

# “Letter From M.O.M.”

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

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

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

**Volume 36** – May, 2008

## “I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we are doing some reprints of past articles, 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.

## Addresses to contact our Ministry Volunteers

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

**Moving On Ministry  
Spanish Ministry - Linda  
P.O. Box 6667  
Visalia, CA. 93290**

**Moving On Ministry  
Women's Ministry  
P.O. Box 6667  
Visalia, CA. 93290**

**Church Behind the Wall  
Visalia First Assembly  
3737 So. Akers  
Visalia, CA. 93277**

**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.**

## Letters that Express it All

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Appreciation Expressed

Greetings and blessings! I have just finished reading the Swaziland Special Edition newsletter of Feb. 2006, which I received in last night's mail. It is truly inspiring to read of these people's faith in the face of continuing hardship. My own personal dilemma pales somewhat in a comparison! Truly my heart reaches out to these unfortunate people, and especially the flood of orphans !!!

I also especially enjoyed the material on Noah's ark and the exodus (Jews from Egypt). I am truly overwhelmed by your generosity in sharing all of these things with me at such great obvious expense. It is quite apparent that you have invested much effort and personal expense in the preparation of these materials.

Having spent a quite lengthy period of time at the Bob Wiley Detention Facility (BWDF), I have found the path to despair to be often such a short journey. Additional evidence of our Lord's influence in my life is manifested thru meeting His special messengers, such as yourself. You are truly an inspiring individual.

I am very grateful for the materials that you have sent to me. I am very impressed with your work with the replica cars, having at one time owned a 1957 TR3 and a 1961 MGA. I, too, have a love affair with small foreign sports cars. I also had a 1987 Fiero, and was quite enamored by the quick-responsive little rascal.

You certainly have many eggs in your basket, and the project that you have going in Squaw Valley appears to have exciting possibilities! Getting out of here (BWDF) and getting my life back on track, is the focus of my energies. But I would love to find some time somewhere down the road, to volunteer some work in bringing your dream to fruition.

Once again, thank you so very much for your time and expense on my behalf. You are truly one of God's special people.

Respectfully, **DM**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Telling Like It Is**

Dear Chaplain Bob;

Thanks for responding to my letter and for vol. 16 of Letter From M.O.M. I truly enjoy the newsletter and was hoping you could send 1 thru 15?

Anyway, not many changes to speak of, Romans is coming along, yeh a chapter a day. I still cheat and read more than just one chapter, but I start the day by reading the corresponding chapter so I get to read them a few times.

In your letter you mention the struggle with Satan being similar to dropping out of a gang, well so far I've been doing pretty good, like I've said, I'm very new to this and every moment of every day offers new and harder obstacles. Yeh, Satan is hard at work, but by faith, prayer, and lots of hard work, I'm still headed in the right direction, and of course the guiding love of Jesus! I will not give up! I have given my life to Jesus and refuse to walk with Satan even one more step! Like you say "With BOLDNESS and NO Apology!" Believe me it's a lot harder than I ever dreamed of. I believe I lived a tough life. Well tough is nothing compared to the battle field in our hearts, every moment, every day!

Anyway, thank you very much for your kind words and support!!! Letter From M.O.M. has helped by showing me we all struggle and I'm far from alone! I still have millions of questions but I am learning daily.

**ES**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Sponges Soak Up Something**

My name is **RM** and you stopped by my door a couple of times while I was in Bob Wiley. A lot of the time you would stop by the brother "Isaac" door and I would eavesdrop just to hear the wonderful message of God. I apologize, but its just that God has captivated my life. So now I walk around like a sponge and soak up everything I can that has to do with the Word. Here where I am now (prison), we don't have the priviledge of having the message delivered to our door. But all is well, for my feet are planted firmly upon a rock and I have a Bible. I would like to request, if possible, that me and my wife be put on your newsletter mailing list. It would be highly appreciated! I remember asking you one time what made you do the things you do and how financially did you provide for your growing ministries. I remember the numbers and all I can say brother is that its not being done in vain the Lord will provide and you will be rewarded in Heaven. **RM**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Meth. vs. God**

My name is **AG** and my wife's name is **R**. We both used meth. I want this to become something of the past. Can you and your wife pray for us, so we move on with life without meth. and get addicted to God? I also have four boys that deserve this so much. **AG**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

---

## Introduction to Angels

Special thanks to [David Holt Boshart Jr. & www.christcenteredmall.com](http://www.christcenteredmall.com)

At this very moment there is a vast supernatural reality all around you. Although you cannot see it, this other realm encompasses angelic beings and spiritual powers. Does the Bible have anything to say about this other reality and how it involves us? Yes, it does!

Who are these mysterious creatures that adorn decorations and stir imaginations? What do [angels](#) do, and what is their purpose? The Bible has much to say about angels. It also tells the stories of men and women who encountered them.

Throughout history, angels have protected people or brought them special messages from God. Even today, some of us can recount experiences of angelic encounters at specific times in our lives. But whether we are aware of them or not, angels are continuously doing what they were created to do.

### What Is an Angel?

An [angel](#) is, by definition, a [messenger](#). The Bible has over three hundred references to angels, and defines two groups of angelic messengers. Heavenly angels carry out the commands of God, while [fallen angels](#) carry out acts of deceit and wickedness.

The Bible details the job description of God's angels: ***"Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word"*** (Psalm 103:20). The angels of God are always ready and available to obey His commands! They are strong and competent to carry out their next assignment from God's throne. But what exactly are angels assigned to do?

The Lord ***"maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire"*** (Psalm 104:4). These angels are ***"all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation"*** (Hebrews 1:14). In other words, angels are sent out from the throne room of God ***"because of the ones being about to inherit salvation."*** Wow! Our Creator God, who so loved the world, has not only brought salvation to us through Jesus Christ but also made angels to be His ministering spirits for us, the heirs of salvation!

Angels are heavenly spirit beings created by God, through Jesus Christ. ***"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible...all things were created by him and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist"***

(Colossians 1:16-17; also see Nehemiah 9:6). Angels are helpers, guardians, proclaimers of news, and agents of both the mercy of God and the wrath of God.

The Bible is not clear on *when* God created angels, but we do know that by the sixth day of creation, ***"the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them"*** (Genesis 2:1). We also know that angels were present when God laid the foundations of the earth (Job 38:4-7) and they rejoiced to see His creative work.

Scripture is mostly silent on the nature and origin of angels, for such information would distract us from the Bible's theme of God's salvation plan for mankind. But we are told *how* angels were created: ***"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth"*** (Psalm 33:6).

## What Else Does the Bible Say About These Heavenly Messengers?

Let's look at some fascinating facts about angels (heavenly messengers) from the Bible.

- Angels are invisible spirit beings (Numbers 22:22-31) but can take on human form (Genesis 18:2-8).
- Angels are strong (I Chronicles 21:16; Revelation 18:21) and powerful (Psalm 103:20; II Peter 2:11; Revelation 10:1, 18:1).
- Angels are radiant from being in God's presence (Judges 13:6; Luke 2:9). They behold the face of God (Matthew 18:10).
- Angels are *not* all-knowing (Matthew 24:36; II Thessalonians 1:7) but they are wise (II Samuel 14:17, 20).
- The Bible always speaks of angels in the masculine gender. Angels in heaven are not given in marriage (Matthew 22:30).
- Angels are immortal: they do not die (Luke 20:36; Hebrews 2:9, 15-16).
- Angels are holy (Matthew 25:31).
- Angels do not need rest (Revelation 4:8).
- Angels protect God's people (Psalm 34:7, 91:9-13).
- Just one angel killed 185,000 men of the Assyrian army in a single night (Isaiah 37:36).
- Angels speak their own language (I Corinthians 13:1).
- Angels ascend and descend from heaven (Genesis 28:12; John 1:51).
- Gold cherubim (angels) on the mercy seat represented the presence of God (Exodus 37:7-9; Numbers 7:89).
- Angels experience joy when one sinner repents (Luke 15:10)!
- Angels learn the wisdom of God by observing God's people (I Corinthians 4:9; Ephesians 3:10).
- Angels desire to look into the things of salvation (I Peter 1:10-12).
- Angels are awesome in appearance (Judges 13:20).
- Angels are sometimes referred to as *stars* and the *host of heaven* (Judges 5:20; Job 25:5, 38:7; Revelation 1:20).
- We are to entertain strangers, for some have entertained angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:2).
- Angels will be judged by humans (I Corinthians 6:3).
- Angels will gather the elect at the end of this age (Matthew 24:31).
- The angels of God are innumerable; there is no equal to the armies of heaven (II Kings 6:14-17; Psalm 68:17; Jeremiah 33:22; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11).



Angels possess intelligence superior to that of humans (II Peter 2: 11). They are not limited by an earthly body and can move instantly through space. In fact, in a single instant, an angel can come from the highest heaven down to earth or go from one end of the universe to the other.

These powerful beings stood by, ready to assist Jesus Christ when He faced the agony of a tortuous death. Jesus said, ***"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"*** (Matthew 26:53).

Angels are completely subject to Jesus and ***"all the angels of God worship Him"*** (Hebrews 1:6). In fact, ever since Jesus ascended into heaven and sat on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers became subject to Him (I Peter 3:22).

### **What Do Angels Do?**

As ministering spirits, angels carry out the commands of God pertaining to the heirs of salvation. This involves warning, guiding, protecting, comforting, providing, and delivering the children of God according to His perfect will. ***"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them"*** (Psalm 34:7; also see Psalm 91:11).

How did angels attend to the needs of people in the Bible?

- An angel provided water for Hagar and her son in the desert (Genesis 16:7-11, 21:17).
- Angels rescued Lot and his family from wicked Sodom (Genesis 19:1).

- An angel went before Abraham's servant in finding a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:40).
- Angels appeared in Jacob's dream of a ladder reaching to heaven (Genesis 28:12).
- The Angel of God guided the nation of Israel (Exodus 14:19, 23:20; Judges 2:1-4). Israel also ate the food of angels — manna from heaven (Psalm 78:25)!
- The Old Testament Law was given to men by angels (Galatians 3:19).
- An angel instructed Manoah and his wife on rearing their son, Samson (Judges 13:3-21).
- An angel brought food and water to Elijah and encouraged him (I Kings 19:5-7; II Kings 1:3, 15).
- God's angel shut the mouths of lions to protect Daniel (Daniel 6:22).
- Isaiah saw angels when he encountered God (Isaiah 6:2-6).
- The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias about the birth of his son John (Luke 1:11-19).
- Gabriel also appeared to Mary about the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38).
- Joseph received guidance and warnings from an angel in his dreams (Matthew 1:20, 24, 2:13, 19).
- Angels proclaimed Christ's birth to the shepherds (Luke 2:9-15).

- Angels stirred the waters at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5: 4).
- An angel appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women at the tomb (Matthew 28:2, 5).
- An angel released the apostles from prison (Acts 5:19).
- An angel directed Philip to the path of the Ethiopian eunuch so he could lead him to Christ (Acts 8:26).
- Cornelius received warning from an angel (Acts 10:3, 7, 22).
- An angel released Peter from prison (Acts 12:7-11).
- An angel assured Paul that no lives would be lost in the shipwreck (Acts 27:23).
- An angel was involved in bringing a revelatory vision to John (Revelation 1:1, 22:8-9).

It is intriguing to read biblical accounts of angelic interaction with humans, and it is especially interesting to note how people responded. Were they afraid? Terrified? Did they even know it was an angel who was speaking to them? Regardless, whether angels appeared in dreams, visions, or in human form, the result was miraculous protection and provision.

Here we encounter a question that many of us ask at one time or another: When tragedies happen, where are angels? And, where is God when the wickedness of man causes innocent people to die? The answer is that we cannot see all the warfare that goes on in the spiritual realm. There are, in fact, **angels unseen** even in such painful times, bringing assurance,

protection, comfort, and guidance to certain ones as directed by the wisdom and sovereignty of God. We can trust our faithful Creator to make all things right in the end.

### What Are Cherubim and Seraphim?

**Cherubim** and **seraphim** are winged creatures that appear in Scripture and make their most memorable appearances in the visions of Ezekiel (1:4-28, 10:3-22), Isaiah (6:2-6), and John (Rev 4:7). Although not specifically called **angels**, cherubim and seraphim are revealed as *living creatures* or *heavenly beings* whose primary purpose is to worship God at His throne.

**Cherubim** (also called cherubs) are revealed as powerful guards or attendants to the divine throne. God placed cherubim and a flaming sword at the garden of Eden to guard the way of the tree of life (Genesis 3:24). In the tabernacle and also the temple, gold cherubim on the mercy seat signified the presence of God (Exodus 37:7-9; Numbers 7:89; Psalm 80:1).

In Ezekiel's vision, he saw cherubim as living creatures next to the throne of God, worshipping and serving Him. The cherubim had four faces: man, lion, ox and eagle, although Ezekiel 10:14 replaces the face of the ox with the face of a cherub. Each living creature possessed four wings, two of which covered their bodies, and two of which extended upward. They traveled on what appeared to be a **"wheel in the middle of a wheel"** (Ezekiel 1:16) and went in any direction with great speed like a flash of lightning. Their appearance was brilliant like fire and their wings made noise like a great waterfall. What was Ezekiel's reaction? He fell on his face, completely overtaken by the glory of the Lord.



**Seraphim** only appear in Isaiah's vision. Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a throne, and seraphims stood over the throne crying out, **"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: His glory is the fullness of the whole earth"** (Isaiah 6:3 — literal translation).

Seraphim means *the burning ones* or *flying serpents*. They were similar to cherubim but had six wings, two of which covered their face, two of which covered their feet, and with two wings they flew. What was Isaiah's reaction? He said, **"Woe is me...I am a man of unclean lips"** (Isaiah 6:5). He saw his own inadequacy and sinfulness when he encountered the holiness of God! But then one of the seraphim touched Isaiah's lips with a live coal from the altar, and God gave Isaiah a message for the people of Judah.

### What Is an Archangel?

The word **archangel** is mentioned twice in Scripture. The Greek word is *archaggelos* which is a combination of *archo* (meaning "first" in political rank or power) and *aggelos* (meaning "messenger"). An archangel by definition is the first or highest angel and leader of the angels. It denotes a definite distinction of rank for a special service, as in *chief priest* or *chief shepherd*.

The only angel mentioned to be an archangel in the Bible is Michael (Jude 1:9). The other Scripture that mentions an archangel is in reference to the coming of Christ: **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first"** (I Thessalonians 4:16). This event is described in detail in Revelation chapters 10 and 11.

### Is There an Angelic Hierarchy?

The Bible does not reveal an angelic hierarchy. God is the commander of His heavenly host (Isaiah 45:12). However, there are a few scriptures that infer delegated authority to some angels. Paul mentions **"elect angels"** (I Timothy 5:21) and says that **"one star differeth from another star in glory"** (I Corinthians 15:41), implying that each star (and each angel) is unique in glory and in position.

### What Are Fallen Angels?

Remember that an angel is a **messenger** and that the Bible defines two groups of angelic messengers: the good and the evil. We have seen how God's heavenly messengers obey His commands and minister for us — the heirs of salvation.

Evil angels, however, are those who have fallen from their first estate (see Jude 1:6) since the Creation. The Bible records several different times when angels fell to earth. Some have already fallen (Genesis 6:2; Amos 5:26; Revelation 12:4) and some will fall in the future (Revelation 6:13, 8:10-11, 9:1). It is **Satan**, the great dragon, who entices them (Revelation 12:4), perhaps with promises that they will be worshipped by men as gods or rule over an earthly kingdom. **Fallen angels** learn wickedness and become apprentices of their new master Satan.

Unlike humans, fallen angels cannot be redeemed. Once angels rebel against God, they are permanently banned from God's glory and presence. Some fallen angels are currently imprisoned until God's day of judgment (I Peter 3:19-20; II Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6), and some rule the realm of darkness with **Satan**. They, too, will face the wrath of God (Matthew 25:41).

## Our Interpretation

If you would like to find out our personal conclusion to the questions mentioned above, then please read on:

- God is Creator through His Word. ***"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth"*** (Genesis 1:1). Within six days, ***"the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them"*** (Genesis 2:1).
- Angels saw and rejoiced in the Creation (Job 38: 4-7). However, they also were created, possibly on the fourth day of creation along with the stars. (Elsewhere in Scripture, angels are related to stars.) Note the amazing parallel between angels and stars: ***"And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness"*** (Genesis 1:17-18).
- If Satan was one of those angels, we believe he was a **seraphim** (which literally means "fiery serpent"). Remember that Satan is the **crooked serpent**. In the Garden of Eden, the serpent was the most cunningly shrewd of all the beasts (literally, *living creatures*) that God had created (Genesis 3:1). As one of the seraphims, he would have worshipped in the highest heaven, closest to the throne of God. The holy seraphims are described in Isaiah 6 as having six wings to cover them.
- Just as Jesus' disciple Judas became the traitor so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled, Satan became the deceiver so that God's great plan could be accomplished. Judas was in Christ's close circle of friends, yet a stumbling block was set before him (greed) about which he was warned, but on which he fell and turned bad. A similarity seems true of Satan. He was created to be the adversary of mankind, but early on in Genesis 3, it does not appear that he had ever sinned, nor had been cursed by God.
- The cunning fiery seraphim (serpent) took advantage of this opportunity. As Paul says in Romans 7:11, ***"For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me."*** Satan went to Eve first to question God's integrity and deceive her (see I Timothy 2:14).
- And so, Satan was the first angelic being to fall. In Genesis 4:7, it was he who crouched at the door of Cain's heart to plant thoughts of murder. The next record of **fallen angels** is in Genesis 6. Throughout history, other angels have fallen, enticed by Satan to be the rulers behind earthly kingdoms, powers, and principalities, as more and more people filled the earth. The fall of one-third of the angels happened long after Creation, as we have already seen in Revelation 12.

## A Hard Knocks Life

Everyday that I am incarcerated, I thank God for loving me enough to put me in a place where I could no longer defile and destroy my body. I said the sinners prayer approximately 5 years ago. I had struggled with my addiction off and on until April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, when I was graciously given the opportunity to repent for my sin once again in the form of an arrest. Whoever said God does not have a sense of humor?

I remember very vividly that first bittersweet week I spent in jail. I went through one of the worst detoxes I've had as an opiate addict. I went through most of my adult life immersed in deception (without our covering and headship sisters, we are easily deceived). I could not imagine God using someone like me to help other people. DECEPTION ! That is what Satan wanted me to believe. God cannot use you in addiction, but helps you build a testimony about addictions, that He can do.

That day in jail, I talked to God like I was the only one who ever talked to Him. Not once did I ask Him to take away the horrific withdrawals I was going through, I asked Him to be with me while I went through them. I surrendered to God and He started His purification of my mind, body, heart, and soul.

I relate my testimony to the scripture in Rev. 3:18-19, "I counsel you to buy gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments that your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

I think about what has to be done to gold in the refining process and I know that I have been tested and tried, and put through fire. Knowing and feeling the relationship that I have with God, I can't imagine attempting to conquer an addiction without

Him. It's like the dog that returns to his vomit in Prov. 26:11. Who wants to go back to that kind of life? The house that is empty. I had to replace that hole in my spirit with Jesus.

That scripture in Revelation is very powerful to me because its truth. He took the shame of my addiction (that's the label of what an addict and the typical idea of what an addict is) and gave me spiritual battle at hand.

You can apply this to any addiction. I just happen to be addicted to opiates and methamphetamine. Drug addiction is a gateway stronghold for Satan because so many other sins and addictions are attached to it, like sexual immorality, pornography, stealing, emotional abuse, physical abuse, etc.

Having the label or stigma of an addict is discouraging at times. I don't do this very much anymore, but I used to say "Why me?" Well this is why. If I could go through the rest of my life and use my testimony of how God protected me and brought me through 3 overdoses, 4 suicide attempts, 3 seizures from detoxing, loosing my freedom, my family, and everything I own several times over, the help redeem one soul for God, then its worth it. Our testimony is the most powerful thing we have. It shows the devil that this is one soul he won't get.

When you get discouraged, let me just remind you that you are the apple of your Father's eye (Psa. 17:8). You are the first fruits among His creation (James 1:18). You are a joint heir with Jesus (Rom. 8:17). The list goes on and on. If you do some heartfelt earnest searching, you will find that our mistakes don't define us, God does.

God Bless "**Heaven Bound**"  
**KN**

## Themba's Swaziland Testimony

When I grew up, my family was one of the poorest. That was not because my father was not working but all was because God was not there. That life opened many opportunities to the devil to use all of us anyhow. No one was successful in life and no one was going to be successful. My father was a polygamist. The two clans were always fighting, which was the children of the other mother, with us. In my mother's house we are eight and the other mother have eleven children. And my father also had another son which he had from another woman, so we are twenty at all. My father was proud of having this number of children and was claiming to be a real Swazi. He used to say that God said we must be fruitful and multiply in the beginning so if we don't do that, we are disobeying Him. He was believing very strong in the Swazi cultures and laws. The fact is that many of our cultural practices are evil. You could not tell him this that time for he could even kill you and take some steps against you. Somehow I can say that he was double minded because he never miss a Sunday to church. He believed God and ancestors at the same time. So when I grew up, I was more influenced to these things. I became more evil to people around me because I grew up in an evil environment. I was doing all what earthly people do: having many girl friends, like fighting, drinking alcohol, and believing to ancestors as my father taught me. I once smoked cigarette for a week. When I was 16 my parents were no longer able to control me and they had no way to discipline me even when I have done something wrong. I was spending most of my time in bars and every night was in discos dancing and drinking. During those years, there was no peace at home, everyday there was a fight. As a result of being rude,

my father ended up not paying my school fees and not giving me any support. I left my school like that. I realized that from that day my future is lost but because I thought I was clever, many plans I had in my mind. Not even one of those plans was successful till today. I hated my father and went away from home to stay next to Mbabane the capital city of Swaziland with my friends. We were doing all sort of corruption there only to discover than we were going worse with poverty. Stealing was the only thing hard for me. Among those friends I was the only one who decided to search for a job. I struggled searching for a job and getting temporal jobs.

One good day I went to mail some job application letters to the post office. I met an old white woman who was a Christian. She has a badge on her chest written "I love Jesus". Her name is Nun Jarvis a physician. One of my girl friend liked to put on the badge written the same words BUT she was a bad prostitute. So her badge draws my attention and challenges my thinking if she was really a Christian or a prostitute like my girl friend? As I was looking her she notice that there was something with me. She greeted me and asked me if I needed my own badge. I quickly said "yes" to avoid any conversation with her. She invited me to come for my own the following day and give me a direction to her office. I started to have hope that this woman might give me a job. So I did as she said. The following day, when I arrived in her office, she gave me a Bible and a necklace with (WWJD) and explain to me its meaning. That made me to think about her Jesus. I became so hungry to read that beautiful small NIV Bible. I was 21 that time. I read it often like a novel book trying to finish it quickly. Fortunately within a week I

realized that my life status was not in a right position where God created me to be. Galatians chapter five broke me to ashes when it describes me exactly and told me that i will go to hell. I became so guilt to know that my sin has separated me from God. I suddenly went to Mon Jarvis to tell her about what I felt. I asked her what should I do then? She quoted many verses for me including acts 2:38-41 and Isaiah 1:18. Then she prayed for me. It is where I started my Christian journey till today. What I have noticed is that my heart was very hard to believe when someone preached so God made another plan so that the gospel may reach me. The fact is that Mom Nun Jarvis was an intercessor. After giving me the Bible, she prayed

for me daily until I repented. Now my father, mother and family are Christians through me. I preach the gospel to them always. Only two brothers are still not Christians. I praise God always for raising the dead family to life including me who was in shame to be such a man. It is in my heart that all people should see what I have seen, may see God's love and goodness as I have seen with my family. I'm called now to peach the gospel to all nations so that people may see the light and enter the kingdom of God.

I will continue about my church next time.

Bye for Themba

---

## Poems

### **A Blind Man's Quest For Vision**

Help me Lord to know you well  
I struggle, for I'm weak.  
Open up my eyes, dear Lord  
To answers that I seek.

Show me how to love you, Lord  
Deliver me through love.  
Cleanse me of my sins, oh Lord  
I pray , dear God, above.

When I fall short, forgive me Lord  
For I have much to learn.  
Help me Lord, to see the light  
And know which way to turn.

Take my hand and lead me, Lord  
From darkness to your light.  
That when I make my choices, Lord  
That each I make, be right !!!

**David Marsh 11/07**

### **Close the Door**

I have been so busy of late,  
My life a constant, hectic pace.

What is the reason for all the gloom,  
Could it be the empty prayer room?

Oh, the room is not empty, now I can  
see,  
It is filled with fog...wait...that's me.

In place of thanksgiving and praise,  
I found dreariness, dimness and haze.

Clouds of life....an open door,  
I miss the times my spirit would soar.

I purpose today and forever more,  
To enter "the room" and close the door

*Alex*

Selah

## Poems (Con't)

### God's Love

I clearly see the light of God  
It's calm, and no more storm.  
Love in my heart for all mankind  
Once cold, I now am warm.

God's come to me to take my hand  
To cleanse me of my sin.  
Heaven's gate now beckon's me  
Once out, now I am in.

It's all right here in black and white  
God's love has set me free.  
My Bible says, He's promised me  
I'll live eternally.

God's plan for us, for all mankind,  
Salvation, one and all  
Open both our minds and hearts  
It's time we heed God's call.

**David Marsh** 7/07

---

### So Many Trails But Only One Road Home

Help me Lord, to find my way,  
I've much from you to learn.  
So many trails from which to choose  
So many ways to turn.

But only one will take me home  
And how then will I know.  
Come forth, Lord to guide me  
That I'll know where to go.

Lift my spirit, save my soul.  
In darkness you're my light.  
When I stumble, when I fall  
In weakness you're my might.

**David Marsh** 7-07

### Pray For Peace

As we fired off the heavy guns  
Lord, hear those cannons roar.  
Then loaded up and readied them  
And set them off once more.

See the few we did not kill,  
They're taking off in flight.  
The general set us chasing them,  
Says kill 'em all tonight.

I killed a man I did not know.  
I'm still not sure just why.  
They told me he's the enemy  
And for that he'll die.

God forgive me, I have sinned.  
I took another's life.  
A man who had a family,  
Small children and a wife.

Someone tell his family,  
Dad's coming home no more.  
This man who held them tenderly,  
A casualty of war.

I only ask one thing, dear Lord,  
This nightmare soon must cease.  
No more needless, wasted lives,  
Can we all pray for peace . . .

**David Marsh** 01-08

---



## Poems (Con't)

### The Friend God Let Me Share

(For my special friend, Gary Johnson!

You are so sorely missed)

I'm going to miss my friend, indeed  
This special friend I had.  
A special man who touched my life  
Whose death has left me sad.

I know my friend is in God's hands  
And both are awaiting me.  
His spirit now is all I have  
For God has set him free.

The many lives my friend has touched  
Are those who share my pain.  
Though selfishly I want him back  
My loss is Heaven's gain.

I'm going to miss my friend, although  
He's gone, but still so near.  
Thank you God, for blessing me  
With a special friend so dear.

I'm going to see my friend someday  
I know, somehow, somewhere.  
And I'll cherish in my memory  
The friend God let me share.

**David Marsh** 01/08

NOTE: Gary Johnson was a dedicated individual that would visit the individuals locked up at BWDF. His desire was to share the joy that was brought by having a relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. Gary was the son-in-law of the late Roy Rogers and Dale Evans (those of you dating back to the famous western series on TV).

### When I Got to Heaven

I was shocked, confused,  
bewildered  
As I entered Heaven's door  
Not by the beauty of it all  
By the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
Who made me sputter and gasp  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners  
The alcoholics, the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh  
grade  
Who swiped my lunch money twice  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
Who never said anything nice.

Uncle Bill, who I always thought  
Was rotting away in hell  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?  
I would love to hear Your take  
How'd all these sinners get up  
here?  
God must have made a mistake."

"And why is everyone so quiet  
So somber? Please give me a  
clue."  
"Hush, child," said He. "They're all  
in shock  
No one thought they'd see you!"

**Author Unknown**

Inmate Art by **Leo Castillo**

