

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 37 – June, 2008

“I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we have many new writers of articles, we are putting some more of the testimonies of “How God Changes Lives” as well as some of our own written articles. We can truly say that the “high” that many of our inmates have been trying to get through the wrong methods, is being surpassed by those putting God in control of their lives.

Watch our website

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

We have also become affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Fellowship

We have now communicated with about 3/4 of the prisons in California, as well as writing to Africa, Egypt, India, Nepal, Tennessee, Minnesota, Idaho, New York, Texas, Arizona, Washington, 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.”

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

**Moving On Ministry
Spanish Ministry - Linda
P.O. Box 6667
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Some of you have noticed that we have deleted listings in the boxes above. This is because we found that some of the churches we were supportive of were not actually supportive of the jail and prison ministry. We were notified from inmates that had written to these churches, that there was not even a response of mail back to them. I personally have felt (and believe that the Bible supports it), that an individual that takes the time to write to a large organization such as our "Mega-Churches," deserves a reply, even if it is as simple as a postcard stating "We at this church do not get involved in correspondence with inmates."

Ministry Notes and Updates

We prayed the prayer of Jabez and God has really opened the boundaries of Moving On Ministry and expense has increased drastically. **Yearly/Average monthly** expenses have grown (2005 = \$2012/\$167 / 2006 = \$4268/\$379 / 2007 = \$10,216/\$856). We will be doing some reorganization in 2008. As of the end of April 2008 (4 months) we have managed to maintain a monthly expense average of **\$268.**

For 2008

May 1-3, 2008 was the **Bill Glass Champions for Life Prison Ministry.** Linda and Bob were both assigned to Fresno County Juvenile facility. This was Linda's 6th event and Bob's 7th event. Linda received her "Jail Bar Cross" for attending 5 events.



For 2008, Bob is doing Bible study at BWDF on Mondays and Thursdays.

The 2nd Sunday of each month is Bob and Linda's assigned day for 3 to 4 chapel Services at Corcoran State Prison ("Old" Corcoran).

Bob's Tools of Ministry



Fiero 600 and Lamborghini Diablo 6.0 replica in back.



Diabolic 6.0 body as manufactured.



The Fiero 600 was a daily driver for Bob. He relates it to how individuals do not like solitude, neither do cars. This is a "shown car" rather than a "show car."



Ferrari F355 replica

The Diabolic 6.0 has had a custom tubular chassis added to it to produce a more "fun toy." The body kit consists of 17 pieces



Fiero 600 as Bob uses it in ministry.



Camp Clarius

The other major project happening is the purchase of 5.14 acres, with the intention of developing a retreat for Christian fellowship. We currently are out of money to finance the improvements, but in God's time!.

Pictures from Spring 2007



Pictures from Summer 2007



We have since been mowing the high grasses and plowing driveways and building pads. Lots of large rock removal also.

Pictures from Fall 2007



Keeping the grass (weeds) mowed becomes a major task.



Pictures from Winter 2008



24 foot gate was installed

Pictures from Spring 2008



Picnic table has been assembled, generator is available, and the most important “outhouse” while waiting for plumbing, septic, and power.



Rocks are being removed. Bob refers to these as “Potato Rocks” because you only find them when you start to dig.



We recently held a Bar-B-Q on the property and had a wonderful time.



Outhouse open for business



Trees are green and growing



Drives are scraped and leveled



Driveways are being formed



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." Every week we get many letters that state "I love hearing the testimonies."

New Affiliation Appreciation

I liked the story about the dropout in volume 28, page 3 called "True Affiliation." This is because I also was a Northerner – I was part of the prison gang called "Northern Structure." I'm a dropout now, and look back at what a mess I've made of my life. But I also understand that giving my life to God and following His commandments, I can truly be saved. I have to keep the faith and believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins. I'm learning as I go along.

I want to say I really know what Linda went through in volume 32 in "Linda's Life" on page 13 – because I went through a lot of what she went through. I went through the sexual abuse by family members for about 10 years. At first I shut down, but then I started to hang around gang members, acting out violently, and it turned into my life, not just a lifestyle. Anyhow, I've been getting locked up since I was 13 years old, and haven't been out too much since. But I'm hoping to turn that around, God willing. I know it'll be a struggle, but with God, all is possible

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Preach Embracement

I am writing this letter about something I have noticed and shared with a few brothers on this yard. The Lord is bringing a lot of people to Christ behind these walls. We have seen an increase in the attendance for several months.

I have also noticed that some who attend, don't remain in attendance. I believe the problem in part rests on some of us mature Christians. When babes in Christ become saved, they are searching many times for a new life. Although the scriptures say they become a new person, they are still in the same environment.

I believe we as a church have failed to embrace these babes in the faith, who face an enormous amount of peer group pressure and temptation from the world. If they were affiliated, they are still affiliated. If they were alcoholics, they are still alcoholics.

I believe we have an obligation to pull these new converts aside for a walk on the yard one on one and listen to them about how they are doing. We must make Christianity practical to their lives and teach them how to apply it to their daily lives.

When our brothers and sisters are having problems on the street with their families, we should intercede in prayer on the yard with them. Just talking to God brings us peace.

A few days ago, I was having problems with my significant other on the outside. I had prayed. In talking to a guest speaker, I developed peace. We all know prayer works. We need to encourage one another, it works.

People are human and fallible. When they fall, we must be there to be an inspiration. People tend to be where their heart is. We must be there to listen and give counsel to our brothers and sisters because the world is just waiting to steer them into the ways of the world.

I encourage each of you who read this article, to catch someone on the yard from your local church and walk the yard, or dayroom with asking about their well being, and sharing a word of encouragement with them.

I assure you that it will be just as rewarding to you as the person you are speaking to.

Yours in Christ, RR

Plan of Giving

I want to mention that we have received two money gifts from inmates. Each sent \$20.00 as money orders. One was sent as a donation to Paulette that we write about needing a Liver transplant. The other was given as a tithe offering to Moving On Ministry. Sharing these with others involved with M.O.M. brought tears to the eyes. We all realize that these giving were as the widow's mite – they are giving all

Chaplain Bob

Recommended Reading

For the new Christian, or the individual desiring to know God, we would like to recommend the following reading:

The Gospel of John – This is a great introduction of Christ’s walk on Earth.

The Book of Romans – This gives an introduction of many of the Bible stories shared and helps build familiarity of Christ’s plan for our lives.

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren – 40 chapters will change your life in 40 days

Book of Proverbs – Read one chapter a day with the chapter read being the day of the month. This will allow the book to be read almost 12 times thru the year.

Ephesians 4 – 6 – This gives the pattern for life that we should live. All 7 S’s are displayed in these 3 chapters. We are given the purpose of the gifts, changing our character, husband/wife/family relationships, and the type of life we are to live and display.

Men’s Relational Toolbox – Another fine work by Gary Smalley with both of his sons adding to this book. This book avoids “male bashing” but rather teaches men to use and modify the inner tools they have to improve their relationships.

Prayer of Jabez – A truly fine first book from Bruce Wilkerson. This short book will change your mind about being disobedient to God by not taking care of people in need

Sharing Your Testimony

There are 4 parts to an individual’s testimony;

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus
2. How I realized I needed Jesus
3. How I committed my life to Jesus
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life.

But in reality, those who believe in Jesus have the testimony of God in them; each of us needs to periodically share our testimony with others. The importance is not what you have done, but what God is doing.

1. Your testimony;
2. Your life lessons
3. Your godly passions
4. The Good News

I would like to add that we have shared many wonderful testimonies. Many individuals are afraid to share their testimony because they are not sure what to write or feel inadequate in their writing ability. I think all will agree, that the testimonies that move people are not the ones written from great minds, but are actually the ones written from a great heart.

God’s Word says in **Jeremiah 17:9** that **“the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”** When the heart is changed by Christ (salvation – separation – sanctification), it becomes the center of where God works from in our life. The testimony written from the heart is truly God inspired, as compared to the one that is a work of the mind. These are the ones that change others lives also, when shared.

Importance of Getting it Right

The Importance of Getting it Right

As always, with my commitment to you, but even more, my commitment to God, I have come today with “both barrels loaded for bear.”

There was a man that was of the Buddhist religion. The man happened to be walking by a Christian church and the activity inside the church building caught his attention. He went inside just in time for the pastor to start his sermon. The pastor preached on the importance of accepting Christ as savior and explained the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The pastor explained how Christ had died for mankind’s sins. The Buddhist was moved by the message and raised his hand when the pastor asked who would like to accept Christ as Savior. The altar call was made and the Buddhist went forward and did the sinner’s prayer for salvation with the pastor. The pastor asked the man how he felt, now that he had Christ as Savior. The man explained, “It is great, Now I have Christ and Buddha.”

God is not an addition; He is a “Complete.” He is a replacement to the failing style and system we have tried. When Adam and Eve failed, they were cast “completely” out of the Garden with no opportunity to ever return. (Gen.)

Matthew 21:18 – 22 is the story of the barren fig tree. Christ put a curse on it, and caused it to wither because it produced no fruit.. The Jews call this type of tree, a hypocrite tree because it has the appearance of a fig tree, but upon close examination, there is no fruit produced.

We are seeing religions that are now similar to the barren fig tree. They

have the appearance of Holy, but upon close examination, they are non-fruit producing. These “new” religions either allow, accept or overlook such items that God condemned in the Bible. Items such as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, witchcraft (in many forms), and the list goes on.

A 10-year-old boy is convicted of killing his 4-year-old neighbor. A 14-year-old girl is raped in a park while kids look on. A 17 year old holds up a beer and says life is meaningless. What is truth?

Every 24 hours in America,

1000 unwed teens become pregnant; 500 adolescents will begin using drugs; 135,000 will kill or carry a weapon to school; 6 youths will commit suicide.. The dilemma is what is right and what is wrong. We have a moral crisis in America. Our view of truth has dramatically shifted in the last 50 years. 50 years ago, everyone agreed on what is right, wrong, and what is true.

Francis Shaffer traces the evolution or transition of truth from being very clear, classical and absolute to being relative in his book.

Alan Bloom states about the universities’ failure, that “the universities, instead of being a safeguard of what is true, have allowed ‘relative truth’ to invade every area and as a result of it, Americans can no longer know how to think. And because they cannot think, they no longer know right from wrong. And because they no longer know right from wrong, they can’t make good decisions. And because they can’t make good decisions, they make bad decisions, and it produces fractured families and a fractured culture.”

What is truth? Is there such a thing as absolute truth? Is all truth relative? Existentialism has allowed the morality of culture to accept “if it feels good, do it,” “don’t be intolerant,” “I am not any worse than other people,” “there is no absolute truth,” and “don’t judge others.” Humanism rose out of the current trends in America. We have the practice of “pluralism” in the acceptance of all religions. So, is there a moral decline of America? What can be done to restore this nation that was founded on Godly principles? Jesus stated “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). America has gone through stages of development with extremes of forced theology, to philosophies allowing an individual to design their own relative truth.

When raising my daughters, I was past “tough love” and doing more what I called “tyrant love.” I set high spiritual goals on my daughters. God commanded me to “*train up my children in the way they should go*” and then promised “*when they are old they will not depart from it.*” This scripture is not a promise of coming back, but a promise of not departing. Remember the story of Adam and Eve. I felt that in raising my daughters, I would rather have them hate me till the day I die and have them go to Heaven (for all eternity), then for them to love me on earth and go to Hell. Their loving me on earth and not having eternal security through salvation would show my lack of love to them. I will tell you the same thing, “*I’d rather you got mad at me, and go to Heaven.*”

“*The Five Steps to a Reprobate Mind.*”

I have shared in the past
The 5 Steps to a reprobate mind –
Romans 1:18-32

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, **they glorified [him] not** as God, neither were

thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God **into an image made like to corruptible man**, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to **uncleanness** through the **lusts** of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Romans 1:28 And even as they **did not like to retain God** in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a **reprobate mind**, to do those things which are not convenient;

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all **unrighteousness**,

fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

In summary, the progression to a reprobate mind is gradual and so slow it is usually not noticed. It is that giving in an inch each time and soon realizing you have lost a mile. The five steps can be summarized as follows;

1. 1:21 Glorified Him not (did not keep praising Him)
2. 1:23 Image brought down to man (tried bringing God to man's level)
3. 1:24 Uncleaness / lusts (figured with God at the same level as man, He would accept things as man does)
4. 1:26 Vile Affections (man decided to do as he pleased, worrying about self, instead of God's commands)
5. 1:28 Not retaining God – reprobate mind is developed because God is not the “owner” of the life)

A Clarion Call to the Modern Church **by: John MacArthur**

Christians historically have understood that their calling is to be in the world but not of the world. As Os Guinness pointed out in a perceptive series of articles on the church-growth movement, traditional evangelicalism not only resisted worldly influences, but also used to stress "cognitive defiance" of the world spirit.

Now, however, "the world has become so powerful, pervasive, and appealing that the traditional stance of cognitive defiance has become rare and almost unthinkable" ("Recycling the Compromise of Liberalism," *Tabletalk* [May 1992], 51.). At some point, evangelicals decided to make friends with the world.

Guinness pointed out that although we are called to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:14-18), many Christians have reversed the formula, becoming *of* the world while not really being *in* the world. They did this 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.

"Evangelicals are now outdoing the liberals as the supreme religious modernizers-and compromisers-of today," Guinness writes (Ibid.). The market-driven philosophy so popular among modern evangelicals is nothing more than "a recycling of the error of classical liberalism" (Ibid.).

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, abortion, feminism, 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.

If a church is not even willing to take a firm stand against abortion, 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?

Many evangelical churches have wholly abandoned strong preaching about hell, sin, and the wrath of God. They claim God's primary attribute is benevolence—one that overrides and supersedes His holiness, justice, wrath, and sovereignty. Rather than addressing humanity's greatest need—forgiveness of sins—modern sermons deal with contemporary topics, psychological issues (depression, eating disorders, self-image), personal relationships, 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 approach to ministry is so *undoc*trinal 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.

The only hope is a return to Scripture and sound doctrine. We evangelicals desperately need to recover our determination to be biblical, our refusal to comply with the world, our willingness to defend what we believe, and our courage to defy false teaching. 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)

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

• Grace to You (*Friday, January 21, 2005*)

Being the Called, instead of Calling Collect

There is a trend that is becoming more predominant in the community that needs to be addressed. Giving is priceless and cannot carry a price on it. We are seeing an increase of putting a price tag on anything that is done in the form of “giving.”

Bob and Linda perform ministry to the inmates of America (and the world) with services they offer through Moving On Ministry (www.MovingOnMinistry.com). There are the visitations to the jails and prisons over the past 6 years. There are the unending letters coming in from inmates wanting someone to correspond with and looking for a path to follow that will not lead them back to where they currently are (incarcerated). There is the monthly newsletter that gets mailed throughout the world, and that is listed each month on the web site also.

As we watch the communities and their concern of gang activity, we also notice that few are concerned enough to be willing to get involved. As we watch the children turning away from morality, turning against their parents, and the trend to do as they please, we are not seeing the solution applied.

(1) Bob recently had an individual write him from **Avenal State Prison** and wrote to state the following in his letter. The man stated that he had been in Avenal State Prison for 18 months and had seen the Avenal chaplain less times than you could count on both hands. He explained that the inmates ran the chapel service and they would love for some outside ministry to come in and present the Word of God. He went on to say that a lot of the volunteers had quit showing up and there were less coming in. He also mentioned that churches written to, failed to reply.

(2) Another letter from an individual at **Corcoran State Prison** had written to two of our large local Visalia churches. He never got a response from either of the churches, not even a card stating “*We do not write to inmates, nor do we have anyone that does.*” After my delivering copies of his letter to these churches, and still no follow-up, he wrote that neither of the churches had written back, but that did not surprise him, since he had attended these churches in the past and there was no display of care or compassion in them. He said he would not attend them in the future.

(3) A Visalia lady of 50 years old, that is in need of a liver transplant, has moved back to living with her elderly mother because of her failing health. Her 27 year old son has also moved in with her to help with the care of his mother. This family had previously lived in Visalia and attended one of the larger churches regularly as a tithing family. These individuals moved to Southern California and then due to health problems, moved back to Visalia. The lady needing the liver transplant called the pastor of the church she had previously attended in Visalia to ask for prayer. She was informed that he “*could not come without a ‘love offering’ and he would require gas money also.*”

I am afraid that the devil already is crawling into the “Christian” community unnoticed and has already influenced the individuals that lead and attend the churches of America. How long will it be until the freedom of religion is gone, or has that possibly already started?

Testimony

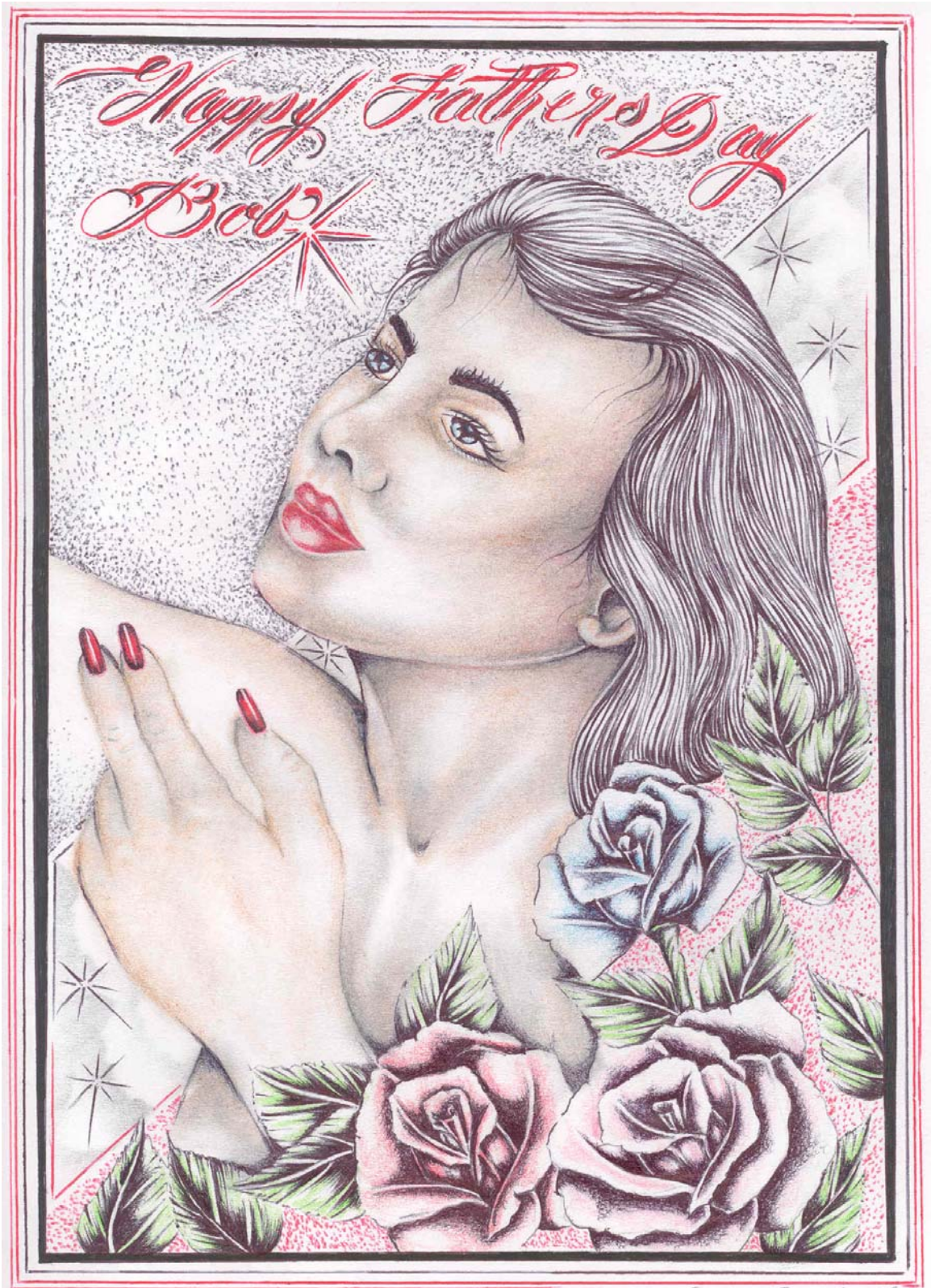
I was born in Guatemala. I have lived in the LA area since the age of four. I met my wife at a factory job when I was only 18. By the time I was 20, we were living together and starting a new family. I was very fortunate to get into a sales career that allowed me and my young family to have a modest, yet comfortable life and allowed my wife to stay at home and also allowed me to have plenty of free time with my wife and daughter. The problems began when I started drinking. My wife's father had died of alcoholism when she was only 4 and her mother also had a problem with alcohol abuse. Even though my alcohol usage was moderate, my wife had a serious concern. Because I was young, I did not care about her concern. I felt she was exaggerating, and so I defended my right to drink. As my alcoholism progressed, so did the problems. I was not only defending my alcoholism, but also dirty tactics to quiet my wife down. Every time she had something to say, about my drinking, and my over spending, I would turn the problems around and make her feel bad about herself by bringing up things about her that were really not relevant. I was so convinced that she was wrong, that I defended myself any way I could. In the years to come, her concern became very real.

Fourteen years later, I was drinking 4 days a week, not coming home at times, and weighing 100 pounds more. We were living better than ever, so this gave me a false sense of success and responsibility. This gave me the perfect justification to continue doing what I was doing. By this time, my wife had stopped fighting me so much. Not that she accepted my life style, it was more like she gave up on me. Her respect and admiration for me was fading away quickly. On many occasions she told me that the kind of stuff I did and said "killed love." I never took it seriously, after all, I was making all the money and she had no right to complain. This kind of thinking got me to prison. I had a million reasons why I didn't listen to my wife. She had a bad temper, she wasn't affectionate as I wanted her to be. The truth of the matter is that no one knows how my life would have turned out to be, if we didn't have all those

problems because of alcohol. Last year my wife turned 38 and I noticed she started changing. Suddenly she was no longer interested in such things as re-arranging furniture, keeping the grass green, and shopping for the home. Instead, she began dressing up more, making new friends, and often expressing how bored she felt with her life. I have to summarize it by saying that she started a midlife crisis. Our relationship was too weak for it to stand. She cheated on me, and when I found out, I lost it and hit her.

When I was in County jail, I was so depressed about my situation, that for 48 hours I would literally hear voices telling me to kill myself. The doctors told me that it was all emotional and their only solution was to put me on suicide watch. I thought I had lost my mind completely. I was seriously trying to find a quick and effective way to end my life. The only thing stopping me from killing myself, was the love I have for all my family. I decided I wanted to live, but the voices wouldn't stop. Finally, I decided to Pray ! I had not prayed for over 15 years. I thought my life was under control and I felt like I did not need God.

When the doctor told me there was no medicine for me, I asked him if he could at least pray for me? The doctor thought I was joking, but after I insisted, he prayed for me. After he was done praying, I continued praying for about 2 hours straight and fighting the bad voices at the same time. Then suddenly I heard a 'pop' in my head and the voices were gone instantly. They did not fade away or wear out, they were gone in a second. They were replaced with peace and tranquility. For the next several days, I was left with a feeling of complete bliss. Here I am 6 months later and I have never wanted to live more. Sometimes I am sad because I miss my family and I want my freedom. So far I have learned that we all need God and that if we have faith, God will listen and respond to us. I have also learned that no one is perfect and God knows this. I ask him to give me my wife back if it is His will, or to help me stop loving her as my wife, if its not. The Bible says that God is love. Jesus died to make sure this message was told. **JS**



Leo Castillo