATLAS Van Kines	Candlewood Suits
AAMCO Transmissions	AVIS Rent-A-Ca	Canon USA
Abbott Labortories	AVON Products	Career Educion Group
Ace Hardware	Bahama Breeze	Carrier
AirTran	Bally's Hotel/Casino	Casio Inc.
Alamo Rent A Car	Baskin-Robbins	Caterpillar
Alaska Airlines	Baxter International	Chrysler
Albertson's	Best Foods	Chase Bank
Alberto-Culver	Bed, Bath & Beyond	Chicago Mercantile Exc
Alstate Insurance	Best Western	Chipollte
American Greetings	BF Goodrich	Cintas
American Nat'l Logistics	Black and Decker	Circuit City
American West Airlines	Blue Cross / Blue Shield	Coldwell Banker
American Airlines	Boeing	Conpaq Computer
American Express	Borgata Casino & Soa	Comcast
American Greetings	Braum's Inc.	Comfort Inn & Suites+
Anderson Windows	Bridgestone / Firestone	Coors Brewing Co.
AON Computer	Brunswick Corp	Dairy Queen
Applebee's	Buffalo Wild Wings	DAP Products Darden Restaurant
Aramark Food Services	British Airways	Dart Containers
Archer Daniel's Midland	Budget Rent-A-Car	Deer Park Spring Water
ARCO	Calvin Klein	Deer & Co.
Arthur J, Gallagher &Co.	Campbell's Soup	Del Monte Foods
AT&T	Carl's 1jr	

ell Corporation	Federal Express	Jiffy Lube
Delta Airlines	First Health Group	Jimmy Johns
Delta Faucets	Food Services of Amer	Kelly Moore Paints
Denny's Inc/	Galuoub Toys	KFC
Divisio Ind.	Genentech	K-Mart
Dollar Tree	Golden Corral	Kohl,s
Dr. Peper / 7 Up	Goodwill	L.A. Times
Dollar Rent-A-Car	Great Clips	Kraft Foods
Dole Foods	Hampton Inn	Labor Ready
Domino's Pizza	Hawthorn Suites	Lowe's
Dow Brands	Fruit of the Loom	Lubbys
Dunkin Donuts	Fuji	Maggiano's
Dunlap Tires	General Electric	Marriott Hotels
DuPont Co	General Growth Prop.	Men's Warehouse
Duracell	General Mills	Metals USA
Eddie Bauer	GMAC	Miller Brewing Co.
Electrolux	Hanes Hosiery	Motorola
Equity Office Equity	Hewitt Associates	McDonalds
Properties	Hilton Hotels	Mobil Oil
ERMCO, Inc	H H Gregg	Molex
Fairfield Inn	ilton HotelsHoliday Inn	Navistar
Floorilli Transort	Home Depot	New York Times
Flying J	IBM	Newsweek
Office Products	Ikea	Niki
Exelon	Illinois Tool Works	Nisource
Exxon	Jack in the Box	Nortdtroms

Northern Trust	Sara-Lee	Tribune Co.
'Charles	Sears & Roebuck	Trader Joes
OIX, Inc	Seasons 52	Tradewinds
Old Republic Int'l	Service Master	Tribune Co.
Olive Gsrden	Seven Up, Inc.	Tyson Foods
Omni Direct	Sharatton Hotels	UPS
Packaging Corp of Amer	Shell Oil	UHsul
PACTIV	Simplex Leasing	U.S. Steel Corp
Pappadeaux	Sisbro, Inc.	Voysger Express
Party City	Springhill Suites	W. W. Grainger
Perkins Restuarants	Starwood Hotel	Walgreens
Pepsi-Co	Subway	Wal-Mart
PetSmart	Sysco	Wendy's
Phillip Morris	shoprite	WinCo Foods
R.R. Donnelley	Showtime Networks	Wrigley Co.
Radison	Smurfit-Stone Container	Wyndham Hotels
Red Lobster	Sony	Xerox
Red Robin	Southwest Air	Zebra Tech. Group
Residence Inn	Sprint	Zenith Electronics
Restaurant Depot	T.G.I. Friday	Zerox
Reyes Beverage	Target	
Ross	Teleperformance	
Rsc Equip. Rental	Telephone & Data Syst	
Rubbermade Imc.	Tellabs	
Safwway	Townplsce Suites	
Salvation RMY	Toys R Us	

Letters that Express it All

These are actual quotes from some of the different incarcerated individuals. The names have been removed

A life Spared

“ . . . I know without the Lord I probably wouldn't be alive right now. It is because of the great Lord that I have left the dope game. Because of God, I still have my loving family, and I have two years clean from drugs. I read my Bible every day, I study it, and now I'm not in the gang, my life is great, I've accepted Jesus in my life, and there is nothing better. Now I'm filled with joy and happiness all around me. Thank you Jesus – WOOOOO!!! . . . ”

Rededication to the Lord

“If I would not have ended up here, I never would have rededicated my life back to the Lord. There is one person I appreciated a lot. He has wrote to me, and keeps telling me to pray. He attends your church regularly. He is only 12 years or so, but I believe God used him to reach me, the lost. My whole mental aspect is different. I stay in the word daily and in here you see a lot of people that want to make sense of things. There are a couple of us now that help people get through their struggles. I do believe that God never gives you more than you can handle and he puts people in your path for you to help. I never feel alone anymore.

Tuning in on Him

“ . . . I've been listening to your service on the radio about 2 or 3 months now. Every week I look so forward for it. Each week I take notes and do Bible studies on them, which are

ust so powerful to me. I have really grown in your studies and the Holy Spirit leading me. I now realize who I am in Christ and this world is just somewhere we are passing thru. That there is a bigger picture to everything, God's picture. Of course by now you know I'm currently in prison. But I would never change what God has allowed to happen. I put myself here but for God to allow this to happen, has turned to such a blessing. I now have salvation through Christ Jesus. I used to believe just being an OK person was good enough for God. But He desires so much more and gives so much more abundantly. I love God so much and God is so worthy to be praised“

As for me and my House ..

I was richly blessed this Sunday Morning by your sermon, and I've decided it is time for me to give God my all. The good and the bad, the past and the future, relationships, job, friends, attitude, I mean all. I realize my all isn't much, a big mess, but I am confident that if I seek God first and his righteousness, I'll be OK. It is important for me where my family and I spend eternity. I choose God, in Jesus, in Heaven.

Conversion

Conversion is the wiping of the slate clean so a new process can “start.”

Something Gets in the Way

“ . . . I'll do what you said about going to church. . . . I would like to go to your church and take . . . I would really like that to happen, but its going to be hard cause I don't have a car and my drivers license is suspended cause of child support. You see ---, I want to be good. I've always tried to, but ther's always something in the way to stop me from doing what I have to do that's right. Why?

Translated from Spanish

I am answering your letter as soon as I received it because I was so happy that you wrote to me. For me it was a blessing from God to receive a letter like the one you sent because frankly you lifted my spirits. . . . You know the other day that you came and you prayed for me and my wife ----- and my son ----- I stayed with an utmost peace. Thank you Lord.

True Inspiration

“ . . . It is so true that we fail to see God's plan. It's like we put Him on the back burner a lot of times. When actually He should be the front burner at all times. Heck, He's the flame for all the burners!

Need for Change

“ . . . Keep doing what you have been doing, and you will get what you have been getting.