

# “Letter From M.O.M.”

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

[WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM](http://WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM)

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Volume 16 - July 2006 / Aug. 2006

## “I Can Only Imagine”

It is hard to imagine that this ministry has been developing for over four years. New facilities have opened up to us, as well as getting correspondence from many states and foreign countries.

Watch our website

[www.MovingOnMinistry.com](http://www.MovingOnMinistry.com)

### Volume 1 – 7 pages

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

### Volume 2 – 7 pages

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

### Volume 3 – 8 pages

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

### Volume 4 – 8 pages

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

### Volume 5 – 11 pages

- Tools of Ministry – Skydive and Rock Climb
- Power of Biblical Friendships

- Being a Man of Vision
- Excuses of Sin

### Volume 6 – 11 pages

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

### Volume 7 – 9 pages

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

### Volume 8 – 13 pages

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

### Volume 9 – 10 pages

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

### Volume 10 – 14 pages

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

**Volume 11 – 17 pages**

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

**Addresses to contact the  
Ministry Volunteers**

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

**Volume 12 – 20 pages**

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

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

**Moving On Ministry  
Ministry Volunteer Bryon  
P.O. Box 6667  
Visalia CA. 93290**

**Volume 13 – 14 pages**

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

**WRT Prison Ministry  
4380 Concord Blvd.  
Concord, CA 94520**

**Christian Pen Pals  
PO Box 2112  
Statesville, NC 28687**

**Volume 14 – 16 pages**

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

**Church Behind The Wall  
3737 So Akers  
Visalia, CA. 93277**

**Inside the Wall Ministry  
PO BOX 1561  
Rancho Cordova, CA. 95741**

**Volume 15 – 13 pages**

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

**Inmate Penpal Connection  
Po Box 73  
Syracuse, NY 13206-  
0073**

## 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,” physical and un letter. 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 and letter writing are also much needed items.

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

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

## Fellowship

We would like to keep a listing of locations for fellowship that welcomes previous incarcerated individuals. We previously listed 51 churches from our local area that are supportive. We would like follow up on these churches to see if they continue to be supportive, as well as letting us know of others available. **We also cherish letters, from inmates or relatives, to the churches to let them know how we are doing**

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

## Bible Study Lessons

SET FREE PRISON MINISTRY  
Of Northern California  
401 MacArthur Boulevard  
San Leandro, CA. 94577-9801

SET FREE PRISON MINISTRY  
Of California  
P.O. Box 5440  
Riverside, CA 92517-9966

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry  
P.O. Box 98  
Bristol, VA 24203-0098

## Letters that Express it All

**These are actual quotes from some of the different incarcerated individuals. The names have been removed. Our first newsletter went out October 2003. These are copies of many of the letters received. If one of these letters is yours, let us know how you are doing now.**

volume 1 and volume 3, if I can please. . . . I would like to say God blessed me with a church lady that is 18 years old and we are getting married and she's carrying my baby. She just bought a \$200, 000 house with an underground gym and she is a computer programmer in \*\*\*\*\*. **DR**

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### Will be Starting Over

I received your letter today along with the newsletter (Letter From M.O.M.) Thank you very Much! I really enjoy cars. Your car, "God's Fierro" is very cool.

I like the fact that you like to get personal with other "people." I am currently doing "Bible Studies by Mail" from Visalia! I go to church one time a week when "they" let me out. You guys really make a difference to the people in here. You bring Jesus into my Heart. Thank you for your time!

I'm 23 years old. I've been in prison for four years. I get out in one and a half years. I pray to God every morning and night for Him to help me when I get out! I do not want to come back! I've never had a job! So I will start all over when I get out, so if you will please pray for me! Well, thanks again for your newsletter. Keep Serving God! **MG**

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### Blessed with a Church Lady

I just got your letter along with volume 14 (Letter From M.O.M.). I would like to say "Thank You." I enjoy reading "Letters From M.O.M." volumes. I want to know if I can get

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### Still Learning

Thanks for writing me back. Yes I go to church inside and on the outside. I accepted the Lord into my life on **02-06-06** and I could actually say it's a much better life. . . I really like your cars. That's my hobby. . . I've got a kid on the way with my 18 year old girlfriend and soon to be wife. I would like to catch up on all the volumes – letters (newsletters) if I can please. . . I'm a dropout from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but I'm going back to school. I have a lot of catching up to do when I get out. I'm a 4<sup>th</sup> termmer, I've been to prison 3 times and to CYA a couple of times.

I would like to say thank you. I enjoy reading **Letters From Mom** volumes. I would like to say that God blessed me with a church lady that is 18 years old and we're getting married and she's also carrying my baby.

I'm 27 years old. . . I'm doing this Bible study from Gospel Echoes team and I'm going to get a Bible with my name in Gold letters. I got baptized in Madera County Jail in 2003. I'm tired of coming back to prison, so I decided to follow God's way and now I feel much better because I know I'm going to do good this time. **DR**

### **Appreciation**

I am here at Corcoran State Prison. Last week you came in and gave me a card (ministry card) and a newsletter (Letter From M.O.M.). I really like what you have to say on things. If you would please put me on your mailing list for newsletters, I will be really grateful and do you have any Christian literature? Or any Bible study course? I will be waiting for your newsletter. Thank You

**MG**

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### **Planning on Paying Forward**

“Chaplain Bob, it is real great to hear from you and I would like to share this with you. I thank the person who told me about you and how you got to BWDF. I feel that you reach out to others there for them to know Jesus Christ. By the way, I read all the testimonies people share. Your name comes out a lot. God is using you a lot and that’s a blessing and God is going to use us too when God opens that special door like He has for you, and it made me real happy when you said my brother called you . . . “

**AC**

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### **Indebted**

I would truly like to read the newspaper clipping that was printed about you and Linda (Africa mission trip), if you still have a copy, could you send me one in your next letter?

You know I have told you that you make a difference in everybody. Look what you have done to me! You have given me hope. You showed me the way home. You gave me a new lease on life by showing me the way to God our

Father. As I say, I’m forever in your debt and glad to be there!

You know I would like to go and volunteer to help but I don’t think I can until I’m off parole, but you never know what God’s will is.

**SW**

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### **The Return on Investment**

“Bob when I was in Wiley’s in 2004 and when Hector sent you over to my cell, if it was not for that and me allowing the Lord to enter my life, and you continuing to stay in touch with me, I do not know if I would have the kind of relationship with the Lord as I do now.”

**DM**

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### **Openness . . .(honesty)**

I want to say thank you very much for writing back & sharing the photo copy of those nice cars. It was highly appreciated.. .

. Well Chaplain Bob, I’m gonna be straight up with you. I don’t think I have accepted Christ yet. The reason, I have no one to teach me. I think to accept God into my life, I need help, and I’m willing to accept any and all to help me change my life. But so many people have gave up on me, that it’s hard for me to trust anyone. If you or anybody is willing to show me & guide me through accepting Christ, I’ll be more than happy to give it a try. I’m not a bad kid. I made a lot of mistakes. I never hurt anyone. I’m in prison due to being a gang member and getting shot. I never did a crime. . . . I need to change my life chaplain Bob, please help me because if I don’t get help now, I think I will never change. I’m crying in the inside for help badly, but nobody can hear me. This is the first time I ever wrote to anyone for

help. I'm hoping to hear back from you and everyone else that wants to help me.

**FM**

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**Doing the Research**

I decided to respond to your recent letter while everyone in the cell is still asleep. I am okay and daily praising and seeking to please God. Thank you for the literature. I read the testimonies and found them very encouraging.

You asked my religion? Well, I'll explain it like this, I've always been spiritually seeking and as such I've read and even studied various theologies. As a kid I grew up as a Southern Baptist (Christian), but my curiosity as I grew older urged me to investigate the theologies of other religions, like Catholic, Islam, and Jehovah Witnesses. I soon found out that all of these religions had the monotheistic concept but approached it through different tenets. In other words chaplain, I've possessed and maintained the indiscriminate view of what I call the faith of a "Spiritual Traveler." Yes, I do also recognize Jesus as being "The Savior" as well as the most best example of a person seeking to please God. By the same token, it's obvious by my present incarceration, I've had what can be termed a "wavering faith," which caused me to often fall prey to following worldly or carnal desires. Since I've been incarcerated, I have had more than enough time to assess myself regarding changing my past way of life with my concluding that if I am to stay out of these types of places, it requires a complete mental, emotional, and spiritual change, thus I've looked to the scriptures for guidance and strength. It has been a daily and constant struggle, from which I've vowed to stand firm in

the conviction that through God, everything is possible. Of course there have been instances when I have almost faltered, but praise be to God, I was able to recover.

Chaplain Bob, I implore you to give me any and all advice you determine will keep me walking in the light. As you are a learned spiritual man, I am one seeking to be taught. I've been given to understand that the acquiring of spiritual knowledge is something that has no end, regardless if one is the conveyor or the one who is being conveyed to. I want to recognize and realize the rewards of being a humble and faithful servant of the One and Only. **BH**

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**Desire to Change Direction**

First I'd like to thank God for the words that were spoken and given this Sunday (June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006). Thank God & thank you for taking out the time to do God's will & also for reading this letter. I hope to God, that you and your wife are doing fine & are blessed with a blessing from God the father. As for me, I'm doing alright. As of now, I'm at war with myself. The main battle I'm fighting is against "the lust of the flesh." That's been my problem ever since I was young. I know God is able, and by Jesus' stripes I can be healed, all I have to do is believe in Jesus. That's not my problem. My thing is this; I'm not willing! And that's crazy to me. I know that if I don't humble myself & submit to God, He will allow things to happen in order to get me where I'm supposed to be. I don't want a painful experience to overcome me to get me down, I want to avoid all that & just simply give into God. **RH**

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## Reality Check

I greatly appreciated the miles you traveled and the time you and your wife sacrificed from your lives to bring us a message at the behalf of your God and my God, the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no harder audience than the prisoner whose dual identity wavers between reality and unreality. The reality being what he presently suffers, and the unreality being his previous memories and a future life he hopes to get to. These things basically sustain him. And often he himself does not know he's throwing Christ into the mix for an ulterior motive. You touched on this indicating the zealous letters you receive while they're incarcerated, and the sudden silence that ensues when they wander into the world after achieving parole. Many of them claim Christianity the moment they arrive back to prison. I once asked one that I was wondering why there seemed to be unanswered gaps in their Christianity, and their reply was, "Oh, that's when I was backslidden." Of course, the whole world is in a backslidden state, perpetually. It's Christ's gift and mystery how some extricate themselves from the cycle of success and failure, and vice versa. Me, I never experienced success. I was a consummate loser. Basically, I was fortunate to see and hear you and probably never will again. Most of the prison is level 3 medium security inmates, while I am one of the few left and waiting transfer to a level 4 maximum security prison, which Corcoran once was, excluding the hole, which remains Hell on Earth. I came to prison when I was 18 years old in 1976. I've been incarcerated 29 straight years serving a sentence of "Life Without the Possibility of Parole." In 1995 I

converted from Catholicism and Christ has been the only life or parole I have ever known. I used to be envious of those who came and went over and over through a revolving door. Now everyone's pretty much doing life with the three-strikes law of 25-life. For a 50 year old, it's pretty much a death sentence. At 47, I'm a rarity, because prison greatly shortens the lifespan. I know this from experience because I survived cancer in 1992. So its true, many young men parole but everyone eventually passes the same landmark at some crossroads. You do right by coming here, because at some point the landmarks won't be put out any more (Romans 1:28) There is no greater horror overall than to end up in a countries prison system. Satan has most American prisoners convinced that they are not in an unnatural state, that all is temporary, and all will be well eventually. This is part of the duality of the prisoner, that Christ comes into an incomplete life that won't be complete until he's free or until some other gain comes into his life. He has his eyes on two horizons.

While an inmate may be saved, he often retains the psychological problems of a Saul of Sampson. The same message has made these men grow complacent but you changed it by upping the ante. You offered a way for a man to "reason together" with you. Significance is the key word. Has the incarcerated man reality taken on a life of significance, even in the midst of all that a prison is? I'm sure you know how short life is. So if I know that I myself will perish here, I ask you, how can I learn to live without most things men cling to and look forward to? The only promise of real joy is when I die, that is parole. I do not envy your freedom and the experiences you have that I will

never have. I just need to learn to live what I have. This (prison) is the seat of Satan's throne where the most evil and wicked are gathered. Christianity does not thrive here. Its an everyman for himself mentality, the survival of the fittest and wiliest, day in and day out. I always ask Christ the same question in moments of fatigue, "What is the meaning in me living all of this?" The best answer I had was from a wonderful Christian guard (even some of them are saved) who told me it was all a mystery. I am greatly encouraged that you dare to seek us out, this city of Nineveh, the CDC (Calif. Dept. Correction.). **EG**

**NOTE from Bob**  
Hebrews 6:6-10

**Hebrews 6:6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame.

**Hebrews 6:7** For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

**Hebrews 6:8** But that which beareth thorns and briers [is] rejected, and [is] nigh unto cursing; whose end [is] to be burned.

**Hebrews 6:9** But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

**Hebrews 6:10** For God [is] not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

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## **Remember Us, We Follow Thru**

Dear Chaplain Bob & Linda  
It was a true blessing & pleasure to have shared "God's" Gift of Spiritual bondage, when we met this weekend 6-4-06 here at Corcoran State Prison. Remember me R\*\*\*\* V\*\*\*\*, I told you I would write you and express the gratitude for the fellowship & your testimony. It was truly inspirational to my life & God's temple. I was sharing that moment with my wife "\*\*\*\*\*" and she always gets excited to know that "Gods" family is growing and we are all a part of His loving children, one day to be reunited in His Heavenly Kingdom, but for now we have a lot of work to do for the Lord, so we can bring more of His children to repentance and "God's" family can grow even larger. This way there will be more brothers and sisters in paradise with us. The one main thing is to always stay in prayer with "God." His wisdom and knowledge is priceless, besides that blanket of unconditional Love & protection. Well Chaplain Bob & Linda, it was absolutely great seeing the both of you at church. Remember us in your prayers and keep us in mind for a Bible study and fellowship for the #A gym inmates, it will be a great blessing. p.s. If there's any possibility to speak with Chaplain \*\*\*\*\* to start a Bible study/fellowship for us 3-A Gym inmates. "God Bless You !" **RV**

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## NOTES and COMMENTS

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**When Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.**

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**God accepts you where you are, but loves you too much to leave you there.**

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### Need for Change

. . . Keep doing what you have been doing, and you will get what you have been getting.

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### Conversion

Conversion is the wiping of the slate clean so a new process can “start.”

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### Replenishing

God’s Word promises to restore the years of the locust, or more simply the years previously lost.

**Joel 2:25** And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

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Think on this;

For the mothers that have lost sons and daughters, or the grandmothers that have lost grandchildren, they do not say that they don’t have those children. The mention that they had another child and they died. Now what about the children that get aborted? Surprisingly, many times they deny the child existed. If you confront the mothers and grandmothers, they may say “No, I never had any children.” This is denial of the life of the child that was aborted. BUT, God says something quite different . . .

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## Recommended Reading

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Needs after Release

Individuals being released from incarceration have the same common needs of all individuals. There is a need of self-respect and self esteem. Many have a need of housing. Most are coming back looking for employment. Some are facing classes for AA, NA, or Domestic Violence. Some need to enroll in educational or vocational programs. Most would appreciate someone to just talk to or have a mentor. Fellowship with the right people is ALWAYS needed. For many these are totally new expectations and experiences.

One inmate expressed wonderfully the problem of being released. He stated that everything is slow to happen while incarcerated. It seems like an eternity as you wait for your next transfer or assignment. You feel like you are running at 5 miles per hour. Then, when released to the world, you are put into an environment that is running at 200 miles per hour. This drastic change of environments tends to overcome individuals and they have a hard time adapting. We hear of transitions from one area to another in each of our lives. Someone to just talk with about the feelings and changes the individuals are going thru is a great healer. The Bible says that each of us should be a "brother" to help the other one up when he falls. Other scripture talks about "sticking closer than a brother" we can often help with sharing life experiences or just listening to someone in need. We don't always have to solve the problems, but many times need to just "lend an ear" so that someone might share their needs or hurts with us. Many men have heard from their wives "I don't want you to fix it, just listen". We need to just listen.

## Sharing Your Testimony

There are 4 parts to an individual's testimony;

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

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

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

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God will make all things new  
***What are some things I should finish once I start?***

**"For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ."  
Hebrews 3:14**

**New life in Christ. We must maintain the confident faith we had when we first believed.**

Scripture is from the New Living Translation (Tyndale House Publishers, 1996).

**Our testimony is to give hope to others; our fruit is to give proof to God.**

**Repentance means you change your mind so deeply that it changes you. It's not just that I changed how I thought—I am now changed.**

## Testimony

The following testimony was from an individual that talked to another individual I had talked with. We have to realize that as we plant seed, we never know where they will be carried.

The first letter was an introduction;

**“I am becoming stronger and stronger every day. The Bible gives me strength and wisdom I need to deal with every day life. I am now realizing how much further I could go if only I give in and let God take over. Now that I have, I am looking forward to a happy peaceful life. As before my life has been filled with hurt and pain. I admit the devil has had a strong hand on me for the past eight years. Those years were the worst ever. Now as I move ahead at full steam, I prayed to God to let that past life be over with and to forgive me and let me move on. I realize I must have understanding and faith to the fullest, because things will always get worse before they get better. But having the faith makes me not worry any more.”**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> letter stated the following;

**“Well Bob, you asked for my testimony. Here it goes:**

**I started getting locked up about the age of 14. In and out of juvenile. In and out of group homes and the boy's ranch and finally C.Y.A. I have lived a hateful and non-trusting life style for some time. I have only recently, truly given my life to the Almighty God. And thank God for that. I truly feel honored and blessed. I see things a lot different now. Well after C.Y.A. I got involved with drugs and a lot of stuff I ain't too proud about. I've been living my life like this for about eight years and I honestly believe I hated every minute of it. From using drugs, to living at motels, to living on the streets. There were times I asked myself why I would put myself through all that. I honestly couldn't answer myself. I was stuck in a weird mode that till now I finally realize why. I didn't have the Lord Jesus Christ in my life and that explains it all.**

**Well Bob, thanks again for the inspiration and motivation to keep the faith.”**

(Following is from David, an inmate that was at Delano State Prison)

I was in church when the preacher asked if there was anyone who wished to give a testimony of what Jesus had done for them?

I sat there and listened to brothers telling how Jesus had touched their lives. I even thought about standing myself to tell what Jesus' love meant to me.

But then Satan whispered in my ear “You can't do this yet. You are still in prison. You can't say you don't do drugs anymore. You can't say you don't steal anymore. You can't say you won't commit adultery anymore or any other sins of sexual immortality. Because your faith hasn't even been tested yet.

So I never stood up and I never said a word. But then God said to me “Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 for all of these things we once were.”

Satan is a liar and the father of lies. The world will tell you “You are a drug addict; for once an addict, always an addict.” Right? NO! Wrong. “The world says once a thief, always a thief.” Right? NO! Wrong again.

For the Word says I will put your sins as far from me as the East is from the West. The Word says that your sins were washed away by the blood of Christ.

The Word says your drug addiction was washed away by the blood of Christ. The Word says your sexual immorality was washed away by the blood of Christ. The Word says your lies were washed away by the blood of Christ. Jesus Christ said “I am the Word.” So ask yourself, is the world lying or is the Word lying?

Thank You Lord for the Word.

## Lighter But Serious Side

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### Mexican Ghost Story

This happened in a little town in Mexico, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's absolutely true read at your own risk:

A man was on the side of the road hitchhiking on a very dark and stormy night. The night was cold and wet and no cars went by.

The storm was so strong, he could barely see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly, he saw a car coming towards him and stopped. The guy, without thinking about it, got in the car and closed the door, the car started moving and only then did he realize that there was nobody behind the wheel! The car was moving very, very slowly.

The man looks at the road and sees a curve coming his way. Scared, he starts to pray and begs for his life.

Just before the car hits the curve, a hand appears through the window and turns the wheel. Paralyzed, and in terror, he watched the hand appear each time the car approached a curb. Gathering his strength, he jumps out of the car and runs all the way to the nearest town.

Wet and in shock, he goes into a cantina, asks for two shots of Tequila and starts telling everybody about the horrible experience he just went through. A silence enveloped everyone when they realized the man was crying hysterically and wasn't drunk.

About a half hour later, two other guys walk into the same cantina and one said

to the other, "Mira, Pedro. That's the pendejo that got in the car while we were pushing it!"

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### CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Be ye fishers of men. You catch em  
He will clean em.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers fruits of the spirit over religious nuts!

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

## HEAVEN OR HELL – IT'S YOUR CHOICE



Chances are I do not know you, but I care about your future. I don't want you to spend your eternal life in the depths of Hell, where misery abounds. Heaven will be a glorious place - beyond imagination. Please don't miss it! Many "lost souls" will miss heaven by 18 inches - the distance from their head to their heart. Intellectually, they believe in Christ, but have not accepted Him into their heart.

If you are already a Christian (in the heart), praise the Lord. If you are not a born again Christian, then please read on and consider giving your heart to Christ.

God loves you so much that He sent his Son to die on the cross for your sins. It would make Him happy if you loved him, but he did not create you as a puppet. He gave you a free will. He gave you the choice of loving or rejecting him and the choice of Heaven or Hell.

Many people believe that just being a "good person" is enough to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The Bible says more... **(John 3:3)** "No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."

How can you become born again and be assured of salvation? **(Romans**

**10:9)** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." It's that simple - if you sincerely seek the Lord.

**(Jeremiah 33:3)** "You will find me when you seek me with all your heart."

By the grace of God, He will forgive all your sins - no matter how detestable. **(I John 1:9)** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

It's a wonderful feeling to be forgiven and to live a new life with God. He will give you peace and joy beyond understanding. Please don't delay. Bow your head now and pray. Confess your sins and ask the Lord to come into your heart. Tomorrow may be too late!

Additional scriptures that guide and inspire:

**2 Chronicles 7:14** - "If my people shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

**Psalm 94:19** - "He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins."

**Psalm 119:18** - "Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Word."

**Psalm 119:81** - "I expect Your help, for You have promised it."

**Psalm 145:18** - "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call sincerely."

**Proverbs 3:6** - "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

**Proverbs 12:15** - "A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others."

**Proverbs 15:1** - "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

**Proverbs 15:29** - "The Lord is far from the wicked, but hears the prayer of the righteous."

**Isaiah 26:3** - "He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord."

**Matthew 7:12** - "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you."

**Mark 9:23** - "All things are possible to those who believe."

**Mark 16:15** - "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."

**John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

**John 14:1** - "Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God."

John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jesus speaking)

**Romans 8:28** - "All things work together for good to those who love God - to those who are called according to His purpose."

**II Corinthians 4:3,4** - "Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel." (When you become a Christian, the Bible will be more meaningful.)

**II Corinthians 7:10** - "For God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to

help us turn away from sin and seek eternal life."

**Ephesians 4:26** - "Don't let the sun go down when you're still angry - get over it quickly; for when you are angry, you give a mighty foothold to the devil."

**Ephesians 6:16** - "Pray at all times. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with Him, reminding Him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere."

**Philippians 4:13** - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

**Colossians 4:2** - "Don't be weary in prayer. Keep at it; watch for God's answers and remember to be thankful when they come."

**Hebrews 13:5** "I will never leave you or forsake you."

**I John 4:4** - "**Greater is He that is in me** than he (Satan) that is in the world."



## Focus and Restitution Thoughts by Rick Warren



You will enjoy the new incites that Rick Warren has with his wife now having cancer and him having "wealth" from the book sales. This is an absolutely incredible short interview with Rick Warren , "Purpose Driven Life " author and pastor of Saddleback Church in California .

In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said: People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body--but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on

earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense.

Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness.

This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore.

Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems.

If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, "which is my problem, my issues, my pain." But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others. We discovered quickly that in spite of the

prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her. It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people. You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life.

Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease. So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72.

**First**, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases

**Second**, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from The church.

**Third**, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.

**Fourth**, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be

driven by God's purposes (for my life)? When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am, than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.

Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.

Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.

Painful moments, TRUST GOD.

Every moment, THANK GOD..

**NOTE from Bob:** Restitution is a subject most people try to overlook. Few understand restitution. ALL want forgiveness, but few seek repentance or restitution. God's Word says "If we repent, and ask for forgiveness, He is faithful to forgive us."

Remember that God only forgives us of what we are guilty of and confess to. If we claim we are not guilty of something, there is no forgiveness. Also remember that if we are guilty in one, we are guilty in all. That eliminates the statement that "I have not done as much as he has."

Christ came to earth and "freely" gave of himself. The scripture also states, (Matthew 10:8) "Freely you have received, freely give."