

“Letter From M.O.M.”

Five Year Anniversary

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Volume 42 – Oct. 2008 – **M.O.M.’s 5 years of Publication**

“I Never Imagined” Happy Anniversary – M.O.M.

It is hard to imagine that this ministry has been developing for over **Five years**. The Volume 1 issue (then called “Free In Deed”) went out October 2003. New facilities have opened up to us, as well as getting correspondence from many states and foreign countries.

This issue (the largest yet) contains the most requested back issue articles. We also have a list of past newsletters. We normally have sections for poetry, testimonies, inmate art, letters, and “Lighter Side.”

Watch our websites

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

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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.

Fellowship

We would like to keep a listing of locations for fellowship that welcomes previous incarcerated individuals. We also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing to God's calling for us.

If you would like a church listed, or have concern on one that is not supportive, please contact us.

Remember the "What Heaven Looks Like" drawing contest

Once again, we are listing past newsletter contents. For those that are looking for a particular past article, or perhaps just looking for a story on a subject they are dealing with, we again list the following updated list.

Volume 1 – 7 pages

- Photo of Alcatraz Prison Cell
- Confessions of a Chaplain
- Testimonies of Fred and David
- Ron's Story

Volume 2 – 7 pages

- Photo of Disciples Prison Cell
- Needs after Release
- Recommended Reading

Volume 3 – 8 pages

- Story of Iris and Dwayne Blue
- Review of previous articles

Volume 4 – 8 pages

- Guilty as Charged
- Am I Really Saved?
- Tools of Ministry – Boots and One-of-a-Kind Car
- Testimony of James

Volume 5 – 11 pages

- Tools of Ministry – Skydive and Rock Climb
- Power of Biblical Friendships
- Being a Man of Vision
- Excuses of Sin

Volume 6 – 11 pages

- Tools of Ministry – Rings
- Bamboo – Don't Give Up
- Father, Son & Friend
- Too Blessed to be Stressed
- Vows of a Christian

Volume 7 – 9 pages

- Tools of Ministry – Goldfish
- Am I Really Saved? (repeat)
- The Law of the Harvest

Volume 8 – 13 pages

- List of [51](#) Supportive Churches
- Tools of Ministry - Music
- Who do You Belong to?
- Freedom from the Gangs Grip
- Slingshot Guilt
- Prison Life with Sheriff Joe

Volume 9 – 10 pages

- Thank You Poem
- Donuts
- The Cross
- Coalinga Road Camp – 1930s

Volume 10 – 14 pages

- The Path Inspired
- God's Prisoner
- Second Chances
- High Road to Beginning Again
- Doing What God Has Called Us
- Pictures of 1930's Holding Cells

Volume 11 – 17 pages

- 23 Sample letters
- Just an Old Dog
- Lord's Prayer
- Prayer of Jabez
- Swaziland Statistics
- Cost of Incarceration

Volume 12 – 20 pages

- 4 Sample Letters
- Filling the Calling
- Does God Really Exist
- A Story About Life by OZ
- My Heart, Christ's Home
- Death Row Inmate+
- Lighter Side
- California Prisons

Volume 13 – 14 pages

- 3 Sample Letters
- Rent to Own Salvation
- Turning Life to Eternal Life
- Someway & Something Better
- A Woman's Mission
- Like A Dog – To and Fro
- Churches Filling the Gap
- God Said "No"
- Lighter Side
- Stories of Swaziland Trip

Swaziland Special Edition – 18 pages

- Africa Mission Trip
- What was it like
- Field stories
- Facts and Blessings
- Past Swaziland news articles

Volume 14 – 16 pages

- 4 Sample Letters
- Beautiful One Liners
- Three Types of Lost
- Jesus Focus Picture
- Chaplain Bob's Testimony
- More Swaziland Stories

Volume 15 – 13 pages

- 6 Sample Letters
- Lighter Side
- Linda's Testimony
- More Swaziland Stories
- America the Beautiful

Volume 16 – 16 pages

- Summary of past articles
- 12 Sample Letters
- Heaven or Hell, Its Your Choice
- Focus, Restitution, Rick Warren
- Lighter Side

Volume 17 – 16 pages

- Transmission of Bible to English
- Spiritual Gift Survey
- Dream Seeker – Part 1

Volume 18 – 16 pages

- 6 sample letters
- 2 testimonies
- Conquering Compromise
- Dream Seeker – Part 2

Volume 19 – 18 pages

- 3 sample letters
- 7 pages of inmate resources
- Lighter Side
- Poetry
- Lighter but Serious Side
- George Aginaga drawing
- Dream Seeker – Part 3

Volume 20 – 16 pages

- 4 sample letters
- 2 testimonies
- Lighter but Serious Side
- Poetry
- George Guerrero Drawing
- Fisherman's reply
- Dream Seeker – Part 4

Volume 21 – 14 pages

- 2 sample letters
- Testimony
- Lighter but Serious Side
- Death – Wonderfully Explained
- Step back from the cliff
- Poetry
- Arturo Bastardo drawings
- Dream Seeker – Part 5

Volume 22 – 16 pages

- 3 sample letters
- Testimony
- Lighter but Serious Side
- When it comes to Truth
- 5 Moral Fences
- Poetry
- Arturo Bastardo drawings
- Dream Seeker – Part 6

Volume 23 – 14 pages

- 5 sample letters
- Testimony
- Lighter but Serious Side
- Poetry
- Arturo Bastardo drawings
- Eddie Snider drawing
- Decisions of a young lady
- Dream Seeker – Part 7

Volume 24 – 16 pages

- Stella Awards
- Dream Seeker #8

Volume 25 – 16 pages

- Summary of past articles
- “I Love Ruthie”
- Red Sea Blessings for M.O.M.
- “Spirit”

Volume 26 – 16 pages

- Swaziland Updates
- Hand Painting

Volume 27 – 16 pages

- Prison Ministry – What it is
- La mentiras del diablo
- Dream Seeker Graduation

Volume 28 – 16 pages

- Update of inmate resources
- **Hippopotamus and the Tortoise**

Volume 29 – 16 pages

- Swazi Update
- Galaxies & Quarks
- Prisons Hold God’s Treasures

Volume 30 – 16 pages

- Mountain Bike Ride
- Prison’s Hold God’s Treasures

Volume 31 – 16 pages

- Raisins Don’t Have Legs
- Tools of Ministry Review
- Don’t Give Up
- Am I Really Saved?
- Father, Son & Friend

Volume 32 – 16 pages

- Bob & Linda’s Testimonies
- 26 Beautiful One-liners
- 3 Types of Lost

Volume 33 – 16 pages

- Natty’s testimony from Egypt
- Conquering Compromise

Volume 34 – 16 pages

- My Heart, Christ’s Home
- No Plan “B”

Volume 35 – 16 pages

- Jeffery Swaziland update
- Prison Diary

Volume 36 – 16 pages

- Angels
- Themba’s Swaziland Testimony

Volume 37 – 16 pages

- Tools of Ministry
- Camp Clarius
- Getting it Right
- Clarian Call

Volume 38 – 16 pages

- Get With the Program
- Matching Gift
- Wallpaper, Checkbook, and Displays

Volume 39 – 16 pages

- Getting God’s Attention
- Slacklining with Shaun Snyder

Volume 40 – 12 pages

- Ryanoko’s Testimony
- Excuses
- Interstate Transfer of Inmates
- Promotion or Squatter
- Real prisoners on the outside?

Remembering Brother Steve



September 10, 2007, 11:10 PM, after coming home from ministering at BWDF, Bob was given a death notification that my brother was killed on his motorcycle at Shaver Lake. We had his funeral the next Monday September 17, 2007. My brother often asked for copies of **Letter From M.O.M. and would share copies with his friends. He will be deeply missed, but always remembered and loved.**

Letters that Express it All

The following was sent from Rodney B. in Corcoran State Prison

**15 Things You Probably Never Knew
or Thought About**

1. At least 5 people in the world love you so much, they would die for you.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you, is because they want to be just like you.
4. A smile from you can bring happiness to everyone, even if they don't like you.
5. Every night SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
6. You mean the world to someone.
7. If not for you, someone may not be living.
8. You are special and unique.
9. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.
10. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.
11. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: You most likely turned your back on the world.
12. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it.
13. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
14. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you might not get a chance to tell them again.
15. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

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1. If you keep saying you can't stand your job, you might loose your job.
 2. If you keep saying you can't stand your body, your body might become sick.
 3. If you keep saying you can't stand your car, your car will be stolen or just stop running.
 4. If you keep saying your broke, guess what, you'll always be broke.
 5. If you keep saying you can't trust a man or trust a woman, you will always find someone in your life to hurt or betray you.
 6. If you keep saying you can't find a job, you will remain unemployed.
 7. If you keep saying you can't find someone to love you or believe in you, your very thoughts will attract more experiences to confirm your beliefs.
 8. If you keep talking about a divorce or breaking up in a relationship, then you might end up with it.
 9. Turn your thoughts and conversation around to be more positive and power packed with faith, hope, love and action.
 10. Don't be afraid to believe that you can have what you want and deserve.
 11. Watch your thoughts, they become words.
 12. Watch your words, they become actions.
 13. Watch your actions, they become habits.
 14. Watch your habits, they become character
 15. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

Donuts

There was a boy by the name of Steve who was attending school in Utah.

Brother Christianson taught at this particular school. He had an open-door policy and would take in any student that had been thrown out of another class as long as they would abide by his rules. Steve had been kicked out of his sixth period and no other teacher wanted him, so he went into Brother Christianson's class.

Steve was told that he could not be late, so he arrived just seconds before the bell rang and he would sit in the very back of the room. He would also be the first to leave after the class was over.

One day, Brother Christianson asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him. After class, Bro. Christianson pulled Steve aside and said, "You think you're pretty tough, don't you?"

Steve's answer was, "Yeah, I do." Then Brother Christianson asked, "How many push-ups can you do?"

Steve said, "I do about 200 every night."

"200?
That's pretty good, Steve," Brother

Christianson said. "Do you think you could do 300?"

Steve replied, "I don't know... I've never done 300 at a time."

"Do you think you could?" Again asked Brother Christianson.

"Well, I can try," said Steve.

"Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I need you to do 300 in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it," Brother Christianson said.

Steve said, "Well... I think I can... yeah, I can do it."

Brother Christianson said, "Good! I need you to do this on Friday."

Friday came and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room. When class started, Brother Christianson pulled out a big box of donuts. Now these weren't the normal kinds of donuts, they were the extra fancy BIG kind, with cream centers and frosting swirls. Everyone was pretty excited - it was Friday, the last class of the day, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend.

Bro. Christianson went to the first girl in the first row and asked,

"Cynthia, do you want a donut?"

Cynthia said, "Yes."

Bro. Christianson then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Cynthia can have a donut?"

Steve said, "Sure," and jumped down from his desk to do a quick ten. Then Steve again sat in his desk. Bro. Christianson put a donut on Cynthia's desk.

Bro. Christianson then went to Joe, the next person, and asked, "Joe do you want a donut?"

Joe said, "Yes."

Bro. Christianson asked, "Steve would you do ten push-ups so Joe can have a donut?"

Steve did ten push-ups, Joe got a donut.

And so it went, down the first aisle, Steve did ten pushups for every person before they got their donut. And down the second aisle, till Bro. Christianson came to Scott.

Scott was captain of the football team and center of the basketball team. He was very popular and never lacking for female

companionship.

When Bro. Christianson asked, "Scott do you want a donut?"

Scott's reply was, "Well, can I do my own pushups?"

Bro. Christianson said, "No, Steve has to do them."

Then Scott said, "Well, I don't want one then."

Bro. Christianson then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so Scott can have a donut he doesn't want?" Steve started to do ten pushups. Scott said, "HEY! I said I didn't want one!"

Bro. Christianson said, "Look, this is my classroom, my class, my desks, and my donuts. Just leave it on the desk if you don't want it." And he put a donut on Scott's desk.

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little. He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took too much effort to be getting up and down. You could start to see a little perspiration coming out around his brow. Bro. Christianson started down the third row. Now the students were beginning to get a little angry.

Bro. Christianson asked Jenny, "Jenny, do you want a donut?"

Jenny said, "No."

Then Bro. Christianson asked Steve, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so Jenny can have a donut that she doesn't want?" Steve did ten, Jenny got a donut.

By now, the students were beginning to say "No" and there were all these uneaten donuts on the desks. Steve was also having to really put forth a lot of effort to get these pushups done for each donut. There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face, his arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved. Bro. Christianson asked Robert to watch Steve to make sure he did ten pushups in a set because he couldn't bear to watch all of Steve's work for all of those uneaten donuts. So Robert began to watch Steve closely.

Bro. Christianson started down the fourth row. During his class, however, some students had wandered in and sat along the heaters along the sides of the room. When Bro. Christianson realized this; he did a quick count and saw 34 students in the room. He started to worry if Steve would be able to make it.

Bro. Christianson went on to the next

person and the next and the next. Near the end of that row, Steve was really having a rough time. He was taking a lot more time to complete each set.

Steve asked Bro. Christianson, "Do I have to make my nose touch on each one?"

Bro. Christianson thought for a moment, "Well, they're your pushups. You can do them any way that you want." And Bro. Christianson went on.

A few moments later, Jason came to the room and was about to come in when all the students yelled, "NO! Don't come in! Stay out!"

Jason didn't know what was going on. Steve picked up his head and said, "No, let him come."

Bro. Christianson said, "You realize that if Jason comes in you will have to do ten pushups for him."

Steve said, "Yes, let him come in."

Bro. Christianson said, "Okay, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now. Jason, do you want a donut?" "Yes."

"Steve, will you do ten pushups so that Jason can have a donut?"

Steve did ten pushups very slowly

and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Bro. Christianson finished the fourth row, then started on those seated on the heaters. Steve's arms were now shaking with each pushup in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. Sweat was dropping off of his face and, by this time, there was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last two girls in the room were cheerleaders and very popular. Bro. Christianson went to Linda, the second to last, and asked, "Linda, do you want a doughnut?"

Linda said, very sadly, "No thank you."

Bro. Christianson asked Steve, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so that Linda can have a donut she doesn't want?"

Grunting from the effort, Steve did ten very slow pushups for Linda.

Then Bro. Christianson turned to the

last girl, Susan. "Susan, do you want a donut?"

Susan, with tears flowing down her face, asked, "Bro. Christianson, can I help him?"

Bro. Christianson, with tears of his own, said, "No, he has to do it alone. Steve, would you do ten pushups so Susan can have a donut?"

As Steve very slowly finished his last pushup, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 pushups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

Brother Christianson turned to the room and said. "And so it was, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, plead to the Father, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, he collapsed on the cross and died. And like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten."

CONQUERING COMPROMISE Daniel 1:1-21

I had read an article written by Lane Palmer. The following message is an extension of that article and one I shared at Corcoran State Prison in California on Sunday, July 23, 2006, during four chapel services the wife and I conducted.

Many of you have heard my wife, Linda, give her testimony. Some of you may have read a part of it in **volume 15 of Letter From M.O.M.** Linda talked about compromise and the consequences. She lost her 19 year old son to drunk driving - consequences. But yet she perseveres through the hard times just like the good times.

Those that have heard, or read, my testimony, know that I was living what I considered a "safe" life, but I would have been headed to hell - consequences. I ended up in some ungodly situations with women I had met - consequences. I did not make as strong of spiritual stand with my family as I should have - consequences. I gave into lust - consequences. Then as I let Christ take over more of my life (even today I am still doing the letting go and letting Christ) I saw the better results in my life, my children's life, and grand-children's life - consequences. (See the article titled "**My Heart, Christ's Home**" in **volume 12 of Letter From M.O.M.**)

My own brother was found dead with two fresh tracks from heroin - consequences.

Intro: In the early part of this century, an American ship was wrecked off the Sicily Isles near the coast of England. The sea had been calm and the weather clear, but the vessel was caught in a treacherous current that slowly lured it off its course. Before the captain and the crew realized what had happened, the ship had crashed into the rocks.

In life, too, powerful currents of compromise can catch the soul and carry it to shipwreck. Spiritual drifting is usually a slow and imperceptible process. We know it has occurred when we have lost the strong resistance to evil and the passionate desire for truth that we once knew.

Compromise is defined as

1. a settlement of differences by mutual concessions; an agreement reached by adjustment of conflicting or opposing claims, principles, etc., by reciprocal modification of demands.
2. the result of such a settlement.
3. something intermediate between different things

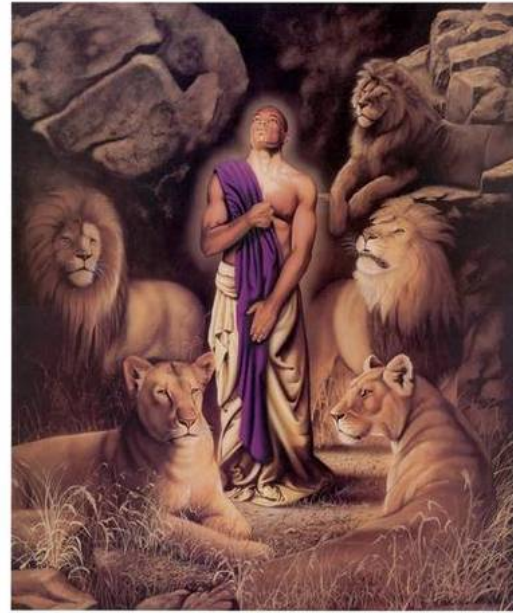
Often, life is filled with compromises. We are given a choice as to how we will live our lives and what path we are going to follow through life. When we come to these times of decision, it is imperative that we make godly choices. Because the choices we make at the cross roads of life will determine our usefulness to God and our effectiveness in His

kingdom work. We look at the effectiveness of the fruit in our life through our children, our friends, etc. Who do we hook up with?



Three Men Invited to a Bar-B-Q

Our text today is about four men who came to a time of decision in their lives. They could either compromise and go with the flow, or they could stand their ground and live for the Lord. The circumstances they faced and the decisions they made set the course for the rest of their lives. Since this incident occurred, the names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego have stood tall as the names of great heroes of the faith. These three men were not only invited to the “Bar-B-Q” but were to be the Bar-B-Q (which was cranked up 7 times as hot). As the story went, they could not get them cooked above “rare.”



A Man and His Cats

And, what of Daniel? Who would have ever have heard of Daniel if he had compromised at this early stage of life? His name would be unknown to modern man, and we would never have received this wonderful book. With that in mind, it is good to be able to say that these young men stood their test and as a result, we are all blessed this day. We want to realize that we are remembered for only two things, our accomplishments, and our failures.

As you and I go through life, there will always be times where we are going to have to make decisions to do the right thing. When these times come, and they most certainly will, we will either decide to go with God despite the cost. Or, we will choose to compromise. The truths contained in this passage will help us as we face the serious crossroads of life. Today, I would like to speak for a little while on this thought, Conquering Compromise. My prayer

is that we can glean the strength that we need to always make our stand for the Lord.

I.. V. 1-7 **THE PROBLEMS AT HAND**

A. These Hebrew boys faced several problems. Each of these had the potential to derail them and lead them off on a spiritual tangent. However, the problems they faced, were not that different from those we face daily in our world.

See how the following four items compare to prison or military life.

1. V. 1-2 A New Home - These boys had been brought up in and around Jerusalem. There they were constantly reminded of their God and of His importance to life. The Temple with its sacrifices was there. The priests and the scribes were there teaching. The prophets were preaching the message of Jehovah. Now, they are slaves and have been hauled off the Babylon. Here, they are surrounded by heathen worship, heathen images and heathen people. It would be easy to conform just to fit in (for the Christian, the danger is just as real). It is easy to be spiritual in church. It is easy to be Godly around Godly people. However, when we separate from the Godly influences around us (how many spend lots of time with ungodly friends/relatives), we are placing ourselves in a dangerous position. We are opening up our lives to the possibility of compromise. Therefore, it is important that we are consistent in our church attendance, Heb. 10:25. It is essential that we

surround ourselves with God's people, 1 Cor. 15:33 It is easy to compromise and conform with the world when we are away from the influence of Godliness. Let us examine the music we listen to, the television we watch, the people we have over, and the things we display in the home.

2. V. 3-4 New Knowledge - These young men were taught a new language and new ways of looking at life. All their lives, they had been exposed to Jewish wisdom. Now, they are being taught the wisdom of Babylon. They are being exposed to things they have never been exposed to before. It is becoming a dangerous time for them. There is much pressure being exerted on them to conform to the new world around them. (The same dangers face the Christian in this world today. We are constantly being exposed to new ways of thinking and are being told that our way of looking at the world, through the eyes of God in the Bible, is outdated, ancient and intolerant. There is much pressure being placed on the Christian community to conform to the world's way of thinking. We are told to accept homosexuality, alcohol usage, cursing, promiscuous sexual activity, etc. However, God has not changed His mind about a single thing! What He said 4,000, 3,000, or 2,000 years ago still stands today! It doesn't matter if it hairlips the devil and if the entire world stands against it, the Word of God is sure, it is settled and it is right! Psa. 119:89; Isa. 40:8)

Do we have a new set of rules and expectations?

3. V. 5 A New Diet - All their lives, these four young men had lived by the dietary laws handed down by the Lord. Now, they are faced with new food. Most likely, this food was unclean, by Jewish standards, and most of the meat had probably been sacrificed to idols. Therefore, it would have defiled these men and made them unclean before the Lord. (As Christians, we too are faced with choices that run contrary to the best that God has purposed for us. There are decisions about our choice of entertainment, our music we listen to, choices in our personal relationships. We are confronted daily by choices to either do or not do certain things that can cause us to be defiled. Now, I am saved, (if really saved) and nothing will ever change that! But, the choices I make in life can either build me up, or tear me down as a servant of God. I can never be lost again, but I can become defiled and put on the shelf by God, 1 Cor. 9:27. Therefore, it is extremely important that we constantly guard ourselves in this matter of what we take into our lives. (David had a good plan - Psa. 101:3))

We all know that the diet in prison and military is not the same as the diet on the outside of the walls.

4. V. 6-7 New Names - When these young men arrived in Babylon, they came carrying wonderful names. Each name carried with it a testimony to the person of God.

- a. Daniel - God is my judge
- b. Hananiah - God is gracious
- c. Mishael - God is without equal
- d. Azariah - The Lord is my helper

When they arrived in Babylon, they were given new names.

- a. Daniel became Belteshazzar - Which means, "Bel will protect."
- b. Hananiah became Shadrach - Which means, "Inspiration of the Sun."
- c. Mishael became Meshach - Which means, "Belonging to Aku."
- d. Azariah became Abednego - Which means, "Servant of Nego."

Nebuchadnezzar's goal was to change their identity and hopefully their way of thinking. However, it is plain to see as one reads the book of Daniel, that even though their names were changed their character remained in tact. (The world and the devil will try every tactic to force us to fit into their mold. However, no matter what they say to us, call us, do to us or throw at us in life, they will never be able to change what we are, 1 John 3:1-2! We must never forget that we are the twice born children of the living God!

B. As we journey through life, there are going to be constant attempts by the enemy to get us to let down our guard, to conform to the world's standards and to do things we know to be wrong. However, these times

of testing and trial can be weathered safely and securely. God Himself has promised to help us when we face times of testing - 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 4:15.

C. Looking at the stand these four young men took there in Babylon will help us when we are faced with a crossroads in life. We see not only **The Problems At Hand**, but next we see **The Purpose Of Their Hearts**.

II. V. 8-16 THE PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS

A. V. 8 Their Dedication - The Babylonians could change their homes, their diet, their names, and their education, but they could never change their hearts! These men had decided that they were going to serve the Lord, whatever the cost! It would have been easy to say, "Well, it's all right, everyone else is doing it!" Or "We had better do what the king says." Or "We'll obey the king outwardly, but we'll just keep our faith to ourselves." These options weren't good enough for these men! They were willing to commit themselves to God's will despite the consequences. In the military and prison, we become a number. We are still the same individual and we must separate the lie from the truth. Christians need this same level of determined commitment! Many of us seem to find it too easy to give in to compromise. We need to dedicate ourselves to God and His plan for our lives, even if it costs us our lives! Our duty is to faithfully serve the Lord with all we have and are, the details are His problem, Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58!

B. V. 9-14 Their Desire - In an effort to maintain their ceremonial purity before the Lord, they requested that they not be forced to eat the king's meat. They knew they would be fed defiled and defiling foods, therefore, they requested that they be allowed to have vegetables and water for a ten-day period. Daniel and his friends knew that a vegetarian diet would not defile them and they knew that God would honor their faith in Him. They were willing to put God to the test. It will not always be the easiest thing, nor will it be the most popular thing for you to take your stand with God. It will not always be understood by those around you. However, it is always the right thing! If we will be willing to stand our ground for the Lord, He will certainly honor our stand and bless us. Matt. 6:33. God's Word says that to him that is faithful in a little, to him will He give much.

C. The whole point of this section of the text is that these young men made up their minds that they were going to live for the Lord, and they allowed nothing to change them or to turn them from their purpose! As you follow them through the rest of their lives, you see they stuck to their guns more than once. In chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to die rather than compromise. In chapter 6, Daniel, an 80+ year old man, risked death in the lion's den rather than compromise in his walk with God. What about us, do we have that same level of resolve and commitment to the Lord and His work? Would you be willing to die before compromising with the

enemy? What do we allow in our homes? How do we raise our children? Do we speak with boldness and no apology?

D. Probably not! We compromise in many ways. In our speech, in our dress, in our lifestyles, in our music. They had decided in their hearts that they would die before they would compromise with the world, the flesh or the devil. We need to strive for that same standard in our own lives. There are a lot of God's children who need to recommit (or perhaps "really" commit) themselves to the Lord today! There are many who have let down their guard and have compromised in one or more issues. Others are flirting dangerously close to doing the same thing. It is time for God's children to resolve in their hearts that come what may, they will not disgrace the name of Jesus, and they will not compromise in any area of their life!

E. The dedication of these men can be summed up in 2 words, **Faith** and **Obedience**. They were willing to trust God to do what He had promised, and they were willing to follow Him, regardless of the personal cost. What about you? If you do not want the destination, don't start the trip. We do not need to see how far down the road we can go, when we have no business on it.

III. V. 17-21 THE PROMOTION FROM HEAVEN

A. V. 15-16 **Their Experience** - Daniels experiment worked! God honored His Word and these men were healthier than the others.

These 4 men knew something that many of us never get, and it is this: "If we will do as God says, He will never fail us, even in the slightest way. He will be absolutely faithful to honor His Word and His servants who trust that Word and do as He says. Lam. 3:23; Heb. 6:13-19. Come what may, you can count on the Lord!

B. V. 17-20 **Their Excellence** - After 3 years, (Notice that they maintained their resolve all during this time!), they stood before the king. When he interviewed them, He found that they were head and shoulders above all the others and that they were 10 times better than his wisest counselors. Again, this reminds us that God honors those who honor Him. This does not teach that serving God faithfully will make you smart, attractive and famous. It does teach us that serving God has with it the benefit of being promoted in His work. God placed these men where He could use them in that day, and He did use them in wonderful ways for His glory. He will place us in this day and use us here and now if we will serve Him as we should. The key is to never compromise, even in what we think is the smallest of areas! This is not just a day, week, month, or year, it is for eternity with integrity. God's Word says "**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.**" Matt. 5:48

C. V. 21 **Their Endurance** - We are not told how long Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego served there in Babylon, but we are told that Daniel endured, in a place of power

and prominence, for over 70 years. In fact, he was nearing 90 when he faced the lions. This just encourages my heart because it reminds me that no matter how long I live, or where I go in life, if I will always seek to honor the Lord, He will consistently bless me and use me for His glory. God is always looking for vessels which He can fill up and pour out for His glory. However, to be usable, we have to be clean, and to be clean, we must learn to never be guilty of compromise - 2 Tim. 2:20-21. God's house is filled with all kinds of vessels. Some are honorable and are being used for His glory. Others are defiled through compromise in one or more areas of life and cannot be used. Which best describes your life? I tell the individuals that I visit, the **CDC** on their pants (**C**alifornia **D**epartment of **C**orrections) actually stands for "**C**an't **D**efeat **C**hristians" or "**C**an't **D**efile **C**hristians"

Conc: "A giant 400-year-old redwood came crashing down one day, no one could figure out why. The tree had survived four centuries of storms, lightning, and earthquakes--what had felled it?"

"On closer inspection, investigators found that tiny beetles had found their way inside its trunk and had begun eating away its life-giving fibers, weakening its mighty bulk from the inside out.

"In much the same way, the devil tries to bring Christians down through a steady drone of small, seemingly insignificant temptations. While we are fighting and resisting him in one area, he may be setting

up house in another area of our lives. Satan will find ways to creep into our lives for the purpose of eroding our foundations until our fibers have become undone and we come crashing down to the ground. **"Show me a person who has fallen away from their walk with the Lord, and I will show you a person who started making compromises in his or her life long ago."** Are there areas in your life where you have begun to let your guard down? Are you allowing things in you life that you used to think were wrong? **If you have begun the downward spiral of compromise, I am glad I can tell you that Jesus allows u-turns!** He has promised us that we can find unconditional forgiveness when we come home to Him, 1 John 1:9. Where do you find yourself today? If the little beetles of compromise are whittling away at your walk with God, then come back home and allow the Lord to put you back where He wants you to be. Will you look deep inside and do what you need to do tonight? If so, then come to the lord and allow Him to have His way in your life.

As I was getting ready to finish this article, the Lord said, "**Bob, what about tolerance?**" I thought, "Lord, what do you mean?" The Lord replied, "If you tolerate something that goes against My teachings, are you not supporting the sinful nature that I said for you to turn away from?" "But Lord, there is so much sin accepted in the world today." Christ replied, "Remember my Word says to be in the world, but not of it." Do as you say, "Sharing God's Word with **BOLDNESS** and **NO** apology."

For those of you that may have lost loved ones and wondered about the next step in God's journey for ours and others life:

~DEATH~ WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT!!!

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

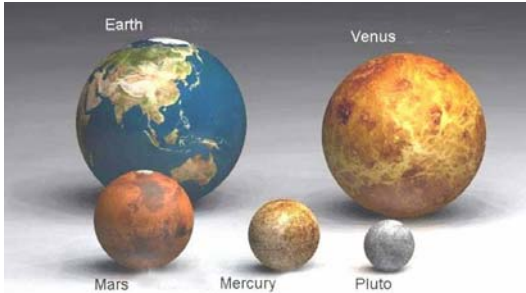
Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."



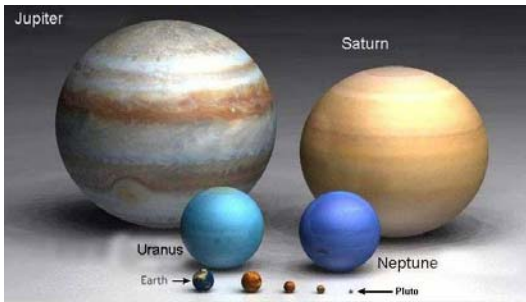
Significance

I would like to do a short article on “Significance.” I would like to look at “man’s” significance, when looking through Man’s eyes, and when looking through God’s eyes.

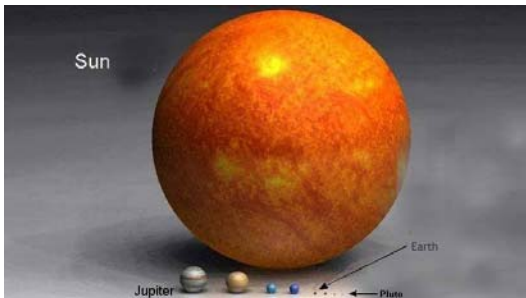
As we look at man, he is one of about 7 billion of his species on this planet, known as 3rd ball from the Sun, we call Earth.



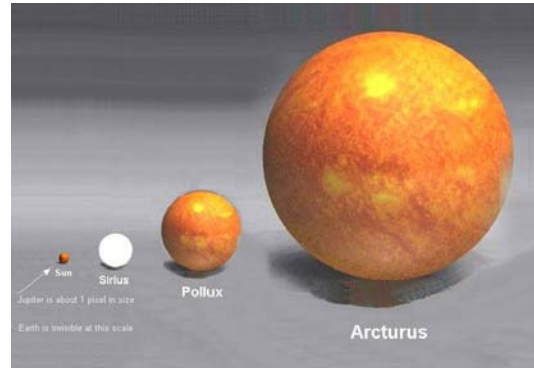
Earth is one of 9 planets (actually 8 now since Pluto has lost its status as a planet) that is larger than the other 4. The Earth is 6.55 times the diameter of Pluto



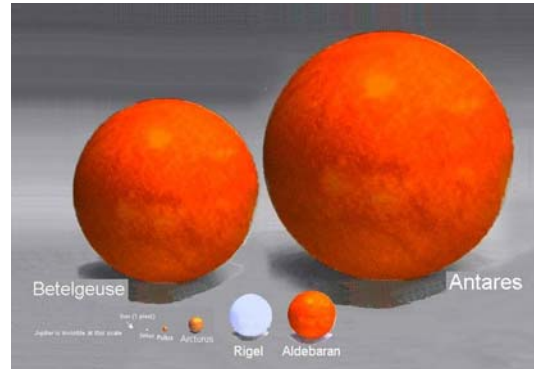
Earth is dwarfed in size, when we compare Earth to the other 4 planets, Jupiter being the largest at 11 times the Earth’s diameter.



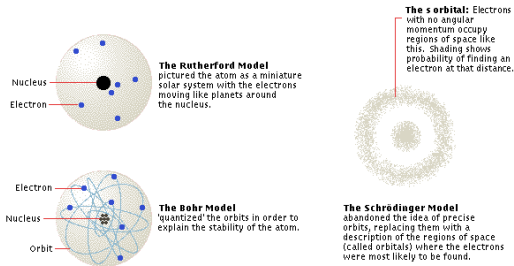
As we compare the size of the 9 planets to our own Sun, we see that even Jupiter is dwarfed in size by our own Sun, which has a diameter of 9.68 times that of Jupiter..



As we reach out further into space (known as the heavens), we find super stars of other galaxies. In the comparison of our Sun to Arcturus, our own sun is a mere glimmer in the presence of Arcturus, which has a solar radius of 15.9.



And yet the significance continues. Comparing Arcturus to Antares, again makes Arcturus barely noticeable. Antares has a solar radius of 700 (700 times that of our own sun). Epsilon Aurigae is said to be 2800 times the size of our sun.



How as we look the other direction of Order and examine the atom, there seems to be the unlimited range displayed. The atom is said to have a diameter of .1 to .5 nm (10^{-8} mm). The nucleus of the atom has a diameter of 10^{-12} mm. The classical radius of a free proton or neutron is taken to be about 1×10^{-15} . The radius of the free electron that orbits about the nucleus is said to be 3×10^{-15} m. The size of atomic and sub-atomic particles loses its meaning because these "particles" behave as though they are waves, or wave packets. So, "size" becomes kind of "squishy." We would think this was the end of the structure, yet scientists discovered the "quark." I do not know that anyone really thinks of quarks and other sub-atomic particles as having a particular "size," in fact their masses are usually given in energy units of c^2 from Einstein's Theory of Relativity which states $E = mc^2$.

As we look at the lower end of the spectrum of particles such as the quarks, that are infinitesimally small and make up the other sub-atomic particles, to the opposite end of the spectrum to the giant and mega stars that are as large as solar systems, we ask how significant am I God?

Gods Word states the following;

Psalms 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 115:12 The Lord hath been mindful of us: he will bless [us]; . . .

Matthew 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Realizing that God is mindful of us in this vast universe. from the sub-atomic particles such as the quarks, to the mega stellar bodies such as Epsilon Aurigae, we realize that man is significant to God. Knowing he has every detail on us (down to the number of hairs on our head) shows his attention to detail on us. And when we read of his greatest gift to us, we know of our significance because of his love displayed;

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Father, son and a friend

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before he gave his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction, the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak. "a father, his son, and a friend of his son, were sailing off the pacific coast." he began. "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized." the old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story, "grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the other end of the lifeline. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, 'i love you, son!' he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night.

His body was never recovered. By this time, the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old minister's mouth. "the father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend.

How great is the love of god that he should do the same for us. Our heavenly father sacrificed his only begotten son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept his offer to rescue you and take a hold of the lifeline he is throwing out to you in this service." with that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room. The pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal. Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "that was a nice story," politely stated one of them, "but i don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian." "well, you've got a point there," the old man replied glancing down at his worn bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face. He once again looked up at the boys and said, "it sure isn't very realistic, is it? But i'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for god to give up his son for me. You see...i was that father and your pastor is my son's friend."

Three Types of ‘Lost’

By Chaplain Bob

In reading [Luke 15](#), Christ talks of three types of lost in the parables. Each of these situations shows a different situation and a different solution.

[Luke 15:1](#) Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

[Luke 15:2](#) And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

[Luke 15:3](#) And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

Example 1

[Luke 15:4](#) What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

[Luke 15:5](#) And when he hath found [it], he layeth [it] on his shoulders, rejoicing.

[Luke 15:6](#) And when he cometh home, he calleth together [his] friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

[Luke 15:7](#) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Example 2

[Luke 15:8](#) Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find [it]?

[Luke 15:9](#) And when she hath found [it], she calleth [her] friends and [her] neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

[Luke 15:10](#) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Example 3

[Luke 15:11](#) And he said, A certain man had two sons:

[Luke 15:12](#) And the younger of them said to [his] father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth [to me]. And he divided unto them [his] living.

[Luke 15:13](#) And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

[Luke 15:14](#) And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

[Luke 15:15](#) And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

[Luke 15:16](#) And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

[Luke 15:17](#) And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

[Luke 15:18](#) I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Luke 15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luke 15:21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put [it] on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on [his] feet:

Luke 15:23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill [it]; and let us eat, and be merry:

Luke 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

Luke 15:26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

Luke 15:27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

Luke 15:28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

Luke 15:29 And he answering said to [his] father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy

commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

Luke 15:30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

Luke 15:31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

Luke 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Example 1

The sheep realize they are lost, but do not know how to find their way back. The getting lost was a process of going on a path that was the wrong way or getting so far out, they did not know the way back. Remember, the Word says that the sheep was part of the flock and then went astray.

The sheep will be heard crying out to be found and will want to return to the safety of the flock and the shepherd's care. In this case, it takes a shepherd to go out and find the sheep and bring it back home.

An example of this sheep would be the individual that cries out for a "shepherd" to come to him and help him return to the flock. This is an individual that was in the flock and wandered away.

Example 2

The coin does not know it is lost and does not try to find its way back. The coin does not cry out. This example is where something was either dropped or was misplaced. If the coin was not in a secure place, it is easy for it to become lost.

In this example, the only remedy was to go out and check every nook, cranny and corner, cleaning the environment until the coin is found. Once it is found, there is no discussion with the coin, because it knows nothing,

but rather the master picks up the coin and carries it back to where it should be for safety.

The coin did not get lost of its own desire or actions, but rather got lost because of lack of proper care by its keeper. This is a common example of parents that do not follow God's word in **Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"**

In this example, it was actually the master keeper of the coins that had done wrong, thus resulting in the coin being lost. The keeper realizes that one coin is missing and checks everywhere with a full cleaning of his environment around him, to find the lost coin. Then when found, the coin is brought home and the neighbors are notified to join in with the rejoicing.

When talking about "one sinner that repenteth," is the scripture referring to the coin? The coin has no knowledge of its location or condition. The scripture actually is referring to the one that lost the coin, and diligently searched to find the lost coin.

Sometimes, these lost coins are our own loved ones and children. Do we perform the cleaning of the environment as we search to recover the "coin?" How often do we invite the "neighbors" to rejoice with us when one of our "coins" is found and returns home? Or do we just ignore and hide the "lost and found" situations in our life, being in denial of the true situation?

Example 3

In the example of the prodigal son, he got to where he was lost by his own doing. He recognizes that he does not have a blessed or abundant life. The son knows he is lost and decides to go back on his own. This "lost" is usually the most common type of lost. This is where an individual intentionally goes a wrong path (different than the sheep example) and has to hit rock bottom, to realize that he is lost. In this example, you will notice that the father did not go out and try to persuade the son to come back. The father did not become the answer or provider for the son while he was lost. The father did not enable the situation. Rather the father continued to pray for the son, and when the son was so down, that the only way he had to turn (not as a son, but as a servant) was to the father, then the son, of his own accord, decided to go to the father, to fill the position of a servant. Notice that when the Father saw the son coming, he greeted him with open, loving arms.

Too often, when dealing with a "lost son" the parent tries to replace God. The parent, to solve the situations, instead of requiring the son to seek God for answers, unknowingly does intervening. Had the father in the example, gone out to the son when the son was lost, the son would not have returned with the humble spirit of a servant. Without the humbling spirit, there would be no repentance, and without repentance, there is no forgiveness. This demonstrates the "coming to Christ" of our own free will and deciding to totally give ourselves to Him with a servant attitude.