

“Letter From M.O.M.”

The **Monthly** newsletter of **Moving On Ministry**

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Volume 23 – April, 2007

“I Can Only Imagine”

It is hard to imagine that this ministry has been developing for over four years. New facilities have opened up to us, as well as getting correspondence from many states and foreign countries.

Watch our websites

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Addresses to contact our Ministry Volunteers

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Moving On Ministry
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Moving On Ministry
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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.

I want to extend special thanks to the following;
My Mom (Jeanne) – monthly support
My Mom (Jeanne) – Retreat Property
My Aunt Pat – monthly support
Inmates – donations of stamps

Fellowship

We would like to keep a listing of locations for fellowship that welcomes previous incarcerated individuals. We previously listed churches that are supportive in California, as well as some special articles on churches in other states. We would like follow up on these churches to see if they are supportive, as well as letting us know of others available. **We also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing**

If you would like a church added, or have concern on one that is not supportive, please contact us.

Dreams are real, as long as you have faith in Jesus Christ. “Mermaid”

Bob’s Letter Writing
Bob has slowed down on responding, due to the volume of letters he’s responding;

March 2006	84
April 2006	91
May 2006	128
June 2006	127
July 2006	188
August 2006	131
September 2006	153
October 2006	179
November 2006	117
December 2006	249
January 2007	136
February 2007	166
March 2007	334

Letters that Express it All

These are actual quotes from some of the different incarcerated individuals. The names have been removed. Our first newsletter went out October 2003. We receive many of these letters. If one of these letters is yours, let us know how you are doing now.

Uplifting One Another

Dear Bro Bob

I thank you so very much for all the material you've sent me. As I read your letters and the testimonies of other inmates about Christ, I find comfort and renewed strength. It's really a blessing hearing of lives being changed for the better!

I've had my share of struggles over the years, as many others have had as well. And still face my share of woes. But I no longer stand alone because I realized I wasn't making any improvement in my life doing things my way, which kept me returning to prison time after time. But surrendering my life over to Jesus Christ, my Lord & Savior, was the greatest decision I ever made in my life. And because He lives within me, I know I can face tomorrow . . .

I wish to express to all my brothers & sisters who may be reading this letter, that I love you and so does Jesus Christ our Lord!

If we would stand united together in Jesus Christ, the body of Christ will be strengthened. In Romans 8:37 it is said; "We are more than Conquerors through Him who loved us." And the message goes on to say in Romans 8:38 & 39 "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor

principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!!"

Thank you Bro' Bob & Linda. And to my brothers and sisters who are in Christ for the work you're putting forth & effort for God and the love & inspiration!

God Bless you **RB**

Knowing the Source

I prayed to God because I never had a study Bible and don't have the money to purchase one, and let me say, within a couple of weeks, this prayer was answered. The other day, during our group fellowship, one of the brothers, who I share with constantly, hands me his NKJV Nelson Study Bible and said "It's yours!" Amen. I kept this prayer between myself & God. I asked him (the brother) why he was giving me his Bible, he said God told him to bless me with it, plus he has a NIV Study Bible that he reads more. God is awesome, huh. The NIV Bible that I have is barely holding together with much tape, but I love that Bible. I am so used to it, you know what I mean? I was told when your Bible starts to come apart, your life is beginning to come together. This is so true. **GG**

. “Repentance in Less than 100 Words”

“Knowing that God is alive in me. I know that I am not worthy of His love and kindness, especially after all the dumb things I’ve done in my life. But I’m so grateful that the God I serve, sees things differently because I wouldn’t be here today at this moment of time sharing the fruit of the spirit that is within me. I love our Heavenly Father and He loves me even if all my hair and teeth fell out and my nose sagged to my chin.” **RB**

Another For Different Affiliation

Well I read in letter #1 (“Changing Affiliation” pg. 4 in M.O.M. volume 19) about an individual who out of nowhere was issued a ducat that changed his life. You see chaplain Bob, my story is very similar. I came in to the penal system in 2002 thru 2006, at which I was always having to be told what to do. But I was trippin’. I been to the hole and back a few times. Furthermore a lot of times, I, in my mind, was like I want to change my ways but how do I go about it? That is what I recited over and over in my mind. Well, to keep it short, January of 2006, I paroled, to only return back behind these walls 23 days later. Now I found myself in a situation that I didn’t like, so I prayed to God to steer me in the right direction. All in all, I knew if I got caught slippin’, I would of suffered reproductions. But I had an advantage at the time I was single cell in the hole, so I could make my decision without being caught slippin’. So one night I chose to be my own man and distance myself from these who program. Let me say, it was not an easy thing to do, but I knew deep down I was done with all the drama and wanted to lead a much better and positive life. So from that point on,

there is and was no returning. Now I feel as if a huge burden was lifted up off my shoulders. I do as I do and don’t have to worry about being told what to do. I’m a free man. To me, this is a start in the right direction. Now look, I can enjoy the privilege of going to fire camp and even parole with a few thousand dollars. Oh yeh, most of all, I have a 5 year old girl, whom I ain’t seen since she was 6 months old. Why? Because of my wrong decisions. Now my life is going to be different when I get out, so goal is to re-establish my life in my child’s life as well as obtain a job and find a cool hobby to pass my free time, as well as go to church. **GR**

But What Can We Do?



Linda, Janine, Bob

While attending a reunion of individuals that have taken the Heart For Africa mission trip to Swaziland, Africa, Janine Maxwell (Director of Ministry) mentioned that she had a prison in Florida, and a prison in California, that are both donating \$10 per month towards the ministry. We think of that as ”small” but God thinks of it as He did the widow’s mite. Remembering that 36% of the people of Swaziland make less than \$1 a day, we realize how great that amount actually is. Janine says she gives credit to “Letter From M.O.M.” going out to the prisons to plant the seed.

NOTES and COMMENTS

When Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.

God accepts you where you are, but loves you too much to leave you there.

Need for Change

... Keep doing what you have been doing, and you will keep getting what you have been getting.

Conversion

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

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.

Salvation

It is a “point” followed by a “process.”

Talk to God about the lost,
Before talking to the lost about God

Repentance

Can be defined as; **Stop**, **Turn around**, and **follow**.

God, be Lord of what is left of my life

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

Needs after Release

Individuals being released from incarceration have the same common needs of all individuals. There is a need of self-respect and self esteem. Many have a need of housing. Most are coming back looking for employment. Some are facing classes for AA, NA, or Domestic Violence. Some need to enroll in educational or vocational programs. Most would appreciate someone to just talk to or have a mentor. Fellowship with the right people is ALWAYS needed. For many these are totally new expectations and experiences.

One inmate expressed wonderfully the problem of being released. He stated that everything is slow to happen while incarcerated. It seems like an eternity as you wait for your next transfer or assignment. You feel like you are running at 5 miles per hour. Then, when released to the world, you are put into an environment that is running at 200 miles per hour. This drastic change of environments tends to overcome individuals and they have a hard time adapting. We hear of transitions from one area to another in each of our lives. Someone to just talk with about the feelings and changes the individuals are going thru is a great healer. The Bible says that each of us should be a "brother" to help the other one up when he falls. Other scripture talks about "sticking closer than a brother" we can often help with sharing life experiences or just listening to someone in need. We don't always have to solve the problems, but many times need to just "lend an ear" so that someone might share their needs or hurts with us. Many men have heard from their wives "I don't want you to fix it, just listen". We need to just listen.

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

God will make all things new
What are some things I should finish once I start?

"For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ."

Hebrews 3:14

New life in Christ. We must maintain the confident faith we had when we first believed.

Scripture is from the New Living Translation (Tyndale House Publishers, 1996).

Our testimony is to give hope to others; our fruit is to give proof to God.

Repentance means you change your mind so deeply that it changes you. It's not just that I changed how I thought—I am now changed.

Testimonies

Chaplain Bob would like to note that the individual writing the following testimony was a divine appointment in time. I had walked in unit 32 at BWDF one evening because his usual unit was locked down. As I walked past the one cell, I saw this individual staring out the small 4 inch window in the door. God said, "I want you to go talk to that man." I replied, "God, I don't want to." Again God said, "I want you to talk to that man right now" and I felt my body turning back towards the cell. This individual said, "I wondered if you were going to come back and talk to me?" I told him that I had not intended on talking to him, but God had a message for me to give him. After our talk, he said, "What you said makes since." I really want to dedicate my life to the service of the Lord. I later came to find that his brother was locked up in another state and started writing to him, with the wonderful results that he also wanted to get his life straight with God. We must do as God tells us to get the Godly results. The other option, of denial to God's requests, just brings about results like Jonah had.

I'm writing this letter to Moving On Ministry to inform you what God had done in my life and what He is letting me keep seeing. I never thought that I would have come to see the light of things that God brings to us. I would like to take this time to open up my heart to tell a small story of my life and how I had come to open my life up and my eyes to our Father.

When I was a boy, I had known in my heart that one day I would like to find myself walking with God. As I got to be the age of 10, I had gone to church with my grandmother that I love very much. She had passed away when I was 17 years of age.

When I was age of 14, that's when I had started to see how hard things were outside of the church. It was then I started to live in the life of drugs and the fast life that Hell brings to us when we find our self not living the good life and walking with God. Then our lives and faith fall. That's what happened to me. My faith with God had fallin' and I started to do drugs very badly. And as for my loved ones, my mother and sister, they do not want anything to do with me at that time. I thought in my heart and started to tell myself

that no one cares that I had started to go down the pathways up to no good. At that time I had in my mind that the drugs were my God. I was under that mind thinking. I had been hooked on drugs over 11 years of my life. One thing that I do know, God had been there and looking over me.

When I was 17, that's when I started to run hard with the drugs. At the time, I had taken so much drugs, that my heart had stopped. That's when I know that God was there. They called my mother and father on the phone and told them what I had done. My heart at that time would come and go. The report had said I had died three times. I should have stopped and seen the light at that time, but I was worried about what people would be thinking about Mr. Tuff Man. I had it in my mind that I was cool and could take on the world. That's when I had started to get locked up. I believe in my heart that God had put my life in the path of doing time. If He had not done so, I would have been dead. I had a life that was very hard to understand. My own father had tried to get me off drugs. It was like hell was not going to let me go. That's when I had become the man that no one liked. One thing I can say with all my heart, God never gave up on me, as well as my father that tried so hard to get me off drugs. He had never

given up and I'm sure now that my father had passed on. I feel inside of my heart, that I am lost without him being a part of my life. This is when I had seen the light that God is there, and He wants me to walk with Him. As for my life today, I have got something from the 11 years of doing drugs. I'm in pain and have a hard time holding my food down. All my life I had it in my mind that life was a big joke. But now that I had come to see the light, and asking God for forgiveness, I do find myself talking to God every day, even when I would be out there on drugs, I would talk to God. I should have been dead a long time ago. This one time that I was all hooked on drugs, I had this man put a gun to my face. That's when I was not in my right mind of life or things. I had it in my mind that it was a big joke and I told the man, go ahead, and kill me. I was still living the life of the tough man. See, God is going to call on me one day. That's why I'm still here. I'm glad that I am locked up today and getting right with God. I know life is no joke. I'm having hard times and in pain, my insides are shot out, but I do know, before it's too late, I need to get right with God, and I would love to walk with God. I feel inside of my heart, that I was put in this jail, to get right **RJ**

Lighter but Serious Side

You don't realize how much you miss him, until you read and remember some of the stuff he said and stood for:

"Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose."

- Ronald Reagan

"The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

- Ronald Reagan

"The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant: It's just that they know so much that isn't so."

- Ronald Reagan

"Of the four wars in my lifetime none came about because the U.S. was too strong."

- Ronald Reagan

"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments' would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."

- Ronald Reagan

"The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."

Ronald Reagan

"Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense

of responsibility at the other."

- Ronald Reagan

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."

- Ronald Reagan

"I've laid down the law, though, to everyone from now on about anything that happens: no matter what time it is, wake me, even if it's in the middle of a Cabinet meeting."

- Ronald Reagan

"It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first."

- Ronald Reagan

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

- Ronald Reagan

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book."

- Ronald Reagan

"No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Ronald Reagan

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Ronald Reagan

Poetry Section

Written by "Somebody: while a
resident at Noah Project-West
August 1998

Somebody

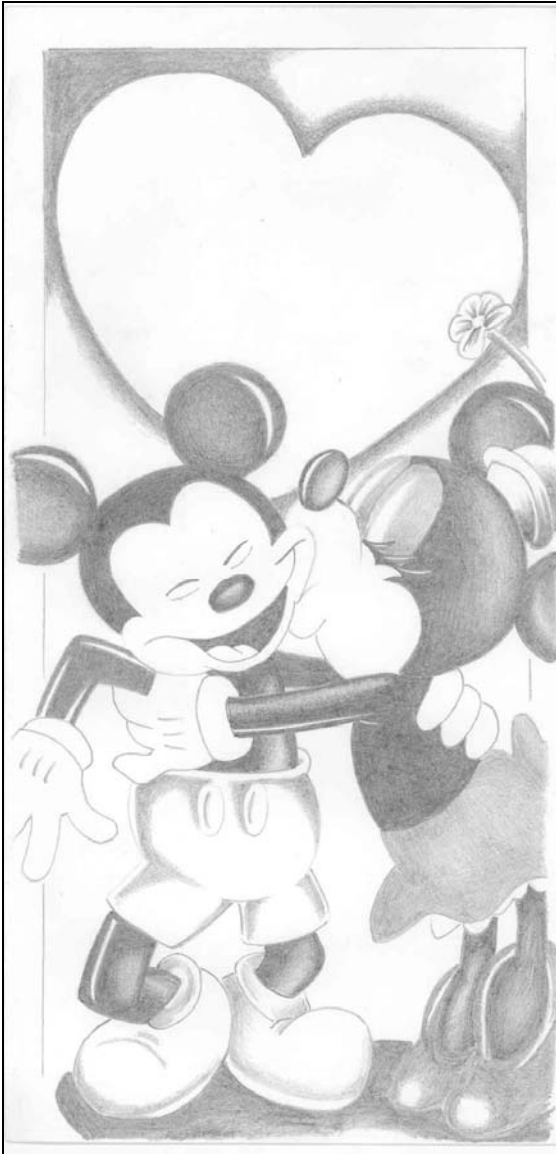
We need a safe place
A secure place
A place to lay our head
A place where people really care
Others that understand
Others who listen and pray
A place to become human again
A place to get our strength
And sanity back
To become one
To become *Somebody*
Not Something
That place of peace
That place is a small piece of heaven
For a Victim
Who has given their all
Love, Sanity, and Humility
And feels that it has been taken away
Open up the heavens
Let me sing my praises
And shout to the world
That you can be somebody
Just look up and pray
For your God knows
For your God cares
And He will guide us to that better place
If we just open our ears !!

Anchor of My Soul

Jesus, the anchor of my soul.
There is no other name
Under Heaven
To whom shall I go;
The Enemy is strong,
Yet his anger is stilled.
The anchor will see
The prophecy fulfilled;
Deliverance is certain
For the obedient one.
There's no other anchor
No, there is none;
Keeping me safe in the storm
And afloat in the sea,
Just as the cross represents
Your undying Love for me;
Peter walked on water,
And yet he still did not sink,
How this could have happened
Makes me stop to think;
The waves have broke,
This vessel's bruised and beat;
So drop the anchor down right now
As I fall at your feet;
You are the lion, the lamb, and the star,
Now I can see why
I've come so very far;
You died up on that cross
For all the wrong choices I made,
You are the anchor of my soul,
Now I live for you
Every single day . . .

INM - 2007

“Inmate Art” Drawings on envelopes by Arturo Bastardo



The following drawing was sent to us by Eddie Snider. It is derived from the drawing titled "Forgiven" where Christ is carrying the forgiven individual thru the powers of this world.



Send us your drawings to be displayed to the world and to remind those on the "outside" the talent that lies "behind the walls."

Decisions of a Young Lady

Let me set the stage of the circumstances and you help make the decision.

What we have is a young girl, approximately 12 to 13 years old. She is very much in love with the young man that has promised to marry her. They are the talk of the town because of their displayed love and purity for each other.

One day, the young lady comes to her fiancée and tells him she is going to have a baby. The young man is overcome with the burden of the announcement. He tells her that it can't be his child. He knows that the lady's honor will be disgraced. He toys with thoughts of putting her away, so as to avoid the embarrassment of the ordeal. Then after the baby is born, the two of them could slowly blend back into society.

Our young man decides to be supportive of his wife to be. He will raise the baby just as though it was his. He will help the young lady avoid all embarrassment. She will have this baby as it is meant to be.

Now let me add a few of the missing facts. The young man's name is Joseph and the young lady's name is Mary. The child Mary is conceived with is the Lord Jesus.

Yes, back in the early years of man's existence, there was no such thing as abortion. In the early years of man, there also was no such thing as divorce. God's Word says "out of the hardness of your heart" were these things created by man.

Suppose that Mary could have gone and had an abortion. Suppose that this would have saved some ridicule and embarrassment for Mary. Suppose this

would have allowed Joseph to be able to hold his head high, by not having his fiancée pregnant out of wedlock.

Suppose that by man's intervention, that Christ would have never been born. Christ would not have walked on the earth. Christ would not have died for our sins. We would not be able to be saved. We would not have a place in heaven for all eternity.

The reason I write this article is that we all need to realize that life is valuable to God. We also need to understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives, and if man tries to intervene and change God's perfect plan, the perfection goes away. I often tell individuals that God has a perfect plan. Anything taken away from "perfect" produces less than perfect. Also, anything added to "perfect" produces less than perfect. Man has a tendency of trying to modify our understanding of God and His plan for us. What man needs to do, is let God modify us, and we will then have understanding thru the process of God's perfecting. Remember, the "P" on the back of the prison uniforms stands for "**Perfecting**" just as the "CDC" in California Department of Corrections institutions stands for "**Can't Defeat Christians.**"

"Before you were created, God knew you"

The DNA of the "fetal tissue" is different than the mother or father.

Yes, it actually is a baby !

To My Dream Seeker (Part 7)



Looking Out the Window

Here I sit in a room filled with loneliness, looking out a window full of natural beauty, mountains high, and topped with snow.

The wind blows as free as my dreams come and go. The simplest thing in the world, as wind, I have taken for granted for years. Now all that, has been taken from me for a small part of my life.

I truly believe that God has me here in this place to learn about the

The following article is the seventh article of “**Message in a Bottle**” from **NW**. Those of you that have followed her articles on “**My Dream Seeker**,” (starting with **volume 17, July/Aug. 2006**) know of the love and expression displayed by the writer, and felt by the reader of the article. Now we present another article as written in a prison cell by **The Mermaid**.

simple things in life, I have always taken for granted in the past years.

I awake to a drive to be free again. That drive puts me in a place within myself that has a very strong determination to be successful in my recovery, as well as my walk with Christ, plus anything I take on in life.

My dreams may have been simple and dumb to others, but as long as my Heavenly Father agrees with them and is holding my hand through this walk, it will be a better life.

Love, the Mermaid