

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 38 – July, 2008

“I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we have many new writers of 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

We are affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/movingon>

and Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Volunteer

www.GoodNewsJail.com

Fellowship

As we continue to reach out, as commanded in Matt. 25:34-46, we get contact with many of the ministries that are also reaching out. We have been blessed with two letters from Rick Warren (Saddleback Church, 40 Days of Purpose, and Celebrate Recovery), received a phone call from Charles Morris (Haven of Rest, Haven Today), met Chip Ingram (Living on the Edge), and met Bruce Wilkinson (Dream For Africa) before we did the Africa mission trip to Swaziland.

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 Ministry Volunteers

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**Cathy Jewell
P.O. Box 41272
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**Set Free Prison Ministries
Bible Correspondence Course
P.O. Box 5440
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**Send us names and Ministries
that “do” write and are
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Ministry Notes and Updates

Dreams and Goals of Moving On Ministry (M.O.M.)

Since the start of involvement with jail and prison ministry, Bob has had his heart set (set by God because it was on the list of things Bob said he would not do) to find solutions and answers to the facts of prisons.

For the most part, the term “Correctional Institution” does not fit, the correction seems to be lacking. We realize that something cannot be changed unless it wants to be changed. That lack of wanting change is mostly because of how the “change” is presented.

There is 88% recidivism for inmates in California Prisons, with the rest of the nation approximately the same values. That means that 88% of those seen in prison right now will return when released. Only 11% of the inmates will ever get off of parole.

For 2008, Bob is doing Bible study at BWDF on Mondays and Thursdays.

The Sunday after the 2nd Saturday of each month is Bob and Linda’s assigned day for 3 to 4 chapel Services at Corcoran State Prison (“Old” Corcoran). 07/13/08, 08/10/08, 09/14/08, 10/12/08, 11/09/08, & 12/14/08.

M.O.M. Needs

- Tractor repair or replacement for Camp Clarius development.
- Pen-pals to write inmates
- Finances
- Testimonies
- Development of Nevada property
- Graphics for books

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." Every week we get many letters that state "I love hearing the testimonies." There are so many, we cannot publish them all, and the sad part is – people not involved in jail/prison ministry do not get to read the many letters we receive daily (average 2 to 11 each day) and try to keep up with and answer.

Calling of a Soldier

Position ally every believer in Jesus Christ is entrusted with six offices spiritually. These six offices are excluded from any spiritual gift(s) imparted to the believer by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. But basic knowledge and utilization of these spiritual offices is absolutely essential to potentially glorify God within His calling designed for you before the foundation of the world to walk in. The Saint positionally is: Priest, Disciple, Witness, Servant, Ambassador, and Soldier. These six offices belong to every believer and are divided into two categories;

Spiritual Life	Christian Service
Priest	Servant
Disciple	Ambassador
Witness	Soldier

24/7

The concept is for the believer to better discern between spiritual life and Christian service or duty.

For a believer to desire the noble task of serving the Lord from a heart filled with love in Christian service, is a

commendable thing. Sadly, often times the tragedy we ignorantly might sow, is instead of gathering for the Kingdom of God, we scatter. The Lord has taught me an important principle about the Heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1) provided for every human being, especially them which expressed positive volition in Jesus Christ for salvation.

His desire for us is to first sow to our spiritual life, grow in Bible doctrine. Then we will effectively in grace, reap a fruitful harvest in Christian service. Instead of us saints working on what we could do for God’s Son Jesus, our Lord, He desires for us to utilize our Holy calling / spiritual life, and learn of the work His Son Jesus Christ our Savior had done for us at the cross. As Christ’s ambassadors, then we will glorify God and mighty exploits through His Church will further make fruitful His body and His kingdom. We shall go forth as soldiers fighting the good fight. Who knows? You could be an Evangelist, or pastor, or a teacher. Only God knows. Who hath saved us, and called us with a “Holy-calling,” not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (2 Tim. 1:9); There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all (Eph. 4:4-6).

Why are there so many denominations out there in the body and so much division in here? Baptist, Protestant, Apostolic, Catholic, etc. Why? We claim to be rightly dividing the word of God, yet we aren’t endeavoring to keep the unity as His church. We say we aren’t ignorant of the devil’s devices, that we are mature

Christian. I really challenge us to question what we truly understand about Satan and his part as the god of this age, as an angel of light.

We believers in Christ have taken the law of liberty for granted. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23)

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling; and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Eph. 1:18).

Believers in Christ have chosen to determine their own calling for their own lives. As “religious legalism” becomes the back-bone for spiritual Christianity. This is a common problem for the members of His Body in the Church. Yet God loves you and me so much and respects our volition (freedom of will), that He allows us Christians to choose our own path in Him. But He hopes we find our true destiny in grace, according to the purpose of the holy calling. Imagine God having a hope that you, me, and every other human being to ever exist, to experience a special and specific calling for our very own spiritual life, including every provision needed to fulfill it.

Sometimes a soldier can forget how important everything really is in my life. To remember every single thing that happens, is for a reason. To lay hold of this high calling. There is a necessity of a strict discipline, hardship, suffering, allowed by the Lord, in order for me not to forget my Citizenship.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance – irrevocable (Rom. 11:29)

TM

Appreciation and Congratulations

Dearest Chaplain Bob & Sister Linda,
Good greetings I send to you both first and foremost. Chaplain Bob, I'd like to wish you a happy belated Father's Day. I hope that you had a very blessed Father's day! I just wanted you both to know that I received my monthly (M.O.M.) newsletter for this month, June 2008. Thank you both for looking out for me and reaching out to me. If nothing else, I can always count on hearing from you both at least once a month with some friendly “Good News,” which I admire and appreciate so very much. I truly consider you both as my family.

Both of your presence in my life, your words, your stories, your personal experiences, and your whole ministry that you uphold and represent has truly captivated my life, my world, and my 'being,' Moving On Ministry has truly made a profound impact on my life toward a common good and I thank God and His one and only son, Jesus Christ, for blessing me with the divine gift of meeting you both. This opportunity continuously makes my heart smile. Both of your presence in my life really inspires me to do all the right things to stay sharp and to stay focused on God's Word! Thank You Jesus !

Now on to address a few matters concerning the M.O.M. newsletter. I was saddened to hear and learn that the other “ministries” ya'll used to post weren't answering back to inmates. Personally, I don't think that was too cool of them, being that we are all in the same “Siamese” field of serving the same all loving God, the Ruler of the Universe. I remember my moma taught me a famous little phrase growing up as

a child, "God don't like ugly, and a very little pretty." I think I'll end my thoughts and comments regarding that mater right here!

Once again, I want to congratulate Sister Linda for earning and being awarded her "jail bar cross" from attending 5 events with the all outstanding Bill Glass Champions for Life Prison Ministry. "You go Girl," God bless her soul. I also want to congratulate Sister Linda for being the "backbone" and the "Glue" that has kept me and Sister "Gidget" together as she and I have grown closer to one another in Christ. Thank you my dear, you are precious, a messenger, and an "angel" of God. May the many blessings of God rain upon you and Chaplain Bob, both a million times over.

To be honest, I view you both as it says in the scriptures referring to 1 Peter 2:9. "A chosen generation a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light," and now since God has driven you both out of the darkness into the light, a divine prophecy of God is now being fulfilled as you both travel the free and not so free world, spreading God's awesome good news. WOW, how sweet, how pleasant, how gracious the both of you are. Praise our all loving God as He is our King, our guider, and protector.

Now back to touching a few subjects regarding the newsletter. I hope continuous good things keep coming forth to M.O.M., like the wonderful "Tools of Ministry." Like the "Kit Cars," the majestic sites such as Camp Clarius," the "Trucks and Tractors," I pray that God continues to bless you all there at M.O.M. I was touched in the

segment "Letters that Express it All," where in the letter titled "Plan of Giving" where two inmates sent two \$20 money gifts to Paulette (who needs a liver transplant) and the other to M.O.M. for whatever as it may be needed. WOW, God is good and God is great (not some of the time, all the time) AMEN!

The "Importance of getting it right," "The Five Steps to a Reprobate Mind," "A Clarion call to the modern church," "Being the Called, Instead of Calling Collect," and the newsletters "Testimony" were all good reading material and was also very inspiring to me too as well. Thank you both so very much, I am dedicated to all of you there at M.O.M., I will continuously stay in touch from time to time. Sister Linda, please tell "Gidget" I said hello, also give her a hug and a smile for me too as well. I hope to hear from you soon, God bless you both! RA

Two Strikes and Egg Shells

You don't know me but I have heard of you through many of my friends, and my former cellie, LC. You have been spoken highly of by my cellie JC. My name is DQ and I've been incarcerated here in Corcoran State Prison since 2005. Well, since I've been studying the Bible and doing Bible courses. I'm about to parole in 5 more months and I'm kind of scared what I might do when I get out of here.

I've lost my mother and wife since I've been incarcerated. So I don't have any family out there. I have 3 sisters, but I don't know their addresses. All I know is which city they live in. So, I'm walking out there alone, but I'm afraid I might backslide and loose my faith. So, would you have any advice

you could give me? I don't want to end up doing what I used to do, which ended me up here (Corcoran State Prison). I don't want to come back. I already have 2 strikes and walking on egg shells with the courts. So, I'm not getting any more chances and I don't want to end up doing life. Is there any literature you can send me that I can learn from, or suggestion. I'm open minded to anything which is Christianity, and I always want to learn anything about it. I don't mean to bore you, but you're the only one that might guide me on the right path, as you have others. Also I would like to ask you how is Leo doing and if he is doing well health wise. Me and him have been good friends for many years and also been cellies twice. If you see him, tell him he is always in my prayers. Well Chaplain Bob, thank you for your time and may God bless. **DQ**

Note From Bob;

It saddens us when we receive letters like the previous. Where are those "professing Christians" that say they are dedicated to God's children? The scripture says the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. It also says that when we are on our knees and they are weak from prayer, we will see strength in the spirit.

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.

Mark 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly [is] ready, but the flesh [is] weak.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh,

God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Powerless

My name is BWS. I'm 36 years of age, born in Phoenix, Arizona; raised in Dallas, Texas. Incarcerated on and off since age 12, lived on the streets most my life when not locked up. My life has been unmanageable cause I let drugs and alcohol take charge of my life. I was powerless over all drugs and alcohol. I stole and prostituted to get drugs and alcohol, but did use protection. So many times I attempted to quit completely. All my relationships were short term and almost always emotionally and physically abusive, only while under the influence. It was hard for me, I couldn't keep a job, get a drivers license or vehicle, and lost a wonderful girlfriend. I lost my families trust, I lost my self respect. Drunk again, high again, frightened again, a failure again. Now I've given my life to the Lord and straight and sober!

p.s. I hope you can find me a pen pal. Also, will you send me a copy of M.O.M.? **BWS**

From the Mom of M.O.M.

Bob's mother (Mom of M.O.M.) has requested drawings of what individuals think Heaven will be like. I think we will run a contest for the best drawing and award a quarterly gift pack for the drawing chosen.

Also for those wanting to contribute drawings for some of our books of poetry, please contact us.

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.

Get With the Program

Get With The Program

An individual is sitting in a chair and has the TV on to a sports game, and doing “12 oz. curls.” (lifting a 12 oz. can to his lips) What is he doing? His response is, “I’m playing football.” We would all acknowledge that we are not playing unless we are in the game.

What is the difference of;
Spectator
Vs.
Participator

A spectator gets excitement from what someone else does.

A participator causes excitement for others as well as himself, and is promoted by the spectators.

For the following questions that will be given, think simple and short answers.

Does it make a difference what team you’re on, as long as you’re in the game? **YES!** What makes the difference.

Teasmmates

Coach (Jesus)

Plan or plays

Practice

In Luke 5 we read the story of the disciples that fished and caught nothing, and then had a carpenter try to teach these professional fishermen how to catch fish.

Luke 5 (King James Version) **Cast Your Nets on the Other Side**

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said

unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Luke 5 (New International Version)

The Calling of the First Disciples

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God,

2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Why did Peter tell Christ he would throw out the net(s)?

What did Peter expect when he cast the net?

Why did Peter say, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man" ?

Doubt? Is Doubt a sin? God says we must come with the faith of a child. Example of David as a young man, then as a King. David went from "faith" to "Foolish".

How often do we exclude God from our working environment?

We hear constantly about the separation of church and state; that prayer should not be in schools; diversity in the workplace. Society is trying to keep God in the church building, and too many times we buy in to it.

How many find Christ while in prison, only to leave Him there when they leave?

What did these professional fishermen think when a carpenter was telling them how to do their business? Do we accept Christ as “The Authority?”

They were tired from failing at what they knew best, yet they obeyed Jesus. He made these fishermen successful at their jobs, but he had a new job in mind for them.

How often do we fail at our jobs?

How often do we fail in life?

Do the failures come when we try to do it in some way other than what God has planned?

What about conflicts we may encounter with others?

How often do we feel like we are just spinning our wheels?

Maybe we haven't looked to the Master/Coach for help. Jesus is asking us to trust Him. He can make us

successful at our job. Remember, success can come in different forms. Even if we are successful in our career, He may have something else in mind for us, just as He did His disciples.

Listen to Jesus

Read the “Owners Manual”

Becoming our Surroundings

Putting our body in a tub of cold water, we become cold. Putting our body in a tub of hot water, we become hot. What we are surrounded by, we become.

How do we avoid sliding back into the previous problems – just as what determines value in real estate, it is “Location, Location, Location. – Location determines the value of our lives as well.

We should also radiate our contents (Christ's filling with the Spirit) so much, that we surround whatever is near us. Our lives should be so overflowing that they splash God on those near us.

We have those that are being released and say “*I'm not going to be involved with my old ways. I am just going to hang around with my friends.*” Remember the analogy of the “*Participator*” vs. the “*Spectator*?” The participator is activated and encouraged by the spectator.

Wallpaper, Checkbooks, and Displays

Many of you know of my stand of importance – God First, Spouse 2nd, Family 3rd, and others 4th. That is where we get JOY

Jesus

Others

Yourself

And we actually have an instruction manual (the Owner's Manual)

Basic

Instructions

Before

Leaving

Earth

So the question comes as to how do we know what book of instructions we are following and what is the order of importance of "things" to us.

Checkbook and bank account..

Christ commands that we be good stewards of the things He has entrusted us with. Look at the spending habits of many individuals. They express more faith in spending (spending

what they do not have) than they express in God.

Importance of where our time and travels are to.

I get amused when someone tells me that they do not have time to do ministry or read the Bible, and then see them spend 4 hours watching a ball game for just enjoyment. Often the individuals will drive for 4 hours to get to a game, then watch for 4 hours, spend large amounts of money for over priced hotdogs and beverages, and then drive back home for 4 hours. Then you will hear from them that they do not have time, money or gas to help with ministry.

Simple as our computer Wallpaper

You can tell what is important to an individual by such items as what they have displayed as their screen saver or wallpaper on their computer. I used to like to display family members, secluded paradise locations, or some of the different cars I liked, on my computer wallpaper and screen saver. Then I realized that those items were displayed before me (and everyone else that came to my office) much of the day. I realized that I needed wallpaper according to "significance" (summary of the 7 S's that we base M.O.M. ministry on) in my life, Now on my wallpaper, you will see Linda holding her "Jail bar Cross" that she received from Bill Glass Ministry. You see, right below God, is the spouse, and a picture of a spouse holding something that represents ministry, just catches it all !!

The Matching Gift

We have many individuals that express their concern for “brothers,” “affiliates,” “family,” and “friends.” They see the activities going on in the world and streets. They see the senseless shedding of blood and loss of lives. We see the stand for those who are like thinking or affiliation. The Bible states we are to reach out to the lost, not just the “like.” Christ reached out to “all.”

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and [to] the evil.

Many people are searching for the answer to solve the violence we see all around. I think of a situation that developed with an individual I have done jail ministry with, Mike G.

While Mike was locked up in prison (actually a 4 striker that was sentenced to 42 years), he feared never making it out of prison and dying in a prison facility. He came to a point in his life that he leaned against one of the concrete walls in the prison and started to pray the following; “God, I don’t know who you are, where you are, or if you even exist. Reveal yourself to me and do not let me die in this prison. I

promise that I will serve you the rest of my life if you will make sure I don’t die in this prison. I am even willing to spend the 42 years in prison serving you, as long as I know I will get out of prison some day.”

Mike had served a total of 7 of those 42 prison years, when his case worker called him in to look at her computer screen. He asked, “What do you want me to look at?” She answered, “Look at your name.” Mike answered, I don’t see it.” She said, “Look again.” Mike said, I still don’t see it.” She replied, “Exactly, for some unknown reason, your name was removed from the system 3 months ago, and we need to release you.”

During Mike’s time in prison, he had kept his Northern affiliation. One day Mike was on the yard and was approached by an individual named Oscar. Oscar was Southern high structure. Oscar looked at Mike and said, “***Do you want to play some basketball?***” Mike replied, “***You know what will happen if we do this?***” Oscar replied, “***Yes, I know. So, do you want to play?***” Mike looked around and said “***Let’s do it.***” Almost immediately as they started, about 20-30 individuals of each affiliation gathered around and asked what they were doing? They said “***Playing basketball.***” The ‘affiliates’ said “***you cannot do this,***” and Mike and Oscar’s response was “***we are going to play basketball.***” The group watched for a short time, and then dispersed to leave them to play.

Matching Gift (?)

One **Red** rag and one **Blue** Rag = two **Purple** rags (**Purple** is the Royalty color of Christ).

Testimony

God has moved in my life and I'm only 26 years old. My testimony is this;

At age 7 I saw my Uncle Chris die with aids and a year later I watched my grandmother Kay die from diabetes. She just quit caring for herself and quit taking her medication. That same year, I saw and witnessed a suicide of my friend C.J., age 7, kill herself.

I come from a poor home where we had to scrimp and save for everything, but God still had provided for our home.

In 1999, I lost my mother, Anita, to diabetes, and moved into my father's home after 13 years of not seeing or being around his side of the family. This was strange. He was an alcoholic and an addict to drugs. I was doing the drugs as well.

In 2001, I lost Clifton for my father. He was hit head on by an 18 wheeler and a white SUV, off of I-30 & Dolphin Rd. in Dallas.

After so much death, I found it hard to "Keep the Faith." Wit the faith faltering in my life, I cursed God and hated Him for taking my family away. My life support is what you can call it. I continued my drugs and alcohol intake, consuming an 8 ball of speed in 45 minutes, wishing to die to be with them.

I met my daughter's father at my uncle's house and almost 2 years later, I was granted with my daughter, Kaylynn, now age 6. I quit my drugs 6 months before I found out I was pregnant with her (about 4 months pregnant).

I moved to Bismarck, AR. and got married to a very dear friend of mine. Even though my marriage only lasted 2 ½ years, we gave birth to my second daughter Alizabeth, now 4 years old. After a very depressing, violent, painful, agonizing, and unjust divorce in 2006, I lost my daughters to my ex-husband's mother. For a year under close watchful eyes, I was only able to see my daughters 3 times and never able to bring them home. I finally got justice and was allowed to bring the oldest of the two home.

After that, I moved out of my house and ended up in motel after motel and finally landed in the Dallas Life Foundation (2006) for almost

a year while struggling to keep my head afloat above the turbulent waters of life. I found out I was pregnant with my 3rd child, a beautiful bouncy baby boy, now a year old. My boyfriend, who stuck it out through my stupidity, and I are still together and now have all 3 children in my 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. February of this year, I got my 2nd girl back.

God has the power to give you what you want/need when He believes you are ready. After all my trials of pain, heartache, error in judgment, and me being me (hard headed), I have learned to have some patience and now know that when I pray to Him, He WILL ANSWER my prayers in HIS TIME, not mine. It just takes patience. **CDW**

p.s. May God please those who read this and know that they ARE NOT ALONE if they have God in their corner.

Note from Bob; Stories similar to this one are told many times over. The devil does not give up easily and loves nothing more than to create hurt and anger in situations. When describing "patience" brings to mind the verses on "wait upon the Lord"

Psalms 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD [is] a God of judgment: blessed [are] all they that wait for him.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.

Poetry

Eye of the Soul

My citizenship is in Heaven
I'm a Pilgrim in this place;
The eye of the Soul now revealed
Love has a face.

Descend upon me spirit
That I may now be sealed,
Strengthen my soul
As I walk the cold battlefield

Hope is my promise
Faith is my shield
Lead me beside still waters
Let me rest in green fields.

What is the essence of life
Can I now behold?
Here is my sacrifice
My life poured out

Like an offering of Gold.
The eye of the soul
Discerns the deepest thoughts of man
I walk in confidence

As I know just who I am.
The new birth is here
And this is now my creed
Heed the valiant battle cry

Onward, I now proceed.
Destiny is beautiful,
And upon its wings I do fly
The Lord around me, above me,

Before me, be my guide.
What was yesterday
But a distant memory?
Divine obedience yields

Good fruits of humility.
Eye of the Soul restored
Redeemed sevenfold
The truth is a light that is radiant

Nothing is untold.
The vision of the cross is my passion
And the force that lives within
As I awake to this new day
Unafraid to begin again . . .

Israel McKenzie

Life's Many Twists and Turns

Life's many twists and turns, it seems
Have left me quite a mess
Once drawn by dreams and promises
I've settled now for less.

Decisions much regretted
Have belittled common sense.
Leaving room for little to
Be said in my defense

Someday when all is said and done
Quite certainly I'll see
The roads I should have traveled down
On paths just meant for me.

For hindsight is a blessing, true
The things we should have done
The wise man has the answers ,
Though not me, I'm not the one.

I don't remember yesterday
Perhaps I should, it's true
I focus on today because
Somedays I have no clue.

David Marsh

BOLD AS A LION

Failure is what I get from trying
My past life is dying
Fear has no place here and
I live for what I hold dear

Jesus . . . the Risen One
God's only Chosen Son
He keeps me pushing on Faithfully
He is my love..Peace...and serenity
BOLD AS A LION

I live my life this way
My determination will never fade
My past life is dead
The Lord commands it'sd time to be fed

I'm walking in a dry desert land
Secure in your Victorious right hand
As I turn away from worldly lust
And prepare to return to the dust
BOLD AS A LION

I felt the pain of my past life dying
And now I am no longer trying
I've found that my tears are now
A different kind of crying
Now I worship in the House of Zion
BOLD AS A LION

Israel McKenzie

The View Outside My Window

The view outside my window,
Now the world out there I see
That's changed so much from yesterday
The changes are in me.

The window that I look thru now
Affected by this change
What seemed quite normal yesterday
Today now seems quite strange

My values change from day to day
Influenced by my view
The view outside my window now
Seems somehow all quite new.

David Marsh

Never Again

Never again
Will I subject myself
To the torment of sins
I take my thoughts in captivity
I do not want them to offend.
Never again
Are the words
Inside my head
"Judge not lest you be judged"
Is what the Lord has said
Never again,
Will I lie to myself,
Or believe I'm someone greater
I surrender to you wholeheartedly
And accept you as my Savior.
You are Lord
And your compassion fails not
In you I persevere
I will run and never stop
I no longer wrestle with
And exercise futility
I swear I will serve You
With all my ability.
Pride falls away
And is shattered into pieces
Never will I part from You
It is You who frees us.
With the atonement of our sins
Brand new life begins.
Never again will I choose
To waste a single day
Never again will I live
Behind a wall of pain
Never again will I be
Alone and afraid

Israel McKenzie

Hand in Hand, Thru Unity

Wake up brothers, me and you
The Lord's work's never done
He needs us more than ever now
He needs us, every one

Hand and hand, thru unity
Our message will be heard
It's time we worked together, now
Join hands to spread His word

We'll put aside all differences
To reach one common goal
And one by one, in unity
We'll save another soul.

Salvation is the gift we'll share
God's will, so it shall be
I'm ready anywhere or time
Please, won't you join with me?

David Marsh

What I Wasn't Yesterday

There ain't no going back for me
My past is in the past
Yesterday is gone for good
Today is going fast

Could have, would have, and should have
been
Descriptions of despair
Illusions of what might have been
But isn't really there.

I am not what I thought I'd be

Life's many twists and turns.
A prime example I have been
But isn't really there.

But what I wasn't yesterday
Is not what I will be
I'll turn my focus from the past
For now God's guiding me.

David Marsh

My God

At special times, in special ways
My god talks to me
At times when things are difficult
My god helps me see

On roads that fork so many ways
My god helps me choose
If I but follow his advice
With my God I can't loose.

When I am troubled, heavy heart
To my God I will turn
Such strength His message gives to me
I've so much more to learn

If I should stray and wander lost
My God leads the way
Following His directions, true
I'll be with Him someday.

David Marsh
