

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Volume 21 – February, 2007

“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

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Moving On Ministry
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Addresses to contact other Ministry Volunteers

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Concord, CA 94520

Christian Pen Pals
PO Box 2112
Statesville, NC 28687

Church Behind The Wall
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Inside the Wall Ministry
PO BOX 1561
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Prisoner Support Network
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P.O. Box 4
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Jesus' Prayer Ministry
Sis Denise
P.O. Box 7925
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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 in Tulare and Kings Counties of California. 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.

Dreams are real, as long as you have faith in Jesus Christ.

The Mermaid

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. We receive many of these letters. If one of these letters is yours, let us know how you are doing now.

Charisma

I'm still here at XXXXX wondering how long I'm going to be here. But this time has given me a chance to look at my self, and how Christ has changed my thinking towards life. And now that I'm on a path of faith, I find that my mind is so much better to deal with what ever comes my way. This place that I'm at is very hard for me, but I think it will make me stronger for my task at hand. And I think on how this all got started back at B.W.D.F. when I was making a pair of baby shoes for someone and then I met Chaplain Bob and you started talking about your trip and then you gave me your card so I could write to you and you would send me newsletter #8, and it took me about a month before I wrote the letter, but I did. And now that Christ has entered my life, I can say that the day will come when I too will help someone believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, if ever given the chance. Now that I have found my integrity, I too have values to work with and I too will have charisma to work with.

Chaplain Bob, I don't have the words to express how much you have helped me. I don't have a Bible anymore, but I try to remember all what I've read. **AB**

Appreciation and Called

I know the time this letter reaches your presence, it will find you in the Lord's care . . . As for this writer KS, I actually find it always a pleasure to write such a wonderful person as yourself. Every time you come to Bob Wiley Detention Facility, a big smile comes across my face and I get so excited (God bless you). Bob, I would like to explain to you what made me turn my life over to God. It's a short testimony.

One day I was walking by a church on G Street in Tulare, CA. and a pastor was standing out front. Out of nowhere, he said "son, come here for a short second." So I did. Pastor came out of nowhere and said, "son the rest of these days, left in the month of July, you will experience bad luck and at the end of the month you will run into a situation where you will have to make a choice with God or without. And at the end of July I came to jail fighting a 3rd strike case. Oh boy, ain't that something? Well I surrendered my life to the Lord, and I will never turn back on Him again. Amen

Brother Bob, I just wanted to share that message with you. I hope you enjoyed it, because that was a fact.

Closing with much respect and love for you and your **Letter From M.O.M. KS**

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.”

Talk to God about the lost,
Before talking to the lost about God

Repentance

Can be defined as; **Stop**, **Turn around**, and **follow**.

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.

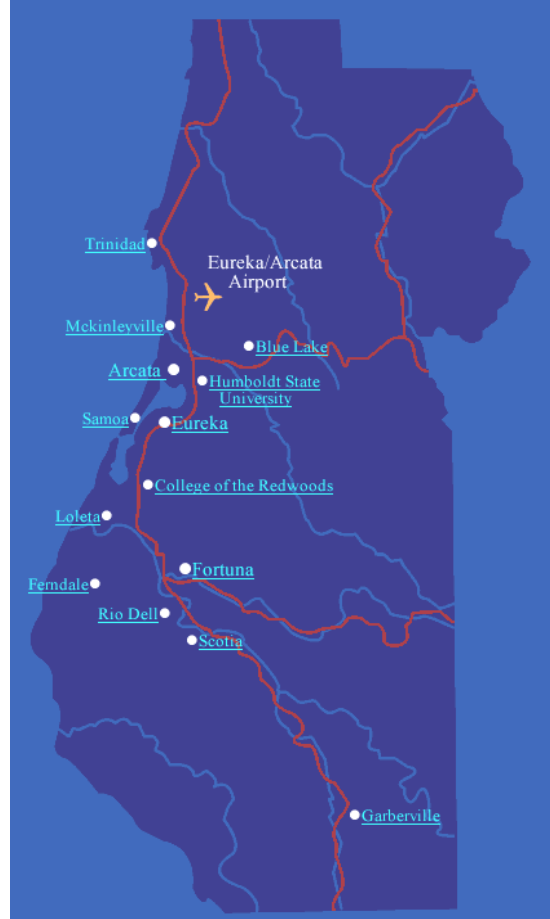
Repentance means you change your mind so deeply that it changes you. It's not just that I changed how I thought—I am now changed.

Testimonies

Evidence in the Walk

My name is George, my friends for years have called me Shiloh as my nickname. Any how, you and your blessing of a wife blessed me and the other men recently by coming to witness to us for our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. After church when y'all were here I came up to you, and told you thanks for coming, and asked you for one of your cards that you were handing out. Any how, I pretty much just put it in my locker and thought about writing you a few times, but never got around to it. Then yesterday, a brother in Christ, who happens to be a lifer, told me I should write you in regards to a hope and concern of mine. I truly felt that tug in my heart from the Spirit telling me that it was the right thing to do. So all day I've been thinking to myself what should I say to these people whom I don't know and how to talk to them in regards to my concerns that I'm faces with. So I'll do my best to convey that which is troubling me, as well as faced with. I'm originally from Texas. I got out of prison in 98 and ran to California. It's my second time in prison here in California. This time our Lord and Savior called me to repentance. "Literally" I overdosed on Heroin and when I came out of it, I was back in jail after coming to 24 hours later. I heard the Spirit say to me, "I saved you." All at once, I felt very scared and very dirty. I repented, and repented, and repented my heart out as the many thoughts resurfaced and convicted me of my sins. The Lord Jesus is awesome, the veil has been torn, and now I've been bought by God's Grace. Amen. Any how the

narrow path continues to roll on ahead of me.



Since I've been in California I've resided in Humboldt County, Arcata. I was a hippy pot grower up there, into the Grateful Dead, and Bob Marley, that sort of thing, in reality, just part of the proverbial tribe, the "lost tribe" if you will. And now God and I have reunited at long last, though I still need direction from my elders whom are part of the body of Christ, which is why I've chosen to write you. I have several issues that I need help with. I need someone to minister to my brother who is in jail in Colorado, first and foremost. They're trying to give him the death penalty there. It's killing me inside sir, because

they don't let us write each other. I was talking to him about the Lord. He knows the Lord, but he is faces with a great deal of stress right now, I'm quite sure. Please pastor Bob, pray the Lord Christ Jesus to put His words of gentleness, truth, and grace into your mouth, to cleanse my brother's lonely heart, I pray the Father in Christ Jesus name. I know you send a newsletter out and all, but I kinda was hoping you may be able to take a moment to do an individual letter. I don't exactly know what you would say but Jesus will talk for you, if you'll play the part of His disciple, as you do. Another issue when I parole I have been blessed by the parole people, and God, not to have to go back to Humboldt, where I don't need to be. It might as well be Egypt, if you can relate to that. Anyhow, I'm going to Chico, Calif. That's where I happened to be passing through when I overdosed. Anyhow, I don't know anyone there at all. You and I both know there's two paths in life, the right one and the wrong one. I refuse in Jesus' name, to sell pot, mushrooms, and acid, and to live a life style that is pleasing in our Lord's sight. I've been called to fight the "good fight." I've been blessed beyond measure. Even though the path is very narrow, and rough ahead of me, I still see the light and I'm not lost. I just need good advice, direction, and family that love the Lord as much as I do, to witness Christ in my life. I'm 32 years old. Bob, God wants to use me, and he does and truly it's my great pleasure. Sure I'm still rough around the edges, but I'm still growing in His grace. And unless God's a liar, and we know He is not, His covenant still stands when He said, I will perfect my work in you. I stand by that. I believe He is faithful and true. If you knew me before, and witnessed the

change yourself in me, and if you were not a believer, I think you would instantly have a seed planted in Jesus' name in your heart, just from the complete difference that's in me. Praise God huh! Anyhow, I get out in Dec. 18th, four months from now. I don't know anyone in Chico. Let me say this: Just now the Spirit brought back to my remembrance that which you spoke of almost a month ago when you were here. It was Hebrews 6:4-6, even up to 6:4-20, a chapter that is always a heavy reminder of what we're up against. So now you see that which I am faced with. God is no joke, He will not be mocked as you and I both know. So, anyhow, please may our Lord use you to direct me, and my brother. I pray in Jesus' name to our Father for strength, and guidance for you as well! The Spirit told me to give you these scriptures just as a simple reminder.

Heb. 6:11-15

Luke 12:48

Romans 10:15

If anything, thanks for all that you have already done for us. May the Lord bless you, your wife, and your home. **GR**

NOTE from Bob:

For those of you that have read Chaplain Bob's testimony, He gave his life to the Lord while living in Humboldt County, and attending CSU Humboldt in Arcata, California. The descriptions given by **GR**, are very real and go on all the time in the area.

Lighter But Serious Side

Reading the Bible

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water." The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said,

"I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.

That is the work of God in our lives, to change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His Son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day, and remind a friend by sharing this

God Bless.

For those of you that may have lost loved ones and wondered about the next step in God's journey for ours and others life:

~DEATH~

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT!!!

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."



Step Back from the Cliff

By Dr. James
MacDonald

Ephesians 5:1-3

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.



A few years ago, my family and I visited the Swiss Alps. We squeezed into this little car and drove those narrow, hair-pin twisting mountain roads. The drop-off was terrifying—over the cliff and a million feet down. Even though there was a guard rail, I hugged the mountain as closely I could.

If you want to be a godly man or woman living in a morally corrupt society, you also want to stay as far from the edge as possible. Flirt with the cliff long enough and you'll eventually go over.

Ephesians 5 tells us that if you're following Christ, you need to live like Christ. Like cold water in your face, verse 3 says, "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you as is proper among saints." The word *immorality* is from the Greek *pornea* from which we get *pornography*. I doubt you need the statistics to be convinced that sexual sin has a death-grip on our culture but just in case you've been sleeping . . .

- Pornography is an 8 billion dollar per year industry. Over 200 pornographic websites are added daily to more than 100,000 already existing sites.

- 56% of American men and 30% of women have had 5 or more sexual partners.
- According to a recent Gallup Poll, almost 47% of high school students have already experienced sexual intimacy.

We've got a serious problem with immorality. So I've got to ask you, have you allowed yourself to get lax on what you look at, what you do, or allow in your mind? Do you tolerate borderline practices in your life that a man or woman of God never should? Are you riding too close to the cliff?

I urge you to step back. Stay as far away from those matters as you possibly can. The most practical counsel I can give you is to establish patterns of purity and commit to live by them. Before God, determine that "I will do *these* things; I won't do *these* things."

I call these "moral fences." They act like guard rails against the cliff. Some of mine are: I have determined that I will not counsel women alone. I won't ride in a car with a woman alone. I won't stay in a hotel overnight alone—ever. Sometimes that costs me more money, inconvenience, and lost opportunities, but I don't ever want to be in a place where I feel the fiery breath of the enemy even if I could be victorious in that battle.

Don't deceive yourself into thinking this doesn't apply to you. Be humble and get serious. Following Christ means living a pure life.

Poetry Section

NOTE: Yes, Bob knows it is past Christmas, but this poem was sent this past Christmas and really moved me.

Christmas Reflections

By B. Walter

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Was humming through my mind.
And then it took me for a trip
To another place and time.

To when God sent His only son
To live upon this earth.
The place and time, the King of Kings
Came forth in humble birth.

All Bethlehem was crowded
The noise was quite a din.
When Joseph with Mary, Great with
child,
Was told, "There's no room in the inn.

So in a stable, mean and bare,
Our creator would begin,
Because the busy town folk,
would make no room for Him.

Now the year 2006,
Is where I work and live,
And just 37 years ago,
I told Jesus, "My life I give."

I know the world rejects Him,
and puts other things in His place.
Their minds are busy with this life,
and success in the human race.

But I wonder about the church folk,
and of my kith and kin.
How the talk about the season,
But barely mention Him.

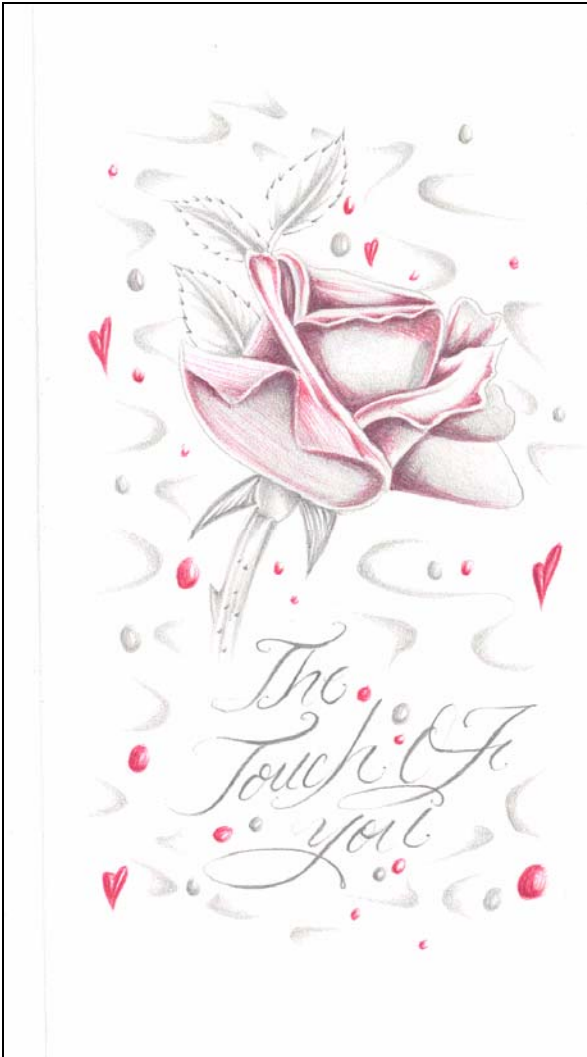
Has Jesus come into their heart,
or are they really doomed.
Have they filled their heart with Jesus
Or does this world take up all the room.

In Israel and Judah
So many years ago,
Jesus came to save His people,
But they crucified Him so.

He still would like to save you,
And give you victory to win,
But if you are too proud and busy,
Then you might not let Him in.

What a shame to spend eternity
In hell's black fire and doom,
All because you were too busy
to stop and give your Savior room.

“Inmate Art” Drawings on envelopes by Arturo Bastardo



Send us your drawings to be displayed to the world and to remind those on the “outside” the talent that lies “behind the walls.”



The following article is the fifth article of “**Message in a Bottle**” from NW. Those of you that have followed her articles on “**My Dream Seeker,**” (started with **volume 17, July/Aug. 2006**) know of the love and expression displayed by the writer, and felt by the reader of the article. Now we present another article as written in a prison cell by **The Mermaid.**

To My Dream Seeker (Part 5)

To All the Readers of Moving On Ministry

I want to say thanks for all your support and prayers. When Bob and Linda came into my life, they have been my light of my life.

Bob’s letters have made me realize that our lives can be a Life made of Dreams that come true, as long as you have Jesus Christ in your life. As you all know, when I turned my life over with my testimony, “**Sure of Heaven**” (**Letter From M.O.M. – volume 15**)

I have so much faith in my Heavenly Father, because of my faith, He has walked with me step by step through this long, hard road, and through that walk, I chose to walk down, I had lost everyone and everything that meant anything to me. Let me tell you a little bit of my pain that became joy.

My mother was taken to Heaven when I was 12 years old and then my eyes began to see life in a different way (when we loose a ‘prayer warrior’ for us, someone else needs to step in). I became hard, and stubborn with my grandparents, which I went to live with

after my mother passed on. I had to grow up really fast and in that growth, I learned how to love in a life of hell, which brought me to a place that is cold and heartless in my life, that place is called “loneliness” that is a prison in itself.

So that loneliness had me searching for someone or something to fill that gap in my life, as well as my heart. Well, one day I met that someone, which I found my fulfillment. It unfortunately was ‘Satan.’ He had me thinking drugs, sex, lying, stealing, and cheating was the life I desired. I was only 15 years old when I fell into the pot of hell and I fell hard. I went into a speeding of no return. There for a minute in my life I thought I was never going to be able to be really happy or loved by anyone.

This brings me to a time in my life that I wanted to give up. But out of all this hell, the only good thing was I had a beautiful son. His name is Cory. He became my world until I discovered something much more powerful, which was ‘drugs.’ I thought I was in control

of my motherhood responsibilities, but it turned out that the only thing I was in control of was nothing at all. I never kept a promise to a beautiful innocent young boy. As of today, tomorrow, and forever, I want to say “I AM SORRY Cory.”

This has brought me to a very cold, lonely place in my life, yes, prison. With all the running with Satan, brought me to a place where I never wanted my son to experience, but that did not happen, because now he is serving a 8 year sentence in prison at the age of 20.

All this has brought me to a side of life I never knew existed, until Chaplain Bob wrote me his very first letter. I realized that Jesus Christ loved me and would forgive me of my sins, even though I have never had the pleasure of meeting Chaplain Bob in person yet, I feel like he has been my chaplain for my whole life.

“Thank You”

Most of all I want to say to anyone that thought love stopped at a break up in a relationship, they’re wrong, because I have been blessed with a soul mate that I left 16 years ago, beaten and broken hearted. But through time, and our faith in Jesus Christ, we are now in love, and waiting to be married, to become a Christian family and support our son that needs our love and guidance to know he is loved by his

mother and father. So I just wanted to say to all you readers that may be incarcerated, that life does get better as long as you have Jesus Christ in your life, I’m living proof. I am willing to give anyone a line of inspiration when you are feeling lonely and worthless. As I want to tell the Dream Seeker, I love you and also my son, Cory.

Your fiancée and mother will come home very soon, because our faith in Jesus Christ will see us through these trials. Thank you for being the two most important men in my life. But my utmost thanks to my Heavenly Father for giving me all my hope and faith, plus joy.

Thank you to all my wonderful Christian brothers and sisters that are following “The Dream Seeker.” Always know dreams do come true with the faith in Jesus Christ.

Love, the Mermaid

