

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 70 – Jan./Feb 2012 (Published since Oct. 2003)

“I Can Only Imagine”

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

Watch our website

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

We have also become affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Fellowship

Our mailing list has cleared over 560. The time required for designing the newsletters, printing, folding and stuffing the newsletters, applying postage and printing the envelopes has become great. We get behind on letter replies, and may occasionally miss one. Please write back if we do not answer, and write clearly so we can get the information correct. **We would like to know of the impact we are having and also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing.**

Intentions & Wishes

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

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

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

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

Please help us with input for this newsletter as we strive to serve God. We appreciate any articles or input.

**Addresses to contact our
Ministry Volunteers**

**Moving On Ministry
Chaplain Bob & Linda
P.O. Box 6667
Visalia, CA. 93290**

**Moving On Ministry
Spanish Ministry
P.O. Box 6667
Visalia, CA. 93290**

**Sister Carol Ann
P.O. Box 7501
Visalia, CA 93390**

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

**Sister Aleisha (Alice) C.
c/o M.O.M. (Women Only)
P.O. Box 6667
Visalia, CA 93290**

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

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

**Paper Sunshine Pen Pals
P.O. Box 7331
Halcyon, CA 93421**

Missing M.O.M. ?

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

Letters that Express it All

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

Readily Available Printouts

For those of you that communicate with individuals that have computer access, we have added quite a bit to our web site. The "**Resource List**" (28 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

Ask for a copy of our **28 page "Resource List"**
or our **12 page** compiled "**Pen Pal List**"
Postage is always appreciated but never required for brochures.
\$.44 for Pen pals and
\$.64 for Resources
\$.44 for Newsletter
(plus printing costs)

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.

I hope that you have a blessed and inspiring Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving seems to have so much more meaning than ever this year thanks to a new job (my dream job!), and my son receiving an award for academic achievement, as well as having a Thanksgiving in our own home for the first time in six years! How much better can it get?!? So much to be thankful for, including the friends and family that I am blessed to have! And YOU!!!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

David Marsh

Note from Bob:

David is now working full time as an editor for the "Valley Voice" newspaper. David set his goals and stayed on the path to be a good father to his children,

JAILHOUSE RELIGION

Text: Matthew 25: 31-46

Most of us have heard the statement, “he has jailhouse religion.” By that they are saying that he got religion while he was in jail. They are saying, “just you wait, when he gets out, he will go back to his life of crime.” When the prisoner is paroled out he is looked at with suspicious eyes, shunned and in many cases and cast out by his community from which he once lived. He seeks employment, but nobody wants to hire him because he is an ex-con. The employer will either make excuses or will outright say, “we don’t want to take any chance on you and so you turn and walk away. He goes to church with hopes that the people there will accept him, for he was told while he was in prison to go to church when you get out. Again, he is given the cold shoulder and shunned by the people.

With all of this rejection, he comes to the place where he says, “what’s the use? At least in prison I had a place to live, I had 3 meals a day and I had my friends.” Then he goes out and commits a crime so he can go back to prison where he feels wanted. The world would say that they knew it wouldn’t last. Then they use this as their statistic to prove that prisoners shouldn’t be paroled.

This may not be true in all cases, but it is in many cases. How do I know? Because when I was on the outside for sixty five years, I saw the attitude and I am sorry to say that in most cases that was my attitude also. I see through different eyes now after being in prison for over five years. You will never know what it is like unless you walk in these shoes for a while. Then maybe your eyes too will be opened.

Here are some thoughts I want us to consider when we talk about jailhouse religion.

THE TRUTH NEEDS TO BE GIVEN: John 8:32 says: “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” The truth is about the Son of God and His Word. Jesus said in verse 36, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” How many are shackled by sin and shame and cannot find a way out? Why? It’s because they have not heard the truth that can break the shackles. There are so many false religions that want the ears and minds of these precious souls. If you just saw all the books and pamphlets that circulate through these prison walls.

Not only is a man shackled by the sins in his life, but now he is shackled by a false religion. Jesus said in John 5:39 “Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are which testify of me.” How important it is to get the truth of God’s Word into the hands and hearts of these dear men. Just remember what Jesus said in John 14:6, “Jesus said unto him, I am the Way, the truth and the life and no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” This is the only hope for men and women who make up the prison system. They need to hear that God loves them so much that He sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on Calvary’s Cross for their sins. If they accept the Lord Jesus into their hearts as the repentant thief on the cross did, Christ will wash away all of their sins by His blood that was shed for them. Let’s read Romans 3:24 and 25, “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of Him which believe in Jesus.”

Christ is the hope for all prisoners. They must know the truth, they must believe the truth and they must accept the truth into their hearts. If they will repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, then and only then will their lives be transformed. ACCEPTANCE: I thank God for the words that Jesus said to the repentant thief when he trusted Christ, “Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” This was acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ himself to a transformed thief. If the Lord will accept a prisoner, why can’t God’s people do the same? Someone once said, “The ground is level at the foot of the cross.” It does not matter to God who you are or what background you come from, all men are sinners in need of a Savior. When they come to Christ for salvation and get saved, not only does the Lord accept them, but every born again believer should accept the repentant sinner into their fold. Paul said in Galatians 6:1, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” I am so thankful today, through some turned their backs on me when I was arrested, there are those who stood by me over these nearly 5 ½ years that I have been in. They have accepted me for who I am, forgiven me and pray for me. Praise God for such dear people.

FELLOWSHIP: I can’t emphasize enough how important it is for those on the outside to pray for and to encourage the saved prisoners. Jesus said in Matthew 25:35 and 36, “For I was hungry and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: naked and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me.” When questioned when they did these things unto the Lord, He said in verse 40, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, verify I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” It is Christ like to do these acts of kindness.

These twelve by six walls begin to close up on us prisoners. What a tremendous blessing it is to get a letter from the outside with words of encouragement, to get a visit from someone from the outside who has been approved to visit a prisoner or to receive a book or a Bible for some prisoner in need. What am I saying? Adopt a prisoner, show your Christian love and be a friend to some prisoner in need. Paul said in Colossians 4:18, “Remember my bonds (chains).” Then the writer of Hebrews says in 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; exhorting one another and so much more, as ye see the day approaching.” Fellowship is so needed.

In conclusion, we talked about jailhouse religion. Yes, there are those who get religion in prison that is not genuine. But then again, there are those who are truly born again believers. How important it is for you folks on the outside to give the truth to these prisoners, accept them when they get saved and be a friend who will keep up with them and fellowship with them. Many of these people will get out someday. What you do with them now can determine the kind of Christian they will be when they get out. Once again, in Colossians 4:18, Paul says, “Remember my bonds (chains).”

By **Brother Donald Domelle**

God Will Provide

My story starts 10/29/1980, the day I was born. I came into this world struggling. I was not breathing and had to be helped. During my childhood I received a lot of abuse; physical, mental and sexual, which made me bitter and angry. I also had a hard time making friends or talking to people. My confidence and esteem were gone. I didn't know who I was.

I tried first with the wrong type of people. I would be the "thug". I thought I needed to be like this to be liked. Drugs and alcohol helped to numb the pain and to come out of my shell. At the age of 18, I got my first strike. After my release I got my girlfriend pregnant and 2 years later she delivered my second child. Having kids did not slow down my drug use or my crimes. She eventually left me, which sent me off the edge. Then I used a lot more. I was in and out of jail. I continued to do crimes and used meth.

The drugs no longer worked to numb my feelings, which made me even more angry. I burnt a lot of bridges with real friends I had. I didn't trust anyone and hated myself. On January 2, 2009 I was arrested for burglary and two months later was given my second strike and sent to prison for four years.

The first two years I did the normal convict things, but October 7, 2010 I accepted Christ and since then, my outlook has changed. I now love myself as well as others. I have self-confidence and esteem. God is using "my past" to His glory. I share my story with other inmates and I can reach them. I have found myself and I know who I am and that's a child of God.

I will be paroling in 8 months and I am going to continue to serve the Lord. I want to be able to help others like me, if God is willing. When I parole I will be homeless with no one in my life but God and is okay because the Lord will provide. Thank you for reaching out to us, inmates. It really brings a light into this dark world.

Thank you and God Bless,
Charles Kempthorne

California Three Strikes Reform Act for 2012

A Three Strikes Reform Act for 2012, written and prepared by a coalition based at Stanford University, has been submitted to the Attorney General and is awaiting title and summary for inclusion on the November, 2012, ballot.

The re-sentencing provisions of this Act are:

■ Prisoners currently serving life sentences for non-serious, non-violent crimes that would not result in a life sentence under the new law can apply for a sentence reduction. A judge must reduce the prisoner's life sentence to a term of years no less than double an ordinary sentence unless the sentence reduction would cause "an unreasonable risk to public safety."

■ The burden is on the prosecution to prove by a preponderance of evidence that the prisoner is an unreasonable risk to public safety. The prisoner must be re-sentenced to the shorter sentence if the prosecution cannot meet this burden.

Families to Amend California's Three Strikes - FACTS |
3982 So Figueroa St #210 |
Los Angeles | CA | 90037

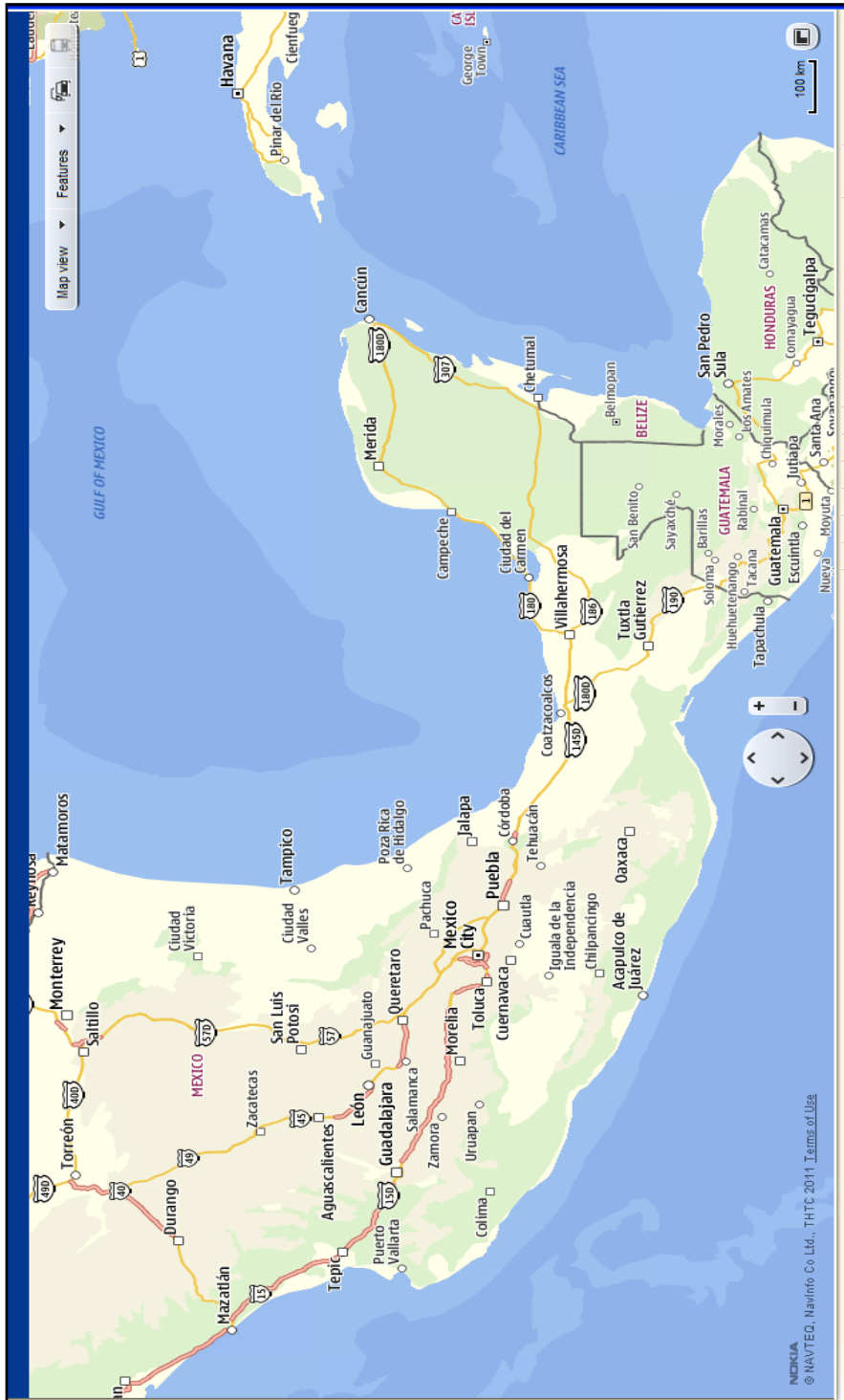
■ A prisoner will have a right to a court-appointed attorney at any re-sentencing hearing.

■ All relevant evidence can be considered at the sentencing hearing, including but not limited to: prison disciplinary records (both positive and negative reports), health records, family support, sobriety, and employment prospects.

■ An estimated 3,000 inmates will be eligible for a new sentence under this initiative. For the complete proposed text of the Act as submitted, contact FACTS.

Although many would like a more encompassing Initiative we at FACTS are prepared to support the passage of this step forward in the 2012 election.

Bob and Linda's Much Needed Resting Vacation



What a wonderful time for Bob and Linda to actually get away from work, and the heavy schedule they try to keep. Yes, we actually went to Akumal Beach Resort (about 1 hour south of Cancun and 3 hour drive to Belize) for 8 days of TOTAL relaxation, laying on the beach, and snorkeling on the 2nd largest reef in the world (next to Great Barrier Reef in Australia).



Beaches were perfect and so nice to spend time together just walking and admiring. We went snorkeling with sea turtles, sting rays, 6 foot barracuda, 4-foot giant parrot fish, schools of squid swimming in formation, a couple of eels, and possibly the largest selection in the world of tropical fish.



Private road into our resort



Resort rooms blended right in with thatched roofs for Mayan and Caribbean look



Beach outside our room with fishing and diving boats



Even with all the ocean, there was a beautiful pool (actually 4 of them)



We took a tour of the Mayan ruins of Tulum



It was hard to imagine these structures being around for 400 to 600 years



Tulum was a Mayan major seaport for trader traffic





Every beach was beautiful. This one was the cliff side of Tulum.



At least 7 security check points with someone guarding on the property for guest safety.



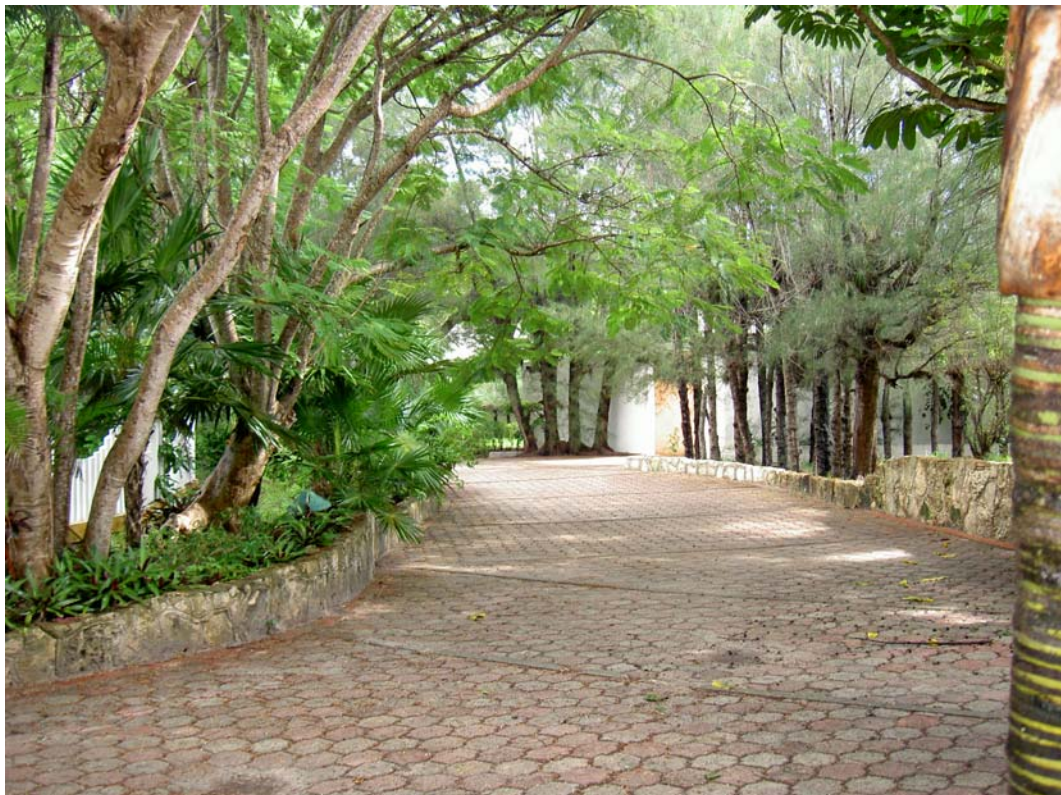
Mayan ritual of rope descent.



The platform would spin as the ropes unwound and the “warriors” descended



Beach was raked and seaweed picked up every morning. Beach outside our room



Pathway between rooms



Sunrise photo shot by Linda – Bob did not get up that early.



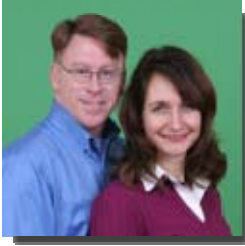
Of course there was wildlife everywhere. The Iguana basking in the sun was common.



With the thatched roofs, you often found birds, lizards, geckos, and others dropping in.



Bob & Linda's Family Life – “A Weekend to Remember



Ben and Janet Burns

Ben is the national director of College Prep Seminars, which prepares high school seniors for the spiritual challenges of college life. He has a master's degree in Exegetical Theology and is a professional comedy improviser with ComedySportz™. Janet has a B.S. in dietetics from Colorado State University and is an A.C.C. certified professional coach. She has served with Campus Crusade for Christ in various Human Resource leadership roles. Janet and Ben live in Portland, Oregon, with their three children.



Bob and Judi Maddox

Bob graduated from Calif. State University, Fresno with a degree in criminology and Judi in nursing. They served as staff members with Campus Crusade for Christ for 13 years. Bob has been a pastor since 1990 at Good Shepherd Community Church near Portland, Oregon. They were married in 1974 and have raised 5 children who are all married and have 3 grandchildren.

December 2-4, 2011, Bob and Linda attended a 3 day seminar on Marriage Encounter. The weekend was a GREAT time together and much was learned, as we encountered a deeper relationship than we thought possible. Many of you have followed Linda and Bob over the past 2 or 3 years (some for 9 years) as we have tried to spend more time in our relationship. Doing ministry together has been a source of strong bonding for both of us.

Bob has done things like buying Linda her Jeep for a birthday gift, her Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle for a Valentines gift. Taking two trips to Tucson, AZ, a trip to Phoenix, AZ, two trips to Pahrump, NV, a trip to Oregon, and the GREAT vacation to Cancun, Mexico.

We have also had the troubled times. There was the May 2011 Bill Glass Ministry incident of the wheel coming off Linda's Jeep as we slowed down from 70 MPH to turn off the freeway. Dec. 8, 2011, Bob had his 16' car hauler flatbed trailer stolen from in front of his house. There have been the tractor repairs, and the tree damage on the retreat properties.

Truly the devil does not give up with the things he throws our way, but the more he throws, we know the madder we are making him. Instead of causing defeat, the more he throws, the stronger the bond with Christ becomes. You see, we have read the last chapter in “The Book” and we KNOW who wins.

Envelope Art
Drawing by
Johnny Phillips



When times seem troubled,
And we have the feeling of fright.
When times seem dark,
Jesus is our Light

So as we look out into that dark,
No need to fear the night.
The Lord is our Shepherd,
He provides the light.

Chaplain Bob