

“Letter From M.O.M.”

The Bi-Monthly newsletter of Moving On Ministry

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 66 – May/June 2011 (Published since Oct. 2003)

“I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we are continuing with more of the testimonies of “How God Changes Lives” as well as some more 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 have also become affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Fellowship

Our mailing list has cleared over 560. The time required for designing the newsletters, printing, folding and stuffing the newsletters, applying postage and printing the envelopes has become great. We get behind on letter replies, and may occasionally miss one. Please write back if we do not answer, and write clearly so we can get the information correct. **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 (Resource List).

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 & Linda
P.O. Box 6667
Visalia, CA. 93290**

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

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

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

**Sister Aleisha (Alice) C.
c/o Moving On Ministry
P.O. Box 6667
Visalia, CA 93290**

**Paper Sunshine Pen Pals
P.O. Box 7331
Halcyon, CA 93421**

**Discover Bible School
Attn, Robert
P.O. Box 7175
Visalia, CA 93290**

Missing M.O.M. ?

We must constantly remind individuals that we need to be notified of changes of address or facilities. If we get returned mail (about 20 each month), we remove that individual from the files. If you have, or you are going to be moved, please drop us a note to keep your file active. We get mail returned for bad ID #'s, no cell #, and no bed #.

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."

Readily Available Printouts

For those of you that communicate with individuals that have computer access, we have added quite a bit to our web site. The "**Resource List**" (28 pages), the "**Pen Pal Friends**" (12 pages), ALL past newsletters ("**Letter From M.O.M.**"), inmate lookup links, and artwork are available to be viewed or downloaded.

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

Ask for a copy of our **28 page "Resource List"**
or our **12 page compiled "Pen Pal List"**
Postage is always appreciated but not required.
\$.44 for Pen pals and
\$.64 for Resources
\$.44 for Newsletter
(plus printing costs)

Post Office 101

This article is not about the popular game of “Post-office” we may have played as a child. The group playing was divided into two groups – typically a girl group and a boy group. One group goes into another room, such as a bedroom, which is called “the post office”. To play, each person from the other group individually visits “the post office”. Once there, they get a kiss from everyone in the room. They then return to the original room.

Once everyone in the first group has taken a turn, the other group begins sending members to the first room.

Many play the mailing of letters with the same element of chance and mystery. We want to explain the “rules” of post office (USPS) as it relates to mailing letters.



Rules to begin with:

1. Postcard mail is \$.29
2. Oversize postcard is \$.44
3. Mail up to one oz. for \$.44

4. Each additional oz. is \$.20
5. Max. letter weight is 3.5 oz.
6. Envelope & 5 sheets is 1 oz.
7. Oversize are \$.20 additional
8. up to 1-oz. letter is \$.44
9. up to 2-oz. letter is \$.64
10. up to 3-oz. letter is \$.84
11. over 3-oz. letter is \$ 1.04
12. over 3.5 oz. is \$1.39 or up

Count your pages. You can mail up to five full size 8 ½” X 11” sheets of paper for \$.44. If you use this fact for mailing, you can have what we call “piggy-back” mail. Five individuals can write a 2 page letter and put the 5 sheets into the same envelope and mail it for a total price of \$.44. Tearing the pages in half, would allow 10 people to mail a full page (front and back) letter for just \$.44 total. Doubling these numbers would result in only costing \$.64 for mailing. Imagine 20 individuals able to write M.O.M. a full page letter for only \$.64 postage.

M.O.M. also likes to have update letters periodically to let us know that you are still receiving the newsletters. Notifications of location changes keeps individuals on the mailing list instead of being dropped because of a returned letter.

Cost of mailing a newsletter is \$.44 to \$.64 in ½ page size format. Full size page format costs \$.64 to \$1.39. Pen-pal list (12 pages / 3 sheets) is \$.44 for postage. Resources list (28 pages / 7 sheets) is \$.64 for postage. Combining the Resource list and the Pen-pal list results in 10 sheets and can be mailed for \$.64 in postage.

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.

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.

Mens 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.

This stimulated Bob & Linda to do the Africa Mission trip.

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.

Letters Received

The letters received are a big part of the M.O.M. ministry. Every week we receive letters from individuals that gave up the old ways and affiliation, to receive a new way and affiliation that

works. We get responses from many inmates that say “We love reading the testimonies and letters from people that have made it.”

Rock-A-Thon

We did the outreach of the 24-hour rocking chair to promote jail/prison ministry on March 16-17. We want to thank **Café 210** for the use of their building during the 24-hour event. There was a great turnout for **The Great Jonathon** magic act. Many had the chance to share testimonies. The following is a Letter from Aleisha (Alice) C. as she is now released and sharing the Gospel of Christ.

I’m sending out a great big thank you to all of our wonderful inmates that helped me out during our first Rock-A-Thon. Your support was seen not by the public, but by our loving and awesome God.

I’m sure He was looking down with a big smile and many tears of joy. I knew that I could count on you wonderful inmates. God did so many things through that Rock-A-Thon. I’m sure you all were thinking how you would have loved to have been there with us. Well, we were wishing how we could have been behind the bars with you all. Just because the Rock-A-Thon is over, doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t continue to “Rock On 4 Jesus.” We have got to keep rocking each and every day of our life so that we can continue to grow in the spirit of our loving God. You have got to not look at it like you are behind prison walls. You need to look at it like you are in “Bible Boot Camp” and God is preparing you to do His great works.

Look how far He has brought me. God has a plan for each and everyone of you too. Another thing that

you need to remember is that the harder things that come against you, that we pull ourselves through with God’s help, it will be the greater things. It will be the greater things that He can use us for. God loves to use people like us to do His great works. Here are just a few that I’m going to share with you.

Joseph – the 11th of 12 brothers, who was sold him into slavery in Egypt by his brothers. What could he amount to? Kinda like us with our addictions.

Moses – he was keeping the flocks of another man, which he had been doing for 40 years. He didn’t even have his own flock of sheep. There he was – just a hired servant to his father-in-law – out in the desert.

David – he was the youngest of seven brothers and certainly the least likely to succeed. His father as much as said, “I’ve got one more left. I don’t know why you would want to see him. He is out there taking care of the sheep.” How many times have we been told the same thing by our father or a loved one?

Peter, Andrew, James, John – what were they doing when Jesus came along? Mending their fishing nets. As

for me, I was trying to mend a whole lot of things in my life behind bars.

Paul – what was he doing? Executing the Christians! Scarcely a proper preparation for becoming an apostle.

Go right down the line and pick out the people whom God chose to serve Him, and frequently, on the basis of their background they would not have been the ones that you or I would have chosen. But when God calls a person, He has His own plans and His own ways

of doing things. Well thank God for His ways and not mine, cuz mine never did work.

Jeremiah 1:4,5
Now the Word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

God Bless you all
Love **Aleisha C. (Alice)**

Back but Changed

Bob and Linda

I just wanted to write you and let you know that I’m back in the pen – but just on a minor infraction of my parole.

I think God just wanted to put me in check so I didn’t go astray too far.

Well, will you please put me on your mailing list. I was out for a year and I wanted you to know that I was attending church and doing well. I only got violated for having a machete, which was a gardening tool, in the wrong place.

But there has been a major transformation for my spiritual journey. You see, I used to be a homosexual and my savior was Satan. I went as far as doing rituals, desecrating graves and churches, and recruiting souls for the evil one. I thought that I was predestined for that, because I was

molested as a little boy, and I was angry with God, because I didn’t, and still don’t, understand why He would allow that.

But I have come from the darkness into the Light through the Blood of Jesus Christ, (Colossians 1:13) and also because of your prayers and your ministry keeping in touch with me after I was released, especially the card I received from some kids about my hobbies and how God promised I would be happy. Thank you very, very much for caring about us cons so much and you have guided me through the blood into salvation.

Wolfgang O.

p.s. It ain’t easy trying to get to Heaven.

NOTE From Chaplain Bob;
Actually it is easy getting to Heaven when considering “Jesus paid it all.” Getting to the point of repentance and giving our life to Christ “totally” is the hard part. Often an individual has to be allowed by God to get all the way down to where there is no other option but to

put trust into God. The point that MUST be reached is REPENTANCE. That is the “(1) Stop doing what you are doing, (2) turn around, and (3) follow God.” We stop doing what caused us to turn our back on Christ. We turn our back on those things. We put our lives in ‘gear’ and follow Christ’s leading.

Car Crash That Changed Two Families Forever

On July 8, 1984 I was driving drunk when I had a horrific wreck and crashed into a car with a family of seven in it that was stopped at a red light. It was a Friday night and I had just finished working an 8-hour day painting a high rise building in Naples, FL. Like many Americans, I stopped to eat and have a few drinks on my way home from a hard week of work.

I first stopped at the bank to cash my paycheck and then went to “Zoomerz Bar & Grill” because it was located less than two miles from my home. I ate a steak dinner and drank six Budweiser longneck beers along with four shots of Yukon Jack whiskey. That decision would change the lives of our two families forever.

I left the bar at about 7:40 PM. Less than two blocks away, I crashed into the rear end of a Ford Taurus station wagon. On the front seat, next to the father, were his six-year-old and eight-year-old sons and their mother. The father and the son suffered bumps, cuts, and bruises. The other son, Cole, broke his arm. For two weeks their mother was in serious condition two rooms away from me. In the back seat were the boys grandmother, and their aunts, 21-year-old Elsa, and her 23-year-old sister Ela.

Tragically, I killed all three women in the back seat. Even worse than that, they were on their way to practice for Ela’s wedding, and I killed her, her sister and their grandmother two weeks before her wedding day.

They had all legally emigrated from Mexico, so that the rest of their

family could legally move here to America also.

My family got the news that I was in a coma, barely holding on to life, as the doctors were trying to decide whether to remove my leg or not. I had suffered a serious brain injury and I had broken my back in four places. In addition to numerous injuries, I also snapped my left forearm in half. It took me two-and-a-half-years just to make a fist again. Days later, I woke up from the coma to see my brother, Mark, standing over me. He was praying over me with one hand, while holding onto the Bible with the other. He told me what the police said had happened. I asked Mark to ask the Razza family in so I could beg their forgiveness. We cried and prayed together. Then in the greatest act of Christian love and compassion, they found it in their hearts to forgive me.

After a month in the hospital, I then spent three years, one month, and seven days in Florida’s Lee County Jail. The overcrowded conditions in that jail were very bad. In fact, I never imagined that anyone could get so low in life that I actually looked forward to going to prison.

My alcoholism had become so bad, that prison rescued me, and Jesus saved me. I have been in Jesus, God’s Word, the 12 steps and the Christian fellowship with Alcoholics Anonymous ever since.

So far, I have spent 16 years in this wheelchair and prison. This preventable tragedy has hurt my family more deeply than simple words could

ever begin to explain. For example, when my loving Christian mother receives a letter from me, she locks herself in her bedroom for hours, even days if her daughters and granddaughters would let her, as she cries and prays, while reading and re-reading my letter, over and over again.

During the day I was working for Service Painting Company in Fort Myers, FL., which is one of the largest painting companies on the east coast of the United States. Then at night, I was attending Southwest Florida College to earn my A.S. degree in business management, so that I could start my own painting company. My family was devastated by this accident. I was 29-years-old when I came to prison, and I just turned 45-years-old on March 31, 2010. I have missed out on my sister's and brother's weddings, my nieces' births and their childhoods, too. All my grandparents have died while I have been in prison. My aunt, Carol, died just before last Christmas, also.

Yes, all this my family and I have gone through because of my irresponsibility, drunken, recklessness, is nothing compared to the suffering and loss that I caused the Razza family. I could never begin to express enough remorse, grief and sorrow for the pain and suffering I caused the poor Razza family. Proof that what the Bible says is true, "*that the Lord works in mysterious ways.*" According to an attorney, the insurance company for the bar awarded \$250,000 to the Razza family for each of the 7 people in the car. So even in death, those three Christian women succeeded in bringing all their family members here that never dreamed it was possible to live in America. Because of this, their hopes, prayers, and dreams live on.

The big question was, "Can I ever make amends?"

For years, I thought that there was no way I could ever make amends. Alcoholics Anonymous showed me that I was wrong. No amount of money could do that. I don't have any money anyway. AA taught me that one way to make amends is to change my attitudes and behaviors. I believe this is stated best on page 143, in the second paragraph of the AA Big Book, where it states, "To get over the drinking will require a transformation of thought and attitude." This starts with the practicing of the 17 spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous: self honesty, acceptance, hope, faith, courage, integrity, willingness, humility, justice, brotherly love, good judgment, self discipline, open mindedness, perseverance, awareness, love and service.

For me this also meant practicing the most important thing that AA taught me as a Christian, found on page 60 of the Big Book, second paragraph within the chapter called, How it Works, "We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection."

As a "born again" water baptized, spirit filled, Pentecostal-Christian, I study God's Word and strive to live by it every day. I am reading 'The Purpose Driven Life' book for the third time. I love it! I have completed the 'Walking the 12 Steps of Jesus Christ' correspondence course as a student and I have just finished the second-year facilitator's training course too. I have completed numerous other Christian programs through our prison chapels. For example; KAIROS, Life in the Spirit, Lights for Jesus, Prison Fellowship, Promise Keepers and many others. I look at this as I am going

through the oldest seminary school in the world. Every Apostle went through prison; I have learned patience and what the Apostle Paul meant by the advice, “to pray without ceasing.” I go to three meetings a week at Everglades Correctional Institution (ECI). “Sober in the Swamp,” AA Group, NA “Stepping out of the Swamp” group, and “Bridge Builders,” Christian substance abuse program at our chapel. I’m going through “Bridge Builders” for the fifth time, this time as a facilitator so that I can mentor the other men. I also sponsor men in our AA group as well.

Furthering my education has always been a very important goal for me. That’s why I have taken every class that ‘they’ have mandated, and voluntarily, taken many more. For example, I waited five-years on a waiting list to have the privilege of taking the computer course, ‘PC Support Services.’ I want to finish my college degree so badly, that I took five text books and taught myself the subject of Humanities. I studied for an entire year so that I could take a ‘Humanities’ C.L.E.P. exam. I passed with a “B.” I am now studying my way through seven more text books, so that I can take a C.L.E.P. exam on the subject of ‘English Composition.’ This exam, as well as two more C.L.E.P. exams will earn me my college degree, so that when I am

released, I can work as a ‘Certified Addiction Professional’ and continue my college education.

God has recently blessed my life by putting me into the ‘Faith-Based’ program. Now I’m taking seven different self-betterment classes like; public speaking, domestic violence, finance class, victim awareness classes, etc. I am also taking four different Bible studies, including the video and workbook for the ‘Purpose Driven Life’ program. Plus, I’m attending chapel services too. Another big benefit is that there are seven less bunks. Since I am one of only two wheelchairs in the quad, I have more room to move around than I did in the other open-bay dorms. This dorm also is the only dorm that has outside sponsors that bring in ‘Prison Fellowship’ programs.

My name is Adam. I am an alcoholic with 16-years of God blessed sobriety and I want to thank you for your prayers and for letting me share my experience, strength and hope with you and for helping me carry the message of Jesus Christ and for helping me work the 12th Step of AA.

Written by a physically impaired
(but spiritually empowered) inmate.

Mr. Adam F. Searles

Follow up on “I Almost Got Away with It”

Most of you read the letter in volume 65 of **Letter From M.O.M.** Many of you have seen the story on TV. But we need to tell of God’s intervention in the Life of Michael Hess. To date, we have had six letters from Michael Hess, and they are a blessing to receive. We have many inmates watching Michael, many of which are at the same facility as Michael. They want to see if he gives Credit to God for his blessings. The newest blessing was that Michael had his sentence cut by 144 months. That is right, 12 years. Many other inmates from the same correctional facility are watching to see if Michael shares his story in chapel.

God’s Word says “You have not because you ask not. And when you ask, you ask amiss” James 4:2-3

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts.

Chaplain Bob has just submitted a request to “**Extreme Home Makeover**” to intervene on the making of a home/restaurant for Michael upon release. Please pray for God’s hand in this request. “*You have not, because you ask not.*” Well we ARE asking !!

Recall on Our Bionic Woman

As we look at Jeanne, Mom of M.O.M., about to undergo another surgery, we think of how much she has had “rebuilt” as she approaches 80 years old in July. Jeanne has had a broken neck and back in her young years from a car accident. She was actually pronounced dead at the accident, but the Lord brought her back. She has had both knees replaced with metal ones. She has had both rotator cups cleaned, to find that one had completely deteriorated away. She has a metal plate in her neck to hold two of the vertebrates together. Now she is to be scheduled for female surgery to move some sagging organs back into proper place. Mom’s faith is strong and her joking nature for the surgery will put the person she is talking to into laughter.

Regrets

We all have things we should have done, should have not done, wish we'd done differently. We all fall short and need help. (Romans 3:23). That's why we have Jesus as our friend, our Lord and our Savior. (1 Timothy 4: 9-10). We all have messed up with family, married the wrong person, divorced the wrong person, affected our children, our neighbor, our office mate or our spouse in a negative way. We all have hurt ourselves, abused our bodies, allowed others to abuse us and the list just goes on. We have a common bond of being affected by sin in this world. We all are sinners and we all have imposed our sins on others. Once again, we all fall short of the glory of God and need His help. Jesus is our Shepherd, He is our guide and the light for our lives. (John 10:14).

I believe we will be a part of this world for only as long as we need to. (Psalm 39:4). For me, what life is all about is the learning, growing and allowing God to help us to overcome and be victorious in our struggles. (1 Corinthians 15:57). For me, it's about being a courageous warrior as well as a warm, surrendered soul. We can encourage one another to accept ourselves, just as we are and move forward. We all move at a different pace, but we can still be moving, even if it's a snails pace. We all have been through various things, but we can lift our chin up and keep our eyes on the prize before us. (Philippians 3: 12-14). We are children of the most high and His love for us is fierce. His passion for us never stops. His peace can fill our lives and will surpass human understanding. (Philippians 4:7). I encourage you to focus on the blessing that we "do have,"

"what we have done right" and the "hope we have for our future."

There are those times when we feel weak and we need to call a friend or someone close to us and ask for prayer and help. (Ephesians 6:18). We all have needs that may not seem to be fulfilled as fast as we want them to, but Jesus has our back. (Romans 5:10). This world just is not always easy and that is just the truth. Both chaos and peace coexist in the world. We can have questions about why, ponder the unknowns of this world, our minds wondering how a certain story in our life will end. We have a God who knows the end, will hold onto our hand, lead the way and carry us whenever it is needed. And I mean by that, "whenever it is needed." He does not tire of us. We have a Father of love, a Father of mercy and a Father of grace. He is our Daddy, the sort of Daddy as many of us have never known.....but He is ours and we are His. (John 14:23).

Nothing on this earth has the power to separate us from the love of our heavenly Daddy. He will never leave us nor forsake us and His promises are secure in our lives. (Romans 8: 38-39). We need to just hold on, pray to Him, encourage one another in love and one day at a time. (Hebrews 10: 19-25). He is our hope. We are His desire. He is our strength and our strong tower to run to for protection. Even when we don't get Him, He gets us. He loves us exactly as we are. He is our laughter. He is the one who wipes away every tear. He is our shield. (Psalm 18: 2 & 30). He is our covering. He is our home. He is our God and His love for us endures forever. (Psalm 31, the whole chapter).

Carol Ann

Write her C/O M.O.M.

Lighter Side

A good laugh, even if you're NOT over 50!

When I bought my Blackberry I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great-grandkids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting. My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Noble talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dashboard, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-ul-ating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead, well, it was not a good relationship.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have torun around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them in with me.

Now I toss it back to them.
When they ask me, "Paper or
Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter
to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's

their turn to stare at me with a blank
look.

I was recently asked if I tweet.
I answered, "No, but I do toot a lot."

In the Beginning

In the beginning, God created the
Heavens and the Earth and populated
the Earth with broccoli, cauliflower and
spinach, green, yellow and red
vegetables of all kinds, so Man and
Woman would live long and healthy
lives.

weight and his cholesterol went
through the roof.

God then created a light, fluffy white
cake, named it 'Angel Food Cake,' and
said, 'It is good.' Satan then created
chocolate cake and named it 'Devil's
Food.'

Then using God's great gifts, Satan
created Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and
Krispy Creme Donuts. And Satan said,
'You want chocolate with that?'

God then brought forth running shoes
so that His children might lose those
extra pounds. And Satan gave cable
TV with a remote control so Man would
not have to toil changing the channels.
And Man and Woman laughed and
cried before the flickering blue light
and gained pounds.

And Man said, 'Yes!' and Woman said,
'and as long as you're at it, add some
sprinkles.' And they gained 10 pounds.
And Satan smiled.

Then God brought forth the potato,
naturally low in fat and brimming with
nutrition. And Satan peeled off the
healthful skin and sliced the starchy
center into chips and deep-fried them.
And Man gained pounds.

And God created the healthful yogurt
that Woman might keep the figure that
Man found so fair. And Satan brought
forth white flour from the wheat, and
sugar from the cane and combined
them. And Woman went from size 6 to
size 14.

God then gave lean beef so that Man
might consume fewer calories and still
satisfy his appetite. And Satan created
McDonald's and its 99-cent double
cheeseburger. Then said, 'You want
fries with that?' And Man replied, 'Yes!
And super size them!' And Satan said,
'It is good.' And Man went into cardiac
arrest.

So God said, 'Try my fresh green
salad.' And Satan presented
Thousand-Island

Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic
toast on the side. And Man and
Woman unfastened their belts
following the repast.

God sighed and created quadruple
bypass surgery.

God then said, 'I have sent you heart
healthy vegetables and olive oil in
which to cook them.' And Satan
brought forth deep fried fish and
chicken-fried steak so big it needed its
own platter. And Man gained more

Then Satan created Socialized
Medicine.

Poetry

ABUNDANTLY GOD GIVES TO ME

ABUNDANTLY GOD GIVES TO ME
LIKE GRAPES UPON THE VINE
THE RAPTURE HE HAS PROMISED US
QUITE CLEARLY COULD BE MINE

INTO HIS WIDE OPEN ARMS
I LIVE TO KNOW HIS GRACE
AND CERTAIN WHEN I LEAVE THIS
WORLD
I'LL GAZE UPON HIS FACE

DISTRACTED BY TEMPTATIONS OF
THIS WORLD IN WHICH I LIVE
IN SEARCH OF CERTAIN HAPPINESS
THAT ONLY **HE** CAN GIVE

THE ANSWERS IN HIS WRITTEN WORD
WHOSE PAGES ARE MY GUIDE
THE TRUTH IS IN HIS SACRIFICE
OUR SINS FOR WHICH HE DIED

SOMEDAY, SOON, I'LL LAY ME DOWN
THIS BODY I WILL REST
MY SPIRIT I'LL COMMEND TO HIM
AGAIN, I WILL BE BLESSED

DAVID MARSH 2-12-11

IT AIN'T ME

IT AIN'T ME WITH ALL THE ANSWERS
IT AIN'T ME THAT KNOWS THE PLAN
IT AIN'T ME, I'M NOT A PROPHET
IT AIN'T ME, I'M JUST A MAN

IT AIN'T ME THAT WALKED ON WATER
IT AIN'T ME THAT CALMED THE SEA
IT'S THE ONE, ABOVE, IN HEAVEN
WHO MAKES MEN LIKE YOU AND ME

IT AIN'T ME WHO SOLVES MY
PROBLEMS
IT AIN'T ME WHO MADE WHAT IS
LOOK AROUND AT ALL THIS BEAUTY
MADE FOR US, BUT WE ARE HIS

ALL THE THINGS I TAKE FOR GRANTED
IT ALL IS, BUT ISN'T, MINE
FROM MY GOD COMES MY SALVATION
'TIL THE VERY END OF TIME.....

DAVID MARSH 2-21-11

I place this letter which I write
Into an envelope of light
Stamp it with love's blessing too
And send it on its way to you.

When it arrives, please understand
It is my own outreaching hand
That touches yours - - a living part
Of me that greets you, heart to heart.

No time nor distance can deter
This faith directed messenger
For love has magic, love has wings
And love is what this letter brings.

Unconditional Love
Elis C

Before I Find a Girl I Love

Oh Lord I have a big request
Which I must ask you now.
Before I find a girl I love
I pray you show me how.

I know Your word is very clear
On what a girl she'll be
Don't let my feelings mix me up
But give me eyes to see.

Keep me from girls that turn my heart
From those with looks or charm
Protect me from temptations
And those which bring me harm

Help me discern all those sweet words
Actions which are fake,
Guide me to see what's right, and wrong
My love for You is at stake.

Help me consider only girls,
With lives that would please you
Whose focus is to serve You well
And do what You would do

Help me find a girl that's wise
That seeks and does what's right
So if I choose to follow her
We'll both walk in your light.

Show me a girl that knows you well
That spends much time with you
So she can know and do your will
And love just like you do

I know that if I follow you
And put you first in all
The girl I find will be your choice
Our purity won't fall

Prepare me Lord to be the man
That such a woman would choose
Like the woman I am in love with
To grow with her, close to your heart,
That we cannot lose

Prov. 31:10-30
p.s. Is that girl you

When you become as Fine Gold

As I have walked through this life
There seemed to be nothing
But turmoil and strife
Why would this lot come to me
And all the heartaches I would see
Who could deliver me
The burdens I carry
As each day goes by
I become more weary.
Ah, but there is hope that lies ahead
To which my weary soul can be fed
To lift the burdens that come my way
And give to me a better day
The headaches seemed to flow my way
As I walked day by day

It's the Lord who said,
"Come unto me and I will give you rest"
For He knows when we are put to the
test
For in his word, that is what we are told
When you go through the trial
You will come out as fine gold.

Donald Domelle

Job 23:10

More Drawings by Richard Sanchez

