

# “Letter From M.O.M.”

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

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

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

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

We have also become affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

[www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon](http://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 M.O.M. (Women Only)  
P.O. Box 6667  
Visalia, CA 93290**

**Sister Carol Ann  
P.O. Box 7501  
Visalia, CA 93390**

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

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

**Iglesia Puerta de Salvacion  
202 Lafayette Ave.  
Lindsay, CA 93247**

**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 #.

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**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."

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**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](http://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 never required for brochures.**  
\$.44 for Pen pals and  
\$.64 for Resources  
\$.44 for Newsletter  
(plus printing costs)

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## 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.

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## GRATEFUL

Today as I sit in my cell here at Corcoran, I am so grateful! Some may say, how can I be grateful to be in a cell? See, only I (well, God does) know exactly how I was living my life out there. Because of our pridefulness, we never tell the whole truth and really tell what we were doing or what we were not doing, fearing what the next man might think of us. Nothing is hidden from the eyes of God.

Each day is a battle in here, to not go off and do my own way. Only by the strength of the Holy Spirit do I make it each day. Only by the love of God am I able to stay full of joy, regardless of the situation in a place like this. Only by the wisdom and guidance of our sovereign God am I able to stay away from situations or places I should not be. No matter where you are at this moment in your life, whether in a prison cell or on the streets, please know and believe that God loves you so much and has a plan and purpose for your life that you could never bring to yourself.

No matter how many times you have let go and turned away from God, God has never let go of you and He is waiting for you. In those moments that you need that comfort, the same comfort that a mother gives a newborn, God wants and will hold you in His arms and comfort you give you the peace and love that you so desperately are seeking. Only look up with your eyes and an open heart and receive His love and grace. Don't let your past mistakes dictate your future. God will forgive all our mistakes we once "lived",

because He is calling you to start “LIVING” a life filled with blessing you never imagined possible! Would you go with me and start living for God?

By **Nelson Purvis**

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### **WHERE DOES IT SHINE!**

Sometimes the light at the end of the tunnel grows nearer, sometimes afar. However, there is light. What is the light? This is a question that has been asked since the beginning of time. My confinement cell is a little like the light. At times, no boundaries, at times, so constricting, almost choking. Men that have spent years in a solitary well---old convicts---find things to sway the pounding uselessness. Books, writing, drawing, rapping on the window, but in the end, is it enough? Do the boundaries stay in the far distance? For me, a solitary inmate, a veteran of a four trip to solitary, (one lasting seven years) nothing worked. I'd exercise, planning all types of things to pull back the fear of being unloved. When the right arose, the cell lights clicked off and even white walls turned black. However, and that is a new happy term, it isn't so dark. The future is not so bleak. I have learned like the bending tree in a storm. Why? What is the difference? Is the cell larger? Is the bed softer? No.....all is the same. It is I've started on the gold path. Yes, faith! For me, that means believing in something for the first time in my life. Did God give his only son so we could have eternal life? Absolutely! God has truly worked miracles in my life. I'm stronger, happier and have more patience. Do I try to spread the word, no, I'm not that fearless yet. I will leave that up to angels---as in Chaplain Bob, Sister Linda and a very special woman whose name is Carol, a pen-pal----paved the way for us that has to take one step at a time, to fight for every inch. Yes, the light has become bright. It is called “HOPE”!

By **Jason Ridge**

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### **“Are You Robbing God”**

by **James Louis Jenkins III**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus I greet you (Romans 16:16) and pray that our wonderful God and savior is blessing you all with peace, favor, love and deliverance out of His abundance! I implore each of you, free or imprisoned, to consider this spiritual question, “Am I robbing God?” naturally, this question can be disturbing to the soul, due to the fear and reverence we all should have for God's awesome and unmatched power (Psalms 22:28), but in the holy book of Malachi (Malachi 3:8-10) God himself makes the argument clear and spiritually sound. See, the agreement for believers to give one-tenth of all increase into the “bank account” of God was made long, long ago in the holy book of Genesis (Genesis 14:18-24). As illustrated throughout the Bible (Nehemiah 13:10-13; Matthew 22:15-22; Proverbs 3:9; I Chronicles; Genesis 14:18-24; Malachi 3:8-10), God wills for the provisions of His holy children to be met out of this bank account/storehouse (Malachi 3:10; Nehemiah 13:13). This spiritual law of tithes and offerings started with Abram and Melchizedek, the first priest of our most high God (Genesis 14:18-22), occurred as a standard while Jesus walked with His disciples (John 6:5, Matthew 15:32,

33), and is expected to continue while our Lord sits on the throne (Hebrews chapter 7; Matthew 25:31-46). God has always established and appointed treasures over his storehouse to be faithful brothers and sisters with the task of distribution (Nehemiah 13:13; Matthew 25:35-40; Acts 4:32-37), though there were some appointed treasurers over His storehouse whom “robbed” God (I Samuel 2:12-17; John 12:5-8; 13:29).

So, now, I want you sisters and brothers to entertain that earlier question? Are you? Do you give one-tenth of your increase back and “pay it forward” into the blessed storehouses of God to help out your less fortunate Holy siblings? You know, that not only includes one dollar for every ten you are blessed to receive, but your first fruits (Proverbs 3:9) offered into God’s storehouse honors our Holy Lord and activates the spiritual law of abundant increase (Proverbs 3:10; Malachi 3:10). Doesn’t that encourage you? Oh yea, did you realize your talents are excepted as “first fruits” as well? We know that Jesus explained, “The kingdom of Heaven is” when it comes to investing the unique talents God the father Yahweh has blessed you with (Matthew 25:14-30). Jesus enlightens us that just giving a simple cup of cold water brings a guaranteed reward (Matthew 10:42), so let us all learn from the poor widow whom had almost nothing, but gave and pleased the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 21:1-4). Men, we can learn “volumes” from our true and real Christina sisters whom, as the Bible stresses (Luke 8:1-3), gladly set aside, even wifely and stewardship duties, to attend to and provide for Jesus and His disciples from their possessions! After all, they knew the work of the kingdom comes before “all” duties, marriage, or otherwise (Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 16:24-27, Luke 14:25-33) and these Holy Spirit filled sisters (2 Corinthians 6:16-18) knew that their hands were on the plow and looking back (Luke 9:62) would result in the same spiritual consequence as Lot’s wife (Genesis 19:17, 26).

Now be encouraged to pay it forward and bring in your tithes and offerings to faithful storehouses, like “Moving On Ministry!” We all can buy or gather our “tenth” in something as simple as “stamps or stamped envelopes.” We can send one-tenth of our “books” once we have the address of one of these worthy ministries. We can draw, send poems, or testimonials as a contribution. Just pray for your thoughts to be established (Proverbs 16:3) or “fast” if need be (Isaiah 58:6-9), and watch your light break forth (v. 8) and the Word of the Lord come to pass (Malachi 3:10). Yahweh will honor His Word (Numbers 23:19,20), after all, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Until next time . . . may God bless you all !!

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### **Linda’s Postcards**

Thank you for the postcard. Hope you enjoyed the trip.

I’m helping do whatever I can to make the resource list great for everyone. I have had good success with it. Enrolled in 4 Bible studies, getting a couple of newsletters, got legal assistance and a new penpal.

I appreciate the list and what you do to help others and I want to give back all I can. As they say, “every little bit helps.”

I also got a free credit report from Experian, a resource list on page 4, so it does work.

Dale Grau

## **MY OLD SINFULL LIFE IN THE STREETS**

As I was growing up in my home town of Visalia, I was a teen going to school but kicking it with the wrong crowd. I grew up in the wrong side of town my whole life where it was just drama, drama and more drama. As I was attending school it was going good until I was kicking it with the so called Homies. We were getting into fights, rumbles and getting kicked out from schools for trying to stab one of my rivals. I got sent to Packwood School and there I was acting hard with my Homies, getting into fights. We got into it with some of my rivals and we got into a rumble so we all go kicked out from there. They sent us to different schools. I was growing up and I was acting more hard than before. I started staying up late, going to parties and doing lots of drugs. My parents started to get worried about my life but I didn't care about anything. All I cared about was getting high with my Homies and setting into it with different hoods. I used to not listen to nobody and then I started getting jumped by my rivals coming home each day. I'd end up with black eyes, bloody lips and a blood face. It was like that for a while and then shooting started coming. Then I got shot at and several times got hit like four times. It was getting worse so I went to my Homies and picked up a gun and that was it. I started blasting left and right until I got caught up on my first shooting it out with my rivals. I got caught. They didn't and so I got 2 years for that. Then I hit the streets again and did good on parole for a while, until I got off of parole. I felt the whole world was mine and didn't care so I was selling drugs and had a lot of guns with me. I felt safe.

I was doing all bad ever since some of my rivals took my little girl. They wanted to get me where it hurts. I don't know how my little girl got away but I thank God nothing happened to her. So as my little girl told me where they took her and how they put tape on her mouth. She showed me where they took her. I lost my mind after that and I started doing a lot of drugs and kicking it with my Homies. I was sure something big was going to go down so it started to happen. One of my rivals was shooting at me and I shot back and that was it. I got caught up with several guns and I got locked up. I was locked up in Bob Wiley and I was going to court. I was looking at life; me, my nephew and a Homie. I knew my mind was going crazy. I told myself this was it and I was losing my mind.

Everything was going wrong so one day I started reading the Bible. It was night, in the middle of the night, I read Colossians 3, all the way to verse 17 and right there, He told me everything, that God wants the best for me and to change my life around to His ways. So I did. I went to court and got blessed with an "out date". I love my life and it's full of peace and happiness. Ever since I turned my life around it's been a blessing for me. Our Lord wants the best for us. We can't do it on our own, but with our Lord He will direct our path. I was blinded like a blinded old fool but now I see and it's the peace and happiness I asked for. Everybody that's doing wrong choices needs to turn from there because there's nothing good that comes from that. I love my Christian brothers and Bob for visiting us at Bob Wiley and for teaching us the Word of our Lord and I thank you for just being here for us and for visiting us and the good things you do, Bob. We all love you Bob and M.O.M. and all of your ministry.

**By Rolando Viera**

## **FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS**

I'm 30 years old. I've lived a life full of tests and trials. I met my Lord Jesus in "2007" in a jail cell after 14 years of addiction, gangs, drug dealing and all kinds of abuse. After two weeks of my "cellie" telling me about Jesus and how much He loved me and how He could help me, I got down on my knees and cried out to God. I told God that I had ruined everything. I left my kids and my husband and I couldn't stop putting a needle in my arm because I didn't want to feel my guilt and shame of all the things I've done and that were done to me. I asked for forgiveness and help to be a better woman than I was and instantly life just made sense.

After that night, I chased God and I fell in love with Jesus. I did my time and went to Teen Challenge when I got out because I kept relapsing. After 1 ½ years at Teen Challenge, I was so in love with the Lord. I was in full time ministry and preaching to the youth. Sadly to say, I compromised in a few areas of my life; sex, alcohol and that led me right back to drugs. I spent all that time cleaning out my temple to invite the enemy and his creepy demons right back in due to my relapse. I surrendered my joy, peace, sobriety and my relationships with my kids and family. All the many blessings I had received from my God, my victory and my freedom were gone. It took me out for a whole year. I ran the streets, broke the law and became 10 times worse in that year than I was in the first 14 years before I got clean. After all the work God and I had done to change me and I still failed. Self-condemnation had taken over me and I couldn't face my heavenly Father. In a state of depression, in the darkness, I knew never to doubt what God had showed me in the light. I knew I was in total rebellion and I told God I was done, I was sorry and I needed Him to finish the work He had started in me.

I was on the run from the law and within a few days I caught a new case and now I sit in prison and I thank Jesus because I'm clean and sober. I have all my time to work on my relationship with God. I wrote to my pastor from Teen Challenge and his wife and asked them if I could come back home and they said they loved me and wanted me to come back and complete the program that can include Bible College! I've been blessed and best of all, I and feel my heavenly Father again. I may be in prison, but I have never felt so free. When I'm obedient I walk in freedom and victory. The worse thing I've ever experienced was my separation from God due to my believing the lies of the enemy. Nothing can separate me from the love of God.

I pray that God will use me and when I get to heaven I will hear that I was a good and faithful servant. I want to thank you, Bob and Linda for serving God and the opportunity to give me a chance to share with you what God has done in my life.

God Bless you, **Desiree Franks**

## **“THERE IS HOPE FOR US ALL”**

I want to start by saying that coming to prison saved my life. After years of living a reckless life, living for self, searching for happiness through drinking, drugs, women and any reason to party, I had to come here to finally find what I've always been looking for all those years.

I was the first of eight children in my family to go to college on a fill baseball scholarship. I had many opportunities through that career that were sabotaged. I had two beautiful wives and three children from two different women. Two daughters from my first wife of 12 years and a son from a beautiful girl I dated for 2 years between wives. I had respected most of my elders but chose to live my own life on my own terms. I was respected by my family, friends and peers for the most part. The drugs finally took over killing any real chance at a good career or life.

I was raised going to Sunday school and church but as a teenager I grew out of it. I was too cool. My life took a turn in the wrong direction. I served Satan instead of God. I always knew through that I had a guardian angel praying for me. I have both grandparents and parents in heaven and I know they are praying for me and my siblings and children. After losing my second wife who was my best friend, my 3 children and anyone else I loved, I was sentenced to 20 years.

Upon arrival in prison, I knew I had to get my life right. After 6 months of feeling sorry for myself and fighting depression, I gave my life to Christ. John 15:16 says, “You did not choose me.....and I joined every program available in the chapel. After taking them all, I now facilitate most of them. I finally have a purpose and live to bear good fruit. If you told me 7 years ago that I would be leading Bible studies in the chapel and dorm, being a leader on the compound here at ECI, I would have told you, “you're nuts.”

Since turning my life over to Christ, my youngest daughter Shannon visited me after not seeing her for 5 years. She showed up one time with my son who I hadn't seen in 7 years. They sat me down and said they don't care what I did in the past but they know I am a good man and they want to be in my life. It hasn't been easy, but God is working that out.

My life is being restored every day. I have peace and joy like I've never known, even in prison. I teach math in the GED program and facilitate the Alternative to Violence Project, a program brought in by a professor from FIU here in Miami. God is working in me and through me like never before. I know that anything is possible with Christ, so I am not owning up to my 20 year sentence that man gave me. God has opened up an avenue for me to get back to court. He is my final judge.

I want to serve Him anyway or anywhere He wants. I know I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nothing is impossible. I want to encourage anyone I can that if you turn your life over to God with ALL of your heart, He can work miracles in your life. Through prayer, Bible study, fellowship, spending time alone with Him and telling others your story, your life will be a living testimony for Him. Don't wait any longer to make that life changing decision. The time is now and I want you to know I am here praying for you. May God Bless you and keep you.

God Bless, **Richard Lechler**

## **SINFUL NATURE**

Every day we fight a war within ourselves, a war of good and evil. Our hearts wants us to do good yet our mind wants something different. This is our sinful nature. Because we were born into sin, nothing good can live in us and since sin lives within us, all our life is controlled by our sinful nature. We don't understand what we are doing. We have the desire to do good but we are unable to carry it out because of our sinful nature, we end up doing what we don't want to do, which is sin. Now that we know about sin, how do we stop doing it? How do we get rid of our sinful nature?

I have looked many years for the answer to this question and one day it was revealed to me just how simple it was. It was astonishing to realize all I needed to do was to change my way of thinking and believe upon a Savior whose sole purpose was to release us from our sinful nature. This Savior showed me that I need to believe upon him and be born again with a spirit and live with this spirit, not my sinful nature as my guide in life. This spirit showed me that if I lived with my mind on earthly desires I will be controlled by my sinful nature, which would lead to death. If I live with my mind on heavenly desires, I will no longer be controlled by my sinful nature and I will be given eternal life.

I accepted this Savior into my life and now this spirit lives within me putting to death my sinful nature and misdeeds of my body and has placed my feet upon a path towards righteousness. Now I'm called a son of God and through this adoption I was saved.

My life has gotten better in many areas, yet in some areas it has gotten harder. I gave up man things and received many in return. The best thing was I only gave up things that were going to hurt me in my life, such as adultery, greed, deceit, strife and malice. I received those which helped me in my life like peace, joy, happiness and love.

Every day I still struggle with my sinful nature, for every day I am attacked by evil that is testing me. I am being tested to see if I am strong enough to withstand these attacks, yet I don't worry for the spirit gives me strength to stand up against these attacks upon me. In my current situation I consider myself blessed. Why? I'm in a place where my strength, my faith and wisdom will grow and any trials and tribulation I may go through will only serve to glorify my Savior. I will be giving praise where praise truly belongs. Because of the love for man, God gave His only son to be sacrificed so that our sinful nature can be put to death and our lives be filled with His love and grace. So all those who are losing this battle to their sinful nature, I'm here to let you know that there is a way to change this and it is not hard at all! You only need to believe as I do, upon Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who was sent here to save us from our sinful nature. Then, be baptized with the Holy Spirit who in turn will lead us to righteousness and eternal life with our Father and His son our Lord and Savior Jesus.

I thank you, Father, for your son, Jesus who died for my sins and everybody else's sins so that we can have everlasting life with you. I also thank you, Father, for Chaplain Bob and Linda; Chaplain May and Chaplain John, Ruben and let us not forget Denise and Jesus prayer ministry, along with all the others you placed in my life at my time of need to help me on my journey, to keep me strong in faith and wisdom. This is written from my heart with our Father's will be done by glorifying Him in all I say and do.

Your brother in Christ, **Stephen Wallace**

## **SOLDIER**

I'm a soldier in a fight I knew nothing about. A matter of fact is it was a fight I would lose. In this fight, my enemy I did not know and I had no way of defending his attacks. He came from all sides and all hours of the day and night. Then one day I was given some information about my enemy, the things he did and how he did them. Looking for more about my enemy, I found out how I could win. Until this information was given to me, I was fighting in darkness and I could not see I was fighting for the enemy. I was thinking I was doing good and helping those in need when actually I was doing his bidding and inflicting damage upon my soul. I'm fighting a fight I can't win, with just muscle and might, but now I have a new hope in a Savior who will show me the way that all things are possible through Him. I only need to believe and place my faith in Him and He will give me the strength and the will to get me through these troubled times in my life. He will place a breastplate upon my chest, a helmet upon my head and hand me a shield and a sword to defend myself when my enemy attacks. I know that this fight will never end. Every day and every night it is a fight I must win, knowing my enemy will never give up. This is no regular fight. It is a fight for my soul and either I'll be with the Savior or with my foe.

Yes, I'm a soldier fighting for my soul. Once I fought with darkness, with a life filled with hurt, sorrow and pain. I had nothing to lose and nothing to gain. Now I must make a stand to either keep on fighting a losing or use this new information to bring this fight to a glorious end! I'm glad to say I have made my choice. I no longer fight for darkness. I'm now fighting a fight for the light, for I'm now a soldier for Christ! I can only say that you my brothers and sisters no longer have to fight a losing battle for our enemy. All we must do is believe and place our faith upon our Lord and Savior Jesus and the fight will have a glorious end! Thank you, Father!

**Stephen Wallace**

PS: I'm also thankful for the information I received through Chaplain Bob and Linda and **Moving On Ministry**. Without them I would still be fighting a losing battle! Thank you, Father, again for bringing them into my life!

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## From Recruiter to Recruited

To Bob & Linda c/o Moving On  
Ministry

Oct. 18, 2011

All my profound respects to all the readers of M.O.M. Newsletter. This is my 5th plus year writing to Bob and Linda, and on this last Sunday, I found myself taking a very big step in my life by getting baptized. I guess this wasn't part of my plan, but in this world that we live in, nothing is for sure. But I am thankful that \*God\* put Chaplain Bob and his very insightful wife Linda into my life. I'm a lucky man. At this time, I now walk with Christ and I have learned the meaning of \*Integrity\* and true values. Christ has helped me to save my life. He has given me a chance to take personal inventory of life itself. These choices have allowed me to discharge my parole and I'm proud to say I will never have to go to prison again. But I will be going to church on Sunday. I'm still not perfect. But time goes by. I have learned \*God\*s\* true meaning, and that is that we all have faith. Just sometimes we don't know how to use it. And for those of you that think this makes you soft or weak, this is not true at all. I know this first hand. God has given us everything in front of us for the taking. Trust and believe that its just like its written in the book of Psalms 118:8.

For those that are reading this newsletter, give Christ a chance. A good start is to write to Moving On Ministry. With this said, I will excuse myself. I'd like to thank all that took the time to read this short letter. Sincerely, Arturo

**NOTE:** This individual professed to our pastor that the first time he met me, if the door at BWDF would not have been there he would have killed me. He did not want me spreading "religion" to the individuals. He was the Shot caller. I explained that I was so happy he did not take my life (it already belonged to Christ anyway), because I would not have been able to see his baptism because I would not be here and he would not have gone thru with it. We need to put forth the patience and persistence that Christ did for us. If we really knew how many times the devil had tried to take us out and Christ and His angels intervened, we would be in shock. Truly we need to go into the "Belly of the Beast." Those that are delivered from the "belly," truly become the "Warriors for God." This man has already committed to go back into unit 41 and 42 (when allowed) to bring others out of darkness.

## **HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR ME**

By **Carol Ann**

My most recent lesson from the Lord is that of patience. I used to think I was patient, but I had no idea what real patience was. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I've read that verse so many times, but today the verse went into my heart in a whole new way. There truly will be times in our lives when we need to accept this verse more completely, and allow the peace of that verse to fill us. I've found that in order for God to bring us to the fullness of what he desires for our lives, we need to understand who he is and really realize he is enough. (Ephesians 1: 17-19) God's ways are powerful and strong. We are called to wisdom and understanding. We can use this verse from 2 Corinthians 12 to remind us that he is enough and it can help produce in us a daily surrender that we all need.

Most everyone reading this article has been taken into the pit that life can throw us into. For me and for many, getting out of the pit of physical and emotional pain, wounds, addictions and the pride of life, is not something we just climb out of. It's slimy in there, it's dirty and slippery. We can try our hardest and still find ourselves falling back to the bottom. Sometimes we think we have hit the bottom, only to find we had not and we still have more surrendering to do. Often what is happening is we still are trying to do life on our own terms. (Psalm 40) I found myself realizing I needed to store this verse from 2 Corinthians in my heart for remembering that God is all that I need. I want to encourage you to do that also. God's grace is sufficient for us and we are His and no one can stand in the way of God's grace, mercy and forgiveness in our lives. Each and every day we can kneel at the cross and fully take in that we are His and He loves us, mess and all. (John 14: 1-4)

Sin is a part of human nature. All kinds of weaknesses will be in us. Some reading this article will find they are due to be released out into the world very soon. Some of you will not be freed from behind bars for a long time, if ever. Some are already out living in free society, but yet bound in a different sort of prison. I know from my own life, it does not take bars to be in bondage. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, if we are trying to do it on our own, then we are living in bondage to our pride. God is who we need to bring us through our struggles. (Romans 6: 19) In humility I have had to accept that I have lived in pride, in a place of bondage and I needed to be freed. God teaches that all we need to do is confess our sin and He is faithful to forgive us of our sins and cleanse of us all of our unrighteousness. (1John 1:9) That's good news for all of us. We all need to keep our God in first place in our lives and we will be blessed with peace. Whenever we find we have not been living as God desires we lives, the Lord is eager to help us get back on track. His forgiveness is available for all matters. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1).

The patience that is needed during our process of healing and life transformation is not a quality that we naturally possess. (Proverbs 16:25) Our basic human nature takes often to the negative and we fall. We often react with anger, frustration, discouragement and confusion. Some direct what they feel inwardly and react with self-destruction and depression. Others react outwardly in anger or aggression. How we react, is as unique to each person as it is to how uniquely our God created each of us. As we walk through this life, our hope just has to stay on the Lord to make it through. No

matter how we react, at the end, we need to be able to humbly turn back to the Lord and rely on Him to get us through. (Ephesians 2:8) Our world can be turned upside down at the snap of a finger, but He will and He can get us through. God is the one to heal and restore us to sanity as we simply accept and surrender our hearts and lives to Him.

So, wherever you find yourselves, God's word is true and real and it says His grace is sufficient for us and I believe those words from Him. His love can and will see us through when we hold to Him. Through the workings of the Holy Spirit, God works with us continues to perfect us as we learn and grow. (Colossians 3: 2-4) Sometimes we do step back into old places again, we have to start over again and we wonder how the Lord has kept loving us, but He does. We get back up from our fall, confess our sin to Him and He forgives. In my own life, each time I fall, I've felt Him catch me, hold me and has helped to bring me back up. It seems each time I stand back up, I have received a little more clarity and awareness about my weakness and the struggle that is within. Sometimes I think I needed to wallow around in the slimy mud because I am being hard headed and prideful. Each time, He is faithful and He is able to restore me and bring me back to my knees. (2Thessalonians 3:3) His love is powerful, unconditional and once again His grace was sufficient for me. No matter where you find yourself to be, He is sufficient for you.

This morning I am reminded of just how true this verse is and just how broadly it covers our lives. His Word is inspired instruction for our lives. This verse also reminds me of how completely God accepts and loves us. (Proverbs 16:20) The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth for building us up for this life. Every situation we will face and every emotion that is within the realm of human emotion, God has given us the answers. We need Him. We need one another for encouragement. We can feel His acceptance through the power of the Holy Spirit and take into our hearts and minds the wisdom that His Words brings. We can allow our minds to be stirred to freedom. We can embrace the Lord's words of grace, love, mercy and care. (Ephesians 1:13-14) One of my favorite pieces of scriptures is Philippians 2: 12-16. We shine as stars in this world as we grow up in the Lord .....brighter, brighter and brighter.....oh, how lovely that thought is that we are bright and shining stars.

As I embrace the truth that God is enough and all that I need, I am brought to my knees in humble surrender to the reality of God's love, the fullness of His gifts and the blessings that I have because of the sacrifice of Jesus. (Ephesians 1: 7-12) The awareness and acceptance of how much God loves us is a belief we can take hold of and store in our hearts for each and every day. We can be still in his love. We can be patient as my life unfolds. We are safe and held tight in the arms of our loving Savior. There is nothing that can keep us from His love. The very prayer that Jesus spoke to his Father before he was going to be crucified in John 17 is one of the most powerful expressions of just how Jesus feels about us. We can remember that no matter what situation that we find ourselves facing, we can say....."His grace is sufficient for me."

**Carol Ann**

## Poetry

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### PRAISE

As flowers lift face to the sun.  
I lift my praise to the Son of God.  
I praise you with all my heart.  
I praise you for who you are  
the giver of grace so rich and full.  
A love so unconditional, how can it be  
That you gave this gift to me.  
With all my breath I praise your name,  
Son of God my salvation.

Amen!

By **Alton Perkins**

### I AM NOT ALONE

The Holy Spirit dwells in me  
Filling my heart with so much glee  
He keeps me from evil  
Which I cannot see  
With His commandments I agree,  
He says put your trust in me,  
And you will most definitely see,  
He will protect and guide thee.  
Trials and tribulations,  
Will make thee stronger and bold for me.  
Thus I know my Heavenly Father  
Loves even me  
By **Robert Ocanas**

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## Heaven

It's cloudy outside, but the weather seems great  
There's a road of gold where success is fate  
Everyone's so friendly, an endless amount of peace,  
It's an eternity of happiness with a never ending lease.  
All our loved ones are present and filled with pleasure  
The pearly gates are no longer buried treasure.  
There were seven angels bringing seven plaques,  
Which are the last  
For with them God's wrath is finished on life's path.  
I'm on the right side of the glassy sea,  
Next to God and forever free.  
I looked and behold a white cloud,  
And sitting on the cloud  
One resembling the son of man.  
Angels have lifted me into His hand.  
In this dream my gift was eternal life with Him.  
I want to be there, God please cleanse me of sin.

11-22-10

**Beau Allen Brown**

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### **Thank You Lord**

Thank you Lord for rescuing me  
Thank you lord  
For blessings I cannot yet see.  
Thank you Lord  
For setting me free  
Thank you Lord  
for taking control of my destiny.

**Melinda Seitz**

### **He Provides**

No matter how many tears we shed  
His promises are true.  
No matter how long it takes,  
His timing is set for you.  
No matter how alone you feel,  
His arms are there to comfort you.  
No matter how down you are,  
His glory chases away the blues.  
No matter how small our faith,  
God always provides for me and you.

**Melinda Seitz**

### **Inmate Prayer**

Heavenly Father please hear my prayer tonight  
I'm hoping that you will hear it right.  
I'm praying for the homies to receive you as their light  
I pray for these that are about to get down and fight  
I'm hoping that neither one will use a gun or knife  
Their lives should not be cut short, they should have a full life  
I also want to pray for those in the county jail, those that have no bail,  
Their charges are carrying 25 years with an "L"  
With that on their minds, they are going through it with their personal hell.  
Lord, my prayer isn't done, it's just begun,  
I want top pray for the moms and teen moms to be  
who's man in their lives couldn't handle the responsibility  
I pray for the moms and moms to be, to go back to school and earn their degrees  
Lord I also want to finally pray for those who get high  
Snorting, smoking or slamming the drugs for their 5 minutes to fly.  
It is just making their loved ones to cry.  
Heavenly Father, I hope you got my prayer straight  
If anything happens that it is too late,  
Please Lord, let me take their fate  
(This should be the prayer of all inmates)

**Manuel Alamillo**

Drawing by  
Richard Sanchez

