

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Volume 17 – Sept. 2006 / Oct. 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 websites

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Addresses to contact our Ministry Volunteers

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

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

Moving On Ministry
Women’s Ministry
P.O. Box 6667
Visalia CA. 93290

Brother Robert
Post Office Box 4056
Visalia, CA 93278

Addresses to contact other Ministry Volunteers

WRT Prison Ministry
4380 Concord Blvd.
Concord, CA 94520

Christian Pen Pals
PO Box 2112
Statesville, NC 28687

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

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

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

Room for Your Ministry

Room for Your Ministry

Intentions & Wishes

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

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

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

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

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

Fellowship

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

World Christianship Prison & Outreach
Ministries Provides **FREE**

BIBLES, BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY
DEVOTIONAL & OTHER
CHRISTIAN MATERIALS TO
INMATES WORLD WIDE

Requests on behalf of any inmate can be sent to

World Christianship Prison & Outreach
Ministries
P.O. Box 509
Ansonia, Connecticut (USA) 06401

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.

True Followers

It was a blessing to hear from you. I was very impressed to see the extent of your ministry. “Many are called but few are chosen.” It is an honor and gift bestowed upon a man to believe and worship the Lord Jesus Christ. Many men mistakenly believe they are doing some great service for God by giving some of their life to His service. The reality is we are privileged even to suffer for Him. We work within our limited capabilities and anything beyond verges on miraculous. Please do feel free to use my previous letter on your website. I am amazed at how much Christians hold in common regardless of their walks in life (culture, race, financially). Beneath the surface of every Christian man or woman, there are fault lines hidden as deep as the San Andreas (major earthquake fault in California). Unlike the followers of Korah (Numbers 16:32), we were blessed to comprehend. People forget how much the Christian has seen and almost succumbed to. It is not a saving to endure in a difficult space of time, but rather a maneuvering throughout our lives past many voids to reach a promise. To the world it's seemingly so little, but to us it's a matter of life and death. **EG**

Putting It Together

The following letter is from the man that is STILL IN LOVE with the lady that wrote the article **“My Dream Seeker”** and published in this newsletter. We have been writing both of them and look forward to their union. We also write their 19 year old son at another facility. Their dream is to overcome the past, and move forward as a Christian family.

“At 3:30 pm I went back to the yard and was thinking about NW a lot and say to myself how much I miss her and wanting to know how she ws doing, but always put it in prayer and at mail call your (chaplain Bob) letter came and when I opened it and seen that you heard from her. So now I'm back in school once again answering your letter, and thank you for the 51st letter and the article she wrote to “My Dream Seeker” was very very good and nice. A lot of tears came to my eyes. God has been so good in both of our lives and I know He's going to keep working forever. This Christian life is so good, I didn't know you can have so much fun and be happy all the time. I wouldn't trade this life for nothing in the world. And she wants to know songs of mine. Well you tell her I like all oldies and some of the oldies when we were together and you tell her that I am doing real good and very blessed. I am always going to worship the Lord and I will be waiting for her until she gets out, I don't care how much time she got, I will still wait for her and marry her. She will always be the love of my life and you can tell

her that I am very proud of her for what she has been doing. And when she gets into the program in XXXXX, I hope she can write me because I have a lot to share with her and it is so good that she is going to a Christian recovery program and you tell her that I am proud of her getting her GED. She has done so much for her to keep up the good work and tell her that celebrate Recovery is the “Bomb” that I am doing real good in and I am on step study #14. I love it so much that is a very good program and plus I am in Christian intervention and it’s a good program too. It is almost like Celebrate Recovery and each program is about 11-12 months and I have that much time left to finish both of them and graduate from the Word when I walk out of this gate and don’t look back. God is so good. And Angel Bob, tell her that I read Proverbs 31:10-31 and I understand it very well. And I’ll be there for her because I would love to have a virtuous wife.” **AF**

Dealing with Issues

God bless you Bob and Linda. Let me say after reading Linda’ testimony in the newsletter she handed out, it really touched my heart. It reminded me so much of my wife. When I first saw her my spirit sensed such a sweet spirit and the love of Christ all over her. When she sang I knew the love she has for our Savior. I started to really think about when Bob shared the first time he came. How God took two people like yourselves from a lifestyle which was lost, and has taken you both to another country, Africa, to be used. That blows me away. At times I have wondered with all that my wife and I have been through before we met, and through our marriage, what does the Lord have planned for us? At times I have felt like

a great big failure, because I ended up in prison. . . . But deep down inside, I had issues that I never dealt with. The door ended being open to sin and little by little I gave in, until I was deep in the pit. So many times I questioned my walk with Christ, if I was even saved. Or how can one fail in their heart. I was so embarrassed and ashamed, could not find a way out. When I got arrested, it was a real wake up call for me. I had struggled for a while and now I am facing prison, what an end. For I thought I repented and asked God to see me through the mess I had put myself in. I feel like a baby in Christ and I am starting all over again. But I know I have been forgiven and I shall pay for the consequences of my sin. God has opened up a door of communication between my wife and myself like never before. I have been so blessed with a wife that continues to love me unconditionally. **RS**

Helpful Goals

My goal is to better myself in every way that I can, so that I can go home a better person, and even maybe try and help others that are not right with the Lord and need help. You helped me Bob, and I would like to stay on the right path and also try and help and guide others like you helped and continue to guide me.

DM

The following letter was corrected in spelling. We received it from an individual we dealt with and he wrote from his next location. Note the simplicity of his requests and what he saw as our doing good to him. To simply put out a letter to show they are not forgotten. To stop for a moment during the day, and to ask

God to provide for them. To pray for their protection, and for their strong commitment to Christ.

Doing What We Do for God

I was fortunate enough to meet you at Tulare County Jail. And I am now at Delano State Prison. You said a prayer with me before I left and you told me about how you had a good family. And in order for me to keep my family, you showed me what to look for in Jesus. And I just want to thank you for helping me open my heart. Thank you and God bless you.

Bob, also I am interested in all you have that pertains to Jesus Christ and jobs, school, and any thing that may help me on my release to society. I am also in need of a Daily Bread if you could please send me one. The chaplain does not seem too interested in us here at NKSP. I've been asking him for help as I asked you, and nothing. So I asked the Lord in a prayer to lead me in the right direction and I opened the Bible and thank you Jesus, I found your card. You are a good man and there should be more out there like you. Once again, thank you Bob. **JF**

NOTE from Bob: There is always a great need to communicate with these individuals. Sometimes the only concept of the Bible they may see is displayed through our lives. Our walk is ALWAYS louder than our talk. As we see the pastors and chaplains overwhelmed with individuals, we need to pray for the chaplains to be able to meet the needs and for more volunteers to get involved.

Thinking Straight

I have asked God and his Son Jesus to forgive me for my sins and for His help.

I felt the Lord was going to help me but the Devil or my thinking has me doubting that I can make it out there. Can you please pray for me and my sickened mind. I feel that I might not make it out there. I know I won't make it without God and his son Jesus. I am weak and just a man. Please pray for me, and please write back. Thank You. I know that I should have faith and not doubt, but it is hard. I really want to change my life. Please help me. **CS**

Encouragement

First of all, greetings to you and your wife Linda, and may the Lord bless both of you to the fullest!!! My name is **** and I am currently housed here in Corcoran State Prison. I was very blessed and fortunate to have the opportunity to attend worship with you and your wife on Saturday, July 22nd. You are both amazing Holy Spirit filled people, and I was very encouraged by hearing both of you speak. Its people like you, by showing love and compassion to the disadvantaged, who are truly making a huge impact on people's lives. You were right, life truly is short, so let's get busy preparing for what comes next!!! Col. 3:2 "Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth." Also Romans 1:20 says "God reveals himself through His creations, and His divine nature on earth, so that we will see evidence of his awesome power." Then back to Colossians chapter 1, "there is power in the blood of Jesus-Christ." In verses 19-20 the Lord recognized all things to Himself whether things on earth, or in Heaven. Having made peace through the blood of his cross. Amen & Amen. Thanks for your last copy of your newsletter, I thoroughly enjoyed it!!! Please put me on your mailing list, you guys are great!!! O Hallelujah. **IM**

NOTES and COMMENTS

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

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

Need for Change

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

Conversion

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

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.

Salvation

It is a “point” followed by a “process.”

Honor

Purity

Integrity

God, be Lord of what is left of my life

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

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.

Testimonies

The following was the response from a Bible study This individual was doing on 1 Peter 3:1-22 on “How to have a good conscience in daily living.”

A Godly Guilt and Thanking God for Being Locked Down

I’m striving to make this message a way of life. All this work I’ve put into the Bible studies in the last couple of months as truly life changing event for me. What began as work is now my enjoyment.

Today I spent a lot of time talking and shooting the bull and playing handball. One of my favorite times of the day is when we are locked down in our rooms. That is when it is just You (God) and I. Today I spent too much time away from you and I am sorry. I have guilt inside of me because of it. And I am joyful because it is a Godly guilt. I miss You and I am learning to recognize Your voice. **L**

Another inmate, in response to a study lesson of “Paul’s fear of the Corinthians falling away,” wrote the following poem.

STRUGGLE

Most people’s lives consist
of struggling through the day.
For Satan’s at his best,
trying to make you go his way.
He’ll try to be your friend,
when things are going bad.
Then he’s your advisor
when he sees that you are mad.
For it’s that struggle each day
that Satan’s at his best.
He will question your beliefs,
your faith he’ll surely test.
But you have to be strong,
and in your heart know;
That God loves us all,
so in His way go.
He’ll get us through the struggles,
for it’s nothing at all.
Just have faith and belief in God,
and follow His law.
So remember when you struggle,
you have to be strong.
Walking hand in hand with God,
nothing can go wrong!

JN

The Transmission of the Bible to English

500 BC: Completion of All Original Hebrew Manuscripts which make Up The 39 Books of the Old Testament.

200 BC: Completion of the Septuagint Greek Manuscripts which contain The 39 Old Testament Books AND 14 Apocrypha Books.

1st Century AD: Completion of All Original Greek Manuscripts which make Up The 27 Books of the New Testament.

390 AD: Jerome's Latin Vulgate Manuscripts Produced which contain 80 Books (39 Old Test. + 14 Apocrypha + 27 New Test).

500 AD: Scriptures have been Translated into Over 500 Languages.

600 AD: LATIN was the Only Language Allowed for Scripture.

995 AD: Anglo-Saxon (Early Roots of English Language) Translations of The New Testament Produced.

1384 AD: Wycliffe is the First Person to Produce a (Hand-Written) manuscript Copy of the Complete Bible in English (80 Books). Wycliffe had no access to Greek or Hebrew manuscripts and was thus totally reliant on the fourth century Latin translation of St. Jerome.

1455 AD: Gutenberg Invents the Printing Press; Books May Now be mass-produced Instead of Individually Hand-Written. The First Book Ever Printed is Gutenberg's Bible in Latin.

1516 AD: Erasmus Produces a Greek/Latin Parallel New Testament.

1522 AD: Martin Luther's German New Testament.

1526 AD: William Tyndale's New Testament; The First New Testament to be Printed in the English Language. (Worms edition)

1530 AD: Tyndale's translation of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament is Printed.

1531 AD: Tyndale's translation of the Book of Jonah is Printed.

1534 AD: Tyndale's revised New Testament is Printed.

1535 AD: Myles Coverdale's Bible; The First Complete Bible to be printed in the English Language (80 Books: O.T. & N.T. & Apocrypha).

1537 AD: Matthews Bible; The Second Complete Bible to be Printed in English. Done by John "Thomas Matthew" Rogers (80 Books).

1539 AD: The "Great Bible" Printed; The First English Language Bible to be Authorized for Public Use (80 Books).

1560 AD: The Geneva Bible Printed; The First English Language Bible to Add Numbered Verses to Each Chapter (80 Books).

1568 AD: The Bishops Bible Printed; The Bible of which the King James was a Revision (80 Books).

1609 AD: The Douay Old Testament is added to the Rheimes New Testament (of 1582) Making the First Complete English Catholic Bible; Translated from the Latin Vulgate (80 Books).

1611 AD: The King James Bible Printed; Originally with 80 Books. The Apocrypha was Officially Removed in 1885 Leaving 66 Books.

1782 AD: Robert Aitken's Bible; The First English Language Bible (a King James Version without Apocrypha) to be Printed in America.

1791 AD: Isaac Collins and Isaiah Thomas Respectively Produce the First Family Bible and First Illustrated Bible Printed in America. Both were King James Versions.

1808 AD: Jane Aitken's Bible (Daughter of Robert Aitken); The First Bible to be Printed by a Woman.

1833 AD: Noah Webster's Bible; After Producing his Famous Dictionary, Webster Printed his Own Revision of the King James Bible.

1841 AD: English Hexapla New Testament; an Early Textual Comparison showing the Greek and 6 Famous English Translations in Parallel Columns.

1846 AD: The Illuminated Bible; The Most Lavishly Illustrated Bible printed in America. A King James Version.

1885 AD: The "Revised Version" Bible; The First Major English Revision of the King James Bible.

1901 AD: The "American Standard Version"; The First Major American Revision of the King James Bible.

1971 AD: The "New American Standard Bible" (NASB) is Published as a "Modern and Accurate Word for Word English Translation" of the Bible.

1973 AD: The "New International Version" (NIV) is Published as a "Modern and Accurate Phrase for Phrase English Translation" of the Bible.

1982 AD: The "New King James Version" (NKJV) is Published as a "Modern English Version Maintaining the Original Style of the King James."

Lighter But Serious Side

Pecans in the Cemetery



On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." He just knew what it was, so he jumped back on his

bike and rode off.

Now just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me..." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord." Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence yet were still unable to see anything.

The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the boy on the bike!



SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

DIRECTIONS

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

The *Spiritual Gifts Survey* consists of 80 statements.

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

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

Your response choices are:

5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me

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

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

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

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

_____ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.

_____ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.

_____ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.

_____ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.

_____ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.

_____ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when needed.

_____ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.

_____ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.

_____ 9. I enjoy studying.

_____ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.

_____ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.

_____ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.

_____ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.

_____ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.

_____ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.

_____ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.

_____ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.

_____ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.

_____ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.

_____ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.

_____ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.

_____ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.

_____ 23. I am a cheerful giver.

_____ 24. I spend time digging into facts.

_____ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.

_____ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.

_____ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.

_____ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.

_____ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other lands.

_____ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.

_____ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.

_____ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.

_____ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.

_____ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.

_____ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.

_____ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.

_____ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.

_____ 38. I am a generous giver.

_____ 39. I am able to discover new truths.

_____ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.

_____ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.

_____ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.

_____ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.

_____ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.

_____ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.

_____ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.

_____ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.

_____ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.

_____ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.

_____ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.

_____ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.

_____ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.

_____ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.

_____ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.

_____ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.

_____ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.

_____ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.

_____ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.

_____ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.

_____ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.

_____ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.

_____ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.

_____ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.

_____ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.

_____ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.

_____ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.

_____ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.

_____ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.

_____ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.

_____ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.

_____ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.

_____ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.

_____ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.

_____ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.

_____ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.

_____ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.

_____ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.

_____ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.

_____ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.

_____ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seem impossible.

SCORING YOUR SURVEY

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

1. Place under each item your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the box.

2. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRAPHING YOUR PROFILE

NOW WHICH 3 CATEGORIES RATED THE HIGHEST SCORES ?

- ___ LEADERSHIP
- ___ ADMINISTRATION
- ___ TEACHING
- ___ KNOWLEDGE
- ___ WISDOM
- ___ PROPHECY
- ___ DISCERNMENT
- ___ EXHORTATION
- ___ SHEPHERDING
- ___ FAITH
- ___ EVANGELISM
- ___ APOSTLESHIP
- ___ SERVICE/HELPS
- ___ MERCY
- ___ GIVING
- ___ HOSPITALITY

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

- **Leadership**—Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work

together in unity toward common goals (Rom. 12:8).

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Exhortation**—Possessors of this gift

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.

2.

3.

4.

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

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

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

To My Dream Seeker

First let me say that I cannot express how much I miss you and love you. My days are lonely and long. Often wondering what you may be doing or thinking or thinking or even dreaming of. I know my dreams are full of your beautiful eyes, dark brown skin and loving love for Christ. I want to share some dreams and thoughts with you. So, stick with me and let's dream together on a white cloud of peace, love, joy.

How wonderful the sunlight felt. How sweet the flowers smelled. Grass was never this green, magnolias never this white.



I vowed to never take a thing for granted, no matter how small and insignificant it seemed to be. I loved everything – the sound of the gravel crunching beneath my feet, the swoop of the chimney swallows, the bark of the hound dogs, the shadows cast by the sunlight, the scent of the farm animals and the open fields with the tall grass swaying in the breeze. Nothing was as precious as freedom. As I write this, I want you to know that I will NEVER give up my faith of being free with you.

Satan has really been with me these last few days and weeks to month. I have heard your wish is to come join me, support me, and love me. I can't express how that makes me very happy. Yes, things will be nice for you to walk with me in this journey of recovery. I have just begun, but I'm not giving up, my God has a plan for me to be

successful and leave this awful road behind me. I can't really say awful road, because this has made me know I never want to lead a life of crime again. Satan no longer has a hold of me. Jesus Christ is driving my "Volkswagen." If you ever have thoughts of me, just close your eyes and our Angel will let me know your thoughts.

My Dream Seeker, we don't have to be with each other to be in love. As long as you know I love you and you love me God will do the rest. Our dreams of our love will never be taken! Whatever our God guides you to do, you follow. But know you are my one-and-only Dreamer I ever want.

I don't have any pictures of you physically, but I have plenty in my mind. This letter will be put in a bottle and thrown into the sea. The mermaid of the sea will find the bottle and bring it to the right seaside. While you're walking along the white sandy beach, always look down because you never know when you may find a bottle filled with dreams.



Until our dreams meet and come true, never stop loving a woman full of dreams with love, peace, joy flowing through her veins. If you can follow my dreams, then hold on and the dreams will never stop. **NW**