

# “Letter From M.O.M.”

The Bi-Monthly newsletter of Moving On Ministry

[WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com](http://WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com)

[www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon](http://www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon)

Volume 14 – Mar. 2006 / Apr. 2006

## “I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we should be back from our Africa mission trip. In this **14<sup>th</sup> Volume** issue, we are putting some more of the testimonies of “How God Changes Lives” as well as some 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 control of their lives.

Watch our website

[www.MovingOnMinistry.com](http://www.MovingOnMinistry.com)

We have also become affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

[www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon](http://www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon)

## Fellowship

We have now communicated with about 1/3 of the prisons in California, as well as writing to Africa, Tennessee, Minnesota, Idaho, Washington, and Michigan. We have also had communication thru email as a result of our web sites. **We would like to know of the impact we are having and also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing**

## 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 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.

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.

## Letters that Express it All

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

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### “.My Whole Life . . .”

. . I received your address from another Christian in here. And told me that you are a friend of the friendless and that you take time out of your busy day to help others when no one else does. And I am grateful for your kindness and warm heart.

Chaplain Bob, I've been locked up most of my life since the age of 9 and at the age of 18 they let me loose to live my life, and I tried to make it out there on my own. At the age of 19 I got locked up again and I went to prison and I'm 25 now and I'm still here.

I have been alone most of my life or all my life. I don't have any family what so ever. But I still manage to get up every day and live life to the fullest, and that I care about myself enough to do that. So, at the current moment I feel like a lost cause. So I am writing this letter to you to see if there's anything you could do to help me out to make me feel that I am a part of the world, so that there is someone in the world that knows who I am and that I exist. I was hoping to see if you would write me and maybe if you like me for who I am, you could introduce me to another Christian woman, so that maybe I could have more than one person in my life. I'm not asking for money or anything else like that. I'm just asking for some conversation, and hopefully a life long friend. **MG**

### More About Me

I am so happy to hear that you found something useful in my letter and

I really do hope you see something in me and that you like me for who I am. Bob, you asked me, where I was from? I am from MEXICO, I was born in . . . . . At the age of 7 ½ I was adopted by a Mexican family and then kidnapped and brought to the United States and I was sold and bought by an American family, then they tried to adopt me legally, but that did not happen. I stayed with them, on and off for about two years, until the state found me and took me away from them. Now the American family, that I lived with, acts as if I never existed in their lives. I know that they meant well, but I saw it very differently . . . . I never really lived in one stable place. I have been bounced a lot from one group home to another. So my education is not so great, but I have determination and God's will to learn and better myself in my life. **MG**

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## Guilty or Innocent

I am in Nashville Tenn., I was recently incarcerated in Huntsville Al., and spent 5 long months in jail. At that point, Christ was my only salvation. I had no support of family members and that was a hard thing to handle. I was charged with 3 crimes, and due to lack of money to get a lawyer, and the current situation in the Madison county jails, I was suited with a lawyer from another county that, had only had passed her bar a month before hand. 2 of the crimes I will tell you honestly I did commit, the third that I actually did not do, I was convicted on, because I was offered to get out of jail at 5 months rather than 3 years they were offering. It was a crime that I had not done, the ones I did were dismissed sue to lack of evidence. I so believe that God came to me while I was in jail, in the

form of his son Jesus. I am now filled with the Holy Spirit, I currently am writing to 4 inmates whom I've never met. I now go to church on wed nights and 2x on Sunday, and I love it. I have stayed off drugs since May, with no desire to ever be on them again. I was released from jail on 10 September and my family lived in the city that I was being released from. They did not come to my aid. I wound up in a homeless shelter in my own hometown. I finally, got a hold of an ex boyfriend of mine, in Tennessee, yes a different state, he had broken off our relationship due to my drug habit. He came 2 hours and picked me up from the side of the road. and I now live with him. Who would have thought it? At the time I had no clothes other than what were on my back. My contacts, that I needed to see, I had lost in jail. He has giving me a place to stay and provided me with food and clothes and contacts and so much more. I have recently gotten my drivers license back and he is allowing me to use a vehicle of his, I am working on trying to get a job currently, and am doing so much better than just a few months ago. Thanks for listening to my story. **GH**

**Notes from Bob:**

As we look at this example, we can see that this lady was sentenced for something she did not do. Truly Christ was sentenced for something He did not do. He did the "time" for the forgiveness of our sins.

This lady also mentioned that she had two charges dropped, that she was guilty of, due to lack of evidence. Our life is like that. When Christ forgives us of our sins, and God looks at our lives, He drops all charges due to lack of evidence.

**How We Look at Things**

I was talking to an individual the other day and asked how they would feel if someone killed one of their children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren. She replied to me, "I would want to kill them." I said, "What about if they were not born yet?" She asked "What do you mean?" I said, "suppose that child was not born yet, but was aborted?" She just stood in silence. Now she had a different reality of what she had just said, and realized the one doing the killing would be one of her children or grandchildren.

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**NOTE From Bob; Let us each pray for God's glory in situations like these**

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One of the inmates that regularly writes me, always starts his letters with "**Angle Bob**" (hopefully he means "**Angel Bob**"). He refers to me as his God sent angel, simply because of communication and intervention. The following story is a good example of how friends can be seen as God's angels (actually God's helpers) in the things they do and their giving.

**Psalm 55:22** --- you really need to read this.

**"Friends are God's way of taking care of us."**

This was written by a Hospice of Metro Denver physician

I just had one of the most amazing experiences of my life, and wanted to share it with my family and dearest friends:

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd., and the car started to choke and splutter and die – I barely managed to coast, cursing, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the "quickie mart" building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a Gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay.

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying, "I don't want my kids to see me crying," so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, "And you were praying?" That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, "He heard you, and He sent me."

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought 2 big bags

of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City. Her boyfriend left 2 months ago and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan 1, and finally in desperation had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there.

I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, "So, are you like an angel or something?"

This definitely made me cry. I said, "**Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people.**"

It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And of course, you guessed it, when I got in my car it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow to check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong.

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...

**Psalms 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."**

**Addresses to contact  
our Ministry Volunteers**

**Chaplain Bob  
P.O. Box 6667  
Visalia, CA. 93290**

**Church Behind the Wall  
3737 W. Walnut  
Visalia, CA. 93277**

**This space available  
P.O. Box  
Your Town,**

**This space available  
P.O. Box  
Your Town,**

**Volunteer Work:** I do it like I am paid great and dearly for it. For surely, the price Christ paid, was dearly and great!

**Replenishing**

God's Word promises to restore the years of the locust, or more simply the years previously lost.

**Joel 2:25** And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

**EXTRA CREDIT QUESTION  
ANSWER**

**Genesis 5:21** And **Enoch** lived sixty and five years, and begat **Methuselah**:

**Genesis 5:22** And **Enoch** walked with God after he begat **Methuselah** three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

**Genesis 5:25** And **Methuselah** lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Leech:

**Genesis 5:26** And **Methuselah** lived after he begat Leech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:

**Genesis 5:27** And all the days of **Methuselah** were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

**Enoch never died but went to be with the Lord in a whirlwind the Lord provided. Thus, Methuselah died before his father Enoch.**

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## Recommended Reading

For the new Christian, or the individual desiring to know God, we would like to recommend the following reading:

**The Gospel of John** – This is a great introduction of Christ’s walk on Earth.

**The Book of Romans** – This gives an introduction of many of the Bible stories shared and helps build familiarity of Christ’s plan for our lives.

**The Purpose Driven Life** by Rick Warren – 40 chapters will change your life in 40 days

**Book of Proverbs** – Read one chapter a day with the chapter read being the day of the month. This will allow the book to be read almost 12 times thru the year.

**Ephesians 4 – 6** – This gives the pattern for life that we should live. All 7 S’s are displayed in these 3 chapters. We are given the purpose of the gifts, changing our character, husband/wife/family relationships, and the type of life we are to live and display.

**Men’s Relational Toolbox** – Another fine work by Gary Smalley with both of his sons adding to this book. This book avoids “male bashing” but rather teaches men to use and modify the inner tools they have to improve their relationships.

**Prayer of Jabez** – A truly fine first book from Bruce Wilkerson. This short book will change your mind about being disobedient to God by not taking care of people in need

## 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.

But in reality, those who believe in Jesus have the testimony of God in them; each of us needs to periodically share our testimony with others. The importance is not what you have done, but what God is doing.

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

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. I think all will agree, that the testimonies that move people are not the ones written from great minds, but are actually the ones written from a great heart.

God’s Word says in **Jeremiah 17:9** that **“the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”** When the heart is changed by Christ (salvation – separation – sanctification), it becomes the center of where God works from in our life. The testimony written from the heart is truly God inspired, as compared to the one that is a work of the mind. These are the ones that change others lives also, when shared.

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## Lighter But Serious Side

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### 26 Beautiful One-liners

1. Give God what's right -- not what's left.
2. Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma--but never let him be the period.
6. Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a faith-lift.
8. When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.
9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
10. We don't change God's message -- His message changes us.
11. The church is prayer-conditioned.
12. When God ordains, He sustains.
13. **WARNING:** Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
14. Plan ahead -- It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
16. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
17. Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord.
18. Never give the devil a ride -- he will always want to drive.
19. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
20. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
21. He who angers you controls you.
22. Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
23. Give Satan an inch & he'll be a ruler.
24. Be ye fishers of men -- you catch them & He'll clean them.
25. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
26. Read the Bible -- It will scare the hell out of you.

## Three Types of “Lost”

In reading **Luke 15**, Christ talks of three types of lost in the parables. Each of these situations shows a different situation and a different solution.

**Luke 15:1** Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

**Luke 15:2** And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

**Luke 15:3** And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

### Example 1

**Luke 15:4** What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

**Luke 15:5** And when he hath found [it], he layeth [it] on his shoulders, rejoicing.

**Luke 15:6** And when he cometh home, he calleth together [his] friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

**Luke 15:7** I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

### Example 2

**Luke 15:8** Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the

house, and seek diligently till she find [it]?

**Luke 15:9** And when she hath found [it], she calleth [her] friends and [her] neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

**Luke 15:10** Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

### Example 3

**Luke 15:11** And he said, A certain man had two sons:

**Luke 15:12** And the younger of them said to [his] father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth [to me]. And he divided unto them [his] living.

**Luke 15:13** And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

**Luke 15:14** And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

**Luke 15:15** And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

**Luke 15:16** And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

**Luke 15:17** And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

**Luke 15:18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

**Luke 15:19** And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

**Luke 15:20** And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

**Luke 15:21** And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

**Luke 15:22** But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put [it] on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on [his] feet:

**Luke 15:23** And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill [it]; and let us eat, and be merry:

**Luke 15:24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

**Luke 15:25** Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

**Luke 15:26** And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

**Luke 15:27** And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

**Luke 15:28** And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

**Luke 15:29** And he answering said to [his] father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

**Luke 15:30** But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

**Luke 15:31** And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

**Luke 15:32** It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

### **Example 1**

The sheep realize they are lost, but do not know how to find their way back. The getting lost was a process of going on a path that was the wrong way or getting so far out, they did not know the way back. Remember, the Word says that the sheep was part of the flock and then went astray.

The sheep will be heard crying out to be found and will want to return to the safety of the flock and the shepherd's care. In this case, it takes a shepherd to go out and find the sheep and bring it back home.

An example of this sheep would be the individual that cries out for a "shepherd" to come to him and help him return to the flock. This is an individual that was in the flock and wandered away.

### **Example 2**

The coin does not know it is lost and does not try to find its way back. The coin does not cry out. This example

is where something was either dropped or was misplaced. If the coin was not in a secure place, it is easy for it to become lost.

In this example, the only remedy was to go out and check every nook, cranny and corner, cleaning the environment until the coin is found. Once it is found, there is no discussion with the coin, because it knows nothing, but rather the master picks up the coin and carries it back to where it should be for safety.

The coin did not get lost of its own desire or actions, but rather got lost because of lack of proper care by its keeper. This is a common example of parents that do not follow God's word in **Ephesians 6:4**, **“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”**

In this example, it was actually the master keeper of the coins that had done wrong, thus resulting in the coin being lost. The keeper realizes that one coin is missing and checks everywhere with a full cleaning of his environment around him, to find the lost coin. Then when found, the coin is brought home and the neighbors are notified to join in with the rejoicing.

When talking about “one sinner that repenteth,” is the scripture referring to the coin? The coin has no knowledge of its location or condition. The scripture actually is referring to the one that lost the coin, and diligently searched to find the lost coin.

Sometimes, these lost coins are our own loved ones and children. Do we perform the cleaning of the environment as we search to recover the “coin?” How often do we invite the “neighbors” to rejoice with us when one of our “coins” is found and returns home? Or

do we just ignore and hide the “lost and found” situations in our life, being in denial of the true situation?

### **Example 3**

In the example of the prodigal son, he got to where he was lost by his own doing. He recognizes that he does not have a blessed or abundant life. The son knows he is lost and decides to go back on his own. This “lost” is usually the most common type of lost. This is where an individual intentionally goes a wrong path (different than the sheep example) and has to hit rock bottom, to realize that he is lost. In this example, you will notice that the father did not go out and try to persuade the son to come back. The father did not become the answer or provider for the son while he was lost. The father did not enable the situation. Rather the father continued to pray for the son, and when the son was so down, that the only way he had to turn (not as a son, but as a servant) was to the father, then the son, of his own accord, decided to go to the father, to fill the position of a servant. Notice that when the Father saw the son coming, he greeted him with open, loving arms.

Too often, when dealing with a “lost son” the parent tries to replace God. The parent, to solve the situations, instead of requiring the son to seek God for answers, unknowingly does intervening. Had the father in the example, gone out to the son when the son was lost, the son would not have returned with the humble spirit of a servant. Without the humbling spirit, there would be no repentance, and without repentance, there is no forgiveness. This demonstrates the “coming to Christ” of our own free will and deciding to totally give ourselves to Him with a servant attitude.



*Concentrate on the 4 dots in the middle  
of the picture for about 30 secs.*

*Then, take a look at the wall and  
start blinking your eye.  
You will see a circle of light....  
continue looking at that circle.....*

*what do you see?*

DEEDU

**We have had many requests for the above drawing. Follow the instructions and see what you see.**

The above drawing was something I ran across on an internet site and was amazed with the results. I have told many individuals that now they can have a picture (artist's rendering) of Christ with them in just the blink of an eye. The "blink of an eye" reminds me of the fact

that Christ will return for His followers, in the "twinkling of an eye"

**I Corinthians 15:52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

## Chaplain Bob's Life

Many of those receiving this newsletter have asked for another printout of the testimony of Bob from past life to volunteer chaplain with jail and prison ministry and evangelism for church commitment.

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I would like to share a story of the seeds planted in my life and the insight as I look back.

The greatest influence in my life I would have to say was my earthly father. This man would do what ever he could to provide for his family. The greatest reference of his nature was my mothers dearly love always for him.

When I was probably 8 to 12 years old, I had a Sunday school teacher named Malcolm that worked on planting Godly seed in my life. As I look back, I am sure there was the appearance of the seed going dormant, or even dying. As I entered middle school years, I bounced through a variety of churches because of going with friends and relatives. Still, any seed that may have been planted was basically "dead."

As I was finishing my high school years, I started a job in a restaurant where I met a black man, Otis, that was the dishwasher. He let me know that he was an ordained pastor. I thought I want nothing to do with this man. Otis would take the garbage out to the room to empty and would stay a little longer as he pulled his New Testament out of his pocket and read for his break. Then (the nerve of him) he would come back in and share with me about God's love for me and God's purpose for my life. I would tell Otis that I did not want to hear about it. I explained that my relatives would use the Bible and religion to tear apart and slay one another. I further explained that my

feelings were that he read the Bible in the garbage room and that was where it belonged. God should have taken my life for a statement like that. I now am thankful that God did not remove my life on earth, because I would not have been going to be in His Heavenly presence. But God had another plan and had not given up on me. I was accepted to California State University Humboldt and moved to Eureka, CA. I have to admit that this was really God's country, but I still did not have a personal relationship with Him. As I looked for work, I found an opening in the service department of Sears. I was hired to do television and stereo repairs. The manager of the shop came to me and let me know that he was a pastor of a local church. Again I thought "*I'll stay away from him*" but that was not God's plan. I began to think "*either this man has something real or he is totally nuts.*" I decided that I would ask some questions, and so we would spend lunch together in his Volkswagen and discuss Bible reality.

In January 1971, at the age of 23, I finally told Him, **God I accept you as Lord and Savior and want you in control of my life but (1) do not expect me to go to some God forsaken country like Africa as a missionary, (2) don't expect me to work with youth, and (3) never expect me to be involved with inmates, jail or prison ministry.**

As I went on in life, thinking I had cut the best deal I could with God, he started to reveal to me that he wanted me to release some of those things "I" was holding on to and fully submit my life to Him. This happened over an extended period of time and it seems God knew just the right timing and speed for me to grow (you might realize

because He is the creator/builder). As I released those fears I had and let God have control of those objects, there continually were burdens being lifted. I now tell people that while people were getting high on weed in Humboldt County, I was getting high on the Spirit.

I became involved in teaching youth and running a youth group. While dealing with the youth, I noticed one principle that can be applied with our relationship with God. I took a group of youth out gold panning. All day long I watched the young men panning the gold. At the end of the day, I noticed the young ladies had the bottles of gold going home with them. When I asked how that happens, the ladies said that the men did it because of love and labored for the ladies. We actually get to take home the “Gold” at the end of “our day” while God was the one laboring for us all those days.

I had a friend that invited me to do jail ministry with him. I told him that I had told God “no” and he said that was probably a good reason to do it. I have been involved in jail/prison ministry for about 3 ½ years now and can truly say it is my greatest blessing that was almost missed because of “trying” to say NO to God. Later in life, God revealed His progression pattern for me to follow;

1. **Sin**
2. **Salvation**
3. **Separation**
4. **Sanctification**
5. **Soul Winning**
6. **Stewardship**
7. **Service**

Many people try to separate from the temptations of the world before receiving salvation. Others try to receive all God’s blessings (sanctification) before they have separated from the sin of the world.

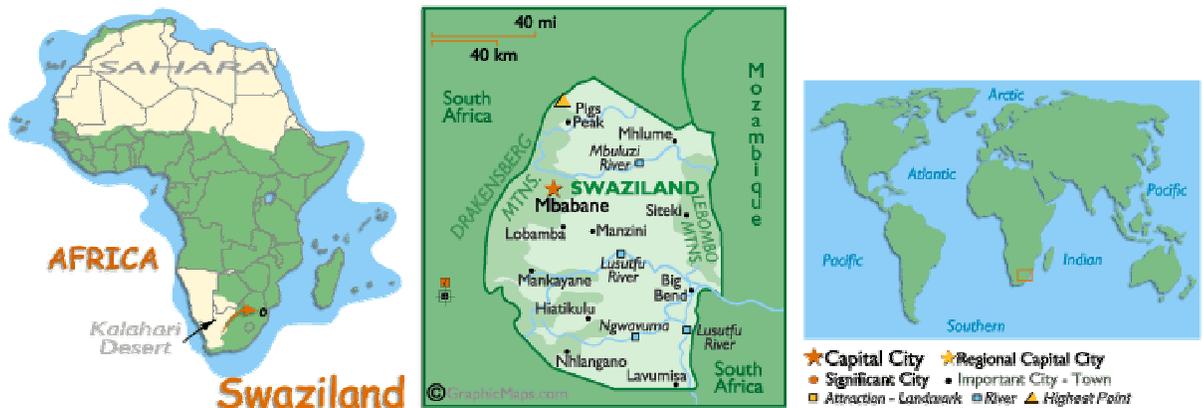
Read Ephesians 4 thru 6 and see if you can see this pattern revealed. Notice that 1 John displays the same progression, as does Colossians.

Now to get back to the “*but*” three exceptions I *had* to turning my life over to God. “*But #3*” was not doing Jail/prison ministry. Well, I have been blessed with 3 1/2 years of involvement as a volunteer with what God has called me to do. “*But #2*” was to not be involved with youth ministry. I have volunteered as Sunday School teacher, Youth director, AWANA Club boys director at 2 different churches, and organizer for youth outings. The final one, “*But #1*” was to not go to some God forsaken country like Africa as a missionary. I had made this known to those around me and one Wednesday afternoon, I had a pastor tell me that he thought I would have my passport by then. I said “Oh, you read my testimony in the newsletter.” That evening at our church we had a guest speaker from Cameroon Africa. He then told of being involved with jail ministry too. As I went to talk with him after the service, he said he did not know why, but God told him to give me something – a snakeskin checkbook cover. Those that know me, know my snakeskin boots are a trademark. Four incidents in one day? “*OK, God, I will go.*” I said.

We then met **Bruce Wilkinson** in Tulare, CA, who had quit his ministry of **Walk Thru the Bible** and moved to Africa to start a ministry called **Dream For Africa**. We decided it was time to sign up

As you will see on the pages following, we gave that “*but*” to God also. Yes, we are back from our mission trip to Swaziland Africa, and truly blessed by the experience. **Ask for the Swaziland Special Edition newsletter.**

## So, The Question – “What Was it Like ?”



### History of Swaziland

It is clear that the land which is now the Kingdom of Swaziland has been inhabited since the Stone Age. There are also relics of nomadic bushmen, of Sotho and the Ntungwa-Nguni clans. Centuries ago, a great migration from Central Africa occurred. A sub-group known as the Nguni, which today includes the Zulu and Xhosa, branched off from the main stream of this movement to follow the East Coast. The first steps towards the creation of the Swazi Nation were taken around 1750 when Nqwane III led his people inland to settle in, what is now, Southern Swaziland. Nqwane absorbed, or drove out, other people to establish himself in this area.

His successor, Sobhuza I was troubled with raids by the Zulu's to the south and re-established his capital near present-day Lobamba which has remained the heartland of the Nation. Mswati II succeeded Sobhuza I and inherited a Kingdom twice the size of Swaziland today. Still troubled by the quarrelsome Zulu's, he established his capital at Hhohho, in the northern mountains, conquered territories as far afield as Carolina, Barbeton and Hectorspruit and welded his people into a nation. They were known as the people of Mswati-Mswazi to the Zulu's, hence the name "Swazi" today.

During the 1840's white adventurers, hunters, traders, cattlemen, missionaries, began to arrive in the area. They were

received peacefully by the Swazi's but, during the reign of Mbandzeni, it became clear that many of them were simply fortune-hunters, greedy for land and trading concessions. Then, in the late 1800's, both the Boers of the old South African Republic and the British sought administrative domination over the Kingdom. This was a confused period where little was done to resolve the problem of the fortune hunters and the present Northern, Western and Southern borders of the country were defined without reference to the Swazi's.

During the Anglo-Boer War, in 1899, King Sobhuza II was born and after the death of his father, Bhunu, his grandmother, Labotsibeni, assumed the Regency until the King came of age. After the war, Britain ruled Swaziland for 66 years as a Protectorate.

Upon ascending the throne, Sobhuza II continued his mother's struggle with the British to recover land, belonging to the Swazi Nation which had supposedly been ceded to concession holders by King Mbandzeni during the 1800's. A system of dual control persisted; the British Resident Commissioner and his district officers, on the one hand, and the King, the National and Inner Councils, and the local chiefs, on the other. However, constitutional changes suggested by King Sobhuza II in the years

leading up to Independence in September 1968 were eventually accepted.

After Independence, it was recognized that the Constitution, created with western thinking by the British, did not suit the traditional needs of Swazis. King Sobhuza II ruled Swaziland from 1921, when he ascended the throne, until his death in 1982. His long rule is remembered for the wisdom of his insistence on the maintenance of traditional tribal values at a time of modern development

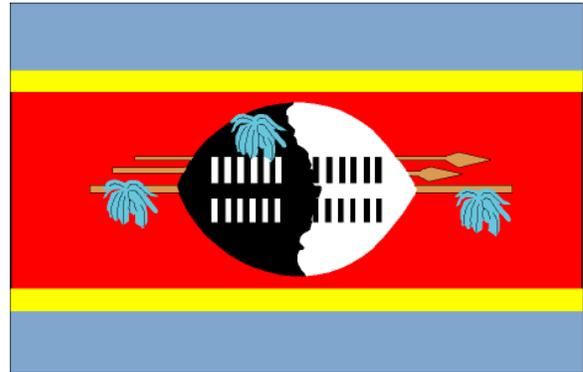


The new King is said to love his people, and his people love him. **Mswati III** (born **Makhosetive** on **April 19, 1968**) is the **king** of **Swaziland**. He succeeded his late father, **Sobhuza II**, in **1986**.

**King Mswati III** was crowned king of Swaziland on April 25, 1986 at the age of eighteen. He thus became the youngest ruling monarch in the world. His father **King Sobhuza II** died in 1982, at the age of 82, and to date is still regarded as the longest reigning monarch. He ruled from 1921 to 1982



**King Mswati III on Right**



**Swaziland Kingdom Flag**

### **Our Blessings from Swaziland**

The trip to Swaziland was sponsored thru "**Dream For Africa**" A ministry created by **Dr. Bruce Wilkinson**, and now managed by **Ian & Janine Maxwell**.

[www.DreamForAfrica.com](http://www.DreamForAfrica.com)

Please write and request the **Swaziland Special Edition** of **Letter From M.O.M.** for Feb. 2006



**Chaplain Bob & Linda in Swaziland**

**NOTE:** The conditions in prison would seem like a palace for many individuals that live in Swaziland.

## More Swaziland Experiences

### Bathroom?



Linda and Lori were on team 16 and after a long day of planting and drinking bottled water throughout the day, nature called and they needed to use the “bathroom.” They decided that they would have to ask one of the locals if they could use their facilities. Both walked up to an elderly man and asked if they could use the bathroom. He just pointed and said “over there.” They said, “I don’t see it.” Again he pointed and said “over there.” He then said I will show you, and walked towards four branches stuck in the ground with plastic wrapped around them. The plastic was torn and much missing. There were holes about 1 to 2 feet in diameter. Inside the “walls” was a hole in the ground. The ladies took turns using the facility and then noticed two young boys looking down the hill and giggling at them. The ladies thanked the man and Linda decided to give him her roll of toilet paper she had been carrying in her pack. You would think the man had hit the lottery with the joy that overcame him as he clutched the roll with tears coming down his face. We take for granted, what they take for gold. So little with us Americans, is so much with the Swaziland people.

### Pretzels

On Thursday, as we approached the end of our trip, we had given most everything we owned, away to the Swazi people. Linda still had about ½ bag of the stick pretzels we had not eaten on the flight to Africa. She noticed that there were about 6 children and she decided to give them each a hand full of pretzels. As soon as she had gathered these children, as usually happened, more children seemed to appear out of nowhere. She now had about 35 to 50 children present. She knew she would have to give each child a single pretzel. One of the “Go Go” (grandmother), had the children sit on the ground and patiently wait for their single pretzel stick. After each had gotten their pretzel, Linda showed them how to eat the pretzel (they had never seen one). Each child would slowly bite off about 1/8” of the pretzel and chew, almost in unison. It was amazing to see the gratitude these children had for one pretzel.

### Church



The children were filled with joy to attend church. Many had walked from 1 to 4 kilometers to get there. The church consisted of random pieces of timber nailed together with plastic lining the inside walls. The light shone right thru the plastic, but the children’s love and joy shone brighter.