

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 81 – Nov./Dec 2013 (Published since Oct. 2003)

“I Can Only Imagine”

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

Watch our website
www.MovingOnMinistry.com

We are also affiliated with International Prison Fellowship
www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Fellowship

Our mailing list has cleared over 750. The time required for designing the newsletters, printing, folding and stuffing the newsletters, applying postage and printing the envelopes has become great. We get behind on letter replies, and may occasionally miss one. Please write back if we do not answer, and write clearly so we can get the information correct. **We would like to know of the impact we are having and also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing.**

Intentions & Wishes

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

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

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

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

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

Addresses to contact our Ministry Volunteers

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

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

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

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

**Set Free Prison Ministries
Bible Correspondence Course
P.O. Box 5540
Riverside, CA. 92517-9986**

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

**Crossroad Bible Institute
P.O. Box 900
Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900**

**International Prison Ministry
Bible, Dictionary, Concordance
P.O. Box 2868
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2868**

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**" (40 pages), the "**Pen Pal Friends**" (12 pages), ALL past newsletters ("**Letter From M.O.M.**"), inmate lookup links, and artwork are available to be viewed or downloaded.

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

Ask for a copy of our **48 page**
"Resource List"

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

\$.46 for Pen pals

\$.86 for Resources

\$.46-\$1.16 for Newsletter

(Donations Welcome)

Sharing Your Testimony

There are 4 parts to an individual's testimony;

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

The importance is not what you have done, but what God is doing.

1. Your testimony
2. Your life lessons
3. Your godly passions

4. The Good News

I would like to add that we have shared many wonderful testimonies. Many individuals are afraid to share their testimony because they are not sure what to write or feel inadequate in their writing ability. God's Word says in **Jeremiah 17:9** that "**the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**" When the heart is changed by Christ it becomes the center of where God works from in our life.

Chaplain Bob & Linda

Let me start by saying thank you for the time you both took to send me the letter I got on 7-26-13. It really hit home Chaplain Bob! Not sure how or why you sent it, but thank you. Unless you have spoken with one of my family members, you couldn't know that my mother passed last week. She was 95 y/o. She had a long beautiful life. But when I opened the letter and it said Letter From "MOM" and the verse PSA. 61:2, I said it is a letter from my Mother. She is looking down here still trying to take care of her son! This is really a sign from "God" and my "Mom" telling me it is time to let Him back into my life. I'm sure of it Chaplain Bob & Linda. When we laid my mother to rest, as the father was reading out of the Bible, I was saying the words right along with him. My granddaughter was standing right next to me after the father finished the prayer. She looked at me and asked me how I knew all the words to the prayer for she had never heard me pray, nor did she even know I knew how to. I saw a whole different look in her eyes. She was not looking at a man that has been in and out of prison and jail. She was looking at me like this is the dad I want. She's my granddaughter but she has lived with me and my wife all her life, so I'm "dad", my wife is "mom" and her mom is "Amber." Not only this letter is a sign but the day my mother passed, Chaplain John came to talk with me. We prayed for my mother and myself. Then when I came back to the unit, brother Jorge came into the unit. He came straight to my cell up top. What other reason could there be other than "God" sent him. I'm sure of it. There are a lot of cells (48) as you know and I am on the top tier in the middle and he came to my cell!! Chaplain Bob can you come up with anything else? ***Sir! Do you still come out here (BWDF)? If yes, PLEASE come to my cell.*** Well my friends Mr, & Mrs. Bob (there is no last name - LOL) My out date is xx-xx-xx. Is your church still at the ball park?

HenryB.

My Story
By **Richard Schmidkofer**

I was born on 01/28/1972 and raised by my parents until the age of 12 years old. We had our ups and downs. My parents did their best to take care of me but I was a wild child at home and in school. My dad was a drinker and my mother most of the time soap watcher so I had to do things by myself in the daytime unless I was in school. My parents liked when I had school. I will admit I had some good times with them. I went fishing with my dad sometimes. A couple times we took trips too, but they still had trouble taking care of me.

Then I went into a foster home. I lived with this family from 12 years old to 19 years old after I got out of school. I had some problems there too but they knew how to take care of me. They also were Catholic so I went to church every Saturday until they got tired of me passing out and I'd have dizzy spells when they'd have communion, so they stopped allowing me to go to church. I heard about God on the radio a few time but did not understand it. Also some at school middle school was passing out small N.T. Bibles so I got it and read it sometimes but still I did not have relationship.

After the foster home, I went to live into an Independent Living home with staff that helps you out. I lived there for a couple of years. On January 1992 when I was 20 years old my grandfather died and that was hard for me. About a few weeks later this staff told me about this Christian concert and I told her, "Why the f__ should I believe in a God that would kill my grandfather?" She kept talking to me about it I gave in and went to the concert. I felt a pull when the altar call was made. I thought it was her but it was not. I went up and gave my life to Jesus. That was the best day of my life. I was then looking for a church and my friend took me to this church and I liked the church.

I was in this church for about one year but I could see something was missing so I prayed to God for a stricter church. You need to watch what you pray for as God will answer. I had a couple people knock at my door. I went to this church that does not believe in watching movies, no long hair, no jewelry for either male or female. So of course I was not getting rid of my rat tail. I got a little rebellious from this church.

I had an eye opener from God and I got kicked out of the church even though I confessed to the church. Then I did not trust a church for a while. The Mormons took me in for a while but I thought they were the true church but now I know they are not.

At first I was getting in trouble with small things, like having my radio too loud. I got that fine a few times. Then I was on probation for battery. The crime right now is for 1st degree of a child.

When I went to prison a brother took me under his wing and took care of me in my walk with Christ. I was baptized under water and then a few weeks later started speaking in tongues. At first I did not know what I was saying or did I have an evil spirit in me. I was told I have the Holy Spirit in me. Praise God for that. I'm still not perfect. I still need work in my life. I still struggle with sexual sin and I know what the Bible tells me to do. I hope my testimony will help somebody.

Why would we do it?

An inmate has been convicted of 1st degree murder with kidnapping. The mother of his 4 ½ year old daughter says she wants to marry him. Our first thought is that this is not a good idea. The inmate says he is questionable of following through with marriage, due to the fact of wanting to know “why she would do this”? The chaplain explains that the marriage must **ALWAYS** be a three way marriage, Bride – Groom – and God. The inmate says “YES that is what I am talking about.” He requests to “talk to her and find out why she wants to marry me.”

We take the future bride and their precious daughter out to dinner. She explains that there was an offer to do the 10 minute wedding for \$400 and we feel that the offer is nothing more than a business contract. The person offering the wedding does not really know these people. They have not done the 5 months of weekly discussion with R.J. like the chaplain has. The future bride explains she is holding down two jobs to provide for her daughter and the amount of money will take a while to raise. We discuss the trials and tribulations of entering into this type marriage. Her replies are “I love him,” “I give my life for him,” “I dedicate my life to give to him,” and “I want to spend eternity with him.” As we listen to the dedication this woman has for this man, we are reminded of the love Jesus Christ had for us at the cross. Why would anyone put their faith in the “condemned” Christ? Why would this woman put her faith in this “condemned” inmate? Although this inmate’s life had not been one made in Heaven, the marriage (much as the crucifixion) was one made in Heaven. It is not about the struggles, but about overcoming the struggles. It is giving ALL to the relationship. It is TRULY for better or worse. The wedding did get performed and the chaplain doing the service dropped all expenses except for the license fee (\$95) and the notary fee (\$10), which the bride gladly paid.

R.J’s Letter after the wedding

First off, may our God’s love, grace, and blessings be with you and your family. Thank you for helping me and Noemi with this beautiful dream come true. We highly appreciate it Bob. I know and believe you were an answer to my prayers. I remember asking God that if he wanted for me to marry Noemi, while in here, to give me a sign and provide financially. I had made up my mind to wait until I got out and if bad came to worse, and I got life, then I wouldn’t marry. But look at us now. God had something else in mind. It was a struggle at first and I almost backed off. If it wasn’t for my Lord’s strength and guidance, for he showed me signs, even dreams, like I don’t get. But he opened my eyes to see His perfect work/plan was going to be in this marriage, and just at the right time too. And now I’m glad I listened, and everyday I’m trusting Him to help me and Noemi grow spiritually in love, grace and truth. I don’t know what exactly to

expect next, but I do know that in it all, my God, our living and mighty God, will be there with me and my family. Now He can bless us even more. Again God's showing/teaching me His faithfulness, love, mercy, grace, compassion and truth, and it's just the beginning. So please help me pray that Noemi and me may keep seeking our God & Lord, that we may know our calling on this Earth, as we wait "out date" to our real home in Heaven that is.

At times I feel like them when they visit me thru a glass window. They hear me, and talk to me, and even see me, yet can't touch me, hug me, kiss me, etc. I feel the same way when I fellowship with my (Heavenly) Father in Heaven, and I so desire to hug Him, kiss Him, touch His hands and feet, where the nails were dug into. But until then, all I can do is wait, serve, love and fellowship with Him. On that date, my wife and I will be in our real home in Heaven with our family and kids. Cause when I get out, this won't be my real home. Nope, like a few days at Holiday Inn, life's short (Isa. 40:6-8), right?

Well Bob, thank you and Linda for the support. Honestly, you've done more than most of my own and my wife's family has. But, it's OK, because it's not their fault. They're blinded by the enemy. We were there at one time. So now may our God use us to show them, and reflect Jesus to their lives. It's not going to be easy, but with Christ we can do all things because He strengthens us. May our God bless you and your home, and ministry (M.O.M.) as well. You have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to us and many more. . .

Ruben J.

From the Heart, From the Pocket

Many of the inmate's lives have been changed by a change of the heart. M.O.M. does not take credit for the change but gives it all to God. M.O.M. is blessed to be able to plant the seed for the glory of God. Some of the credit goes to financial volunteers like **Jeanne** (mom of M.O.M.), **Greg & Vickie M.** with cash donations, **Ray and Alicia V.** with postage support, **Mark** (Corcoran inmate) with \$100, **Dr. Paul G.** with cash donations, **Joe & Aleisha C.** cash donation, **Autumn D.** (Oregon inmate) with \$97 donations, **Ruben J.** (Visalia inmate) with postage stamps, Felony Foundation \$50, many inmates with stamps or cash donations, and of course \$100's donated each month by **Bob, Linda** and **Carol**.

The newsletter active mailing list is at 730 names with about another 400 mailed or handed out. Figuring mailing (\$.46 X 800 = \$368.00 per mailing) is our biggest expense. Follow-up on letters (\$.46 each), requests for Resources List (\$.86 each) and Pen Pal lists (\$.46 each) adds a lot of expense to postage providing for indigent inmates, not counting cost of printing.

If you know of a church, ministry or individual(s) interested in supporting jail/prison ministry. Please refer them to **Moving On Ministry**. M.O.M. is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

Over Crowding of Prisons



Adam Skolnick

The Fiscal Times

February 9, 2011

The prison system in the U.S. is in crisis mode. States across the country are grappling with massive **budget shortfalls**, much of which can be credited to the runaway growth of prison budgets over the past 25 years. At **\$50 billion** spent on corrections a year nationwide, it's the second-largest state expenditure **behind Medicaid**. To put it another way, one out of every 15 state dollars is spent on corrections in this country. Not coincidentally, one in 31 American adults are adrift in this bloated corrections matrix, stretching resources razor thin.

California's prison system, the **second largest** in the country, has had its budget slashed for two years running, and its prisons filled to over 160 percent capacity (some as high as 240%). Thirty-three of them are operating at double capacity. Temporary beds, half of which are filled by probation or parole violators, are triple stacked in gyms and classrooms and crowding out sound rehabilitation programs. Sometimes two and three inmates share a cell designed for one man. Recent court rulings have mandated the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent capacity by 2012 (still being worked on). All of which has forced the state to fashion solutions that look, at first blush, like a gamble.

It costs \$44,563 to incarcerate a prisoner for a year in California — nearly the same price as a year at Harvard University with room and board.

According to state projections nearly 23,000 prisoners in California have been released on what has been called **Non-Revocable Parole** (NRP) over the past year. These prisoners, all of whom are non-violent and deemed to be low risk re-offenders, will not be released early, but once they are they will be on their own to sink or swim in the community, with no oversight from parole officers. The idea is to ease the case burden on the parole system, reduce the Department of Corrections budget and perhaps most importantly, reduce overcrowding in prisons.

There is certain to be some budgetary benefit. It costs \$44,563 (the average for the U.S. is \$28,817) to incarcerate a prisoner for a year in California — nearly the same price as a year at Harvard University with room and board. And nationally half of all state prisoners are incarcerated for probation or parole violations. However, there is no conclusive research to suggest how these ex-cons will function in society with no oversight from a parole officer. Unemployment among ex-offenders is common, and many will likely end up on **state welfare**. The first 14 months are critical for an ex-con's transition back into the community, and having no state help with job placement or continued rehabilitation could put them right back behind bars. "Think of this economy we're in. We have people with master's degrees applying for entry-level jobs. How is a prisoner going to compete?" asks Terry Thornton of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Which begs the question, would leaving them out to dry actually cut state spending, or simply transfer it?

California is not alone in the wilderness. **South Carolina's** prison population tripled between 1983 and 2009. Over that same period of time, spending increased by 500 percent to \$394 million, and not only did recidivism actually increase, the FBI ranked South Carolina at the top of per capita violent crime rate. With 3,200 additional inmates projected by 2014, an additional \$458 million in spending would be required. The good news is that all this pressure has produced some policy gems that may just reform the American **prison system** forever.

"Think of this economy we're in. We have people with Masters degrees applying for entry-level jobs. How is a prisoner going to compete?"

Recidivism is a vicious cycle for taxpayers as well as prisoners, but it's not completely unavoidable. When Le Blanc served as warden at Dixon State Prison, he brought the recidivism rate down to 38 percent from 47 percent on the strength of progressive re-entry initiatives. (California runs as high as 88%)

“Most of it is common sense stuff,” he says. “We make sure our inmates have a residence plan, a job or a potential job, and a continuum of care for substance abuse and mental health.” Before release, inmates also go through a basic risk-and-needs assessment, like the one implemented in **South Carolina**, to determine what kind of education or vocational training they want or need and there’s a community care component too.

It’s all very warm and fuzzy, yet such policies have been championed by the likes of Newt Gingrich and Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal. “It’s conservative states with conservative leaders that are out front tackling this issue,” says Gelb. The trend started in Texas, when in 2007 the state scuttled a plan to build eight new prisons at a cost of **\$2 billion** and replaced it with beefed up community treatment and supervision that cost **\$241 million**. The reason is clear, according to Le Blanc. “If we get these things accomplished, it’s going to bring down recidivism.” Which in turn will ease the **state’s financial burden**.

**Typically parole programs cost taxpayers
\$7.47 per day per parolee, while prisons
cost \$78.95 per day per inmate nationwide.**

Getting it accomplished won’t be easy. Le Blanc points to a statewide \$1.6 billion budget shortfall, which translates as a 35 percent cut, or \$151 million, from the corrections budget. Thankfully, hard times have ushered what Le Blanc sees as a new era of political collaboration in Baton Rouge, and he promises to maintain his re-entry initiatives. “If we want to reduce the prison population we have to maintain our parole and probation divisions,” he says. “Seventy percent of parole or probation revocations happen within the first 14 months. That’s for violent and non-violent offenders. They need to be connected, followed up with. You can’t just let them cold turkey out of prison.” Yet that’s what California continues to do.

There’s no argument that California is a state with its back against the wall. The budget for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation was slashed by \$1 billion in 2010, and under Governor Brown’s **new budget** the hope is \$1.4 billion more can be saved in 2011, but that includes a \$150 million reduction in rehabilitation programs at a time when recidivism is at an alarming rate — 67 percent and 55 percent of California’s inmates are locked up for parole or probation violations rather than a new crime.

To Really Be Free
by **Christopher Bunch**

Hi, my name is Chris and I'm a grateful born again believer in Jesus and a recovering addict. Paul tells me in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that old things have become new.....

I've been sober 14 years as of September 29, 2013. 13 of those years have been in prison, where I am currently serving a 35 year sentence for "possession of a controlled substance." (Welcome to Texas.)

I'm currently the General Service Representative for AA/NA here in my unit. I tell my groups each time I speak, that if you don't do something while you are here to change, there is no use leaving. Just stay here then. How do I know this? This is my fourth and final trip to prison. I know today I'll never get high or take another drink again. Paul says we are a new creature, however if we're not doing things while we're here to complete that change, then are we really changed?

Today I have a plan, whereas before I had no plan. Before, I'd get out get a bag of dope get high and go until I got busted. Today I have the will to not want to do that. I've turned my will over to the care of God.

I do many things today here in prison I've never dreamed of doing. I have sponsors, I those I am sponsor to. I have solid Christian friends who love me and who want me to succeed. We can be free right where we are. That's me today. I witness to others. I help others and I'm not afraid to ask for help today. I've gotten positive people in my life, volunteers who I have met who want me to call once I get out, who care about my recovery. I have a couple of wonderful friends who the Lord has blessed my life with. It is unreal the things God will do for us when we take that step forward with Him.

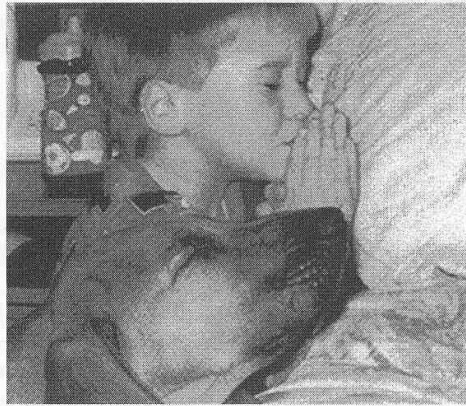
The change has to start right here in prison/jail. You can't say, "I'll do that when I get out" because you won't. You have to change your heart, spirit and mind while you are here. I've picked up many new principles to live by here. I can take that out to the world with me. I'm giving myself a chance this time but it all has started right here in this prison. So all I want to say is get involved now. Find a new way to live now. Give your life to Jesus. The seeds been planted in you, God waters it. Help others with planting seeds. Get involved in worship services, go to AA/NA groups, and get your GED and any other program available to you right where you are.

Change who you are right now and that way you won't come back here, as an inmate. The change starts inside of us. Then we will show that change to others and help them find that same change.

May God Bless you.

In His name, Chris (Texas)

FELLOWSHIP WITHIN AND BEYOND THE WALLS



THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT by Brother Gene

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and of the calling with long suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4: 1-3

Ephesians is one of the 13 epistles written by the Apostle Paul. In this inspiring writing, Paul urges the Ephesians to walk worthy of their calling. He instructs them and us today to live our lives in a manner befitting the divine invitation related to our salvation.

The Word of God spells out for us exactly what constitutes the worthy walk mentioned in verse 1.

Lowliness/humility, gentleness with long suffering/patience towards others, bearing with one another in love/going above and beyond to show love to others which maintains unity and harmony among God's people.

Love conquers all and it is by God's perfect love that we are able to become more than conquerors. God's love for us is not measured by human standards and it is this same kind of unconditional love that God wants us to know and share with others.

Bearing with one another in love is not something that we do through a thinking process alone. Unconditional love is a process that takes place in our hearts, in our souls and in our minds. God's love is real, and He wants us to be real when it comes to our relationships with each other and the love that we share.

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace should be a goal of every Christian; and this goal is attainable through love.

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment of the law? Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with your mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22: 36-39.

We must enhance God's love. We must allow love to be a part of every aspect of our lives. The world will know that we are Christians by our love.

LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER by Carol Ann

Ephesians 4 does an amazing job teaching us how to keep unity in the body of Christ. It teaches us to be humble patient, gentle, bearing with one another, keeping unity through the bond of peace. It goes on to say this in verse 15: speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Recently, I hurt my shoulder. I have never been injured before so I am not used to the aching. Sometimes I can't even sleep as my shoulder has this shooting pain going through it. I was sitting in my room, about to take a nap and I came across a note stuck in my Bible that says, "They were too busy for me." Earlier in the month I was thinking about why I had moved to a new congregation, a new body of believers in which to worship and the truth is what I just quoted, the people in the congregation "were too busy for me." Whether it was because they were all messy themselves or they literally were just too busy, the result was the same. There was something about my shoulder aching that connected me to how I'd been aching in fellowship; I was lost in the crowd and I felt alone.

Before I go on, I have to confess that I've spent the last 10 years going to worship, not having any idea how to develop a relationship. Before this recent attempt, I had never sought out fellowship before because I was not sure enough about myself to even approach someone. So for the first 10 years of my walk with Christ, I did not know how to fellowship. I worshipped and it was meaningful. There was nothing artificial about my experience with God. He and I have grown so much. But when it came to fellowship, I was just afraid. No one could read my mind. I can't blame anyone for not being able to read my mind. But when it came time for me to reach out and try and fellowship the truth is everyone seemed too busy for me.

This world, families, jobs, dysfunction, many, many things can take us away from the things that we need the most. We walk right past the people who need us the most. We have to get to dinner, or the ballgame, or over to the relatives house. Maybe what we are doing is leaving quickly because we don't want to be known. I did that for 10 years. But when the time came for someone to just notice that I needed fellowship, they were not able. I ached in that body of Christ, just like my shoulder is aching now. I have joined a new place to fellowship and I am determined to be known and to be open to knowing others. The awareness is in me to show the love we are to have for one another.

We need one another so much it just hurts sometimes, and when we hurt we need to reach out to others. We have a responsibility to let people know when we need prayers and when we need someone to cry with. God has given us instructions on everything that we need; Romans 12:15.

We are given gifts to use in His body and those around us need us to use what He has given. As Ephesians teaches, we are literally held together as His body by every supporting ligament. We build one another up. We each have to do our part. We can't just sit in the seat anymore, while the body aches. Brothers and Sisters are hurting. Often what I feel in our society is people are literally starving to death of loneliness, just aching to be known; 1 Corinthians 12.

I may not have all the answers for my life, but one thing I know for sure, God did not intend for us to make this journey alone. For so many years I was alone, I felt alone, I hurt alone; I was not able to reach out for help. I know it's a process to prepare a person to receive the fellowship. Life takes us all on so many roads, but the road to a healthy body is healthy muscles, healthy joints, and healthy bones. Just as I'm headed into physical therapy to work on my physical body, I want to take this time to encourage each of us to examine our lives, where we are in our journey and maybe we are the one who needs to reach out and ask for help and maybe we are the one to reach out to others. Wherever you are in your journey, please just do it. Please don't linger anymore. The body where you are worshipping needs you. Talk to others. Seek out what you need and give to the God's family what the Father has given to you. We need to love one another so, so badly; Phillipians 2: 1-4.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

DIRECTIONS

This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers.

The *Spiritual Gifts Survey* consists of 80 statements.

Some items reflect concrete actions; other items are descriptive traits; and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Number a paper from 1-80

Your response choices are:

5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me

4—Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me

3—Frequently characteristic of me/true for me—about 50 percent of the time

2—Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25 percent of the time

1—Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me

- _____ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
- _____ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.
- _____ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.
- _____ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.
- _____ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.
- _____ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when needed.
- _____ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.
- _____ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.
- _____ 9. I enjoy studying.
- _____ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.
- _____ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.
- _____ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.
- _____ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.
- _____ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.
- _____ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.
- _____ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.
- _____ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.
- _____ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.
- _____ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- _____ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- _____ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.
- _____ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- _____ 23. I am a cheerful giver.
- _____ 24. I spend time digging into facts.
- _____ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.

- _____ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- _____ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- _____ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- _____ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other lands.
- _____ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.
- _____ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- _____ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- _____ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.
- _____ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- _____ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- _____ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- _____ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.
- _____ 38. I am a generous giver.
- _____ 39. I am able to discover new truths.
- _____ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.
- _____ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.
- _____ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- _____ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- _____ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- _____ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.
- _____ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- _____ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.
- _____ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.
- _____ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.

- _____ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- _____ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.
- _____ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- _____ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.
- _____ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- _____ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- _____ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- _____ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- _____ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- _____ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- _____ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- _____ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- _____ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- _____ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.
- _____ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.
- _____ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- _____ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- _____ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- _____ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- _____ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- _____ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- _____ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- _____ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- _____ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.

- _____ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- _____ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- _____ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.
- _____ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- _____ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.
- _____ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- _____ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seem impossible.

SCORING YOUR SURVEY

Follow these directions to figure your score for each *spiritual gift*.

- Place under each item your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the box.
- For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

LEADERSHIP Item 6 + Item 16 + Item 27 + item 43 + Item 65 = TOTAL _____

ADMINISTRATION Item 1+ Item 17+Item 31 + Item 47+ Item 59 = TOTAL _____

TEACHING Item 2+Item 18 + Item 33+Item 61 +Item 73 = TOTAL _____

KNOWLEDGE Item 9+ Item 24 + Item 39+ Item68+ Item 79 = TOTAL _____

WISDOM Item 3+ Item 19 + Item 48+ Item 62+ Item 74 = TOTAL _____

PROPHECY Item 10+ Item 25+ Item 40+ Item 54+ Item 69 = TOTAL _____

DISCERNMENT Item 11 + Item 26 + Item 41+ Item 55+ Item 70= TOTAL _____

EXHORTATION Item 20+ Item 34+ Item 49+ Item 63+ Item 75= TOTAL _____

SHEPHERDING Item 4 + Item 21+ Item 35 + Item 50 + Item 76 =TOTAL _____

FAITH Item 12+ Item 28 + Item 42+ Item 56+ Item 80 = TOTAL _____

EVANGELISM Item 5 + Item 36+ Item 51+ Item 64+ Item 77= TOTAL _____

APOSTLESHIP Item 13 + Item 29 + Item 44 + Item 57+ Item 71 = TOTAL _____

SERVICE/HELPS Item 14 + Item 30 + Item 46 + Item 58 + Item 72 = TOTAL _____

MERCY Item 7+ Item 22 + Item 37 + Item 52 + Item 66 = TOTAL _____

GIVING Item 8 + Item 23 + Item 38 + Item 53 + Item 67 =TOTAL _____

HOSPITALITY Item 15+ Item 32 + Item 45+ Item 60+ Item 78 =TOTAL _____

GRAPHING YOUR PROFILE

NOW WHICH 3 CATAGORIES RATED THE HIGHEST SCORES ?

___ LEADERSHIP

___ ADMINISTRATION

___ TEACHING

___ KNOWLEDGE

___ WISDOM

___ PROPHECY

___ DISCERNMENT

___ EXHORTATION

___ SHEPHERDING

___ FAITH

___ EVANGELISM

___ APOSTLESHIP

___ SERVICE/HELPS

___ MERCY

___ GIVING

___ HOSPITALITY

Gifts for which the scores are **highest** are the ones in which you appear to be **strongest**. Gifts which are the **lowest** are your **weakest** Spiritual Gifts.

- **Leadership**—Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals (Rom. 12:8).

- **Administration**—Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task. Administration enables the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals (1 Cor. 12:28).

- **Teaching**—Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

- **Knowledge**—The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God's Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth (1 Cor. 12:28).

- **Wisdom**—Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body (1 Cor. 12:28).

- **Prophecy**—The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This builds up the body and leads to conviction of sin. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6).

- **Discernment**—Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body (1 Cor. 12:10).

· **Exhortation**—Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry (Rom. 12:8).

· **Shepherding**—The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Eph. 4:11).

· **Faith**—Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

· **Evangelism** —God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship (Eph. 4:11).

Now that you have completed the survey, thoughtfully answer the following questions.

The gifts I have begun to discover in my life are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

• After prayer and worship, I am beginning to sense that God wants me to use my spiritual gifts to serve Christ's body by _____.

• I am not sure yet how God wants me to use my gifts to serve others. But I am committed to prayer and worship, seeking wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts I have received from God.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.
