

Letter From M.O.M. Vol. 91 - Information Issue”

The Quarterly newsletter of Moving On Ministry
WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 91 – Jan/Feb/Mar. 2016 (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. Much of the articles are reprinted from our Nov/Dec 2012 newsletter.

Watch our website
www.MovingOnMinistry.com

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

Fellowship

We have now communicated with about 80% of the prisons in California, as well as writing to Africa, Egypt, India, Nepal, Ireland, and most all of the 50 states. We have also had communication to many foreign ministries thru email as a result of our web sites. We would like to know of the impact we are having and also cherish letters from inmates or relatives to the churches to let us know how we are doing

Intentions & Wishes

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

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

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

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

Addresses to contact our Ministry Volunteers

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

**Roads Prison Ministry (RPM)
Attn. Jacob
1021 S. Burke
Visalia, CA 93292**

**3 G Company
Correspondence
P.O. Box 1022
Canfield, OH 44406**

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.

Attitude

We get a lot of letters, and requests from inmates. A lot write to request pen-pals (usually of the opposite gender). **We are not a pen-pal service (and definitely not a dating service)** and provide **Resource List** but discontinued **Pen-Pal List**. Some write to request Study Bibles and Bible study courses. We do get some responses of ‘Thanks’ if/when we send the Resource List or current newsletter. Look how many ministries are not around because of lack of thanks or support.

Due to receiving complaints from inmates that some of the addresses do not write back and others are “Return to Sender” because of going out of business (as well as the cost of stamps to inmates), we have discontinued the 12 page Pen Pal List but provide the 56 page Resource List.
If you ask Special requests, they will be filled with the note of understanding that addresses are not guaranteed and change often. Postage on 6 X 9 SASE is: \$.93 for Resources and \$.49 to \$.71 for Newsletter.

Post Office 101

Postcards (std. size) are \$.34

(5) sheets of 8 ½ X 11 can be mailed for \$.49. 2nd and 3rd oz. are \$.22 each

That means (10) half-sheets of mail for \$.49. Group up for “Piggy Back Mail”

Who are Chaplain Bob and Sister Linda?

We have had a formal request from one of our inmate pen pals, Jason Ridge, for some background and history of Bob and Linda. Those of you that have been receiving the newsletter over the past 13 years or had Bob or Linda preach in your facilities over the past 15 years, probably have a better understanding of who we are. We have printed pictures of our trips we took so you could feel that you were with us. We have printed our testimonies (in this volume) so you can see the worlds we came from. This volume we are going to put some of the highlights of our relationship and answer some of the questions, like the following. Speak about childhood, school, college, how we met, how we became servants to the Lord, our hobbies, what it is like to reach out to so many, and story on kids.

Speak About Childhood

Bob's Childhood; was a blessing. I had a mother and father that would work two jobs each to provide for myself and my two younger brothers. Mom would work as a food and cocktail waitress evenings. Dad would work days in the heat of an aluminum foundry and then after 10-12 hour days would come home and do gardening for customers to raise more money. I was provided new shoes every year for school, clean clothes, and even music lessons for guitar. At a very young age of 4 or 5 in 1952, Bob's parents made sure he was in Sunday School and church at Evangelical Free Church in Fresno (now known as the 'Bridge'). I had offered God "control" of my life at a younger age. Did not give "ownership" of my life to God till Jan. 71 at the age 23 and did not get REALLY seriously committed with God till May 20, 1994, after God overcoming my suicidal feelings..

Linda's Childhood; One thing that I know for sure is that my mother was there to love me and care for me as a child through thick and thin. I was ungrateful during a time when I felt lost and had a pity party that lasted a few years. My mother told me things that I did not want to hear and I would not listen and was stubborn in my ways like an old mule. I was angry, vengeful, did not trust anyone and always thought that I was not good enough and always tried to be accepted and be around people that I believed cared enough but it was all lies. They were nothing but backstabbers and took whatever they could for their benefit only. My mother has to be treated with respect as the scriptures say. Honor thy mother and thy father, well my father was an alcoholic. I did not like what he did but he was my father and I loved him because he showed me to work hard for what I had. When he was sober he was complete opposite and showed us love and much family time, laughing, fishing, working together and all.. My mother taught me to survive no matter what, even though she would get beat up on weekends from my father's binges. I learned from my heavenly Father that He knew me before I was even born and forgave me for allowing people and circumstances to rule my life. I felt like the scum of the gutter and that everyone was against me so my bitterness ruled my heart and tongue. When I look back I remember saying things that it seems as if it was another person that did that....not me! Wow God has brought me out of the darkness that I lived

in for so many years due to my own selfishness and insecurity looking for love in all the wrong places. ☹

Schooling

Bob's Schools; Although living in the same house for all the school years, due to the constant reforming of boundaries, Bob went to one school for kindergarten, another for 1st thru 3rd grade, and another for 4th thru 6th grade. Junior high was an experience with running into those individuals that were trying to show force to make themselves appear strong, and probably the predecessors of modern gang members. High school was an experience as Bob met his future first wife (later to be the mother of his daughters) and spent most of his time trying to make it thru the classes on chemistry, physics, trigonometry, biology, and of course all the required ones like English, history, and government.

Linda's Schools; Linda was raised and grew up predominately in the Fowler, CA and Selma, CA areas where she attended school. Not being able to finish her high school years, she later received her G.E.D.

College

Bob's Many Colleges; Started out with going to Fresno Community College as a physics major. I dropped out near the end of the 2nd year of college to join the Air National Guard during the Viet Nam conflict. After finishing basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, and completing Aircraft Electrician training school at Chanute AFB, IL., as an honor graduate, Bob returned to marry his first wife. Bob graduated from the community college with his A.A. in general education. After moving to Eureka to attend California State University Humboldt, Bob went to work for Sears doing T.V. and appliance repair. While attending CSUH (Oceanography major) days Bob also went to College of the Redwoods (electronics and building codes) in the evenings. With the new jobs, and four years into the marriage we decided to have Vanessa, and 3 years later decided to have Linnea. Six years of living in Humboldt County, we decided to move back to the San Joaquin Valley of California. Bob took many different courses thru Community college of the Air Force. Bob went to the College of the Sequoias Community College to study further in electronics and computers. After 23 years of marriage and going thru a divorce (never recommended), Bob went back to college at California State University (both daughters' alma mater) with his oldest daughter, where he pursued an education in computer engineering. Due to financial responsibility Bob was not able to continue with the education over 3 semesters, while working two jobs. Getting into the computer and IT employment, Bob went back to West Hills College and took the five courses for Novell Network Certification. As Bob got pulled more towards Ministry, he started taking classes thru Trinity Bible College and Seminary.

Linda's College; I have worked law enforcement, taken classes for Business and Security, gone to Barclay College for Electronic Computer Programming Institute and done some Bible college. I was Supervisor for developmentally challenged and also

Supervisor for a merchandising team that set up all the holiday displays at Kmart, Orchard Supply, WalMart, and I really enjoyed it. Linda has now been employed for 15 years at Dept. of Child Social Services.

How we met

This was probably the most unusual of situations. Bob was employed in the I.T. (Computer) department of Tulare Co. Government. One of his duties was to design and instruct classes of 10-15 students of the 165 to 200 employees in the department he worked. Bob would have the class students write up a critique on the presentation and there would often be one of the group that would reply with “he drinks too much coffee,” “he talks too much about his skydiving,” or “he talks too long.” Bob wondered who it was that expressed these thoughts. You guessed it, it was Linda. Bob was dating another lady in the same department and Linda was dating another man in the same department. Bob’s girlfriend hired Linda to sing at Bob’s going away party when another corporation hired him. Bob enjoyed Linda’s self written songs such as one about skydiving to the tune of “Boot Scoot Boogie.” Not wanting to stare at Linda, especially with girlfriend there (ha ha), Bob tended to look the other way. Bob and his girlfriend broke up and Bob was in a long distance relationship. Linda later invited Bob over to her home to be a guest speaker at a party in her home for “English as a Second Language” students. Linda’s real plan was to line up Bob with one of her girlfriends. Bob was not interested. Later as Linda’s boyfriend ignored her at the party, and left early, Linda was standing on the top step of the porch and Bob on the bottom (remember the height difference) and Linda leaned on Bob’s shoulder and cried so much, Bob felt like he was getting a shower. We decided to go to the show the next week as friends and saw Vertical Limit (very tense movie) and not being able to go home and sleep we got together for coffee and talking. We both decided to drop the individuals we were seeing and date each other. About 6 months later we got married, but not that easy.

I was going to surprise Linda by proposing to her at a Bar-B-Q I was throwing at the local Mooney Grove Park. I had invited about 200 people and over 130 did show up. Linda’s Brother is the magician, “The Great Jonathon,” and I booked him to perform with the intention that the last magic trick of the day would be the proposal. We were rushing to take care of everything and as I went over to pick up Linda from her home for the party, I put a rush on her to make sure everything was perfect (important to me) and Linda was thinking “I am glad I am not married to him.” The last magic trick of the evening, I pulled the ring out of the hat, while on one knee, and proposed to her.

Within a few months we booked a flight to Elko, Nevada which included 3 days and two nights for the motel. The package was a special 2 for 1 price and was about \$69.10 – airfare, motel, for BOTH. On the flight over, they do a drawing where you put your seat # on a dollar bill and they draw one, Yep, they drew Bob’s dollar and he got the \$118 in the drawing. This now paid for the flight, motel, meals, and even the wedding license. Linda became Bob’s wife on his birthday in Elko Nevada.

How We Became Servants to the Lord

Bob's Calling: goes back to before he ever heard God calling. There was a desire to know more about God at a young age.

The greatest influence in my life I would have to say was my earthly father. This man would do what ever he could to provide for his family.

When I was probably 8 to 12 years old, I had a Sunday school teacher named Malcolm that worked on planting God's Word in my life. As I entered middle school years, I bounced through a variety of churches because of going with friends and relatives.

As I was finishing my high school years, I started a job in a restaurant where I met a black man, Otis, who was the dishwasher, and an ordained pastor. I thought *I want nothing to do with this man because of his religion.* I was accepted to California State University Humboldt and moved to Eureka, CA. I was hired to do television and stereo repairs. The manager of the shop came to me and let me know that he was a pastor of a local church. Again I thought *"I'll stay away from him"* but that was not God's plan. I began to think *"either this man has something real or he is totally nuts."* I decided that I would ask some questions, and so we would spend lunch together in his Volkswagen and discuss Bible reality.

In January 1971, at the age of 23, I finally told Him, **God I accept you as Lord and Savior and want you in control of my life but (1) don't expect me to work with youth, (2) never expect me to be involved with inmates, jail or prison ministry and (3) do not expect me to go to some God forsaken country like Africa as a missionary.**

As I released those fears I had and let God have ownership, there continually were burdens being lifted.

While in Eureka, I became involved in teaching youth and running a youth group. This devotion continued when moving to Visalia.

I have been involved in jail/prison ministry for about 14 years now and can truly say it is my greatest blessing that was almost missed because of "trying" to say NO to God. Later in life, God revealed His progression pattern for me to follow;

1. Sin
2. Salvation
3. Separation
4. Sanctification
5. Soul Winning
6. Stewardship
7. Service

In 2005 we met **Bruce Wilkinson** in Tulare, CA, who had quit his ministry of **Walk Thru the Bible** and moved to Africa to start a ministry called **Dream For Africa**. We decided it was time to sign up and went to Swaziland in January 2006.

Ask for the Swaziland Special Edition newsletter.

Linda's Calling; What a great God we serve!!

About Me

Well most of ya'll have read my testimony and since I was asked for a little more.....well here goes. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ I am 62 years old, dozens of grandchildren and 3 Great-grandchildren, have worked for county agency last 15 plus years ,

My whole world changed when I allowed the Lord to do His will in my life not my will. I have done singing telegrams and balloon bouquets for about 25 years and incorporate singing Christian songs whenever and wherever I go with the jail & prison ministry. I do some sewing and actually most of these hobbies I do are all stress relievers! Everyone should try a variety of things. There is only one thing that could be



a hindrance. Remember that old saying of: "Jack of all trades and Master of none", Do one hobby or education training until you are a master of it. Do not give up on it or yourself. Whatever it is that you do well is pretty much what God has gifted you with so go with that. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you daily to use your gift fully. Use it or lose it. You want to be a winner you have to hang around winners! Remember that you can choose to go the right path for His glory or you can choose to be a loser. That is what the enemy of your soul wants for you.

Don't believe it, it is all lies.

I thank God for bringing Bob into my life as God used us both to minister and do missionary work in Africa and many other states. I have worked many a grape field, cotton fields, drove tractors for just about all kinds of farm work in my younger years and chopped much wood to keep my family warm, not afraid of hard work at all. Thanks to my father who was very strict in teaching us to work all areas of fieldwork and tending the vegetable garden and chicken coop. Thanks to my mother who taught us to cook everything homemade, wash clothes by hand and to give us encouragement to try to make the best of whatever came our way.

My time is spent going to visit people in their homes, hospitals and encourage them and give them hope and also ministering to the homeless while giving out food or clothes. I enjoy singing to my grandkids, I have written articles and short stories that have all been published. As an actress, art, photographer, drama director, I encourage everyone to use their God given gifts in this life. I will never forget Fabian Cordova, he was my drama director. I learned so much from him and it really helped me to have more self confidence in myself. If anyone remembers "Gunsmoke", Fabian was the little Mexican kid (about 8 years old) on that program and many others and starred in General Hospital. I also met his father, Anthony Cordova who was such an inspiration to me. Anthony was also on "Arabian Nights". So many people are just wandering around in life without fully using their gifts. There is potential in everyone.

I believe that my attitude toward life and the love for God keeps me looking and acting young.....hee hee hee :->)....I appreciate every breath that I take and look at every situation as a positive.

You can meet a person once and leave an impression to last a lifetime. Your attitude could "Effect or Affect". Just think about that. I have gone thru hell and back and decided that I want "Life" and until it is time for me to leave this rest stop of life I will smile every day for the rest of my life and still do ministry at prisons/jails and help where needed or where God sends me. Life is too short and I do not want to miss anything.

I have asked forgiveness from anyone that comes to mind that I might have said something to offend them. Believe me the weight was lifted off of my heart and mind the minute I did that because that is what the Lord would want me to do. It might seem weird but it is one of the first things that I knew I had to do and I have never been the same.

God is for real and will never let you down. Trust your Map of Life that the Lord has left for you: your Bible. Read it daily and praise Him in the good times and the bad times. Be the man or woman of God that He intended you to be and one day I pray that we will get a postcard or something about you speaking in front of a congregation testifying on how great God is and what he has done in your life. Please keep us updated and we will continue to encourage you. You never know you might go back to jail but do ministry like we do! "the other side of the bars" ☺Well, enough words for now. You can do it. Read the scriptures: **Psalms** for comfort, peace and assurance and healing of your mind, **Proverbs** for wisdom and guidance. Be fishers of men, trust that the Lord supplies all of our needs and will never give us more than we can handle.



In Christ Jesus, Linda

Our hobbies

Bob's Hobbies, Bob has always been the type to seek thrills, but was normally shy and afraid of most rides. However, we saw the walls slowly chip away as Bob started climbing trees, and racing mini-bikes. The removing of walls would lead Bob into SCUBA diving, motorcycles, fast & exotic cars, rock climbing, and even skydiving (97 jumps). Bob had also got his private pilot license. Bob's favorite tee-shirt said, "*If you are not living on the edge, you are taking up too much room.*"

Linda's Hobbies; I like to create flower arrangements and design custom gift baskets. I have been a speaker for various groups and I put to use daily any and all creative skills God has blessed me with. Reading was and still is one of my favorite things to do. I have gone skydiving due to my husband Bob who just loves doing this and many other adventurous hobbies such as having gone parasailing.

What it is Like to Reach Out to so many

Bob's feelings; I believe that when you have something great you need to tell the world. Never did I believe that God would give us the chance, furthermore the large area, to share His message. We are overcome in letters and prayer requests. We write to individuals across the United States as well as the world. With the internet sites, we reach the entire world. We have learned that as life goes on, *“The big things become the little things, and the little things become the big things.”*

Linda's feelings; Well it is time to stay focused on the gifts he has given you to use for his glory. You can do it. If you fall don't dwell on it but get right back up and keep on the straight path. If you want to be a winner you have to hang around with winners and that is a fact. I have been through similar situations with relationships in my life and I had to choose my friends. You can have many so-called friends but in reality you only have acquaintances. Your true friends will tell you things you might not want to hear for your benefit. Your “so-called friends” will agree with you and not be around when you truly need them or just be there for what they can take from you or for what you can provide for them. It's sad to say that I let so many people in my life take advantage of me. No more. I know that I now serve a mighty and powerful God who loves me and has forgiven me for the ugly things in life that I brought upon myself.

Story on kids (separate, none together)

Bob's Daughters; Vanessa & Linnea (not bragging, just a proud father). Both daughters (Oldest is 43) were raised under a strict father (Bob) and their mother that mostly stayed home with them. They were raised in the church environment from birth in Eureka. They were put into Christian School thru elementary, and middle school. They were advancing so fast with straight A's that we feared they would finish high school by 13 years old. When starting high school, it was decided that the girls would go to public school. Upon graduation Vanessa went straight to the University, and got her B.A. in accounting and passed her C.P.A. certification. Linnea went to the Community College and then to the University (receiving her B.A.), and later to the University of Illinois and got her M.A. in Human Resources. Both daughters are married to Christian church going men and I have three granddaughters and an adopted grandson that are being *“raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* (Eph 6:4 and Prov. 22:6)

Linda's Children; I made it a point to ask my children for forgiveness for my failing them in my young years. I love my sons and daughters and grandchildren. I lost a 19 year old son to an automobile accident which changed my life forever in the way I view

life and if I would not have known the Lord the little bit I did during that time, I can only imagine where I would be now. I would like to say that all of my children are in church but that would be a lie. Both daughters did go to church faithfully and saw the importance of God's plan for their lives. That truly brought joy to my heart. I trust God with my every detail of life and all I can do is pray for them as it will be in His timing no matter how long it takes. I am very proud of them and their achievements. The scripture says in Romans 8:28 King James Version (KJV)

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Future Plans

Bob would like to develop the properties he has in Squaw Valley, CA, (5 acres), Tollhouse, CA. (8 acres), Elko, NV. (202 acres), and Bisbee, AZ. (8 acres). The plans that Bob, Jeanne (Mom of M.O.M.), and previously Bob's Dad when he was alive, had were to develop the lands into ranches to help the needy – those looking to develop a life praising God. As the economy has changed, we find it hard to even think of the expense of developing and pray that there will be some individuals or ministries that will network with us and finish these projects for the glory of God. We have had inmates, individuals, and even some ministries make statements of involvement, but we have been in God's Ministry long enough to realize that so many have good intentions, but things happen to stop the involvement.

We had one inmate that recently mentioned of wanting to purchase a short bus (approximately 24 passengers) to use for the ministry. As we thought of that, we realized that a bus would be a God sent and allow us to pick up those without transportation to attend church with us. Bus hasn't happened.

Linda enjoys singing and doing for the needy. You will often find her singing for chapel services in the prisons that we provide. She has been an originator and involved with "Feed the Hungry," an outreach being offered through a local church,

There have been many requests for Linda to cut an album of her songs. She even has access to recording studios at two of her brother's homes. We have had Heather Layne (national recording artist) do concerts for us in prison chapels and we have wanted Linda and Heather to do a duet.

What or Who is M.O.M.?

Many previous issues have had the testimonies of Bob and/or Linda. We would like to do a follow-up with exactly what is the M.O.M. ministry.

Moving On Ministry was formed by Bob (under the direction of Linda's prayers) in April 2002 with the visitation of the local facility, Bob Wiley Detention Facility (B.W.D.F.). Starting out with one weekly visit, Bob soon was authorized

to two visiting evenings to provide two chapel services on each evening. There were weeks that Bob also went to the facilities of Men's Correction Facility (M.C.F.) or Tulare County Pre-Trial. He managed to get a couple of weeks in with three evening visits, and one week even went into the main jail to get 4 visits that week. Approximately two years later in 2004, Bob and Linda were invited to start doing one Sunday monthly to provide 3 to 5 chapel services at Corcoran State Prison in Corcoran, California.

Many look at **Moving On Ministry** (M.O.M.) as a major size ministry with a lot of impact. M.O.M. has left a large "footprint" in the world of jail, prison, elderly and homeless ministry, but ALL CREDIT goes to God. God has blessed the resources provided through Bob and Linda, and used them to HIS glory.

The first publication of "**Letter From M.O.M.**". actually came out in October 2003. The first newsletter was under the name "**Free In Deed**" and kept that name for the first 9 volumes. Volume 1 (Oct. 2003) had 7 pages. Volumes 1 through 4 were being published on a quarterly basis. With volume 5 (Sept. 2004), we went to bi-monthly. Volume 10 had the name change to "Letter From M.O.M." With volume 18 (Nov. 2006), **Letter From M.O.M.** went monthly in publishing. The number of mailings continued to grow rapidly. Volume 48 (May 2009) found us going back to bi-monthly publications. The need to get more mileage out of the money invested also caused us to go to B & W printing instead of color. In the nearly 14 years, we have gone thru 8 color printers and 12 B & W printers due to the high volume of printing. The latest 2 printers for the B & W printing are HP LJ9000dn printers with everything you can imagine on a commercial printer. These would have a new price of approximately \$5000 each. Bob was blessed with the opportunity of buying them used at \$50 each from an agency that believed in what M.O.M. does. The current HP LJ8550 color printer would also have the same price range of \$5000 new, but was purchased from the same agency used for \$35. God has been a good provider, and we have to trust on Him completely. We currently pick up surplus printers for \$15 to \$50

Many individuals have thought we were complaining in the past about the expense of the ministry. In reality what Bob and Linda were doing is apologizing for the fact that they cannot do more. The ministry was predominately supported out of Chaplain Bob's pocket from his paycheck he received working full time for the County of Tulare. Linda also puts in money from her paycheck where she also works full time for the County of Tulare. The expenses reached as high as \$800 to \$1000 a month in 2007 and we had to make some decisions that hurt us, realizing we were extended in money and time as far as we could go. Bob normally puts in about 32+ hours a week in volunteer ministry. Bob and Linda are part of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, volunteers for Bill Glass Champions for Life, and active with International Prison Fellowship.

Income has become limited with Bob retiring from his secular job. We are a very open ministry because it all belongs to God. Our donations and income are openly shared.

Most correspondence requires \$.71 to \$.93 for the Resources List, and past newsletters and update letters. While trying to keep the newsletters to

maximum of 5 sheets of paper, which gives 20 pages printing ½ sheets on front and back, we are keeping mailings at the \$.49 postage each.

Beatriz gathers each month and does monthly birthday cards.

M.O.M. STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. There is one God, who is infinite and perfect. The eternal God has revealed Himself in three persons; as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
2. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is true God and man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross, the just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead and ascended to heaven. He is now at the right hand side of the majesty on High as our great High Priest. He will come again to rapture His Church
3. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, sent to indwell, guide, teach and empower the believer, and convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment
4. The Bible, consisting of the Old and the New Testament was verbally inspired by God and is the complete revelation of His will and love for all men. It constitutes the divine and only rules of Christian Faith.
5. Man was created in the image and likeness of God; he fell through Disobedience incurring, thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the personal acceptance of the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, get separated from sin, the worldly system and be fully dedicated to the will of God. This is a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion. The Holy Spirit equips the believer with supernatural power to witness and live holy and effectively for God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit can be manifested through many different spiritual gifts.
7. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the whole person; body, soul and spirit. Anointing the sick with oil can be done according to scriptures
8. The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood and are born-again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.
9. The local Church meets to worship God, to be edified through the Word of God, for prayer, for fellowship, for the proclamation of the ordinances of baptism and for the Lord's Supper.
10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, for the former, a resurrection unto eternal life (some after death and some during

- the rapture) and for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment (Great White Throne Judgement).
11. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is a reality and will be personal, visible, and will take place before the thousand year rule of Christ on earth.
 12. God's love for mankind is uncompromising, unconditional and fathomless. For this reason He sacrificed His only begotten Son Jesus Christ, in order to save those who believe in Him. The true believer enters a covenant relationship with Christ. Jesus paid the penalty for sin in mankind's place, in order to fulfill the righteous demands of a just God.

Chaplain Bob's Life

Many of those receiving this newsletter have asked for another printout of the testimony of Bob from past life to volunteer chaplain with jail and prison ministry and evangelism for church commitment.

I would like to share a story of the seeds planted in my life and the insight as I look back.

The greatest influence in my life I would have to say was my earthly father. This man would do whatever he could to provide for his family. The greatest reference of his nature was my mother's dearly love always for him.

When I was probably 8 to 12 years old, I had a Sunday school teacher named Malcolm that worked on planting Godly seed in my life. As I look back, I am sure there was the appearance of the seed going dormant, or even dying. As I entered middle school years, I bounced through a variety of churches because of going with friends and relatives. Still, any seed that may have been planted was basically "dead."

As I was finishing my high school years, I started a job in a restaurant where I met Otis, who was the dishwasher. He let me know that he was an ordained pastor. I thought I want nothing to do with this man. Otis would take the garbage out to the room to empty and would stay a little longer as he pulled his New Testament out of his pocket and read for his break. Then (the nerve of him) he would come back in and share with me about God's love for me and God's purpose for my life. I would tell Otis that I did not want to hear about it. I explained that my relatives would use the Bible and religion to tear apart and slay one another. I further explained that my feelings were that he read the Bible in the garbage room and that was where it belonged. God should have taken my life for a statement like that. I now am thankful that God did not remove my life on earth, because I would not have been going to be in His Heavenly presence. But God had another plan and had not given up on me. I was accepted to California State University Humboldt and moved to Eureka, CA. I have to admit that this was really God's country, but I still did not have a personal relationship with Him. As I looked for work, I found an opening in the service department of Sears. I was hired to do television and stereo repairs. The manager of the shop came to me and let me know that he was a pastor of a local church. Again I thought "*I'll stay away from him*" but that was not God's plan. I began to think "*either this man has something real or he is totally nuts.*" I decided that I would ask

some questions, and so we would spend lunch together in his Volkswagen and discuss Bible reality.

In January 1971, at the age of 23, I finally told Him, **God I accept you as Lord and Savior and want you in control of my life *but* (1) do not expect me to go to some God forsaken country like Africa as a missionary, (2) don't expect me to work with youth, and (3) never expect me to be involved with inmates, jail or prison ministry.**

As I went on in life, thinking I had cut the best deal I could with God, he started to reveal to me that he wanted me to release some of those things "I" was holding on to and fully submit my life to Him. This happened over an extended period of time and it seems God knew just the right timing and speed for me to grow (you might realize because He is the creator/builder). As I released those fears I had and let God have control of those objects, there continually were burdens being lifted. I now tell people that while people were getting high on weed in Humboldt County, I was getting high on the Spirit.

I became involved in teaching youth and running a youth group. While dealing with the youth, I noticed one principle that can be applied with our relationship with God. I took a group of youth out gold panning. All day long I watched the young men panning the gold. At the end of the day, I noticed the young ladies had the bottles of gold going home with them. When I asked how that happens, the ladies said that the men did it because of love and labored for the ladies. We actually get to take home the "Gold" at the end of "our day" while God was the one laboring for us all those days.

I had a friend that invited me to do jail ministry with him. I told him that I had told God "no" and he said that was probably a good reason to do it. I have been involved in jail/prison ministry for about 3 ½ years now and can truly say it is my greatest blessing that was almost missed because of "trying" to say NO to God. Later in life, God revealed His progression pattern for me to follow;

1. Sin
2. Salvation
3. Separation
4. Sanctification
5. Soul Winning
6. Stewardship
7. Service

Many people try to separate from the temptations of the world before receiving salvation. Others try to receive all God's blessings (sanctification) before they have separated from the sin of the world.

Read Ephesians 4 thru 6 and see if you can see this pattern revealed. Notice that 1 John displays the same progression, as does Colossians.

Now to get back to the "*but*" three exceptions I *had* to turning my life over to God. "*But #3*" was not doing Jail/prison ministry. Well, I have been blessed with 14 years of involvement as a volunteer with what God has called me to do. "*But #2*" was to not be involved with youth ministry. I have volunteered as Sunday School teacher, Youth director, AWANA Club boys director at 2 different churches, and organizer for youth outings. The final one, "*But #1*" was to not go to some God forsaken country like Africa as a missionary. I had made this known to those around me and one Wednesday afternoon, I had a pastor tell me that he thought I would have my passport by then. I said

“Oh, you read my testimony in the newsletter.” That evening at our church we had a guest speaker from Cameroon Africa. He then told of being involved with jail ministry too. As I went to talk with him after the service, he said he did not know why, but God told him to give me something – a snakeskin checkbook cover. Those that know me, know my snakeskin and ostrich boots are a trademark. Four incidents in one day? “OK, God, I will go.” I said.

We then met **Bruce Wilkinson** in Tulare, CA, who had quit his ministry of **Walk Thru the Bible** and moved to Africa to start a ministry called **Dream For Africa**. We decided it was time to sign up

We were truly blessed by the experience. **Ask for the Swaziland Special Edition newsletter.**

Update on Chaplain Bob

As some of you know, Chaplain Bob retired from his job with the County of Tulare, CA as the Data Center Administrator in December 2014. He only had 7 years back with the County and had previously worked as a computer desktop technician. As is typical with aging, Bob’s vision was getting blurred and his hearing weaker, so he decided to retire from his secular job. With the large cut in income, the M.O.M. ministry was going to suffer financially, since Bob and Linda were the primary source of money to run the ministry. However, Bob did not retire from his involvement in the M.O.M. ministry. He is still writing articles for the “**Letter From M.O.M.**” newsletter, printing the “**Resources From M.O.M.**” lists and planning to further do visits to facilities. What Bob, Linda and the volunteers are doing in the jails and prison yards must be disturbing the Devil because now Bob was diagnosed in early stages of **Parkinson’s disease** in October 2015. Latest thing Bob did for Linda was trading a small cash for a 1929 Mercedes Benz (replica).



Linda's Life



What a great God we serve!!

When my husband asked me to share my testimony I had a picture of my mother and father and the small towns of Fowler and Selma California in my mind. We lived in a three room house with only a light bulb hanging from the middle of the ceiling. There was no plumbing, no bathroom but we did have a woodstove. The outhouse was a distance from the house. We drew water from a well until we graduated to a pump. Years later my "daddy" and "mama" added pipes for a sink and we thought we were rich. We grew all of our own vegetables, had to go out to the henhouse to collect the eggs daily and took care of the Coolidge Ranch consisting of irrigating, pruning, picking grapes, driving tractor etc.... It was the neatest experience. It was survival.

We did not get into town very often so when we did it was a treat. We would visit my dad's family in Tulare and my mom's in Visalia California. If we went to church it was for a wedding, funeral, Easter or Christmas that I could remember.

The earliest experience of any prayer that I could remember was an elderly lady by the name of Nellie Metzler and her husband Henry. When the Wizard of Oz would come out on TV every year they would pick up all of us kids and take us to their house. Nellie would pray for our delicious chocolate cake and glass of milk while we sat to watch the movie on this big blanket that was laid out for us in front of the "color" tv. Color TV! Wow! To see color for the first time and listen to Judy Garland sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." There is just something about that song that stayed with me. I could picture myself singing, seeking for answers that would lead to a beautiful new world where there was no tears and everyone was filled with a joy and love for each other.

I did not realize that "Nellie" was put in my path to pray for me until 1992. Thank God that she was a prayer warrior. She was also the person that gave me this book called "All About Trees" and told me to read and I could travel all over the world anytime. Yes, I do love to read and write and encourage others to do so.

My father was a very hardworking man. He was also an alcoholic which led to the abuse of my beautiful mother. In my teens, during their divorce I started hanging around with people who were eight to ten years older than me. WRONG!!

Selma When I was 12 or 13 years old I was brutally and violently raped by a relative whom I trusted. Being dragged down a dirt field by the hair is like those cartoons shown of cavemen dragging the female. With a can opener to my throat and after fighting for my life I finally stopped when I felt this calm over me as if I was not to move anymore. (I am still alive. Thank you Lord!)

My heart was shattered, my mind was confused and the silent rage filled my being. Every person was a target of my fury. The twig of anger turned into a bush of bitterness. Finding myself "alone" in all of this ugliness I chose to "survive". I vowed that on one was ever going to hurt me again. I delved in new age not knowing that it was leading to a nightmare of hell. I did not know any other way until the day I accepted Jesus Christ into my life in 1992. Praise the Lord!!

I did not care about anyone but myself. I wanted to belong somewhere so like a magnet all my friends were about in the same boat. I was living a wild and very dangerous and promiscuous lifestyle. Misery loves company. That is so sad that some people live life through a tunnel vision. They cannot see the whole picture.

I had my first child at 16, married at 18, had my second child, divorced by 22 and lived (not married) with my third child's father for another 7 years. During my first marriage I usually ended up by myself with my children. My husband at that time was a heroin addict of which I would go visit him in prisons all over dragging my children along with me.

I was at death's door at least 6 times either by being almost strangled, beatings, knifed, or shot, well, you name it, from various relationships. We lived in a little cabin in back of my in-laws. Actually it was my then husband's grandparents who raised him. Whenever Grandma would hear any screams he would try to cover my mouth so he did not have to confront any of them and yell back to her...."Nothing is going on. We are okay." [Liar, Liar pants on fire :-)]. I would get slapped across my face, onto the bed, his knees would be on my shoulders and I would get called every name in the book as he slapped me back and forth until I would get away which would land me next to the little frig, get slapped toward the stove then slapped to the floor. It was a never ending story. Usually happening on Friday or Saturday nights after he would come home and I would find matchbooks with from the Rainbow Ballroom or he would smell of perfume. It was always something. (That is if anyone remembers those "OLDIES DANCES".) There were always other women in his life. I was not naive in what was going on all around me. One day I had just about enough and in self defense I grabbed the scissors where I had them up to neck and until I heard "Grandma's" voice then I pulled back and I was safe.....for one day.

Being in and out of prison is no life for children and thinking there was no way out I felt lost and hopeless. I did not go to church besides visit and never got connected. I finally chose to get divorced leading to dead end relationships that were like a revolving door, over and over again.

The relationship I had for seven years was a roller coaster of emotions. I carried all the excess baggage with me everywhere. This relationship was full of arguments, no trust and insecurity. I had one child from that relationship. My son was loved by everyone and was tragically killed with his best friends in a fiery auto accident. He was a marine and home for several weeks when this happened. It involved alcohol. The enemy never sleeps.

Kings James 1 Peter 5:8,

NIV version 1 Peter 5:8

If I had not known the Lord then, even the little that I knew at that time during my life, I shudder to think where I would have been now. I had two more children without their fathers in their lives.

During 1990 I moved to Visalia. The doors were opening in all areas of my life. I started working with the developmentally challenged, office, auto dismantlers and as a merchandiser working all over the valley. God sent several people in my path to encourage me. I was married in 1994, very involved in my church so when I was served with divorce papers it was as if I was going through the grieving stages of another death. I was devastated. In James 1:2-8 the scriptures speak of "when you face trials" not "if",

for they will surely come. The only thing you have to rely on is to have faith and trust in God. Like Jeremiah 29:11 and also Colossians 4:17 where Paul writes; Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

Well we have been given gifts, yes...You! You and I and we have to use them. It is like a nugget of gold. You use it to share the gospel and it increases in value everyday as you go out in obedience for His glory. It could be singing, using an instrument, reading to others, writing, sewing, painting, art, math, woodworking, ironwork, gardening...etc, etc, etc. Those skills are perfected and the giver of gifts will be well pleased..."he that is faithful in little will be faithful in much" What I am getting at is for you to look back at your childhood. What are your skills and gifts and how have you used them? What did you want to be when you grew up? Did you lose your dream? It has been said that the richest place in the world is the graveyard where people's hopes and dreams are buried along with them. The time is now! Do not wait a second longer. Pray for guidance in whatever you do. Maybe you will end up in Africa as my husband and I did. You do not know but I suggest you start getting prepared for this great adventure. If that train pulls up at your station I suggest you get on. Don't let that enemy put doubts in your head or allow him to set these words in your mind and heart like "I'll wait for the right time", "Maybe later", "I don't believe I am ready yet", or the classic:

"Look at you! Who is going to believe you, after what you have done!?" That dirty devil is the author of lies, deceit, confusion and the lord of the flies.

I am here today to write this because I know that we serve a great God and God loves me. As a young child I was robbed of my youth, joy and hope. When I realized that Jesus took it all for me I asked Him into my heart. He had to be the Lord of my life for the rest of my life. I asked for forgiveness and gave up trying to carry that heavy load of guilt, anger, sadness and the pity parties that I was the host of and was the guest of honor. Like I said misery loves company. If you want to be a winner you have to hang around with winners. Think back at your life and ask God to guide you from this day forward. Allow your life to be filled with a joy that is so overwhelming that you cannot contain it and share it with everyone. You can have it now. Just ask Jesus in complete submission. (search your heart)

Lord, I am here today because I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask for forgiveness of _____ (tell Him now) I accept Jesus Christ as my savior and into my heart. I trust in you from this moment on. Give me a hunger for your word. Guide me in the gifts that you have given me so I may serve and share of You daily and whatever I do and say will be glorifying to You. Less of me, and more of You. I am a new creature in God's kingdom. I am royalty and will act upon it accordingly. May the words of my mouth encourage others, give me the wisdom to turn away from wrong and the strength to run the race and follow you all the days of my life.

AMEN. (There, was that so hard?)

December 15, 1992 Woodland Drive Baptist Church Office
Pastor Ernie and Margie Martinez

When I accepted Jesus Christ in my heart was the day that I said, "Lord, please take away this ugliness in my heart. I want to have joy and peace in my heart. I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. Then all of a sudden I said; (I was truly tired and desperate so I wanted God to know that I meant business) " Lord if I ever see the person who hurt me I will tell him I forgive him and tell him of Your love." Then I said and if I ever see Nicky Cruz I will thank him for his book "Devil on the Run". Margie gave

that to me. The Bible is the living Word. It made this hard headed woman see the light. I got to see Nicky in Fresno and he prayed for me.

Years went by as I noticed so many changes in my life and saw how I viewed "things". My pastor Isidro and Cleo Carrasco said to get rid of things in my house that were not godly and if in doubt get rid of it. I did as instructed. My eyes were open to all of the stuff that I was allowing into my children's lives. I had to ask for forgiveness from my children. I then got rid of all kinds of items and broke them up (gods, idols) thousands of dollars of books and tore them up so no one would pick them up. If we give them to others or set them where another would pick them up and use then or read them, it is opening up the window to the darkness for them and we will be accountable.

Well, one day it happened. I was singing at a funeral and low and behold there he was right across from me. There was the man that had shredded my life into pieces. The first thought that came to me was "Okay Linda, finish singing and get out of here." I did get to see tears stream down his face under his sunglasses as I sang "Go Rest High Upon That Mountain" I started to leave when I heard a very clear voice tell me "What happened? I thought you were going to tell him about my love?"

???? Wow! I immediately asked for forgiveness and followed this person home and went up to him in front of all of his friends to ask him if I could speak to him

When he saw me it was as if he had seen a giant with a facial expression that I will never forget. He walked around away from everyone and kept saying "please, don't look at me. I'm not worth the ground you spit on." I told him that I thought about many ways to get revenge but that on December 15, 1992 when I asked Jesus into my life there was a heart change. I told him that I was there to tell him that I forgave him and wanted to be sure that I did not go to my grave or he did not go to his grave before I told him that I had repented of all anger and bitterness against him and wanted to be sure he knew Jesus too. He cried and said please don't tell me that. It burns like hot coals. He was like a crumpled, broken doll on his knees. I gently helped him up, hugged him and told him "I love you and now the ball is on your court. I serve an amazing God and I want you to know Him and let him be the Lord of your life too. Proverbs 25:22, Romans 12:20, NIV.

Romans 12:9-21

Asking for forgiveness does wonders and heals our heart wounds. It had to be real. It was life changing and the newness and the joy I knew at that moment I could not even describe.

Psalms 18, Ephesians 6:10,

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

My present husband, Bob and I are growing closer.....The truth isAt first it was a bit of a struggle for me. I would think "forget this" at times. When you are a Christian it doesn't mean that everything is "live happily ever after". It just means that we rely on God to guide us in our decisions especially when we "humans" get to a low point. When the storms come we are not alone, especially in blended families. There is so much more. I could go on and on about God's miracles in my life and the lives of others that I would love to share. You may write me. God Bless you all.

God is good all the time....All the time God is good.

In Christ Jesus, **Linda.**

Inmate Art by

Charles Ochech

