

# “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 58** – June 2010 (Published since Oct. 2003)

## “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](http://www.MovingOnMinistry.com)

We are affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/movingon>

and Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Volunteer

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



**Jeanne (Mom of M.O.M.) Meeting Heather at Heather's Fresno, CA Concert**

## 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

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

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

**Jesus Prayer Ministry**  
**Pas Denise**  
**P.O. Box 7925**  
**Chula Vista, CA 91912**

**Andrea Shannon**  
**P.O. Box 553**  
**Dover, NH 03821**

**Ask for a copy of our complete**  
**“Resource Supplemental Letter”**

### M.O.M. Needs

- Continued tractor repairs
- Pen-pals to write inmates
- Finances & stability
- Testimonies
- Poems to publish
- Possible sale of Squaw Valley Property (Camp Clarius)
- Development of Tollhouse property (Camp Cripple Creek)
- Development of Nevada property
- Development of Arizona property
- Volunteers for ministry
- Drawings to publish and share

\*\*\*\*\*  
We are still looking at doing some services at C.M.C. San Luis Obispo, Avenal State Prison, Wasco, and SATF, Corcoran, CA. Schedule has been VERY busy lately.

April 29 thru May 1 was the Bill Glass Ministry. Bob went to Wasco & Avenal. Linda went to both Chowchilla Women’s Prisons.

### Prayer Praise

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 we try to keep up with and answer them.

### For Father’s Day

I’m writing to say hello and to wish all you fathers out there a “Happy Father’s Day.” I hope and pray that Father’s Day will be one of blessings and not strife. One of joy and not raveling’s.

I don’t have any children of my own, so I don’t know how it is to be a father. But, what I’ve learned from God is that a father’s relationship with his children is rooted and dressed with love, patience, forgiveness, and dressed in yes, a strong hand of discipline. And that a father’s ear should always be ready to hear the plea of his child; to comfort them and advise them in the right way to go.

So, this Father’s Day, as your children give you honor, look upon them with love and admiration, and let them know how much you appreciate them.

With that said, have a happy Father’s Day, and may God bless you with understanding and give you hope for the time to come. **Tremayne**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Letters to M.O.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your letter and newsletter. This last issue (April 2010) was the best I've yet to read – except the testimonial titled “*Giving Up the Game.*”

It makes it so hard for real Christians to glean respect and to spread God's Word because we are viewed as weak, or a haven for child molesters & rapist who are afraid to go main-line. First off, I want people to know that being a Christian is something that takes a lot of courage and moral fortitude. Contrary to popular belief, God does not like nor forgive people who harm children – Matthew 18:1-11 makes that plainly clear.

People need to actually read the Bible and not try to interpret it for their own purpose. Enough is enough. The Bible is full of warriors, both men and women who have battled and risked life and limb for God, and some have lost their life to spread God's Word. Most of the disciples suffered horrible, painful deaths in support of God's Kingdom. I want any and all to know it takes a real soldier to proclaim the message of Christ! It is so unfortunate that we as Christians, have to endure the stigma and the label of being weak. I want all who read this letter to first off, dig deep into your heart and if you choose to follow Christ, be real about it. Don't use God to hide behind. For He will not be mocked, and we Christians are now checking paperwork to ensure we are with the men of God – and letters are going to other institutions to let our fellow brothers know to make sure people are real in the walk. All are very welcome to share in Christ and we

encourage to seek Him out regardless of color, race or creed. But Christ Himself states deliberate harm to a child of blasphemy against the spirit are UNFORGIVABLE sins and are to be punished. Also, people stop reading the Bible and making it fit your views. What it says is exactly what it means. I'm so tired of arguing with “secret” Christians, who hide behind the Bible in prison and throw it away at the gates the day they parole. I do not claim in any way to be perfect. I've made more mistakes than most and have a long rocky road to walk to be seen as an example of Christianity. But what I do have is an un-breakable faith and belief in Christ and the Word of God, and I know beyond a shadow of doubt that Jesus Christ is real – He died for me.

**Jerrey B**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Note from Bob:

Update from author of “*Giving Up the Game*”

We received a letter from C.R. within two days of receiving the preceding letter from **Jerrey B**. In the letter, **C.R.** informed us that he had started debriefing and was seeking his way to affiliation only to the Lord. This individual had both parents in prison and was raised by a grandmother devoted to witchcraft. Some of us may have more things to overcome in our lives and upbringing than others. As we look at our lives, we see that many of the steps we take for following Christ, take some time.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jew with Yeshua Baptism**

It was a very long time ago, I am 44 years old now, and at the time I was perhaps six or seven years old. I don't believe that I was even in school yet. So, I guess it would have been about 1973 at the time. I was living in Southern California at the time. I developed sores on both feet. My mother took me to the doctor, and they ended up giving my mother various ointments to put on my feet. None of which worked at all. The sores became boils which had to be lanced. The doctor lanced the boils one by one, unpleasant for an adult, much less a child. The boils came back, worse than ever. At every turn they just got worse. It got to the point that I was unable to walk anymore and had to be carried everywhere because my feet were so sensitive, that even something making a light touch was agony. The doctors were frustrated and had no idea what it was or how to treat it because everything they tried simply made things worse.

A friend of my mother's who was a Christian, who knew about what

was going on, told my mother that she would like to bring people from her church over. My mother was ready to try anything because the doctors had failed time and again. The lady and her friends from the church came over, including her pastor, and it was there, in my sick bed, that the pastor baptized me, then the church people formed a circle around my bed, which had been pulled away from the wall into the center of the room. They joined hands and started to pray. I cannot say exactly how long it went on. I was sick and kind of faded in and out, but what I can say is that I woke up the next morning, and my feet were healed. Completely! There was not even any sign that there had ever been a blemish on either of my feet. I remember putting my feet down on the floor and being so relieved that it did not hurt, that I ran into my mother's bedroom, and woke her up jumping up and down to show her that my feet were healed!

So, that is the story of how a Jewish boy got baptized, per your request **CBS**

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Importance of Getting it Right

As always, with my commitment to you, but even more, my commitment to God, I have come today with “both barrels loaded for bear.”

There is the story of drunken man that had to be to a location across the river in the morning. As he came upon the river, he found a row boat. He thought to himself, “If I take this boat and row all night long, I can be where I need to be by sunrise. So the man took the boat and rowed all night long. As the sun started to break thru, he found himself in the morning not even a foot away from where he started. What had he forgot? He forgot to untie the boat. How many of us forget to untie from the things that hold us back, only to find that we are not getting anywhere?

There is also the story of the Buddhist that was walking down the street and noticed a lot of singing and activity coming out of a building. Being curious, he wondered into the building and was seated. Then the pastor came to the pulpit and started preaching of the gift of salvation that Christ had to offer to all. When the pastor said all that want Christ as savior, please raise your hand, the man’s hand went up. At the last of the message the pastor asked those that had raised their hands to come forward. The man went forward and did the sinners prayer with the pastor. The pastor asked “*how does it feel now that the man had Jesus as his savior?*” his reply was, “*It is great, now I have Jesus and Buddha.*”

God is not an addition; He is a “Complete.” He is a replacement to the failing style and system we have tried. When Adam and Eve failed, they were cast “completely” out of the Garden with no opportunity to ever return.

Matthew 21:18 – 22 The story of the barren fig tree. Christ caused it to wither because it produced no fruit. The Jews call this type of tree, a hypocrite tree because it has the appearance of a fig tree, but upon close examination, there is no fruit produced.

We are seeing religions that are now similar to the barren fig tree. They have the appearance of Holy, but upon close examination, they are non-fruit producing. These “new” religions either allow, accept or overlook such items that God condemned in the Bible. Items such as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, witchcraft (in many forms), and the list goes on.

A 10-year-old boy is convicted of killing his 4-year-old neighbor. A 14-year-old girl is rapped in a park while kids look on. A 17 year old holds up a beer and says life is meaningless. What is truth?

### **Every 24 hours in America,**

1000 unwed teens become pregnant; 500 adolescents will begin using drugs; 135,000 will kill or carry a weapon to school; 6 youths will commit suicide (1). The dilemma is what is right and what is wrong. We have a moral crisis in America. Our view of truth has dramatically shifted in the last 50 years. 50 years ago, everyone agreed on what is right, wrong, and what is true.

Francis Shaffer traces the evolution or transition of truth from being very clear, classical and absolute to being relative in his book (2).

Alan Bloom states about the universities roll failure, that “the universities, instead of being a safeguard of what is true, have allowed ‘relative truth’ to invade every area and as a result of it, Americans can no longer know

how to think. And because they cannot think, they no longer know right from wrong. And because they no longer know right from wrong, they can't make good decisions. And because they can't make good decisions, they make bad decisions, and it produces fractured families and a fractured culture." (3)

What is truth? Is there such a thing as absolute truth? Is all truth relative? Existentialism has allowed the morality of culture to accept "if it feels good, do it," "don't be intolerant," "I am not any worse than other people," "there is no absolute truth," and "don't judge others." Humanism rose out of the current trends in America. We have the practice of "pluralism" in the acceptance of all religions. So, is there a moral decline of America? What can be done to restore this nation that was founded on Godly principles? Jesus stated "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (4). "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (5). America has gone through stages of development with extremes of forced theology, to philosophies allowing an individual to design their own relative truth.

When raising my daughters, I was past "tough love" and doing more what I called "tyrant love." I set high spiritual goals on my daughters. God commanded me to "***train up my children in the way they should go***" and then promised "***when they are old they will not depart from it.***" This scripture is not a promise of coming back, but a promise of not departing. Remember the story of Adam and Eve. I felt that in raising my daughters, I would rather have them hate me till the day I die and have them go to Heaven (for all eternity), then for them to love me on earth and go to Hell. Their loving me on earth and not having eternal security through

salvation would show my lack of love to them. I will tell you the same thing, "***I'd rather you got mad at me, and go to Heaven.***"

I have shared in the past "***The Five Steps to a Reprobate Mind.***"  
**Steps to a reprobate mind – Romans 1:18-32**

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

**Romans 1:19** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.

**Romans 1:20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

**Romans 1:21** Because that, when they knew God, **they glorified [him] not** as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

**Romans 1:22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

**Romans 1:23** And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God **into an image made like to corruptible man**, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

**Romans 1:24** Wherefore God also gave them up to **uncleanness** through the **lusts** of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

**Romans 1:25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

**Romans 1:26** For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

**Romans 1:27** And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

**Romans 1:28** And even as they **did not like to retain God** in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a **reprobate mind**, to do those things which are not convenient;

**Romans 1:29** Being filled with all **unrighteousness, fornication,**

**wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**

**Romans 1:30** **Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**

**Romans 1:31** **Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:**

**Romans 1:32** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

1. 1:21 Glorified Him not
2. 1:23 Image brought down to man
3. 1:24 Uncleaness / lusts
4. 1:26 Vile Affections
5. 1:28 Not retaining God – reprobate Mind

#### **Note from Bob:**

We run across many individuals that profess to be Christian, but have little or no evidence of it. To receive God's 'forgiveness' requires 'repentance.' Repentance can easily be defined as "*Stop doing what you were doing, turning around, and follow Christ.*" Christ asks us to turn away from all our sin, not just the ones we want to give up. In the analogy, we see that we have to turn around to face Christ. With our back to Christ, we will not do the things he requests. Turning around to face Him, we turn our back on those old sinful ways. Now keeping our eyes on Him, we seek His will. Next, we need to realize we cannot follow Him in 'neutral.' We must be engaged in gear, to move forward, and follow Him.

## A Clarion Call to the Modern Church by: John MacArthur

---

Christians historically have understood that their calling is to be in the world but not of the world. As Os Guinness pointed out in a perceptive series of articles on the church-growth movement, traditional evangelicalism not only resisted worldly influences, but also used to stress "cognitive defiance" of the world spirit.

Now, however, "the world has become so powerful, pervasive, and appealing that the traditional stance of cognitive defiance has become rare and almost unthinkable" ("Recycling the Compromise of Liberalism," *Tabletalk* [May 1992], 51.). At some point, evangelicals decided to make friends with the world.

Guinness pointed out that although we are called to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:14-18), many Christians have reversed the formula, becoming *of* the world while not really being *in* the world. They did this by allowing cable television, VCRs, radio, and other forms of communication to infuse worldly values into their thinking, while isolating themselves from any personal involvement with the people in the world who most desperately need the gospel.

"Evangelicals are now outdoing the liberals as the supreme religious modernizers- and compromisers-of today," Guinness writes (*Ibid.*). The market-driven philosophy so popular among modern evangelicals is nothing more than "a recycling of the error of classical liberalism" (*Ibid.*).

The reason most evangelicals were caught unaware by modernism a hundred years ago is that liberals rose from within evangelical ranks, used evangelical vocabulary, and gained acceptance through relentless appeals for peace and tolerance. New church-growth movements are following precisely the same course, and that tactic has taken evangelicals by surprise once again.

Most of the market-driven mega-churches insist they would never compromise doctrine. They are attractive to evangelicals precisely because they claimed to be as orthodox in their doctrine as they are unorthodox in their methodology. Multitudes have been sufficiently reassured by such promises and have simply abandoned their critical faculties, thus increasing their vulnerability. Unfortunately, real discernment is in short supply among modern evangelicals.

Like the modernists a century ago, churches in the user-friendly movement have decided that doctrine is divisive-peace is more important than sound teaching. Wanting to appeal to a modern age, they have framed their message as a friendly, agreeable, and relevant dialogue, rather than as a confrontation with the gospel of Christ.

The relevant issues of our modern age-radicalism, abortion, feminism, homosexuality, and other politically charged moral issues- pose the most obvious threat for user-friendly churches. Their undefined theology and seeker-sensitive philosophy do not permit them to take a firm biblical stance on such matters, because the moment they defy the spirit of the age, they forfeit their marketing appeal. They are therefore forced to keep silent or capitulate. Either way, they compromise the truth.

If a church is not even willing to take a firm stand against abortion, how will it deal with the erosion of crucial doctrine? If a church lacks discernment enough to condemn such overt errors as homosexuality or feminism, how will it handle a *subtle* attack on doctrinal integrity?

Many evangelical churches have wholly abandoned strong preaching about hell, sin, and the wrath of God. They claim God's primary attribute is benevolence—one that overrides and supersedes His holiness, justice, wrath, and sovereignty.

Rather than addressing humanity's greatest need—forgiveness of sins—modern sermons deal with contemporary topics, psychological issues (depression, eating disorders, self-image), personal relationships, motivational themes, and other matters a la mode.

The market-driven philosophy of user-friendly churches does not easily permit them to take firm enough doctrinal positions to oppose false teaching. Their outlook on leadership drives them to hire marketers who can sell rather than biblically qualified pastors who can teach. Their approach to ministry is so *undoc*trinal that they cannot educate their people against subtle errors. Their avoidance of controversy puts them in a position where they cannot oppose false teaching that masquerades as evangelicalism.

In fact, the new trends in theology seem ideally suited to the user-friendly philosophy. Why would the user-friendly church oppose such doctrines?

But oppose them we must, if we are to remain true to God's Word and maintain a gospel witness. Pragmatic approaches to ministry do not hold answers to the dangers confronting biblical Christianity today.

Pragmatism promises bigger churches, more people, and a living church, but it is really carnal wisdom—spiritually bankrupt and contrary to the Word of God.

Marketing techniques offer nothing but the promise of popularity and worldly approval. They certainly offer no safeguard against the dangers of the down-grade toward spiritual ruin.

The only hope is a return to Scripture and sound doctrine. We evangelicals desperately need to recover our determination to be biblical, our refusal to comply with the world, our willingness to defend what we believe, and our courage to defy false teaching. Unless we collectively awaken to the current dangers that threaten our faith, the adversary will attack us from within, and we will not be able to withstand.

Yet, surely, there must be some who will fling aside the dastard love of peace, and speak out for our Lord, and for his truth. A craven spirit is upon many, and their tongues are paralyzed. Oh, for an outburst of true faith and holy zeal! (Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

Adapted from *Ashamed of the Gospel*, © 1993 by John MacArthur.

• Grace to You (*Friday, January 21, 2005*)

## Contacts for your next Step Tulare County

**Visalia Rescue Mission-** They have place to stay and eat and also a recovery program for men and women. Call (559) 740-4178 or write to Carlos Baldovinos (program director) 322 N East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, 93291

**Homeland Mission Tulare-** They have a recovery program for men call (559) 723-4823

**Recovery Unlimited-** call if you need a helping hand, not a hand out. "We invest in developing, training, and returning people to work". Call (559) 798-0841 or write to Recovery Unlimited INC. 15839 Av.320 Ivanhoe, Ca 93935

**Sisters of Grace-** Trauma/Crisis Healing & Support for women. Call (559) 471-9171 or write to Ruthann Bailey Doyle (CEO Founder/Director) P.O. Box 1533, Visalia Ca. 93278

**Partners in Freedom-**Support group for men getting out of prison or jail. Call Chaplain John (559) 735-1770 for more information about when they meet.

**Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC)-**Love INC is a vehicle that helps churches, collectively and individually, reach out to the poor and needy. They will also show you, places to go for your next step. Call (559) 688-8870 or write to Love INC, P.O. Box 6074 Visalia 93290

**CSET-**Locating jobs for released inmates. Call (559) 732-4194 or write  
**CSET**  
312 N.W. 3rd Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291

**Visalia Employment Connection**  
4025 West noble Ave, #B  
Visalia, CA 93277  
(559) 713-5000

**Tulare Employment Connection**  
115 East Tulare Avenue  
Tulare, CA 93724  
(559) 684-1987

**Porterville Employment Connection**  
1063 West Henderson  
Porterville, CA  
(559) 788-1440

**Hands in the Community**  
Finding resources in the community.  
P.O. Box 6842  
Visalia, CA 93290  
(559) 625-3822

**First Call, for United Way**  
Help in finding food, health care,  
housing, and other needs.  
(800) 283-9323

## Powerful are His Works

My name is Rafael A. from Corcoran State Prison. I pray that this testimony touches your heart and may the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ make changes in your life. Firstly, I wish to give thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to share my testimony with you all. I also give thanks to Brother Bob and his loving wife Linda. I give thanks to Jesus for reaching me while in prison and as God's word says in Daniel 4:2-3, "I want you all to know about the miraculous signs and wonders the Most High God has performed for me". How great are his signs and how powerful are his works! His kingdom will last forever, His rule through all generations." Amen.

I want to tell you that when I was not in prison, I did not understand about Jesus. I was worldly. There was a brother, whose name was Jose, who always talked to me about Jesus and invited me to church, but I always refused. At one time I was encouraged and I took my family to church. I did not like it, and I never returned. Jose gave me a Bible but I never read it. I only read it when I fought with my wife. That brother continued to speak to me about God because I was worldly but God was calling me and I did not know it. The seed was already planted in my heart. Like how it happened to Moses is how it happened to me. Let us remember this biblical reading. Moses, to have an encounter with God, had to kill an Egyptian and then escape to the desert. I, too had an encounter with God, had to come to prison.

The day that I arrived in the County of Los Angeles, I encountered a Bible in a cell and began to read it. Although I didn't understand any of it, I read it. I wanted to learn about the word of God. I never let go of the Bible. I began to meet with the Christian brothers and I began to learn about the Bible. I began to go to the courts as I had a big case, but, I continued to pray, read the Bible and to search for God. When they moved from that dorm something happened. When they took me out, I was transferred to a new building where there were more dangerous prisoners. My cell was small and dark. There was hardly any light. In that place nobody spoke nor were there any sounds. One day as I lay on my bed reading my Bible I asked God for forgiveness. I began to cry but it was not a normal cry. This was a tremendous lament and the tears that came out burned my face. I cried for fifteen minutes. The other prisoners probably thought I was being tortured but I cried from repentance and the Spirit of God was with me. When I stopped crying, I felt a tremendous peace like I was flying on air. I felt so wonderful. From that day on I did not want the Spirit of God to leave me. God changed me, transformed me and I started my search for Jesus. I had a hunger and a thirst for Jesus Christ. I rarely slept from reading the Bible. I fasted and prayed. God began to use me to pass along messages and to share the gospel with the prisoners. Day after day I went to court and you know what? I searched more for God than more tests/trials came my way. I was seeing that everything was going bad with judges, officials and lawyers, but, I loved Jesus. I continued to read the Bible and search ever so much more for God. There were times that I was mad at God because these bad things were happening to me even when I was serving Him, but, I want to tell you all that Jesus is faithful. He never abandoned nor left me.

The Lord was with me on one occasion when the attorney arrived one day. My attorney told me, "Tell you wife and children that you will receive the death penalty." That news devastated me. How could I tell my wife that I deserved the death penalty? I

returned to my cell and I cried on my bed. My brothers comforted me. They would tell me, "Brother Rafael, have faith. Don't believe your attorney." After crying for about ten minutes I felt someone telling me, "Have faith in me." A great peace came over me and I continued to minister and evangelize the prisoners in the building. On one occasion I prayed that my wife and children would come to visit me. They came to visit me and on that day my wife and children received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The day of my sentencing arrived. I was told, "You will not be receiving the death sentence but you will be given a life sentence." It hurt me to hear the judge say those words but even with all of this I continued my search for God. I began to evangelize all my relatives and loved ones. I continued doing the Lord's work. The Lord's hand was in this prison: healing, changing and restoring lives. My encounter with Jesus was and is beautiful.

I hope nobody has to endure what I endured when I was a free man because I did not know Jesus. I give thanks to God because he called me to minister in prison. I serve Him in prison and my wife and children serve him on the outside. Glory be to God. I want to tell **you** that I believe in God. On another occasion I received a letter from an attorney while at a reception prison. When I finished reading the letter I knelt down and put my hand directly over the letter. I asked Jesus if she would help me then I would accept her and if she could not help me then He should take her away. After my prayer, I wrote her a letter saying, "Thank you, but, if you cannot help me then please leave my case. I am a Christian and I serve Jesus. " I sent the letter off to her. After a few months she sent me another letter to say that she would help me. I asked Jesus for an attorney and He brought her to me. Up to this day she continues to help me. Curiously I did not lose time with her. I evangelized her and she is our sister in Jesus Christ. Jesus is working my case and shortly I may be giving my testimony to congregations on the outside and raising the Holy name of Jesus Christ. Believe only in Jesus. He came to set the captives free.

For everyone that reads this testimony I recommend that you give your life to Jesus. For Jesus nothing is impossible. I love you all.  
Your brother, Rafael A. Amen!

## Cuan Grandes Son Sus Senales

Mi nombre es Rafael A. de la prision de Corcoran. Amado pueblo santo, deseo que este testimonio toque sus corazones y El Espiritu de Jesuscristo haga cambios en sus vidas. Primeramente le doy gracias a Dios por darme la oportunidad de compartir con ustedes mi testimonio. Tambien le doy las gracias a mi hermano Bob y su amada esposa Linda. Le doy gracias a Jesus por haberme alcanzado en la prision y dice la palabra de Dios en Daniel 4:2-3, "Conviene que yo declare las senales y Milagros que el Dios Altisimo ha hecho conmigo. Cuan grandes son sus senales, y cuan potentes sus maravilla! Su reino sempiterno, y su Senorio de generacion en generacion." Amen.

Quiero decirles que cuando you era libre yo no conocia a Cristo. Yo era mundano pero habia un hermano llamado Jose que siempre me hablaba de Jesus y me invitaba a la iglesia pero yo siempre lo rechazaba. En una ocasion me anime y fui con mi familia a la iglesia pero no me gusto y no volvi a ir. El hermano me regalo una Biblia pero nunca la leia. Solo cuando peliaba con mi esposa leia la Biblia. Ese hermano me seguia hablando de la palabra de Dios porque yo era mundano. Pero Dios ya me estaba llamando y yo no lo sabia. La semilla lla me la habia sembrado el hermano en mi corazon.

Asi como le paso a Moises a mi me paso. Recordamos el mensaje biblico. Moises, para poder tener un encuentro con Dios, tuvo que matar a un Egipcio y el tuvo que huir al desierto para tener un encuentro con Dios. Yo, para tener un encuentro con Dios, tuve que venir a la prision. El dia que yo llegue al condado de Los Angeles, en una celda encuentre una Biblia, y la agarre para leerla. Aunque yo no entendia nada yo la empece a leer. Yo queria saber que decia Dios en la Biblia. Nunca soltaba la Biblia. Me empece a juntar con hermanos cristianos y empece a aprender un poco de la Biblia. Empece a ir a las cortes y mi caso era muy grande pero yo seguia orando, leyendo la Biblia y buscando a Dios. Yo estaba en un dormitorio pero algo sucedio. Cuando me sacaron del dormitorio me mandaron a un edificio donde estaban los presos mas peligrosos. La celda era pequena y oscura. Solamente tenia una pequena luz y en ese lugar nadie hablaba ni se escuchaba ningun ruido.

Un dia, yo acostado leyendo mi Biblia y le pedia perdon a Dios. Comence a llorar pero no era un lloro normal. Gemia horriblemente y las lagrimas que me salian me quemaban la cara. Dure quince minutos llorando. Los presos malos que estaban ahi han de haber pensado que me estaban torturando pero yo lloraba de arrepentimiento y el Espiritu De Dios estaba conmigo. Cuando pare de gemir sentia una paz preciosa y sentia que estaba en el aire. Sentia tan hermoso. No queria que se terminara la presencia de Dios de ese dia en adelante. Dios me cambio, me transformo y empece mas la busqueda de Jesus. Yo tenia un hambre y sed de Jesucristo. No dormia por leer la Biblia. Ayunaba y oraba. Dios me empezo a usar para dar mensajes y hablarles a los presos. Dia con dia me iba a las cortes. Saben una cosa, hermanos, entre mas buscando a Dios, mas pruebas venian. Yo veia que todo me salia mal con los jueces, fiscales y abogados, pero y siempre amaba a Jesus. Yo segui leyendo la Biblia y buscando de Dios. Algunas veces, yo peliaba con Dios; porque me pasaban esas cosas si yo lo servia. Pero quiero decirles que Jesus es fiel. Nunca me abandono ni me dejo.

El Senor estaba conmigo en una ocacion. Llego el abogado que me estaba representando y me dijo, "dile a tue esposa y tus hijos que te van a dar la pena de

muerte.” Esa noticia me destroso. Como podria decirle a mi familia que me merecia la pena de muerte. Yo regrese al dormitorio. Me puse a llorar en mi cama. Mis hermanos me alientaban. Me decian, “Hermano Rafael, tenga fe. No le crea al abogado. “ Despues de llorar diez minutos senti que alguien me decia, “Confias en me.” Me vino una paz preciosa y segue ministrando y evangelizando a los presos en los dormitorios. En una ocacion le hable a mi esposa y a mis hijos que me visitaran, ayunaran, no comieran ni bebieran. Y asi sucedio. Gracias Dios que me visitaron y en ese dia mi esposa y mis dos hijos recibieron a Jesus como Senor y Salvador de sus almas. Llego el dia de mi juicio en la corte y me dijeron , “No le vamos a dar la pena de muerte pero te vamos a dar cadena perpetua.” Me dolio ver oido ese juico que me dieron pero con todo eso yo segui buscando a Dios. Empece a evangelizar a mis familiares y mis seres queridos. Y sigo trabajando en la obra de Dios. Y la mano de Dios esta en esta prision sanando, cambiando y restaurando vidas. Mi encuentro con Jesus fue muy hermoso. Deseo que nadie pase lo que yo pase por no recibir a Jesus cuando era libre. Le doy gracias a Dios porque me llamo y me dio un ministerio en la prision. Yo le sirvo en la prision y mi esposa y mis hijos le sirven afuera. !Gloria a Dios!

Quiero decirles que yo le creo a Dios. En una ocacion yo estaba en recepcion y me lleo una carta de una abogada. En cuanto la termine de leer me inque y puse mi mano derecha en la carta. Le pedi a Jesus que si ella me iba a ayudar me la dejara, y sino no me iba ayudar, me la quitara. En el momento que termine de orar, hice una carta para la abogada diciendole gracias pero sino me va a ayudar por favor deje mi caso; yo soy cristiano y sirvo a Jesus. Le mande la carta. Y pasado unos meses me escribio y me dijo en la carta que ella queria ayudarme. Yo le pedia a Jesus un abogado y Jesus me la puso y hasta el dia de hoy me sigue ayudando. Pero lo mas curioso es que yo no perdi tiempo evagelize a la abogada y es hermana de nosotros en Cristo Jesus. Jesus esta trabajando mi caso y pronto estare dando testimonio en las congregaciones afuera; levantando el bendito nombre de nuestro Senor Jesucristo. Confien solo en Jesus. El vino a libertar a los cautivos.

Para todos los que lean este testimonio les recomiendo que le den su vida a Jesus. Para Jesucristo no hay nada imposible.

Los ama su hermano Rafael A. Amen.

## Poetry Section

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Sinners Walk

I went for a walk with Jesus  
No sandy beach or review of my life  
Just Him and I alone for a stroll  
Together in the dead of the night.  
Though no words were said  
Questions pressed heavily on my head  
For our distance was but inches  
Yet felt millions of worlds apart.  
He smiled as we continued on,  
A tear streaming down His cheek  
And as a rescue from our drawn out  
silence  
He turned and began to speak.  
“My child” He said, “When shall you  
realize.  
That always, always am I there  
It is you that hides your face from me

Convinced that I do not care.  
All those years you’ve walked this earth  
Obsessed with being alone  
You have ignored my presence here  
beside you  
Begging for you to come home.”  
Well needless to say, our walk thus  
ended  
For I fell down to my knees  
Knowing the amount of love for my soul  
I was not worthy to receive  
“My child” He said, “Be not ashamed  
For all of mine have sinned,  
Rise to your feet, I shall wipe you clean  
And we can start our walk again.”

**Richard J**

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Christian Saint

One day a saint was sitting in a cell  
Surrounded by four prison walls  
he knew so well  
He wrote a poem of true divine love  
And sent it to his woman  
Attached to a pure white dove.  
This dove arrived at the same time  
once a year  
the saint would be ready  
because his love was sincere.  
Now her love for this saint  
Was more than one could ask for  
Cause this was the only man,  
She could truly adore.  
She also knew this saint

Was close to her heart  
And nothing in this sinful world  
Could tear them apart  
She kept the faith  
And believed in God above.  
And knew that someday  
He would return with her true love.  
See God created the birds,  
Trees, the sun, and the stars.  
But this was true love,  
And stronger than any prison bars.

**Frank N**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wasted Time

The time that I've wasted  
Is my biggest regret.  
Spent in these places  
That I will never forget.

Just sitting and thinking  
About the things that I've done  
The crying and laughing,  
The hurt and the fun.

Now it's just me  
And my hard-driven guilt.  
Behind a wall of emptiness  
I allowed to be built

I'm trapped in my body,  
Just waiting to run,  
Back to my youth  
With its laughter and fun.

But the chase is over  
And there's no place to hide.  
Everything is gon  
Including my pride.

With reality suddenly right in my face  
I'm scared, alone and stuck in this place  
Now memories of the past  
Flash through my head.

And the pain is obvious  
By the tears that I shed.  
I ask myself 'why'  
And where I went wrong.

I guess I was weak  
When I should have been strong.  
Living for the drugs  
And the wings I had grown.

My feelings were lost  
Afraid to be shown.  
As I look at my past  
Its so easy to see

The fear that I had  
Afraid to be me.  
I'd pretend to be rugged,  
So fast and so cool

When actually lost  
like a blinded old fool.  
I'm getting too old  
for this tiresome game  
of acting real hard  
with no sense of shame.

Its time that I change  
And get on with my life.  
Fulfilling my dreams  
For a family and wife.

What my future will hold  
I really don't know.  
But the years that I've wasted  
Are starting to show.

I just live for the day  
When I'll get a new start  
And the dreams I still hold  
Deep in my heart.

I hope I can make it  
I at least have to try  
Because I'm headed toward death  
And I don't want to die.

**Written by Gwen Smith**

**Sent by Joe J**

(Joe says, take care and know I'm still  
serving Him)

\*\*\*\*\*