

# “Letter From M.O.M.”

The Monthly newsletter of **Moving On Ministry**

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

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

**Volume 34** –March 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://www.MovingOnMinistry.com)

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

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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.

## Fellowship

We would like to keep a listing of locations for fellowship that welcomes previous incarcerated individuals. We previously listed 51 churches that are supportive. 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**

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Be **Super** in something;  
Something that counts.  
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It is not how big the dog is in the fight;  
It is how big the fight is in the dog!  
**Remember; “He that is within us is greater than he that is in the world.”**

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1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) – “God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.”  
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Your spiritual gift is what you would do for “free” if you did not have to work.  
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Church and God  
If you don’t go, You don’t know !  
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If it is not worth dying for,  
It is not worth living for.  
Christ felt you were worth dying for,  
He is worth living for.  
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## Letters that Express it All

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

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### **Hard Knocks Graduate**

God has a plan for every man, woman, and child born into this world, but He lovingly gives us a choice to follow His leading, and sometimes we will get off track in our lives and He will lead us to a place to get our attention. Things, unexplained things, very bad circumstances and even death could be the only way to reach the children He created. We can't, and won't, be able to understand "with our physical mind" why, how and what caused us to do the things we did to end up in the places we are. Prison is not the captives idea, but it can be God's tool to use as I have witnessed here lately the change God can make, when a person (TOTALLY) surrenders to Jesus Christ the God of salvation and healing. Drugs, Alcohol, sexual addiction. Self gratification, love of money and material wealth, has been Satan's tools for our destruction. This is the year of change and now we see that as we have accepted this way of living, what kingdom purpose it edified. Man has a free will to build His kingdom for his/her kingdom purpose to edify his/her worldly goods, wealth and call into existence things that don't exist.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-14** says God will give us blessings and explains how we will be blessed. So, these blessings, as God gives them, edifies God's kingdom purpose and will build a lasting, strong fellowship, marriage, relationship, or even the foundation one needs for the edification and building for the church.

This church includes many of God's children United as One in one spirit, in one body. I, for one, being an ex-addict, know the destructive side of living the "fast lane life" with playing Rock-n-Roll, Country, Heavy Metal, Jazz, Blues, and being a tool for Satan's use. The drugs, alcohol, sex, and the lives destroyed, I've seen, God showed me that also was something I had to go thru to grow! Yes, it sounds crazy, but who are we to question what, where and how as well as who God wanted to use for the edification of His kingdom purpose? Just look at "Naaman" ! If God could use a donkey, can He also not use our hard headedness and the things we created? After all, everything belongs to God! Doesn't it? I think, Yes! I want to know what other people think, and do they believe God has a plan for them? Have them write me (send a response to Letter From M..O.M.) if they desire. Thank you and God bless you and your ministry. **TW**

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### **Tell the World**

I sent one of the copies of the newsletter to my mother. She in turn is sending a copy to my sisters, and so forth. Having my testimony in a newsletter (Nov. 2007) makes me feel good, because I feel that there are others out there, who like me, need to see how the Lord can change lives. I know that the Lord has really changed mine. I have never in my life felt like I do with Jesus in my heart, soul, and mind. This is an awesome thing, and I praise God each and every day for the awesome feeling I get when I read, and worship Him. "Thank You Jesus !!"

**RB**

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## NOTES and COMMENTS

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

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

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### **Need for Change**

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

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### **Conversion**

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

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### **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.

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### **Salvation**

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

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### **The Fight**

It is not how big the dog in the fight;  
It is how big the fight in the dog!

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Believe in Election  
Share like Freewill  
Stop before Persuasion

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God, be Lord of what is left of my life

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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

## 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

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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.**

**The following article I have thought about for 35 years (before publishing the first time) and wanted to locate. It was in a newsletter that I used in the Sunday School class that I was teaching in 1971. Yes, those of you that remember my testimony, remember that I tried to make a deal with God that he could have my life in all areas “but” (1) not being a missionary to Africa, (2) not working with youth, and (3) not working with inmates. After extensive searching, I am happy to announce that I have located this story. Just as God located me and refused my “NO” answers to His calling.**

## **My Heart, Christ's Home**

One evening I invited Jesus Christ into my heart. What an entrance He made! It was not a spectacular, emotional thing, but very real. It was at the very center of my life. He came into the darkness of my heart and turned on the light. He built a fire in the cold hearth and banished the chill. He started music where there had been stillness, and He filled the emptiness with His own loving, wonderful fellowship. I have never regretted opening the door to Christ and I never will - not into eternity!

This, of course, is the first step in making the heart Christ's home. He has said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (**Revelation 3:20**). If you are interested in making your life an abode of the living God, let me encourage you to

invite Christ into your heart and He will surely come

After Christ entered my heart and in the joy of this new relationship I said to Him, "Lord, I want this heart of mine to be Yours. I want to have You settle down here and be perfectly at home. Everything I have belongs to You. Let me show You around and introduce you to the various features of the home that you may be more comfortable and that we may have fuller fellowship together."

He was very glad to come, of course, and happier still to be given a place in the heart

### *The Library*

The first room was the study - the library. Let us call it the study of the mind. Now in my home this room of the mind is a very small room with very thick walls. But it is an important room. In a sense, it is the control room of the house. He entered with me and looked around at the books in the bookcase, the magazines upon the table, and the pictures on the walls. As I followed His gaze I became uncomfortable. Strangely enough, I had not felt badly about this before, but now that He was there looking at these things I was embarrassed. There were some books were there that His eyes were too pure to behold. There was a lot of trash and literature on the table that a Christian had no business reading, and as for the pictures on the walls - the imaginations and thoughts of the mind - these were shameful.

I turned to Him and said, "Master, I know that this room needs a radical alteration. Will You help me

make it what it ought to be? - to bring every thought into captivity to you?"

"Surely!" He said. "Gladly will I help you. First of all, take all the things that you are reading and looking at which are not helpful, pure, good and true, and throw them out! Now put on the empty shelves the books of the Bible. Fill the library with Scriptures and meditate on them day and night. As for the pictures on the walls, you will have difficulty controlling these images, but here is an aid" He gave me a full-size portrait of Himself. "Hang this centrally," He said, "on the wall of the mind."

I did, and I have discovered through the years that when my thoughts are centered upon Christ Himself, His purity and power cause impure thoughts to back away. So He has helped me to bring my thoughts into captivity.

May I suggest to you if you have difficulty with this little room of the mind, that you bring Christ in there. Pack it full with the Word of God, meditate upon it and keep before it the immediate presence of the Lord Jesus.

### *The Dining Room*

From the study we went into the dining room, the room of appetites and desires. Now this was a very large room. I spent a good deal of time in the dining room and much effort in satisfying my wants.

I said to Him, "This is a favorite room. I am quite sure You will be pleased with what we serve."

He seated Himself at the table with me and asked, "What is on the menu for dinner?"

"Well," I said, "my favorite dishes: money, academic degrees and stocks, with newspaper articles of fame

and fortune as side dishes." These were the things I liked - worldly fare. I suppose there was nothing radically wrong in any particular item, but it was not the food that should satisfy the life of a real Christian. When the food was placed before Him, He said nothing about it. However, I observed that He did not eat it, and I said to Him, somewhat disturbed, "Master, don't You care for this food? What is the trouble?"

He answered, "I have meat to eat that you do not know of. My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me." He looked at me again and said, "If you want food that really satisfies you, seek the will of the Father, not your own pleasures, not your own desires, and not your own satisfaction. Seek to please Me and that food will satisfy you." And there at the table He gave me a taste of doing God's will. What a flavor! There is no food like it in all the world. It alone satisfies. Everything else is dissatisfying in the end.

Now if Christ is in your heart, and I trust He is, what kind of food are you serving Him and what kind of food are you eating yourself? Are you living for the lust of the flesh and the pride of life - selfishly? Or are you choosing God's will for your meat and drink?

### *The Living Room*

We walked next into the living room. This room was rather intimate and comfortable. I liked it. It had a fireplace, overstuffed chairs, a sofa, and a quiet atmosphere.

He also seemed pleased with it. He said, "This is indeed a delightful room. Let us come here often. It is secluded and quiet, and we can fellowship together."

Well, naturally as a young Christian I was thrilled. I couldn't think of anything I would rather do than have a few minutes with Christ in intimate companionship.

He promised, "I will be here early every morning. Meet me here, and we will start the day together." So morning after morning, I would come downstairs to the living room and He would take a book of the Bible from the bookcase. He would open it and then we would read together. He would tell me of its riches and unfold to me its truths. He would make my heart warm as He revealed His love and His grace He had toward me. These were wonderful hours together. In fact, we called the living room the "withdrawing room." It was a period when we had our quiet time together.

But, little by little, under the pressure of many responsibilities, this time began to be shortened. Why, I'm don't know, but I thought I was just too busy to spend time with Christ. This was not intentional, you understand; it just happened that way. Finally, not only was the time shortened, but I began to miss a day now and then. It was examination time at the university. Then it was some other urgent emergency. I would miss it two days in a row and often more.

I remember one morning when I was in a hurry, rushing downstairs, eager to be on my way.

As I passed the living room, the door was open. Looking in, I saw a fire in the fireplace and Jesus was sitting there. Suddenly in dismay I thought to myself, "He was my guest. I invited Him into my heart! He has come as Lord of my home. And yet here I am neglecting Him."

I turned and went in. With downcast glance, I said, "Blessed

Master, forgive me. Have You been here all these mornings?"

"Yes," He said, "I told you I would be here every morning to meet with you." Then I was even more ashamed. He had been faithful in spite of my faithfulness. I asked His forgiveness and He readily forgave me as He does when we are truly repentant.

"The trouble with you is this: you have been thinking of the quiet time, of the Bible study and prayer time, as a factor in your own spiritual progress, but you have forgotten that this hour means something to me also. Remember, I love you. I have redeemed you at great cost. I value your fellowship. Now," He said, "do not neglect this hour if only for my sake. Whatever else may be your desire, remember I want your fellowship!"

You know, the truth that Christ desires my companionship, that He loves me, wants me to be with Him, wants to be with me and waits for me, has done more to transform my quiet time with God than any other single fact. Don't let Christ wait alone in the living room of your heart, but every day find some time when, with your Bible and in prayer, you may be together with Him.

### *The Workroom*

Before long, He asked, "Do you have a workroom in your home?" Down in the basement of the home of my heart I had a workbench and some equipment, but I was not doing much with it. Once in a while I would play around with a few little gadgets, but I wasn't producing anything substantial or worthwhile.

I led Him down there.

He looked over the workbench and what little talents and skills I had. He said, "This is quite well furnished. What are you producing with your life

for the Kingdom of God?" He looked at one or two little toys that I had thrown together on the bench and held one up to me. "Are these little toys all that you are doing for others in your Christian life?"

"Well," I said, "Lord, that is the best I can do. I know it isn't much, and I really want to do more, but after all, I have no skill or strength to do more."

"Would you like to do better?" He asked.

"Certainly," I replied.

"All right. Let me have your hands. Now relax in me and let my Spirit work through you. I know that you are unskilled, clumsy and awkward, but the Holy Spirit is the Master-Worker, and if He controls your hands and your heart, He will work through you." And so, stepping around behind me and putting His great, strong hands over mine, controlling the tools with His skilled fingers He began to work through me.

There's much more that I must still learn and I am very far from satisfied with the product that is being turned out, but I do know that whatever has been produced for God has been through His strong hand and through the power of His Spirit in me.

Do not become discouraged because you cannot do much for God. Your ability is not the fundamental condition. It is He who is controlling your fingers and upon whom you are relying. Give your talents and gifts to God and He will do things with them that will surprise you.

### *The Rec Room*

I remember the time He asked me about the playroom. I was hoping He would not ask about that. There were certain associations and friendships, activities and amusements that I wanted

to keep for myself. I did not think Christ would enjoy them or approve of them, so I evaded the question.

But there came an evening when I was on my way out with some of my friends, and as I was about to cross the threshold, He stopped me with a glance and asked, "Are you going out?"

I replied, "Yes."

"Good," He said, "I would like to go with you."

"Oh," I answered rather awkwardly. "I don't think, Lord Jesus, that You would really want to go with us. Let's go out tomorrow night. Tomorrow night we will go to prayer meeting, but tonight I have another appointment."

He said. "That's alright. Only I thought that when I came into your home, we were going to do everything together, to be close companions. I just want you to know that I am willing to go with you."

"Well," I said, "we will go someplace together tomorrow night."

That evening I spent some miserable hours. I felt wretched. What kind of a friend was I to Jesus when I was deliberately leaving Him out of my associations, doing things and going places that I knew very well He would not enjoy? When I returned that evening, there was a light in His room, and I went up to talk it over with Him. I said, "Lord, I have learned my lesson. I can't have a good time without You. From now on we will do everything together."

Then we went down into the playroom of the house and He transformed it. He brought into life real joy, real happiness, real satisfaction, new friends, new excitement, and new joys. Laughter and music have been ringing through the house ever since.

### *The Hall Closet*

There is just one more matter that I might share with you. One day I found Him waiting for me at the door. An arresting look was in His eye. As I entered, He said to me, "There is a peculiar odor in the house. There is something dead around here. It's upstairs. I think it is in the hall closet." As soon as He said this, I knew what He was talking about. Yes, there was a small closet up there on the landing, just a few feet square, and in that closet, behind lock and key, I had one or two little personal things that I did not want anyone to know about and certainly I did not want Christ to see them. I knew they were dead and rotting things left over from the old life. And yet I loved them, and I wanted them so for myself that I was afraid to admit they were there.

Reluctantly, I went up with Him, and as we mounted the stairs the odor became stronger and stronger. He pointed at the door. "It's in there! Some dead thing!"

I was angry. That's the only way I can put it. I had given Him access to the library, the dining room, the living room, the workroom, the playroom, and now He was asking me about a little two-by-four closet. I said to myself, "This is too much. I am not going to give Him the key."

"Well," He said, reading my thoughts, "if you think I'm going to stay up here on the second floor with this odor, you are mistaken. I will take my bed out on the back porch. I'm certainly not going to put up with that." Then I saw Him start down the stairs.

When you have come to know and love Christ, the worst thing that can happen is to sense His fellowship retreating from you. I had to surrender.

"I'll give You the key," I said sadly, "but You'll have to open the closet and clean it out. I haven't the strength to do it."

"I know," He said. "I know you haven't. Just give me the key. Just authorize me to take care of that closet and I will." So with trembling fingers I passed the key to Him. He took it from my hand, walked over to the door, opened it, entered it, took out all the putrefying stuff that was rotting there, and threw it away. Then He cleaned the closet and painted it, fixed it up, doing it all in a moment's time. Oh, what victory and release to have that dead thing out of my life!

### *Transferring the Title*

Then a thought came to me. I said to myself, "I have been trying to keep this heart of mine clear for Christ. I start on one room and no sooner have I cleaned that then another room is dirty. I begin on the second room and the first room becomes dusty again. I am so tired and weary trying to maintain a clean heart and an obedient life. I am just not up to it!"

So I ventured a question: "Lord, is there any chance that You would take over the responsibility of the whole house and operate it for me and with me just as You did that closet? Would You take the responsibility to keep my heart what it ought to be and my life where it ought to be?"

I could see His face light up as He replied, "Certainly, that is what I came to do. You cannot be a victorious Christian in your own strength. That is impossible. Let me do it through you and for you. That is the way. But," He added slowly, "I am not owner of this house. I am just a guest. I have no authority to proceed, since the property is not mine."

I saw it in a minute and dropping to my knees, I said, "Lord, You have been a guest and I have been the host. From now on I am going to be the servant. You are going to be the owner and Master and Lord."

Running as fast as I could to the strongbox, I took out the title deed to the house describing its assets and liabilities, location and situation and condition. I eagerly signed it over to belong to Him alone for time and eternity. "Here," I said. "Here it is, all that I am and have forever. Now You run the house. I'll just remain with You as a servant and friend."

He took my life that day and I can give you my word, there is no better way to live the Christian life. He knows how to keep it in shape and deep peace settles down on the soul. May Christ settle down and be at home in your heart as Lord of all!

*Robert Boyd Munger (1911-2001) was a Presbyterian minister who wrote this timeless work exactly 50 years ago.*

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God's Word says, **John 14:1** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

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**John 14:2** In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

**John 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

**John 14:4** And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

**John 14:5** Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 14:7** If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

**John 14:13** And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

**John 14:14** If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it].

**John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

**John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

## The Lighter Side

### ILL-FITTING BOOTS

There was a teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on. He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on.

When the second boot was finally on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on -- this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off.

He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." The teacher didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

She said, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."

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A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is, but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks. There is, however, one exception. A girl named Lucy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different.

"Because I'm not an atheist."

"Then," asks the teacher, "What are you?"

"I'm a Christian."

The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks Lucy why she is a Christian.

"Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian, so I am a Christian."

The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly. "What if your mom was a moron, and you dad was a moron. What would you be then?"

A pause, and a smile. "Then," says Lucy, "I'd be an atheist!"

## The Lighter Side (con't)

There were two men shipwrecked on this island. The minute they got on to the island one of them started screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly that it drove the first man crazy. "Don't you understand?!? We're going to die!!"

The second man replied, "You don't understand. I make \$100,000 a week."

The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked, "What difference does that make?!? We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to DIE!!!"

The second man answered, "You just don't get it. I make \$100,000 a week and I tithe ten percent on that \$100,000 per week. My pastor will find me!"

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An elderly lady was well known for her faith and for her boldness and talking about it. She would stand on her front porch and shout, "Praise the Lord!"

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted, "Praise the Lord!! God, I need FOOD!! I am having a hard time. Please, Lord, send me some groceries!!"

The next morning, the lady went out on her porch and saw a large bag of groceries and shouted, "Praise the Lord!!"

The neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Ha Ha!! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries. God didn't."

The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and saying, "PRAISE THE LORD!!! He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them!!"

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One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. They picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost."

God listened patiently and kindly to the man and, after the scientist was

done talking, God said, "Very well! How about this? Let's have a man-making contest."

To which the man replied, "OK, great!"

But God added, "Now we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God just looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

## Poetry Section

### No “Plan B”

By Chaplain Bob

(inspired by Eric Smith)

God created Adam,  
He made it look simply.  
Put him in charge of the animals,  
There was no “Plan B”

Adam appeared lonely,  
As God could plainly see.  
I’ll create for him a woman,  
There is no “Plan B”

God created Adam  
Then He created Eve.  
Male and female created them,  
There is no “Plan B”

God said in the garden,  
You can eat free.  
But not of the tree of life,  
There is no “Plan B”

Lot lived at the gates of Sodom,  
Where he should not be.  
His wife became a pillar of salt,  
There is no “Plan B”

God told Abraham and Sarah  
Their offspring would be as sands of the sea  
They would bare Isaac their son,  
There was no “Plan B”

Sarah offered Hannah, to conceive,  
a son by a hand maiden was her “Plan B”  
Ishmael was born,  
But not what God said was to be.

Hannah and Ishmael were run out.  
In the desert, they both were set free.  
They had to be removed,  
There was no “Plan B”

God asked Abraham,  
To sacrifice Isaac, his son.

He was to be the source  
Of future generations.

Abraham was willing,  
His faith was strong as could be,  
God stopped his knife,  
That would have required a “Plan B”

God told Noah to built an ark,  
To save the animals and family.  
From the coming flood  
There was no “Plan B”

God said to Mary,  
You’re going to conceive.  
Bare the Son of God  
There is no “Plan B”

Jesus will be born in a manger,  
Though the Devil will try to deceive.  
Jesus will be born mankind’s savior,  
There is no “Plan B”

Of inmates from jail,  
Only 11% get parole free.  
And 88% return to prison,  
There is no “Plan B”

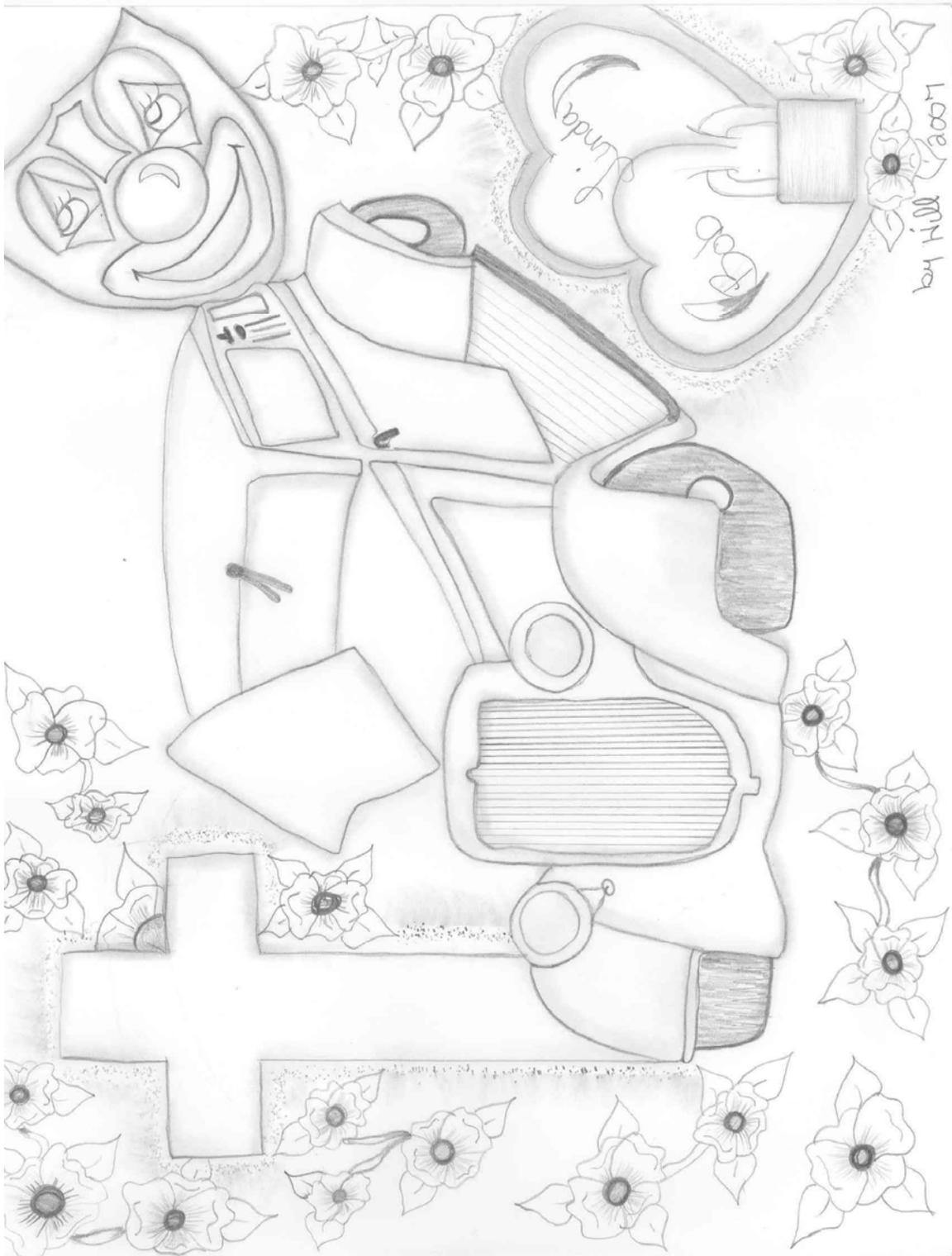
Freedom is not being on the outside,  
As many think it to be.  
But it comes from the inside,  
There is no “Plan B”

If we look at God’s plan,  
As it always should be,  
We realize He never gave  
A “Plan B”

If I want salvation,  
Jesus it’s got to be.  
He’s the only one that saves,  
There is no “Plan B”

## Inmate Art

We are proud to display the following drawing that was done by inmate Mary Hill



## Message in a Bottle!



The following article is another of “**Message in a Bottle**” from **Student of God**, Those of you that have followed the articles on “**My Dream Seeker**,” (starting with **volume 17, July/Aug. 2006**) know of the love and expression displayed by each writer, and felt by the reader of the article.

### Integrity, Strength, and Courage

I’m sending out this message for all those that want to listen. This message goes as follows; All those that wish to give themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, you may find it much harder than you think. There will be individuals that will try to manipulate your decision. But you must look past all of these barriers that may stand in your way. . . And you might say, “How do you know this?” Because it happened to me. I’m an ex-northerner. I was a gang member for over 25 years. And I’ve been in and out of prison for the last 8 years. . . and this is nothing to be proud of. My integrity values were as the following; conduct yourself like a professional, have respect, and have honor. Somewhere along the line, it turned all political for anyone that was connected in the neighborhood. Well I’m here to tell you that this is no way to

better ourselves. In fact it is not respect you are getting in your hood, it’s “fear”, not respect. For all those that continue to be active members, keep this in mind; nobody lasts forever and sooner or later you will be betrayed. If you don’t believe this, you’re in denial. There is no future in being an active member.

As for my new values, they are strength and courage, and this means integrity in my eyes. And my new set values are as the following; I now have a superior attitude in my new cause. And I have a superior determination, “My walk with the Lord Jesus Christ,” there is no hesitation in my new life, but a lot of rewards. I thank God for bringing all the positive people into my life. I will never stop accelerating with the Lord.

I want to thank all that took the time to read my message.

**A Student of God**