

# “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)

Volume 76 – Jan./Feb. 2013 (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 are also 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**

**Andrea Shannon  
8405 Jalima Ave  
Norfolk, VA 23518**

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

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

**Discover Bible School  
Attn, Paul  
229Stormy St. NE  
Albany, OR 97322**

**Missing M.O.M. ?**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Letters that Express it All**

We like to post real life situations, because God works in real lives and He is the one that gives "Eternal Life."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Readily Available Printouts**

For those of you that communicate with individuals that have computer access, we have added quite a bit to our web site. The "**Resource List**" (36 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 **32 page "Resource List"**  
or our **12 page compiled "Pen Pal List"**  
**Postage is always appreciated but never required for brochures.**  
\$.45 for Pen pals and  
\$.65 for Resources  
\$.45-\$.85 for Newsletter  
(Donations Welcome)

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

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 it becomes the center of where God works from in our life.

---

### TESTIMONY

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I have been led by God to share my testimony with you. In my 40+ years of crime, prison, heroin addiction, they called me C.J. for Crazy Jimmy. I now go by Jimmy James as C.J. is dead. In 1968 I was 14 years old and my sister was 18, her boyfriend was in a biker gang and they would hang out in our garage. I started smoking pot, drinking wine, dropping L.S.D. and doing residential burglaries. I was busted and sent to Y.A. I did my first shot of heroin in 1969 and that started 40 years of addiction. I couldn't steal enough to support my habit so I started doing armed robberies. I have been to prison on 6 adult numbers in California, Nevada and Federal Prison.

This time, Shasta County jail is looking at life under the 3 strike law. My wife was out running amuck and my heart was broken. I decided to hang myself. I threaded a braided sheet through the vent in my cell and get up on the sink. The rope was around my neck and I was ready to jump and I heard "wait", that's all, just "wait." I didn't want to wait. I wanted to die so the pain would go away. I heard "wait" again. It must have been an angel of the Lord Jesus or God. I told myself, "I'll wait, I can always do this."

I believed in Jesus, but I never felt His touch or heard his voice speak. When I got off of the sink the pain was gone. There was joy on my face and love in my heart. There was a peace beyond my understanding. I fell to my knees and cried aloud, "Jesus." I never felt like that before. I felt freedom. I knew God was real and He loves me. Since that day, I'm not C.J. anymore. I'm born again. I have been baptized in the name of Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. The courts struck me out. I got 36 years to life. I live each day sharing the gospel in prison, reading God's word and telling anyone that God puts in my life about Jesus. I'm happy and at peace. Praise God and Thank you, Jesus!!!

By James Carroll

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTES:**

Doing the birthday cards every month are Carol Ann, her family and Darryl Richardson. We get lots of complements on the personalization of the cards and we try to forward the complements to Carol Ann for sharing with her friends and family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Should This Draw Attention?**

If we were to have a 747 aircraft crash killing 200 to 300 people onboard, and have this happen every week, the government would jump in and do a major search into why the problem was happening and would actively search for a solution.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alcohol death toll in Europe to reach 9,080 a year (175 / week), a study predicts. There were 10,839 fatalities annually (208/week) in America in 2009. Current statistics suggest approximately 400 alcohol related deaths a week.

Experts call for urgent action to reduce 'unacceptably high' death toll from diseases directly linked to drinking

Alcohol will claim more than 90,000 lives in Europe over the next decade without urgent action to tackle the country's increasingly ruinous relationship with drinking, experts warn today.

A European study predicts that 90,800 people will be killed by diseases directly linked to drinking, such as alcoholic liver disease and chronic hepatitis, and alcohol poisoning.

The figure does not include people who die as a result of alcohol-related accidents, such as drink-driving, or those in whom alcohol has exacerbated their ill-health, such as various forms of cancer.

32% of all traffic fatalities are caused by DUI with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or above.

\* \* \* \* \*

While most major causes of preventable death are declining, drugs are an exception. The death toll has doubled in the last decade, now claiming a life every 14 minutes. By contrast, traffic accidents have been dropping for decades because of huge investments in auto safety.

Public health experts have used the comparison to draw attention to the nation's growing prescription drug problem, which they characterize as an epidemic. This is the first time that drugs have accounted for more fatalities than traffic accidents since the government started tracking drug-induced deaths in 1979.

Fueling the surge in deaths are prescription pain and anxiety drugs that are potent, highly addictive and especially dangerous when combined with one another or with other drugs or alcohol. Among the most commonly abused are OxyContin, Vicodin, Xanax and

Soma. One relative newcomer to the scene is Fentanyl, a painkiller that comes in the form of patches and lollipops and is 100 times more powerful than morphine. Such drugs now cause more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined. A review of hundreds of autopsy reports in Southern California reveals one tragic demise after another: A 19-year-old Army recruit, who had just passed his military physical, took a handful of Xanax and painkillers while partying with friends. A groom, anxious over his upcoming wedding, overdosed on a cocktail of prescription drugs. A teenage honors student overdosed on painkillers her father left in his medicine cabinet from a surgery years earlier. A toddler was orphaned after both parents overdosed on prescription drugs months apart. A grandmother suffering from chronic back pain apparently forgot she'd already taken her daily regimen of pills and ended up double dosing. Many died after failed attempts at rehab — or after using one too many times while contemplating quitting. That's apparently what happened to a San Diego woman found dead with a Fentanyl patch on her body, one of five she'd applied in the 24 hours before her death. Next to her on the couch was a notebook with information about rehab. The seeds of the problem were planted more than a decade ago by well-meaning efforts by doctors to mitigate suffering, as well as aggressive sales campaigns by pharmaceutical manufacturers.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Subject: Timmy writes to Santa**

Dear Santa,  
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? I hope everyone, from the reindeer to the elves, is fine. I have been a very good boy this year. I would like an X-Box 360 with Call of Duty IV and an iPhone 4 for Christmas. I hope you remember that come Christmas Day.  
Merry Christmas,  
Timmy Jones

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Timmy,  
Thank you for you letter. Mrs. Claus, the reindeer and the elves are all fine and thank you for asking about them. Santa is a little worried about all the time you spend playing video games and texting. Santa wouldn't want you to get fat. Since you have indeed been a good boy, I think I'll bring you something you can go outside and play with.  
Merry Christmas, Santa Claus

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Claus,  
Seeing that I have fulfilled the "Naughty vs. Nice" contract--set by you I might add--I feel confident that you can see your way clear to granting me what I have asked for. I certainly wouldn't want to turn this joyous season into one of litigation. Also, don't you think that a jibe at my weight coming from an overweight man who goes out once a year is a bit trite?  
Respectfully, Tim Jones

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Jones,

While I have acknowledged you have met the "nice" criteria, need I remind you that your Christmas list is a request and in no way is it a guarantee of services provided . Should you wish to pursue legal action, well that is your right. Please know, however, that my attorney's have been on retainer ever since the Burgermeister Meisterburger incident and will be more than happy to take you on in open court. Additionally, the exercise I alluded to will not only improve your health, but also improve your social skills and potentially help clear up a complexion that looks like the bottom of the Burger King fry bin most days.

Very Truly Yours, S Claus

\* \* \* \* \*

Now look here Fat Man, I told you what I want and I expect you to bring it. I was attempting to be polite about this but you brought my looks and my friends into this. Now you just be disrespecting me. I'm about to tweet my boys and we're gonna be waiting for your fat butt and I'm taking my game console, my game, my phone, and whatever else I want. WHAT EVER I WANT, MAN!

T-Bone

\* \* \* \* \*

Listen Pizza Face,

Seriously??? You think a dude that breaks into every house in the world on one night and never gets caught sweats a skinny G-banger wannabe? "He sees you when you're sleeping; He knows when you're awake". Sound familiar, genius? You know what kind of resources I have at my disposal. I got you wired Jack. I go all around the world and see ways to hurt people that if I described them right now, you'd throw up your Totino's pizza roll all over the carpet of your mom's basement. You're not getting what you asked for, but I'm still stopping by your crib to stomp a mud hole in you're butt and then walk it dry. Chew on that, Petunia.

S Clizzy

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Santa,

Bring me whatever you see fit. I'll appreciate anything.

Timmy

\* \* \* \* \*

Timmy,

That's what I thought, you little brat.

Santa

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hookers For Jesus



Annie (Hookers for Jesus) and Aleshia C. (M.O.M.)

Annie Lobert was arrested 25 times for prostitution. She was considered a "work-a-holic" in her trade and could bring in \$1000 to \$10,000 a night. Now Annie is the founder of "**Hookers for Jesus.**" Having been trapped in the trade of sex trafficking and many near death experiences, Annie soon found herself with drug addiction and health problems. Annie now goes to the streets, not as an "escort" (fancy name for a prostitute), but as a voice in the wilderness reaching out to bring others to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

Bob, Linda and Aleshia (staff of M.O.M.) had the pleasure of meeting Annie and her husband (Oz Fox) while she was doing a women's group at a church in Bakersfield, California. Linda and Aleshia attended the 2 hour "Women Only" gathering and were totally amazed with this woman's serving God and helping individuals trapped in the "oldest profession."



Oz Fox (Annie's Husband) and Aleshia (M.O.M.)

Oz Fox is a singer and guitar player for the band **Stryper**. Since 1983 **Stryper's** music has been rockin' the world. With 9 albums and a 10th in the waiting, there is no lack of song options. For a significant amount of time, there was no activity, but with the persistence of the fans and a push from God, the band is back on track and ready for action.

Favorite **Stryper** song to play live?

It would have to be, "To Hell with the Devil." It's just, to me, it's been the best song to jump around and have fun with. It has all of the elements of Stryper in it so we can really get into it. It makes a huge statement about what I feel, in general, with my walk.

In 2006, Michael Bloodgood asked me to be in the legendary band **Bloodgood**. This was an awesome opportunity that I could not turn down. We have performed numerous shows in different parts of the world and it is an honor to be a part of this exciting group. We hope to record a new album soon

**Vinyl Tattoo** is a Classic Rock band giving tribute to rock music of the eras between 1960 and early 1980. **Vinyl Tattoo** is when music was uniquely influential to our culture. Groups like The Jimi Hendrix Experience, Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Bad Company, The Who, Black Sabbath and AC/DC became the life giving energy for so many. The members of **Vinyl Tattoo** grew up with this music and it shaped each of the members careers in different ways. This one of a kind blend of veteran musicians lacks nothing in their true renditions of masterpieces that most bands would not attempt to perform. VT will cook you up a true experience that will leave you believing that Rock n Roll will never die.



## Terms of the Trade

### The Game

1. a lifestyle where a pimp is paid by a prostitute to be with him
2. a set of rules followed by a pimp and prostitute; a code of ethics

### Fresh Turnout

1. a new girl who enters the stable of a pimp and a prostitute
2. a girl who is new in the game and needs to be trained

### Pimp Mafia

1. an underground network of pimps that communicate and work with each other
2. an underground communication that the police do not know about

### Down Ho

1. a woman that will do anything to pay her pimp
2. she knows the rules of the game

### Bottom Girl

1. a pimp's main girl, has been there the longest
2. one who oversees the other women; knows what happens behind the scenes

### Choosey Suzy

1. an indecisive girl that jumps from pimp to pimp
2. a prostitute that has no respect in the industry



Oz, Linda and Chaplain Bob

While Bob and Linda might be looking for the rocking chair, Oz Fox is still Rockin' the World with his music and His music.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Toni's Testimony

I was born to a mother of 16 years old. My biological father abused her something terrible. He shot dope, robbed people, sexually assaulted women and molested me for months when I was age 9. My mother remarried on my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday to a wonderful man from a Christian family. This was a sharp contrast from the maternal grandparents I have, which for years were bootleggers. My grandfather is a member of the KKK. I was a straight A student in school despite everything until 7<sup>th</sup> grade, when then the neglect and mental abuse of mama and the recent sexual abuse of my biological dad caught up with me. I had met Jesus at summer camp at age 10, but I did not know him until years later. I ran away from home at 12 and also became sexually active at the same time. My step-dad, whom I loved very much, spent most of his time with me, teaching me how to fish, then he played in a band on the weekends. My mama bartended during the day, but even in her off time she never spent any time with me. She never helped with homework, never even got me up for school after the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. My parents, mommom & poppop were the wife and minister of the church that sponsored my summer camp, but I didn't get to spend much time with them. I ran away at 14 again, caught a STD and my pregnant mother petitioned against me at the juvenile court and I was sent off to maximum security juvenile detention for 2 months and then to Mt. Meigs boot camp. It was the real thing, like what soldiers go through. Horrible!

I got out and did well for a while, until I was 16 and my pregnant mom, step-dad, little sister and I up and moved to the neighboring county and bought a "honky tonk." I was used to going to an all- white school and now was thrown into one of all races. I was traumatized. Black boys terrorized me every day, trying to sexually touch me and I came home every day crying. So I quit school and got myself a D.U.I. It was probation for me again, court ordered counseling for me and mom, which was even worse. I was put on probation for the D.U.I. and it got revoked, so I was sent off again to the same place, then to another boot camp, where I turned 18.

Three months after getting out I got pregnant with my daughter, Missie. When I couldn't fight off peer pressure from my biological father, who was now out of prison after a 10 year stay, I tried crystal meth. It was all downhill from there. Many different physically abusive relationships, 2 more STDs, all of them curable (thank God) and 3 abortions behind me, I finally got over being prejudice and had me a mixed baby boy, Cody. His dad was from Honduras. I stayed in and out of jail for drug paraphernalia and fines owed on tickets, then finally the big one for trafficking. Thanks God I'd already got rid of my gun. I gave my son Cody to my close friend who couldn't have children and even gave him her and her husband's last name. I love him very much but I couldn't take care of him. DHR had already taken my daughter for me failing a drug test for pot and meth.

I got out long enough to have another baby boy, Hayden. Then in and out again after he was 1 year old, so his dad and grandpa got him. Then I stole checks from mom and got a forgery charge, plus got pregnant with twin boys, Cameron and Noah. I only came home with Noah because Cameron was med-flight out to a distant hospital with a heart defect. He was 5 days old when I got a room at Ronald McDonald House. He was 7 days old when he had open heart surgery. I was alone because my friend who had Cody also had to take care of Noah while I was with Cameron. Of course I knew I would

eventually go to prison, so I gave Cameron and Noah the same last name as Cody, preparing to give them to my friend also when the time came. All 5 kids have different dads. When I brought Cameron home at 4 weeks, I had Hayden and the twins and only was seeing Missie when I started church. Faithfully for a year I went to worship my Lord for He'd brought me through. Then I was jailed for a year and then off and on until I got mixed up with a man who killed another man in 2009.

Now I sit in prison, 1 year now, for revoked probation, with a pending capital murder charge that I'm not guilty of. I've had 2 slight nervous breakdowns but I'm holding onto Jesus. I've read my Bible from to back, four different versions and have a good support system from the family who has my children. I know I have a job to do for my Lord in prison and when I get out. I will walk out of here on day. They're talking about a 20 year sentence. I pray for God to reveal to me what He wants me to do. I'm through with drugs for sure. I'm 34 years old now and maybe this testimony will open the eyes of someone going through what I have and still am. I am blessed and lucky to be alive. My children even write me and send pictures. He will restore all things to you too. Just ask.

By Toni Collins

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Incarceration Nation**

Is it fair to call the United States the "incarceration nation"? That's what some experts say. And even some veteran law enforcement and correction officials think something's gone wrong. Our Cover Story is reported now by Martha Teichner:

At the Gadsden County Jail near Tallahassee, Fla., there are bunks, and mattresses on the floor.

The jail has a capacity of about 150 inmates, but there are presently 230 inmates in the facility right now.

Walter McNeil, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, sees the same story everywhere he goes in the U.S.

A sign of overcrowding at Gadsden County Jail in Florida, where there are more inmates than beds.

/ CBS

In one "pod" of Gadsen jail, in which there are 24 bunks, there are 28 inmates - and by the time the weekend comes, there will be five or six more inmates.

That's nothing compared to California. Overcrowding was so bad there, the U.S. Supreme Court called it "cruel and unusual punishment," and last May ordered the state to cut its prison population by more than 30,000.

Nationwide, the numbers are staggering: Nearly 2.4 million people behind bars, even though over the last 20 years the crime rate has actually dropped by more than 40 percent.

"The United States has about 5 percent of the world's population, but we have 25 percent of the world's prisoners - we incarcerate a greater percentage of our population than any country on Earth," said Michael Jacobson, director of the non-partisan Vera Institute of Justice. He also ran New York City's jail and probation systems in the 1990s.

A report by the organization, "The Price of Prisons," states that the average cost of incarcerating one inmate in 40 states in Fiscal 2010 was \$31,307 per year. The cost per inmate is \$47,421 per year for inmate's care in California. "In states like Connecticut, Washington state, New York, it's anywhere from \$50,000 to \$60,000."

Yes - \$60,000 a year. That's a teacher's salary, or a firefighter's. Our epidemic of incarceration costs us taxpayers **\$63.4 billion a year.**

The explosion in incarceration began in the early 1970s - the political response to an explosion in urban violence and increased drug use.

"So 'Tough on crime,' 'three strikes, you're out,' 'Let 'em rot, throw away the key' - all that stuff resulted in more mandatory sentencing, longer and longer sentencing," said Jacobson.

But nothing came close to the impact of the war on drugs. When it was announced in 1971, fewer than 40,000 people were incarcerated for drug offenses; now, it's more than half a million.

And here's the elephant in the room: Blacks use drugs at the same rate as whites, but go to prison more - nearly 3 out of 4 people incarcerated for drug possession are African-American.

"It's emblematic of the way in which race is contributing to mass incarceration," said Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the non-profit Equal Justice Initiative, and a professor at New York University Law School.

"How do you answer people who say, 'Well, the people who are in prison are bad people, and if they happen to be African-American, it's because there's a higher crime rate in the neighborhoods where these prisoners have come from?'" asked Teichner.

"I'd say for most, for many offenses, it's simply not true," replied Stevenson. "Drug use is not a problem unique to the African-American community. This problem is as great a problem in white communities, affluent communities, [where] we prosecute it differently.

"In communities of color, you see devastating consequences as a result of our policies. Now, one out of three black men between the ages of 18 and 35 is in jail, in prison, on probation or on parole."

Whatever the crime, if you go to the Equal Justice Initiative website, you'll see the 70-plus 13- and 14-year-olds sentenced to life in prison without parole in this country. Nearly two-thirds are children of color.

Bryan Stevenson appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court last month to argue that, even in murder cases, sentencing kids that young to die in prison is cruel and unusual punishment.

"We can't hide from these problems much longer, we really can't," Stevenson said.

U.S. Senator Jim Webb - ex-Marine and Vietnam War hero - couldn't be called soft on crime. The Democrat from Virginia has tried and failed to get Congress to address the comprehensive reform he is convinced can't wait.

"This is not a political winner, but it's a leadership necessity in my view," Webb said. "If you are a violent career criminal, you deserve incarceration. . . . But we can be much more adaptive in areas of non-violent crime, in length of sentences, and particularly in what we do with people when they begin to re-enter society."

In a bad economy, just the expense of incarceration is beginning to create converts among state legislators faced with disastrous budget problems. In 2011 alone, 15 states passed significant sentencing reform legislation. Democrats and Republicans united in their determination to cut prison populations.

Which is why, not far from Tallahassee, the State of Florida is building a so-called re-entry center for 400 non-violent inmates.

Here they'll cost taxpayers HALF what the state would spend on keeping them in prison.

"This is the smart way of trying to deal with our prison population," said Chief McNeil. "We know that the vast majority of the people in prison are going to return to prison unless we do something different."

Doing something different at the Gadsden County Jail, a few miles away, means teaching prisoners basic skills they'll need when they get out - like how to dress for success, and how to interview for a job.

Wishful thinking? When non-convicts can't even find jobs? Hardliners scoff at the notion that prison education programs lower recidivism.

But criminologists don't. They see education as one tool among many that can help keep people from going back to prison.

At California's formidable San Quentin Prison, inmates are encouraged to enroll in the Prison University Project. In a class on Greek tragedy, every man here took the plays personally.

Henry, an avid reader, says everything that he reads is "one more tool that I have to keep me - I'm not going to say keep me from coming back here, because I'M going to keep me from coming back here."

But here are the statistics, from the U.S. Department of Justice: More than 50 percent of ex-prisoners will be back behind bars within three years.

So, how to keep them from going to prison in the first place, whether by rethinking the old lock-'em-up-throw-away-the-key mentality, or preventing crime with beefed-up policing in high crime areas?

That's exactly what the State of New York has been doing. Between 2000 and 2010, its prison population DROPPED by more than 13,000 - nearly 20 percent. And guess what: The crime rate also dropped, by 21 percent . . . in New York City, by nearly 30 percent.

"No one can really explain exactly why," said Jacobson. "The changing nature of the economy, change in drug use patterns, more targeted policing . . . But one of the things we know going forward, if we want to both continue and drive down crime even further, is that increasing the size of our prison systems will not get you there."

In 2009, the number of inmates in state prisons declined by just under 5,000. It was the first drop in nearly 40 years, since 1972.

Was it merely a drop in the bucket? Or was it the beginning of the end of our epidemic of incarceration?

\* \* \* \* \*

M.O.M. looks at the **\$63.4 Billion** (Just so you can see the number = (\$63,400,000,000) as something to be considered for taxpayers spending. What are we

getting for those dollars? Is there true “correction” in the “Department of Correction?” Is there “Rehabilitation” with that word added to the title? Are there improvements to be made? Do we fail to complement the DOC for jobs they do well? Does the public understand what the DOC does? Does the general public normally just ignore what goes on? Is there “Christian love” shown to the inmates? What does the public citizen expect out of the DOC?

For “**correction**” to take place it has to (1) be offered, (2) be wanted and (3) be consistent. Correction usually requires some interaction with the inmates family. Yet we see men and women shipped out of state making family visits hard. Correction requires the individuals having a legitimate trade either learned or to turn back to after being released. Correction requires making resources known that might be of help to the inmates during incarceration and upon release. How many have been told of the simple “211” phone number for county resources available in many counties across the United States?

For “**rehabilitation**” to come about, there needs to be (1) disclosure of faults, (2) a plan or program to guide and (3) mentors involved. Forgiveness can only happen when there is open profession of errors made in life. Where these errors may have been sin, the confessing needs to go to God. We make classes mandatory on domestic violence, A.A., N.A., stress management, and even coping with situations. What is needed is classes on honor, integrity, and truth. Actually, what is needed is more people willing to share the Bible to these individuals behinds walls that tend to keep the truth out, as well as keeping them in. Read **Matt. 25** for insight of what God expect of us that are on the outside of the walls.

**Repentance** requires (1) stop doing what you have been doing, (2) turning around and (3) following God’s plan for your life.

“Stop doing what you are doing” because if you have to turn around to follow Jesus, you have your back to Him.

“Turn around” means turning your back on the things you have been doing and not going back to them. You are now focusing on Jesus.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Moving On

When my past came a calling  
I said a prayer and wrote a note  
By the time you're done reading this  
You'll know just what I wrote.

My lord was crucified  
For times such as this  
To save me from my sins  
So God's wrath I would miss.

My walk with God was being tested  
By a dark shadow disguised in light  
Its appearance was quite attractive  
But there was something not right

I wish not to suffer like one Judas  
Who's fate was sealed with a kiss  
But rather to follow God  
And receive eternal bliss

Oh, how my pulse did quicken  
And my heart more than skipped a beat  
With closed eyes I took a deep breath  
And shifted in my seat

Yes my past came a calling  
But I could not be found  
As I approached the throne of grace  
With my face to the ground

My thoughts turned heaven bound  
As my flesh was put in check  
The last time I gave into this  
Ended in a big wreck.

Glory be to God  
I'm moving on, moving on  
Jesus washed away my sins  
Thank God, I'm moving on,

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Lord Knows My Name

Submitted by Joey Barker

You can call me a pauper;  
I've been oft called a fool.  
I long for no riches;  
No kingdom to rule  
I don't need a fortune,  
Or honor or fame.  
I'm content with the knowledge,  
The Lord knows my name

I wandered in darkness  
Where sin did abound.  
On the broad way to Hell  
Were my steps to be found.  
My heart so deceitful,  
Had brought me to shame.  
But the Lord had compassion,  
And wrote down my name.

It's been written in blood  
In the Lamb's book of life.  
On the cross of Golgotha ,  
My Lord paid the price.  
Enduring the scorn,  
The pain and great shame.  
What a cause for rejoicing  
The Lord knows my name.

The road isn't easy,  
The saint has to walk.  
They watch my behavior,  
Expressions and talk.  
They find fault so often,  
I'm always to blame.  
What a great consolation,  
The Lord knows my name.

\*\*\*\*\*

2 Drawing by  
**Inmates**

