

## “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 are also affiliated with International Prison Fellowship  
[www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon](http://www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon)

### Fellowship

Our mailing list has cleared over 750. 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**

**Stephen "Fuzzy" Brown  
So Blessed Ministry  
P O Box 275  
Lake Isabella, CA 93240**

**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  
229 Stormy St. NE  
Albany, OR 97322**

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

**Prison Pen Pals  
P. O. Box 120997  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312**

## **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**" (40 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 **40 page  
"Resource List"**

**SASE with Postage is needed but verified indigent envelopes will be mailed..**

\$ .46 for Pen pals  
\$ .66 for Resources  
\$ .46-\$1.30 for Newsletter  
(Donations Welcome)

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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.

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. 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.

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## \*\*\*\*\* MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By

By Andrew Likins

### Testimony of Andy

My name is Andy and I am from Southern California. I was a productive citizen before my arrest. I had never been in trouble with the law until my crime. I am 49 years old. I have four adult children and three grandchildren. My wife left me when I went to prison. I know I hurt her very badly. I have two boys and two girls. My two boys have not spoken to me since my arrest five years ago. I lost many family members and close friends due to coming to prison. People I thought were good Christians and friends will now have nothing to do with me. They can't understand what happened. I have apologized many times but they can't find it in their hearts to forgive me. It hurts me a lot inside that they feel that way, but now after five years, I leave it up to God to take

care of it. I have lived a crazy life my forty nine years; lots of ups and downs and highs and lows.

I played pro baseball right after high school for a few months. After I was cut I went into the army for ten years. I was hurt in the army in a training accident and got out a disabled VET. I was then rehired with the federal government as a civilian for a total of twenty seven years. I had several part time jobs at the same time I was working for the federal government. One of my favorite part time jobs was as a head varsity baseball coach at a big Christian high school in Southern California. I love working with kids. I also love volunteering at church and in my community. I went to a seminary in 1995 and then was a volunteer pastor at a large church in Southern California.

I married my second wife in 1995. Then in 1997 my world came crashing down when I had a bad job injury at work. I went through back surgeries, could not work, collected workman's compensation, couldn't play sports and do things with my family. I felt helpless and started to feel sorry for myself. I became very depressed and started drinking a lot and taking hard core pain killers. I allowed the devil to

lie to me, didn't care about my life and came close to taking my life several times. I allowed the bad things and thoughts from my childhood affect me. Then I did some stupid and was arrested. When I laying on the floor of the county jail on suicide watch, God spoke to me and said, "do I have your attention now?" I am now starting a new life with Christ. I've done lots of self - examination and lots of surrendering.

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### **Carrots, Eggs, & Coffee!**

A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee...You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up, She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, ' Tell me what you see.'

'Carrots, eggs, and coffee,' she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, '***What does it mean, mother?***'

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting

through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

'Which are you?' she asked her daughter. 'When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.

Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

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**A** = Anointed

**J** - Jesus

**B** = Blessed

**O** - Owns

**I** = Indwelt

**Y** - You

**D** = Delivered

**E** = Empowered

# God and the Spider



During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades.



Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

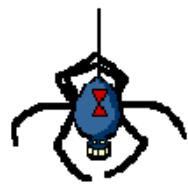
As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen."

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave.

As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave.

**"Hah, he thought. "What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor."**

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while.



**"Lord, forgive me," prayed the young man. "I had forgotten that in you a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."**

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget what God can work in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways. And remember with God, a mere spider's web becomes a brick wall of protection.

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**T** = Thank

**B** - Basic

**R** = Rejoice

**I** - Instruction

**U** = Understand

**B** - Before

**S** = Sing out to Him

**L** - Leaving

**T** = Thought of others

**E** - Earth

### “RESTART”

How much have we lost in our lives? Is it a lot?  
Do you believe in a new beginning?

It doesn't matter when you get worn out in your life. What matters is  
there is a possibility and necessity to go on.  
--It's always possible to fight for what we love the most;  
--There is always time to start all over again.

I have lost a lot of good people. People whom I love still to this day.....  
But I hold on to their love and great examples they left behind.  
I lost many times and many things in my life.....but next to that lost,  
I try to thrive in winning.

Today is the day of “Mental Cleansing.” Get rid of those things that  
keep you chained to the past. Cleanse your heart. If we firmly  
put out minds and focus onto the best and positive---the best and  
positive will come to our lives.

“Restart” is giving our self a new opportunity; it's to renew  
Our hopes in life.....but most importantly.....  
“It is to believe in yourself again!”

A 3 strike thought!  
By **Santos Reyes**/Folsom Prison

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### How Big is our God?

The distance from our sun to earth is 93,000,000 miles

If the thickness of this page of paper represents that distance,

The distance for the known universe would be a stack of paper 31,000,000 miles.

With each sheet of paper representing 93,000,000 miles.

The represented distance would be 2,883,000,000,000,000 miles.

Yet Isa. 40:22 says that God stretches out Heaven like a curtain.

He knows us each by name.

We are significant because God says we are.

## **What is Implied; Ministry of Convenience**

By Chaplain Bob / Based on notes by John MacArthur

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I recently received a letter from an inmate that stated I always preached that 99% was not good enough. God wants that last 1%. He went further to say that he has now given up that last 1% that caused hate and anger, and now those are gone. He did not believe it until he applied it. Christians historically have understood that their calling is to be in the world but not of the world. (John 17:14-18), but they want to hang on to that small percentage of the world anyway.

Now, however, "the world has become so powerful, pervasive, and appealing that the traditional stance of strong stance defiance has become rare and almost unthinkable".

They did this weakening of stance by allowing cable television, VCRs, radio, and other forms of communication to infuse worldly values into their thinking, while isolating themselves from any personal involvement with the people in the world who most desperately need the gospel. Stop and think of how we have come to accept sex outside of marriage in the movies.

"Evangelicals are now outdoing the liberals as the supreme religious modernizers-and compromisers-of today," Prosperity ministry has become popular.

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

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

Like the modernists a century ago, churches in the user-friendly movement have decided that doctrine is divisive-peace is more important than sound teaching. Wanting to appeal to a modern age, they have framed their message as a

friendly, agreeable, and relevant dialogue, rather than as a **confrontation with the gospel of Christ.**

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

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

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### “ASK” the Question

Recently our church had a series called “Ask.” The purpose was to be able to ask any question and have it Biblically answered. My question was as follows; In I Cor. 6:9,10 it states;

**I Corinthians 6:9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: **neither** fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

**I Corinthians 6:10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

My question was, are these individuals (fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners ) not saved since they cannot inherit Heaven, or are Christians restricted from Heaven?

What do you think your answer would be?

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### Applying the Question

We see inmates, homeless people, and the down and out sometimes come into church perhaps dirty, perhaps under the influence of alcohol, perhaps under the influence of drugs, and we condemn them, not realizing (or even caring) that the individual may be trying to cope with these negative situations.

Then we have the couples that are living in adultery , fornication or other sexual sins, openly come into church and sit down for a “comfortable” sermon. These individuals have accepted their lifestyles and do not plan on changing any time soon. There is no guilt, no shame and no repentance. This person is overlooked and in the “modern theology” even accepted. Has the church come to accept these habitual sins?

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Many evangelical churches have wholly abandoned strong preaching about hell, sin, and the wrath of God. They claim God's primary attribute is benevolence (grace) -one that overrides and supersedes His holiness, justice, wrath, and sovereignty. Even if we have lost the “fear of the Lord,” **we need to do what puts a smile on His face. Again, I repeat, we need to do what puts a smile on God’s face.**

Rather than addressing humanity's greatest need - which is the forgiveness of sins - modern sermons deal with contemporary topics, psychological issues (depression, eating disorders, self-image), personal relationships (not Godly confrontation), motivational themes, and other matters a la mode.

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

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

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

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

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

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The only hope is a return to Scripture and sound doctrine. We need to quit looking at what is “implied” and look at what is “applied.” Do you priorities show Godly priorities or worldly priorities? Worried more about a relationship with an individual or a relationship with God? Do we do what we are to do for approval? II Tim. 2:15, “***Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.***”

We evangelicals (Truly accepting Christ calls us to be Disciples and Evangelist) desperately need to recover our **determination to be Biblical**, our refusal to comply with the world, our willingness to defend what we believe, obligation to call sin as sin and not hide, accept or cover it up. If the Bible says “Thou shalt not . . . ,” then thou shalt not! If the Bible says “Blessed are the . . . ,” then Blessed are the . . . **If something disagrees with the Bible, than it is WRONG!** Our courage should defy false teaching. Individuals living in sin should nauseate and sicken us. How does the term “Zero Tolerance” strike you? We can love the sinner, but MUST hate the sin, and confront it. Do the excuses upset you of “*It’s a phase their going through,*” “*They are Teenagers,*” “*They are not as bad as other people,*” “*If you expose them, it is Gossip,*” and the list goes on and on.

Unless we collectively **awaken** to the current dangers that threaten our faith, the adversary will attack us from within, and we will not be able to withstand.

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

When the Bible says “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,” does that still apply. The act of birthing takes a period of time, both in preparation and delivery. Do we see the “process” going on with individuals claiming to be born again? Believing is shown by preparation in anticipation. If we pray for rain, we should be digging ditches to contain it.

How much do we really love God? Enough to follow Him? Enough to openly profess Him? As much as He loves us? Enough to make him a priority? Forsaking others, I trust Him? Are we “in” Him or do we just know “of” Him? “In” means **TOTALLY** surrounded by. John 3:16

Are we willing to have someone hate us into Heaven, rather than us to love them into Hell? Will we put forth the truth with Grace instead of hiding the truth because of Grace?

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

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**PREACHER MAN**

Hello! God Bless you all! Let me tell you of the great things that God has done in my life. I was born in Tennessee, we moved to Michigan when I was two years old. My Dad died in an auto accident when I was six. I have two younger sisters. My Mom worked for an auto factory most of her life, she died of lung cancer when I was nineteen.

I never finished high school; I used to run the streets with some older boys. We use to break into small stores and we would take small items to keep. Later on we started to take the big items and we would sell them cheap. We soon met the dope man; most of our money would go to him. We would steal anything to have dope money. We finally got stupid; we got some pistols and began to rob people on the streets. We mostly wanted their cash. This went on a few years, until one day, do I ever remember that day! It was three of us brothers, we seem this kind of older guy, we had two of the pistols with us. We pulled them out and went right up to this guy, demanding his money and his watch. Did you ever hear of the Special Forces guys in Vietnam? Man! We done got the wrong guy!

I wish I had a video of it all. All I know for sure is that he somehow TOOK one of the guns, he hit me above my eye with it, he shot the brother with the other gun in his side, he knocked out the third brother, I got up to run and he shot me in the leg! When we got to court, the prosecutor had the jury laughing at us! I ended up with a 15-year sentence.

While in the Michigan prison system, I had an older brother for a Bunkie for four years. He was kind of a Dad to me. He got me to study and read the Bible with him. I studied a lot, unless the Detroit Pistons were playing. I like basketball! Oh, I did smoke some week at first but Jesus delivered me from smoking, from dope, from porno and lots of other garbage sins.

I did 12 years and paroled. When I got out this one church asked me to preach to the kids, about my life and Jesus, I loved it! Then they paid my gas, food and motels to go out of state to schools. This one boy who'd been in a lot of trouble, listened to me and came to Christ. His Dad owned a big used car lot, he gave me a salesman job and I've done real good. I treat the customers with respect and I'm honest and fair and they know it, they send other people to me, God has really blessed me for giving my life to Christ and for being faithful to Him. I hope some prisoners might read this, don't matter what color they are, we are all of the HUMAN RACE.

Although it worked out for me, I do believe we all need at least a GED or more for education. I do not want to use my real name because I don't want to be like this "FAMOUS BROTHER" or like that.

Oh, I did get married, God gave me a MOST BEAUTIFUL wife and we have three beautiful daughters too. My wife has made quite a few dollars in some Gospel records she cut. I am blessed!

PS: I wear a suit every day to work, to church and when I speak to school kids. I only wear blue suits. I do this to remind me of the prison blues I use to wear. I also always wear a tie tack in the form of a cross, it reminds me of what Jesus had on His back and what He did for me.

Submitted by a **former Michigan prisoner through the Crossroads Ministry**

## ROMAN'S HARD LIFE

My full name is Hector Roman; I was born on January 31, 1077. I am now thirty-five years old. I was brought up in a well-behaved family of two boys. I never thought I would ever turn to a life of crime. My childhood was always good except for the fact that my Mom and Dad divorced when I was about 3 or 4 years old. Even though I lived a spoiled life with my loving Mom and Step Dad I still had my problems being hyper active when I was young. My school enrolled me into special education classes. My Mom loved us very much and I always had behavior problems that my Mom and Dad always sent me back and forth to each other. No one could handle my outrageous behavior. I grew more rebellious through my teens, until my parents lost control of me. I remember my Mom worrying about me and crying her nights to sleep as she'd write in her diary at nights.

My Dad as a musician lived the FAST LIFE so I saw things I wasn't supposed to see. I remember when my Dad and I lived together in Florida. He used to put me to bed and I would speak out of my room and see my Dad and his musician friends use drugs. I can remember back to when I was a teenager when my Mom and Dad would fight on the phone over me and emotionally with each other. I also remember my Dad and Step-Mom always fighting over me because my Step-Mom hated his ways. My Dad would drink a lot and my Step-Mom would try to calm him down at times they would fight and it was always because of me. Even my Mom and Step-Dad would fight about me. I was always causing problems between the families. I always felt like it was me who ruined my Mom and Dad's lives with the problems I gave them. As I got older my anger got worse within myself. To me the only one who loved me was my Grandma who I loved very much. But I still had my ways.

Then I met the love of my life, I thought things would get better for me instead my Mom ended up with breast cancer. I lost my Mom in 1999. When I lost my mom everything else came crashing down on my life. I was angry with God for taking the most important person in my life. Then months after my Dad ended up with Hepatitis, not long after my kid's mother chose to be with another guy. I felt alone as always with much anger built up inside I started selling and using drugs more and more. Then I ended up joining a gang to fill my void. After a few years I fell in love with a beautiful Jewish woman and we had a child but I ended up neglecting them because I was blind by the world. So I was growing more and more hatred towards myself through the years.

That's when I committed a burglary even though I was working and doing well. I did something that I didn't need to do. My Dad cried as they sentenced me to 30 years in prison. While sitting in the county jail I sat in my cell thinking of everything that I lost; my family, my children, my Dad, the woman I loved who was trying to help me but I wouldn't listen to anyone. In my cell I prayed, repented and accepted Christ in my life and He saved me from death. Even though physically incarcerated I now know that God has forgiven me and He loves me. Although family doesn't write I still love them and I know God loves me. I pray for some of my family members to be saved by Christ and I hope to be set free for God to use me in the world to win souls for Him and heaven. Now I'm studying my GED, learning Theology about Christ and becoming closer to Christ. I dedicate this short testimony to God, my Mom, Dad and loving Grandma.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6.

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## **“IT DON’T TAKE NO ROCKET SCIENCE.”**

What would be the chances of a real rocket ship, that’s built all crooked and crazy to make it to Mars? Truth is, it would be lucky to go anywhere but Haywire! Have you ever looked really close at a bees honey comb? Each of the cells is perfect and there are hundreds of them in a bee hive. How about an ant hill? Look close at one, the way the ants pile the grains of sand up and in a circle, to help protect the entrance; it is a lot of perfection in a small area.

I’m sure you’ve seen a bird nest up close. Some birds use twigs and place them in special designs, to stay together. Some birds use grass, mud, or even pieces of garbage, but the nest is well built, protected from the weather. I have not gotten too close to a hornet’s nest, but they are carefully crafted out of mud, very sturdy, very well designed, they don’t move very easily.

If we build a rocket ship all crazy and crooked, what a mess! The necessary details for a successful flight are missing completely! If someone did press the button to send it into the air, I’d be only a hundred miles away and would crash to the ground. We need to pay attention to details then it comes to important things in life. The more important something is, the more we need to understand how important the details are.

OK, if you are a guy and you decide to pull the engine out of your car, but you’ve never done it before, wouldn’t you go talk to someone who is experienced? Someone who you know understands what needs to be done. Or you would pick up a book that gives the details you’d need.

If you’re a gal and you decide to try out a brand new hair dye, would you just open it up and dump it on your head? I doubt it! You’d want to first talk to someone to see how it works or read the directions carefully so you’d don’t end up looking like rainbow head!

Did you know that all human beings have a life span? That, of course means that one day we will all pass away. We’ll no longer be alive. If you didn’t know that, you know it now! Are you prepared to meet your creator? Most people they are, yet they’ve never read or studied the owner’s manual our Creator gave us.....the BIBLE.

The Bible contains the details we need to get into God’s Kingdom. The most important detail is to UNDERSTAND that we can Not get into Heaven by our good works, it is just impossible. The way into Heaven is Jesus Christ!

Submitted a **Michigan Prisoner/Crossroads Ministry**

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### SPECIAL NOTE:

August Birthday cards will be designed by Bro. Jose Bello in Soledad Prison.  
Sister Carol Ann will be addressing and mailing the cards

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Inmate Art  
By  
Jose Bello

