

# Letter From M.O.M.

## Vol. 75 - Information Issue”

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

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

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

Volume 75 – Nov/Dec. 2012 (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](http://www.MovingOnMinistry.com)

We have also become affiliated with International Prison Fellowship  
[www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon](http://www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon)

### Fellowship

**We have now communicated with about 80% of the prisons in California, as well as writing to Africa, Egypt, India, Nepal, Ireland, Tennessee, Minnesota, Idaho, Texas, Arizona, Washington, S. Carolina, Florida, New York, and Michigan. We have also had communication thru email as a result of our web sites. We would like to know of the impact we are having and also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing**

### Intentions & Wishes

The intentions of this newsletter are to allow an understanding of jail & prison ministries. It is our intentions to get input from those incarcerated as well as those “free” to visit. Life experiences of the faith and fellowship from those locked up in the facilities are always desired to let others know of the value of “visitation”. I am certain that each of us have many stories of the miracles God has done in our lives.

Our wishes are that we would have a list of supportive churches that individuals might look forward to attending, once released.

A list of services, such as housing, employment, and counseling services, as well as some individuals available for friendly fellowship are also much needed items.

God’s Word says if a man stumbles, how can he continue lest there be another to help him up. **Ecc. 4:10** “For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him [that is] alone when he falleth; for [he hath] not another to help him up.” **Proverbs 24:17** “Rejoice not when thy enemy falleth, and let not thy heart be glad when he stumbleth.” **John 11:10** “But if a man walketh in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.”

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

Awaken Church  
c/o M.O.M.  
P.O. Box 6667  
Visalia, CA. 93290

Andrea Shannon  
8405 Jalimo Ave.  
Norfolk, VA 23518

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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.

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Attitude

We get a lot of letters, and requests from inmates. A lot write to request pen-pals (usually of the opposite gender). **We are not a pen-pal service (and definitely not a dating service)** but have provided **Resource List** and **Pen-Pal List**. Some write to request Study Bibles and Bible study courses. We do get some responses of 'Thanks' if/when we send the Resource List or current newsletter. Look how many ministries are not around because of lack of thanks or support.

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**Due to receiving complaints from inmates that some of the addresses do not write back and others are "Return to Sender" because of going out of business (as well as the cost of stamps to inmates), we have limited mailing of the 12 page Pen Pal List and the 36 page Resource List.**  
**If you ask Special requests, they will be filled with the note of understanding that addresses are not guaranteed and change often. Postage on SASE is; \$.45 for Penpals, \$.65 for Resources and \$.45 to \$.85 for Newsletter.**

**Post Office 101**  
Postcards (std. size) are \$.32  
  
(5) sheets of 8 1/2 X 11 can be mailed for \$.45. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> oz. are \$.20 each  
  
That means (10) half-sheets of mail for \$.45. Group up for "Piggy Back Mail"

## Who are Chaplain Bob and Sister Linda?

We have had a formal request from one of our inmate pen pals, Jason Ridge, for some background and history of Bob and Linda. Those of you that have been receiving the newsletter over the past nine years or had Bob or Linda preach in your facilities over the past 10 ½ years, probably have a better understanding of who we are. We have printed pictures of our trips we took so you could feel that you were with us. We have printed our testimonies (recent vol. 74) so you can see the worlds we came from. This article we are going to put some of the highlights of our relationship and answer some of the questions, like the following. Speak about childhood, school, college, how we met, how we became servants to the Lord, our hobbies, what it is like to reach out to so many, and story on kids.

### Speak About Childhood

**Bob's Childhood;** was a blessing. I had a mother and father that would work two jobs each to provide for myself and my two younger brothers. Mom would work as a food and cocktail waitress evenings. Dad would work days in the heat of an aluminum foundry and then after 10-12 hour days would come home and do gardening for customers to raise more money. I was provided new shoes every year for school, clean clothes, and even music lessons for guitar. At a very young age of 4 or 5 in 1952, Bob's parents made sure he was in Sunday School and church at Evangelical Free Church in Fresno. I had offered God "control" of my life at a younger age. Did not give "ownership" of my life to God till Jan. 71 at the age 23 and did not get REALLY seriously committed with God till May 20, 1994, after God overcoming my suicidal feelings..

**Linda's Childhood;** One thing that I know for sure is that my mother was there to love me and care for me as a child through thick and thin. I was ungrateful during a time when I felt lost and had a pity party that lasted a few years. My mother told me things that I did not want to hear and I would not listen and was stubborn in my ways like an old mule. I was angry, vengeful, did not trust anyone and always thought that I was not good enough and always tried to be accepted and be around people that I believed cared enough but it was all lies. They were nothing but backstabbers and took whatever they could for their benefit only. My mother has to be treated with respect as the scriptures say. Honor thy mother and thy father, well my father was an alcoholic. I did not like what he did but he was my father and I loved him because he showed me to work hard for what I had. When he was sober he was complete opposite and showed us love and much family time, laughing, fishing, working together and all.. My mother taught me to survive no matter what even though she would get beat up on weekends from my father's binges. I learned from my heavenly Father that He knew me before I was even born and forgave me for allowing people and circumstances to rule my life. I felt like the scum of the gutter and that everyone was against me so my bitterness ruled my heart and tongue. When I look back I remember saying things that it seems as if it was another person that did that....not me! Wow God has brought me out of the darkness that I lived

in for so many years due to my own selfishness and insecurity looking for love in all the wrong places. ☹

### Schooling

**Bob's Schools;** Although living in the same house for all the school years, due to the constant reforming of boundaries, Bob went to one school for kindergarten, another for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and another for 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Junior high was an experience with running into those individuals that were trying to show force to make themselves appear strong, and probably the predecessors of modern gang members. High school was an experience as Bob met his future first wife (later to be the mother of his daughters) and spent most of his time trying to make it thru the classes on chemistry, physics, trigonometry, biology, and of course all the required ones like English, history, and government.

**Linda's Schools;** Linda was raised and grew up predominately in the Fowler, CA and Selma, CA areas where she attended school. Not being able to finish her high school years, she later received her G.E.D.

### College

**Bob's Many Colleges;** Started out with going to Fresno Community College as a physics major. I dropped out near the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of college to join the Air National Guard during the Viet Nam conflict. After finishing basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, and completing Aircraft Electrician training school at Chanute AFB, IL., as an honor graduate, Bob returned to marry his first wife. Bob graduated from the community college with his A.A. in general education. After moving to Eureka to attend California State University Humboldt, Bob went to work for Sears doing T.V. and appliance repair. While attending CSUH (Oceanography major) days Bob also went to College of the Redwoods (electronics and building codes) in the evenings. With the new jobs, and four years into the marriage we decided to have Vanessa, and 3 years later decided to have Linnea. Six years of living in Humboldt County, we decided to move back to the San Joaquin Valley of California. Bob took many different courses thru Community college of the Air Force. Bob went to the College of the Sequoias Community College to study further in electronics and computers. After 23 years of marriage and going thru a divorce (never recommended), Bob went back to college at California State University (both daughters' alma mater) with his oldest daughter, where he pursued an education in computer engineering. Due to financial responsibility Bob was not able to continue with the education over 3 semesters, while working two jobs. Getting into the computer and IT employment, Bob went back to West Hills College and took the five courses for Novell Network Certification. As Bob got pulled more towards Ministry, he started taking classes thru Trinity Bible College and Seminary.

**Linda's College;** I have worked law enforcement, taken classes for Business and Security, gone to Barclay College for Electronic Computer Programming Institute and done some Bible college. I was Supervisor for developmentally challenged and also

Supervisor for a merchandising team that set up all the holiday displays at Kmart, Orchard Supply, WalMart, and I really enjoyed it.

### How we met

This was probably the most unusual of situations. Bob was employed in the I.T. (Computer) department of Tulare Co. Government. One of his duties was to design and instruct classes of 10-15 students of the 165 to 200 employees in the department he worked. Bob would have the class students write up a critique on the presentation and there would often be one of the group that would reply with “he drinks too much coffee,” “he talks too much about his skydiving,” or “he talks too long.” Bob wondered who it was that expressed these thoughts. You guessed it, it was Linda. Bob was dating another lady in the same department and Linda was dating another man in the same department. Bob’s girlfriend hired Linda to sing at Bob’s going away party when another corporation hired him. Bob enjoyed Linda’s self written songs such as one about skydiving to the tune of “Boot Scoot Boogie.” Not wanting to stare at Linda, especially with girlfriend there (ha ha), Bob tended to look the other way. Bob and his girlfriend broke up and Bob was in a long distance relationship. Linda later invited Bob over to her home to be a guest speaker at a party in her home for “English as a Second Language” students. Linda’s real plan was to line up Bob with one of her girlfriends. Bob was not interested. Later as Linda’s boyfriend ignored her at the party, and left early, Linda was standing on the top step of the porch and Bob on the bottom (remember the height difference) and Linda leaned on Bob’s shoulder and cried so much Bob felt like he was getting a shower. We decided to go to the show the next week as friends and saw Vertical Limit (very tense movie) and not being able to go home and sleep we got together for coffee and talking. We both decided to drop the individuals we were seeing and date each other. About 6 months later we got married, but not that easy.

I was going to surprise Linda by proposing to her at a Bar-B-Q I was throwing at the local Mooney Grove Park. I had invited about 200 people and over 130 did show up. Linda’s Brother is the magician, “The Great Jonathon,” and I booked him to perform with the intention that the last magic trick of the day would be the proposal. We were rushing to take care of everything and as I went over to pick up Linda from her home for the party, I put a rush on her to make sure everything was perfect (important to me) and Linda was thinking “I am glad I am not married to him.” The last magic trick of the evening, I pulled the ring out of the hat, while on one knee, and proposed to her.

Within a few months we booked a flight to Elko, Nevada which included 3 days and two nights for the motel. The package was a special 2 for 1 price and was about \$69.10 – airfare, motel, for BOTH. On the flight over, they do a drawing where you put your seat # on a dollar bill and they draw one, Yep, they drew Bob’s dollar and he got the \$118 in the drawing. This now paid for the flight, motel, meals, and even the wedding license. Linda became Bob’s wife on his birthday in Elko Nevada.

### How We Became Servants to the Lord

**Bob’s Calling;** goes back to before he ever heard God calling. There was a desire to know more about God at a young age.

The greatest influence in my life I would have to say was my earthly father. This man would do what ever he could to provide for his family.

When I was probably 8 to 12 years old, I had a Sunday school teacher named Malcolm that worked on planting God's Word in my life. As I entered middle school years, I bounced through a variety of churches because of going with friends and relatives.

As I was finishing my high school years, I started a job in a restaurant where I met a black man, Otis, who was the dishwasher, and an ordained pastor. I thought *I want nothing to do with this man because of his religion.* I was accepted to California State University Humboldt and moved to Eureka, CA. I was hired to do television and stereo repairs. The manager of the shop came to me and let me know that he was a pastor of a local church. Again I thought *"I'll stay away from him"* but that was not God's plan. I began to think *"either this man has something real or he is totally nuts."* I decided that I would ask some questions, and so we would spend lunch together in his Volkswagen and discuss Bible reality.

In January 1971, at the age of 23, I finally told Him, **God I accept you as Lord and Savior and want you in control of my life but (1) don't expect me to work with youth, (2) never expect me to be involved with inmates, jail or prison ministry and (3) do not expect me to go to some God forsaken country like Africa as a missionary.**

As I released those fears I had and let God have ownership, there continually were burdens being lifted.

While in Eureka, I became involved in teaching youth and running a youth group. This devotion continued when moving to Visalia.

I have been involved in jail/prison ministry for about 9 ½ years now and can truly say it is my greatest blessing that was almost missed because of "trying" to say NO to God. Later in life, God revealed His progression pattern for me to follow;

1. Sin
2. Salvation
3. Separation
4. Sanctification
5. Soul Winning
6. Stewardship
7. Service

In 2005 we met **Bruce Wilkinson** in Tulare, CA, who had quit his ministry of **Walk Thru the Bible** and moved to Africa to start a ministry called **Dream For Africa**. We decided it was time to sign up and went to Swaziland in January 2006.

**Ask for the Swaziland Special Edition newsletter.**

**Linda's Calling;** What a great God we serve!!

About Me

Well most of ya'll have read my testimony and since I was asked for a little more.....well here goes. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ I am 58 years old, dozens of grandchildren and 3 Great-grandchildren, have worked for county agency last 11 plus years ,

My whole world changed when I allowed the Lord to do His will in my life not my will. I have done singing telegrams and balloon bouquets for about 20 years and incorporate singing Christian songs whenever and wherever I go with the jail & prison ministry. I do some sewing and actually most of these hobbies I do are all stress relievers! Everyone should try a variety of things. There is only one thing that could be



a hindrance. Remember that old saying of: "Jack of all trades and Master of none", Do one hobby or education training until you are a master of it. Do not give up on it or yourself. Whatever it is that you do well is pretty much what God has gifted you with so go with that. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you daily to use your gift fully. Use it or lose it. You want to be a winner you have to hang around winners! Remember that you can choose to go the right path for His glory or you can choose to be a loser. That is what the enemy of your soul wants for you.

Don't believe it, it is all lies.

I thank God for bringing Bob into my life as God used us both to minister and do missionary work in Africa and many other states. I have worked many a grape field, cotton fields, drove tractors for just about all kinds of farm work in my younger years and chopped much wood to keep my family warm, not afraid of hard work at all. Thanks to my father who was very strict in teaching us to work all areas of fieldwork and tending the vegetable garden and chicken coop. Thanks to my mother who taught us to cook everything homemade, wash clothes by hand and to give us encouragement to try to make the best of whatever came our way.

My time is spent going to visit people in their homes, hospitals and encourage them and give them hope and also ministering to the homeless while giving out food or clothes. I enjoy singing to my grandkids, I have written articles and short stories that have all been published. As an actress, art, photographer, drama director, I encourage everyone to use their God given gifts in this life. I will never forget Fabian Cordova, he was my drama director. I learned so much from him and it really helped me to have more self confidence in myself. If anyone remembers "Gunsmoke", Fabian was the little Mexican kid (about 8 years old) on that program and many others and starred in General Hospital. I also met his father, Anthony Cordova who was such an inspiration to me. Anthony was also on "Arabian Nights". So many people are just wandering around in life without fully using their gifts. There is potential in everyone.

I believe that my attitude toward life and the love for God keeps me looking and acting young.....hee hee hee :-).I appreciate every breath that I take and look at every situation as a positive.

You can meet a person once and leave an impression to last a lifetime. Your attitude could "Effect or Affect". Just think about that. I have gone thru hell and back and decided that I want "Life" and until it is time for me to leave this rest stop of life I will smile every day for the rest of my life and still do ministry at prisons/jails and help

where needed or where God sends me. Life is too short and I do not want to miss anything.

I have asked forgiveness from anyone that comes to mind that I might have said something to offend them. Believe me the weight was lifted off of my heart and mind the minute I did that because that is what the Lord would want me to do. It might seem weird but it is one of the first things that I knew I had to do and I have never been the same.

God is for real and will never let you down. Trust your Map of Life that the Lord has left for you: your Bible. Read it daily and praise Him in the good times and the bad times. Be the man or woman of God that He intended you to be and one day I pray that we will get a postcard or something about you speaking in front of a congregation testifying on how great God is and what he has done in your life. Please keep us updated and we will continue to encourage you. You never know you might go back to jail but do ministry like we do! “the other side of the bars” ☺ Well, enough words for now. You can do it. Read the scriptures: **Psalms** for comfort, peace and assurance and healing of your mind, **Proverbs** for wisdom and guidance. Be fishers of men, trust that the Lord supplies all of our needs and will never give us more than we can handle.



In Christ Jesus, Linda

### Our hobbies

**Bob's Hobbies,** Bob has always been the type to seek thrills, but was normally shy and afraid of most rides. However, we saw the walls slowly chip away as Bob started climbing trees, and racing mini-bikes. The removing of walls would lead Bob into SCUBA diving, motorcycles, fast & exotic cars, rock climbing, and even skydiving (97 jumps). Bob's favorite tee-shirt said, *“If you are not living on the edge, you are taking up too much room.”*

**Linda's Hobbies;** I like to create flower arrangements and design custom gift baskets. I have been a speaker for various groups and I put to use daily any and all creative skills God has blessed me with. Reading was and still is one of my favorite things to do. I have gone skydiving due to my husband Bob who just loves doing this and many other adventurous hobbies such as having gone parasailing.



## What it is Like to Reach Out to so many

**Bob's feelings;** I believe that when you have something great you need to tell the world. Never did I believe that God would give us the chance, furthermore the large area, to share His message. We are overcome in letters and prayer requests. We write to individuals across the United States as well as the world. With the internet sites, we reach the entire world. We have learned that as life goes on, *“The big things become the little things, and the little things become the big things.”*

**Linda's feelings;** Well it is time to stay focused on the gifts he has given you to use for his glory. You can do it. If you fall don't dwell on it but get right back up and keep on the straight path. If you want to be a winner you have to hang around with winners and that is a fact. I have been through similar situations with relationships in my life and I had to choose my friends. You can have many so-called friends but in reality you only have acquaintances. Your true friends will tell you things you might not want to hear for your benefit. Your “so-called friends” will agree with you and not be around when you truly need them or just be there for what they can take from you or for what you can provide for them. It's sad to say that I let so many people in my life take advantage of me. No more. I know that I now serve a mighty and powerful God who loves me and has forgiven me for the ugly things in life that I brought upon myself.

## Story on kids (separate, none together)

**Bob's Daughters;** Vanessa & Linnea (not bragging, just a proud father). Both daughters (Oldest is 40) were raised under a strict father (Bob) and their mother that mostly stayed home with them. They were raised in the church environment from birth in Eureka. They were put into Christian School thru elementary, and middle school. They were advancing so fast with straight A's that we feared they would finish high school by 13 years old. When starting high school, it was decided that the girls would go to public school. Upon graduation Vanessa went straight to the University, and got her B.A. in accounting and passed her C.P.A. certification. Linnea went to the Community College and then to the University (receiving her B.A.), and later to the University of Illinois and got her M.A. in Human Resources. Both daughters are married to Christian church going men and I have three granddaughters and an adopted grandson that are being *“raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* (Eph 6:4 and Prov. 22:6)

**Linda's Children;** I made it a point to ask my children for forgiveness for my failing them in my young years. I love my sons and daughters and grandchildren. I lost a 19 year old son to an automobile accident which changed my life forever in the way I view life and if I would not have known the Lord the little bit I did during that time, I can only imagine where I would be now. I would like to say that all of my children are in church but that would be a lie. Both daughters have been going to church faithfully and seeing the importance of God's plan for their lives. That truly brings joy to my heart. I trust God with my every detail of life and all I can do is pray for them as it will be in His timing no matter how long it takes. I am very proud of them and their achievements. The scripture says in Romans 8:28 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>28</sup>*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

### Future Plans

**Bob** would like to develop the properties he has in Squaw Valley, CA, (5 acres), Tollhouse, CA. (8 acres), Elko, NV. (202 acres), and Bisbee, AZ. (8 acres). The plans that Bob, Jeanne (Mom of M.O.M.), and previously Bob's Dad when he was alive, had were to develop the lands into ranches to help the needy – those looking to develop a life praising God. As the economy has changed, we find it hard to even think of the expense of developing and pray that there will be some individuals or ministries that will network with us and finish these projects for the glory of God. We have had inmates, individuals, and even some ministries make statements of involvement, but we have been in God's Ministry long enough to realize that so many have good intentions, but things happen to stop the involvement.

We had one inmate that recently mentioned of wanting to purchase a short bus (approximately 24 passengers) to use for the ministry. As we thought of that, we realized that a bus would be a God sent and allow us to pick up those without transportation to attend church with us.

**Linda** enjoys singing and doing for the needy. You will often find her singing for chapel services in the prisons that we provide. She has been an originator and involved with "Feed the Hungry," an outreach being offered through our home church, **AWAKEN Church**.

There have been many requests for Linda to cut an album of her songs. She even has access to recording studios at two of her brother's homes. We have had Heather Layne (national recording artist) do concerts for us in prison chapels and we have wanted Linda and Heather to do a duet.

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### What or Who is M.O.M.?

Many previous issues have had the testimonies of Bob and/or Linda. Volume 68 of "**Letter From M.O.M.**" had the article (previous article in this issue) of "**Who are Chaplain Bob and Sister Linda?**" We would like to do a follow-up with exactly what is the M.O.M. ministry.

**Moving On Ministry** was formed by Bob (under the direction of Linda's prayers) in April 2002 with the visitation of the local facility, Bob Wiley Detention Facility (B.W.D.F.). Starting out with one weekly visit, Bob soon was authorized to two visiting evenings to provide two chapel services on each evening. There were weeks that Bob also went to the facilities of Men's Correction Facility (M.C.F.) or Tulare County Pre-Trial. He managed to get a couple of weeks in with three evening visits, and one week even went into the main jail to get 4 visits that week. Approximately two years later in 2004, Bob and Linda were invited to

start doing one Sunday monthly to provide 3 to 5 chapel services at Corcoran State Prison in Corcoran, California.

Many look at **Moving On Ministry** (M.O.M.) as a major size ministry with a lot of impact. M.O.M. has left a large “footprint” in the world of jail, prison, elderly and homeless ministry, but ALL CREDIT goes to God. God has blessed the resources provided through Bob and Linda, and used them to HIS glory.

The first publication of “**Letter From M.O.M.**”. actually came out in October 2003. The first newsletter was under the name “**Free In Deed**” and kept that name for the first 9 volumes. Volume 1 (Oct. 2003) had 7 pages. Volumes 1 through 4 were being published on a quarterly basis. With volume 5 (Sept. 2004), we went to bi-monthly. Volume 10 had the name change to “Letter From M.O.M.” With volume 18 (Nov. 2006), **Letter From M.O.M.** went monthly in publishing. The number of mailings continued to grow rapidly. Volume 48 (May 2009) found us going back to bi-monthly publications. The need to get more mileage out of the money invested also caused us to go to B & W printing instead of color. In the nearly 10 years, we have gone thru 6 color printers and 4 B & W printers due to the high volume of printing. The latest 2 printers for the B & W printing are HP LJ9000dn printers with everything you can imagine on a commercial printer. These would have a new price of approximately \$5000 each. Bob was blessed with the opportunity of buying them used at \$50 each from an agency that believed in what M.O.M. does. The current HP LJ8550 color printer would also have the same price range of \$5000 new, but was purchased from the same agency used for \$35. God has been a good provider, and we have to trust on Him completely.

Many individuals have thought we were complaining in the past about the expense of the ministry. In reality what Bob and Linda were doing is apologizing for the fact that they cannot do more. The ministry is predominately supported out of Chaplain Bob’s pocket from his paycheck he receives working full time for the County of Tulare. Linda also puts in money from her paycheck where she also works full time for the County of Tulare. The expenses reached as high as \$800 to \$1000 a month in 2007 and we had to make some decisions that hurt us, realizing we were extended in money and time as far as we could go. Bob normally puts in about 32+ hours a week in volunteer ministry. Bob and Linda are part of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, volunteers for Bill Glass Champions for Life, and active with International Prison Fellowship.

We are a very open ministry because it all belongs to God. Our 2011 donations and income consisted of the following;

Donations from Bob’s Mom	-----	\$100.00
Wedding performed	-----	\$100.00
3 Inmates donations	-----	\$ 95.00
501(c)3 filing donation (\$1050 expense)	-----	\$100.00
Cash donations	-----	\$332.06
<b>Received for 2011 giving</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>\$727.06</b>

We also have had “designated donations” for sponsoring individuals to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry banquet, but those went directly to the other

ministry for the individuals. We are also grateful for our church, Awaken, for starting by sponsoring 200, to now 400 stamps each month to assist with the 600 to 700 mailings we do each month. Most correspondence requires \$.65 to \$.85 for the Resources List, Pen Pals List, and past newsletters and update letters. While trying to keep the newsletters to maximum of 5 sheets of paper, which gives 20 pages printing ½ sheets on front and back, we are keeping mailings at the \$.45 postage each.

Aleshia (Alice) has been a great help and motivation since her release from the detention facility, and has organized many events such as the Rock-A-Thon, Occupy Hunger, and community outreach for the homeless.

Our recent collection of volunteers consists of up to 26 volunteer individuals gathering each month with Carol doing monthly birthday cards, and every other month to fold newsletters and stuff and postage envelopes. Those providing pen pal correspondence have been Aleshia, Amanda, Andrea, Autumn, Bob, Bryon, Carol, Denise, Jan, Jessica, Linda, and Sara. Many articles have been written by these same individuals, as well as by Art, and Isaac.

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#### M.O.M. STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. There is one God, who is infinite and perfect. The eternal God has revealed Himself in three persons; as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
2. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is true God and man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross, the just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead and ascended to heaven. He is now at the right hand side of the majesty on High as our great High Priest. He will come again to rapture His Church
3. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, sent to indwell, guide, teach and empower the believer, and convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment
4. The Bible, consisting of the Old and the New Testament was verbally inspired by God and is the complete revelation of His will and love for all men. It constitutes the divine and only rules of Christian Faith.
5. Man was created in the image and likeness of God; he fell through Disobedience incurring, thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the personal acceptance of the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, get separated from sin, the worldly system and be fully dedicated to the will of God. This is a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion. The Holy Spirit equips the believer with supernatural power to witness and live holy and effectively for God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit can be manifested through many different spiritual gifts.

7. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the whole person; body, soul and spirit. Anointing the sick with oil can be done according to scriptures
8. The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood and are born-again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.
9. The local Church meets to worship God, to be edified through the Word of God, for prayer, for fellowship, for the proclamation of the ordinances of baptism and for the Lord's Supper.
10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, for the former, a resurrection unto eternal life (some after death and some during the rapture) and for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment (Great White Throne Judgement).
11. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is a reality and will be personal, visible, and will take place before the thousand year rule of Christ on earth.
12. God's love for mankind is uncompromising, unconditional and fathomless. For this reason He sacrificed His only begotten Son Jesus Christ, in order to save those who believe in Him. The true believer enters a covenant relationship with Christ. Jesus paid the penalty for sin in mankind's place, in order to fulfill the righteous demands of a just God.

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#### JUST 24 MORE HOURS

24 hours before God changed my life, I was lost in a world of hate, distrust and absolute hopelessness. There was no mercy within these prison walls. The cops viewed everyone as dirt bags and garbage and the inmates were more focused on drugs and literally savage behavior. The hypocrisy was unbearable and at times filled me with rage. How could human beings (so called convicts) be so cold and brutal? Most of all, how did I come to accept this as normal behavior? What weakness in my own soul made me want to be an accepted part of this chaos? I had truly become evil. Prison had changed me and there was no hope of it getting better; so I thought. Who could forecast my life would do a 360 degree turn in 24 hours? Who could imagine my heart would be so drastically changed in one day? Who could possibly imagine 7 years later I'd be here writing to you about the miracle of Jesus Christ and His salvation? I was redeemed from hopelessness, fatigue and little self-worth. I was filled with direction, peace, faith and hope. This is better than winning the lottery. 24 hours before God changed my life, I felt like most of you. I was so sick and tired of being sick and tired. I was so burned out and running on fumes. I literally threw words out of my vocabulary like peace, hope and love; but most of all hope. Hope to me was, "I hope I have a stroke so I can get this over." I didn't know; I was clueless what the next 24 hours would bring. How thankful I am that I lived another 24 hours because the miracle of God changed me forever. Please never give up hope. I know you are hurting and scared and alone. Most of all God knows it. Fight the good fight and don't let prison walls turn your heart callous, cold and bitter. We don't know what tomorrow may bring. 24 hours; who knew? God did **Gene White**

## **“The Superiority of Truth & Righteousness”**

By Isaac Meraz

It was hard for me to totally dedicate my life to God while I believed that it was okay for me to be northerner Norteno. The reason I believed that I could be a Christian & Norteno at the same time for so many years was because of the deceptive doctrines that were taught within the circle.

We’re taught that we aren’t gang members. We’re taught that we’re striving for a righteous cause that promotes a selfless devotion to protecting a minority from the central & northern California neighborhoods, who land in the penal system, from a hostile southern California majority & any other threat they/we may face. We were taught that we were following a brave tradition & that the men who first united us (the Nuestra Familia) deserved our respect, loyalty, & trust in the form of allowing them to guide us down the treacherous paths inside the prison system.

These teachings alone with constantly being reminded that law enforcement was our #1 enemy & that any teachings contrary to the Norteno way should be looked upon as poison, completed the brainwashing that controlled my actions for many years & fought against the calling that God was making to me through his word, his spirit, & his saints that worked in the jail, sometimes shared my cell, & would visit our units on a weekly basis.

It took years before I realized that the spiritual war the Bible speaks about: (the struggle between good & evil, God & the Devil, for the hearts & minds of mankind) was real, but realize it I did. God allowed me to see the error of my ways, & I saw that I really wasn’t on God’s side.

(James ch. 4 v. 4 – NIV) “Don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes and enemy of God.”

Just as homeboys taught that “Those who aren’t with us are against us.” I also saw that the same concept held true for anyone disregarding the word of God.

Now, it is true that some of the values that are instilled in Northerners, such as discipline & a hard work ethic towards maintaining pursuit of knowledge, are profitable & admirable. But I also know that there is real knowledge & false knowledge & universal truths that are taught to all of humanity & are not secrets discovered by the homeboys that make the Norteno way superior to all others.

In other words, the command to keep ones physical & mental well being in high regards is good but we’ve been taught this in P.E., health, & every other class we’ve been in since we were kids. Being forced to adopt these values within northern strongholds & footholds does not make the leadership worthy of having control over our lives. Nor should it mean that you become so impressed that the Norteno cause becomes more important than ones own children to the point that you’re expected to disregard their well being in order to carry out the people’s duties, responsibilities & and agenda. On the contrary, I see that I was blinded by Norteno ideals as well as my own pride & ambition to be respected among my peers. Fighting over dirt I didn’t own was never more important than my daughter, or being free so I could be the son my mother deserves. And it was never worth losing my life, the woman I love, & our hopes & dreams.

Furthermore, I believe that one only has to think deeply on this subject & be honest with themselves and they too will be able to admit that we are obligated to our

family and our children above our friends and we should be willing to face any threat and suffer anything in order to make it home to our kids. I believe that we should even be willing to die for them; and if we'd be willing to die for them then we should live for them.

I also believe that a man who disregards this responsibility in favor of proving his loyalty to the Norteno cause is obsessed with satisfying his corrupt desires. He is twisted in his mind and outlook on life and has lost sense with reality.

Brothers who honor the Norteno cause above God and family should consider this: If one cannot be faithful to his first family what makes you think that his love could be true for the second one? The young filling the ranks are aimless, blind and misled. The others who keep the motivational driving force of the seasoned is selfish ambition. And others who keep the recidivism rate high and do a life sentence on an installment plan just refuse to learn. They are overcome by their lawless addictions. Their minds are insensitive to wise counsel, their hearts are hardened against God and they are homeless and disgraced within their own family when they're unable to take advantage of someone's kindness when permitted to be free. I hope that those reading this will see their condition for what it really is and realize that they need God in their lives. We're able to break the chains of the unhealthy mindsets that hinder us and make us slaves to sin through the truth that is revealed in power by Jesus Christ our LORD.

Just because homeboys are taught that they're striving for a righteous cause doesn't mean that the cause is righteous. Just because you're taught that the Norteno movement isn't a gang, prison gang, or organization doesn't mean it's true. It's actually a silly declaration in view of the evidence. The 'organization' is evident in its government and chain of command and by-laws. The "rand and file" terminology in bond #8 is the same title that applies to an active service member in one of the branches of the U. S. military. And homeboys are called soldados.

Just because you're taught that anything contrary to Norteno doctrine should be viewed as poison doesn't mean that its true. You should look at it for what it truly is: an attempt to control the way you think. A true believer of any cause should be fully convinced in his own mind, not manipulated and forced to believe. The restrictions that keep Nortenos from thinking for themselves is nothing more than tyranny and mind control. Recognize the true state of affairs and identify the real poison.

It took me a few years after realizing this to acquire the strength to act on this wisdom because I selfishly valued the respect and status I had received. But God is real and the expectations that He's placed on his creation (us, his children) and the way his word opposed everything I was taught as a homeboy constantly challenged and humbled me. I knew that I wasn't being true to myself or my God. And finally I knew that I had to make some changes.

If God is real and without a doubt I believe he is. Just as I would expect my children to obey me, I know that I'm obligated to obey my eternal father. And just as He set down a law that would govern the conduct of men and promote a mutual respect amongst all, so everyone could co-exist in harmony. I concluded that it was necessary to stop evil in this world just as our raza came together to put a stop to the evil done to them by their southern California counterparts. So I saw that the Norteno teaching that law enforcement was the #1 enemy was wrong. It's always been us law breakers that were the enemies of the common good.

To bring this point home, homeboys only have to look around. In prison society, rules, regulations, and household policies have been established for these same reasons. But our raza's "N. F." elders have other reasons to continue to act as governors and maintain an alliance with them; the chief reason being selfish personal gain.

Nothing makes it okay for homeboys to establish laws and police themselves, investigate cases of wrong doing and expect their man power to comply with their **inavires** serving as detectives and judges to maintain the raza's security and then say it's wrong to honor the institutions in the free world that protect our families interests and belongings in the same way. Such a position is hypocritical and those who honestly consider these issues will conclude that there should be one code of law that all people must abide by.

This is true equality. There shouldn't be one law for homeboys and another standard for our family and next door neighbor. Laws shouldn't change from one street to another or from one town to another. Striving for betterment and maintaining the peace and safety of all people should be a universally accepted truth. Anything less is rebellion; anything less is living in our own little world. If we're honest though, this is what all penitentiary group segments; all cleaves, all varrios do; they rebel and create their own little kingdoms that they attempt to rule.

Either selling and using drugs is okay for everyone including our mothers and daughters or the whole world should hate them so nobody's loved ones are harmed by their mind poisoning effects. Either stealing is wrong, period, or everyone should adore the jail house thief. Either taking matters in to ones own hands against a fellow soldado is wrong because Nortenos are more special than everyone else or violence should never be the first response against another to solve a problem. Either the Norteno cause is everything for the entire world or its not. You should feel that strongly about something you profess to dedicate your life to.

Should there be Norteno elementary schools where our kids wear little red and white uniforms? Should there be Norteno junior high schools, high schools, and universities that teach the Norteno way of life? Should we be the Norteno states of America and vote for presidents that will rule our nation from their prison cell in pelican bay? Should we pray to the carnales of the Nuestra Familia and build churches where homeboys will declare from the pulpit that they're the hope for mankind or does the Christian church have it right? I think that any gang would look silly by having such high aspirations. That's why they conduct their affairs in secrecy. May the truth humble you and shake you from your delusion to extol Norteno greatness or any gangs greatness for that matter. Jesus is "the Way, the Truth and the Life"; salvation is achieved through no other!

My suffering and the suffering of everyone I've ever known could be traced back to one single cause. We suffer because someone has violated the commandments of God. There are always negative consequences for disregarding God's counsel. It's visible proof of God's power. I have reasons to believe.

When the bible says that the first civilizations were established in the Middle East and North Eastern Africa and Archaeologist back this claim by identifying this area as the cradle of civilization. I have reason to believe.



When the book of Genesis says that we're made from the dust of the ground and thousands of years later scientists in our generation confirm that we are indeed made of the same stuff as God's green earth. I have reasons to believe.

When the bible says that the earth was around thousands of years before Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492 and the prevalent belief in that day was that the world was flat. When the bible said that "God hangs the earth on nothing" thousands of years before mankind even had the ability to understand what they were looking at when they looked and the sky and could knowingly call it space. I have reasons to believe.

But the main reason I believe is because of Jesus. Many powerful leaders of the ancient world, (Egyptian pharaohs and Roman emperors for example) have forced their people to worship them as gods, but you couldn't find ten people even if you looked for them your whole life that still worship a single one of these people to this day.

Jesus is the only one in history who has been able to convince a large portion of the world that He is God. I consider how hard it must have been in the supremacist Roman culture of his day when the Roman Empire was conquering their part of the world; to convince Romans that a Jew was their God. Even though Romans already believed in their own gods and many of them looked down on the Jews as second class inferiors, they still believed.

I consider how the Roman emperor Constantine, perhaps the most powerful human being on earth in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, chose to declare that a Jew was his God. This decision defined the legacy of his empire and has influenced the world ever since. That decision is like Barack Obama getting on national television and declaring that a pasa from Mexico is the savior of the world and not be considered crazy. I v believe that the only reason this could happen is because everything the bible says about Jesus is true. My critical mind sees no other possible explanation because I know that it would take a lot for me to acknowledge that another man is my god and it would be especially hard to do so if I was the Roman emperor.

History records that over 40 men have claimed to be the Jewish messiah, but only one utilized prophecy as his credentials. A mathematician from Loyola university named Peter Stoner did a beautiful job of expressing the incomparable power of his convictions that Jesus is our LORD and Savior. He conducted a test to determine probability and express the findings of his test in a way that anyone could understand. Jesus fulfilled over 200 prophecies. First he told us how hard it was for someone to fulfill 8 prophecies. He reported that a man being able to fulfill 8 prophecies is like filling up an area the size of Texas 2 feet deep in silver dollar coins, blind folding you, marking one coin, stirring up the pot and your being able to pick the marked coin on your 1<sup>st</sup> try. You could understand how hard that is by imagining your having the same luck doing the test in your cell or the day room. It would be hard to accomplish in an area that small and Mr. Stoner said an area the size of Texas. He went on to say that a man being able to fulfill 200 prophecies is like doing the same test, but being successful on your first try in an area the size of the milky way galaxy. That's from the sun to Pluto and then some. In other words it's not luck that caused Jesus to fulfill those prophecies. There isn't any doubt the power of God was displayed through Jesus and you could express your gratitude for his love, grace and mercy or you could foolishly disregard the truth. One day we will all kneel before him whether you believe it or not. This life is a test and there is a day of judgment on the horizon. Homeboys will say that I have fallen from grace, but if grace is

from God then I have found it. May the same spirit of truth that rests on me reveal to you whether grace is from God or men.

My name is Isacc Meraz, aka: Smiley de Goshen. I'm an ex-norteno soldado sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for gang murder. Humbled in this life but honored through the grace of God for eternity in the next. Thanks be to the Father and my LORD Jesus Christ.

**I dropped out for many reasons but they are all rooted in Christ because I believe in Him and believe whole heartedly that every cause but God's is a lost one.** May the truth strengthen you as it did me, in order for you to suffer shame willingly and courageously in the midst of a selfish and corrupt generation. The word says that the cowardly will not inherit the kingdom of heaven; (REV. 21:8) so be strong and do what must be done. Don't fear the fake judges of this world; fear God and follow his commandments for he is greater and he is worthy. Amen. And remember there's no love lost. All my old boys I love and miss you all. Wake up for the end of this age draws near.

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#### MEMO FROM GOD

1. I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.
2. If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you can't handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD(something for God to do) box. It will be addressed in my time, not yours. Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it.
3. If you find yourself stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for which driving is an unheard of privilege.
4. Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years.
5. Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.
6. Should you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the women in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.
7. Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance, think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.
8. Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror, think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine?
9. Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what my purpose is? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.
10. Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember things could be worse. You could be them!

And most importantly.....remember I love you!

Author Unknown and submitted by Brother Angel Lopez for publication in the M.O.M. newsletter

Poetry

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By Day and By Night

By day and by night I cry out to you,  
Do you hear my wails?  
or are they carried off by the winds?  
Father God, guide me in my search for  
you.  
For you know how easily I can lose my  
way.

Day and night my flesh wars with my  
soul  
And the world looks at me as a stranger,  
But the truth I know today is worth the  
cost  
There is peace in the suffering.

Still my Lord, I am weak  
Strengthen me with your Holy Spirit,  
Comfort me with your comforter,  
Give me courage  
To die to the man of my youth  
And wisdom to see the benefit of your  
ways.

Teach me to live with you as my ALL  
May you look upon me with  
forgiveness?  
When I fail  
And then build me up stronger than  
before  
My only hope at redemption is you,  
Lord.  
You are my Rock, my Hope and my  
ALL.

By Rich Eivins Sr.

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The Lord is always near us.

The Lord is always near us.  
We feel His guiding hand.  
At times when we are troubled,  
And things are hard to understand.  
'Tis then we know He's near us,  
On Him we can rely.  
To help us make decisions,  
as time goes passing by.  
No is friend is always faithful.  
Like our Lord in Heaven above.  
He sends us all His blessing.  
He gives us wondrous loves.  
If only we would listen,  
Let our conscience be our guide.  
We'd know the path to travel,  
with our Savior by our side.  
He's with us in the window,  
when days are dark and bleak.  
He's with us in the summer  
on every day, all week.  
So let us all be thankful  
For the goodness He has done.  
For the friend who stands beside us.  
Our Lord, the Holy One.

By Kevin West

Inmate Art by  
Charles Ochech

