

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.COM

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/MovingOn>

Volume 26 – July, 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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Visalia. CA. 93290

Moving On Ministry
Spanish Volunteer Linda
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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.

I want to extend special thanks to the following;

My Mom (Jeanne) – monthly support
My Aunt Pat – monthly support
Inmates – donations of stamps
Inmates - with Poetry
Inmates – with artwork
Inmates – with testimonies
Inmates – with letters written

Fellowship

We would like to keep a listing of locations for fellowship that welcomes previous incarcerated individuals. We previously listed churches that are supportive in California, as well as some special articles on churches in other states. 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.

Cry for Help from our “Brothers and Sisters” in the Lord

I want to mention a Pastor, his congregation (United Holiness Church) and his church building, that is overrun by termites eating the building to the ground. This is the church we attended in Swaziland Africa in January 2006. Pastor Jeffrey was the pastor of this congregation. These people would walk 1 to 4 Km (approximately ¾ to 3 miles) in 105 degree F (January is summer in

Africa) weather to get to church, a church that was built out of scrap wood and blue plastic for walls.



I have kept in touch with Pastor Jeffrey and he would like to build a new facility for God’s people. He has started a building fund account and graciously sent me the requested account information for those so led by God to contribute to it.



For those wanting to feel the presence of God, you need to be in one of these services. These folks have nothing, because they have dedicated all they have to God. They all came with their best clothing, much donated by previous individuals, that did as we did and left all their clothing behind for the Swazi people.



Many of you remember this picture taken by my wife, Linda, of the children in the church service in United Holiness Church of Swaziland. It was used in the Visalia newspaper article on our trip.



The surroundings were not as fancy as many of the churches from our home areas, but the praise to God, was very sincere.



The people would love to just hang around and fellowship, even after the church services were over.



Pastor Jeffrey was there to talk with everyone about the Lord for what ever amount of time they wanted to take.

Please realize that what we consider a small donation, is “maximized” by God to do great miracles. The exchange rate is \$1 USD to about 6-7 Rand. The people of Swaziland have 36% of the population that earn less than \$1 a day.

Please search your hearts and soul to help these Godly people that want a place to worship and reach others for the Lord.

**Mahombe HUC Account
Acct. # 0121214986701
Standard Bank of Swaziland
Piggs Peak Branch**

One individual we met, that I would like everyone to pray for his commitment to God, is “Lucky.” We had a wonderful time talking with him, but he needs to be “inside” the church, instead of just talking to us outside the church.



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.

Conflict to Comfort

This morning during my devotional time, I was reading the following verses and the brighter light turned on in my soul. “In fact, everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12 NIV). “A Christian man’s enemies will be the members of his own household” (Matt. 11:36).

Allow me to apply these two verses to my own personal life and circumstances. I am being persecuted in my own cell! Let me explain – my cellmate mocks my doctrinal beliefs and my Christian walk. The last thing he mocked (he laughed until tears rolled down his cheeks), was my fasting. I fast from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM everyday, 12 hrs. and he said that what I do is not fasting. He makes funny noises when I get on my knees to pray. When I sit on the small desk in the cell, to study the Word, he tells others that I sit on the table and just look out the window, and on and on. Sometimes I think that persecution takes place in another country, where people have to run and hide for their lives. Yes, at times I feel afflicted, oppressed, persecuted, all because I want to live a Godly life, and my cellmate does not. In a sense, he is a spiritual enemy. My spiritual enemy, he lives in the same cell with me. So he is part of the same household. The Lord is

using him to discipline me and to continue to work in me. So I try not to take it personal. I don’t see my cellmate as the enemy. I know who the real enemy is. My cellmate is just an instrument in the hands of the tempter. And I have to remind myself of the fact.

My question is this – Can God use believers and non-believers as well – to allow persecution in our lives? Can a loved one become a spiritual enemy? The point I am getting at is this – Can God use a loved one to discipline you, to correct you, to test your faith and help you grow? Can negative circumstances around someone close to us, be used to help us mature spirits daily? You see, these are questions I ask myself!

AM

Working in another Dimension

Thank you for the many wonderful pictures. You may call the 5 acres a ‘mini’-Christian Retreat, but God will Maxi-mize it. The work of the Lord is multi-dimensional. If you only look at the length and width, it may appear mini – But if you include the height, which reaches to the third Heaven, then you’ll have the right dimensions. Most of the work will be done in the height dimension.

To the natural Eye, things appear smaller than what they really are. We must see all gifts through eyes of faith. Trust me, your dear mom has gifted you a piece of land suitable to fit the Kingdom of God. Amen! So, try not to use the word “mini” or any other similar words – Because any blessing that comes from God, reaches to the Heavens

AM

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.

Thoughts

You are not what you think you are; But what you think, . . . you are.

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."

Do your givin' while you're livin'
So you're knowin' where its goin'

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

Thank you again for attending the Graduation ceremony at Avenal State Prison, it was a real pleasure meeting you and Linda and God has certainly blessed me with 2 fantastic friends.

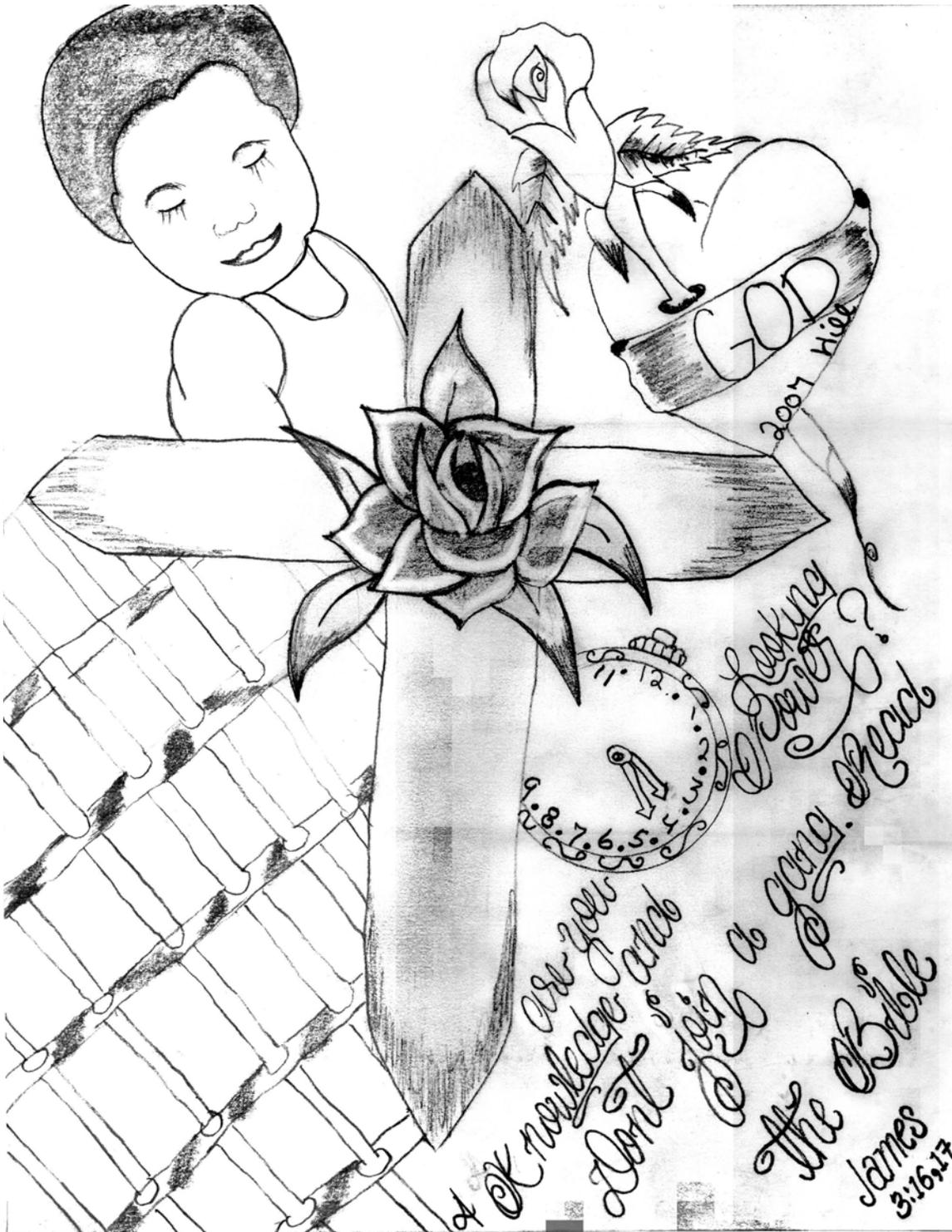
When you were here you mentioned needing more testimonies from people and I agreed I would write my “story” and send it to you. Well, I’ve spent hours in prayer asking God for guidance with telling my story in a way that would show others just how much our Father Jesus can take charge of our lives. I wanted to write my story in hopes of someone saying, “WOW, if he can change, so can I.” But the truth is, I didn’t change, God changed me. I came from a really wild family, we partied together, drank alcohol together, committed crimes together – a life that most people only read about. I’m 43 years old and have spent better than 25 years in prisons. I’ve got 7 terms in and have done prison time for robbery, assault on a peace officer with a deadly weapon, drug sales, auto theft, escaped twice, burglary, and more parole violations than I can remember. I was arrested for killing my best friend in ’85, been investigated in 3 different homicides, I’ve been doing drugs since I was 13, drinking for as long as I can even remember. My mother died of a terrible nerve disease when I was 18. Me and my dad drank and did drugs and committed crimes until he passed away in 94. I’ve been married 5 times. I have 4 kids and I’m still in prison.

My entire life has been out of control, but in my heart I knew without a doubt, there was a God. My family kind

of believed, and there was a Bible in the house somewhere and we all prayed when we needed help – but not before! I’ve always felt in my heart that God was near and that he was real and not just a character in a book. I read the Bible while I was in isolation a few times, but never thought about actually accepting God. I mean, I already believed, so that should be enough. Well in February 2006, I was arrested for receiving stolen property, a minor charge, but having been in so much trouble, nothing is minor anymore. At that, I was offered 32 years – I could not believe what I had heard, I said, you mean 32 months? Anyway, I ended up taking 6 years for a minor offense. I prayed because I needed something, and quit praying as soon as I was sentenced, because I didn’t need any more help.

When I got to Wasco, I was tired of life, back in prison, getting old, my wife gave up, my kids are fatherless, my sisters fed up with me being in trouble, so I prayed for the first time in my life, I prayed from my heart and simply asked God to give me understanding and knowledge, and the will to learn more! No lightning flashed, life didn’t change, no visions or messages from God, but I did feel better, and I did have a desire to learn and I’ve been blessed with people in my life that have taken the time to teach me and tell me about God and share their story and be a part of my life and came to my graduation. Yes, God answered my prayers. I do have a better understanding and read my Bible. I study, and my knowledge grows daily, and I know God is guiding me. **ES**

“Inmate Art” Drawing by **Mary Hill**



Lighter But Serious Side

Does God Know you

Bob's Uncle Alex wrote the following message. Let us (Bob, Linda, Alex, etc all) know what you think of it.

Hello All,

Some of you asked me to explain what I meant by: "**Does God Know you**". The writing was about a month ago. Sorry for the delay.

The Hebrew word for know is: Yada` (yaw-dah'). Does that word sound familiar? Yesterday, I was in the middle of my lunch when...yada, yada, yada.... Yes, when we say, "yada, yada, yada", we are using the Hebrew word "know". We are actually saying, "know, know, know". "Now you know the rest of the story".

God knows every person, every creature and every aspect of the world in which we live. After all, He made everything. He knows when a bird falls from the sky and he knows how many hairs (or lack thereof) we have on our head. But, that is not the "know" that was referred to. The reference was to God's relationship to his kids and God's kid's **responsive** relationship to Him.

The "know" that the Bible talks about when referring to God's children is an **interactive** knowledge. The know is the "Knew" in, "Adam knew Eve", yada, yada, yada, in Genesis. Adam looked upon Eve, he thought about her and had an **experiential** knowledge of her and vice versa. The experiential knowledge was not just sexual, though that is what the context implies, but an all encompassing knowledge including talking, listening, helping, comforting, nurturing and caring about each other. What if Adam simply looked upon Eve, would he "know" her in a personal way or simply have a knowledge about her? He would not "know" her in the close relationship that the word implies. To know someone takes experience with that person and experience requires interaction.

Most of us have children and we know them, **not** because we bore them, but because we grew them up under our admonition; we lived with them and they lived with us. As we see our kids respond to instruction and discipline we know them even more. There is an **active participation** between us. Our children know us and they know we provide for them and love them unconditionally. Because of our relationship, they respect us and abundantly love us. Because they love us they express their love by doing what they know is right. As parents we know that our children often fail on the responsive, interactive level. But we still know them and love them.

The relationship is the same with us and God. We fail God at times, but if we have a responsive, interactive and experiential relationship with him, He still "knows" us and "He will never leave you (**us**) or forsake you (**us**)" (**Hebrews 13:5**).

We have experienced "new birth" because we believe Jesus is the Son of God, we have accepted God's sacrifice for our sins and invited Jesus into our hearts to be Savior and Lord of our lives.

God never forces His way into our lives. God gave us "freewill" to choose Him (or not) individually so that our love for Him would not be coerced but known to be genuine by God and us.

Someone could believe that Jesus is the Son of God, accept the fact that Jesus is God's sacrifice for sin and that Jesus is God come in the flesh (Emanuel: God with us.), but never be "known by God". Never known by God because they never invited Christ into their lives as personal Savior and Lord and experience what the Bible talks about as being "born again": Born into the family of God; "born of the Spirit" (**John 3:1-21**) and "born of the Word" (**1 Peter 1:23**).

God knows us because of our living faith; responsive, interactive and experiential faith. James says:

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

"But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder."

James 2:14-19

If we have a living faith we are compelled by the Holy Spirit to reach out to those around us who are in need. Whether we see or hear of someone in our family, at work, at church or someone that we just happened to run into in need of help, we are compelled to help. (I do not believe in "just happened to" or coincidences). There are no coincidences as we walk with God, walk in His Love and live by faith, for our "steps are ordered of the Lord" (**Psalms 37:23**).

The Holy Spirit indwells Christians. It is said, we have the Holy Spirit...Now ask yourself: "Does the Holy Spirit have me?"

When we have the Holy Spirit and we respond to His prompting, we will walk according to a fulfilling living faith; a responsive, interactive and experiential faith. **"The Holy Spirit will have us"** and herein, **"God knows us."**

Examples in the Bible:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me"—
(John 10:14-15)

"But the man who loves God is known by God." (1 Corinthians 8:3)

"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you know God — or rather are known by God... (Galatians 4:6-9) "Abba", means "Papa...a term of endearment".

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." (Matthew 7:21-27)

Read: Matthew 25:31-46

Bottom line: If one has (personally) accept Christ as Savior and Lord and does what the Word says as it pertains to loving God and loving others as ourselves, then God knows us. Even when we fail in our attempts, God still knows us. We should always keep trying to express the love of God to others until the Lord comes again.

Doing good works does not produce faith, but our faith produces good works. Faith comes first, then the Good works. Good works do not get us to heaven, but faith that produces good works will get us to heaven.

God "has dealt to everyone a measure of faith".

Thank you for reading this email...your eyes must be tired.

Alex

Poetry Section

Poet of the Lord

Hear, oh poet of the Lord
I offer you a great reward.
A gifting that should never cease,
An out pouring of joy and peace.

I send you from my throne above,
As a messenger of my eternal love.
To a lost an dying land,
To every creature, every man.

Speak, oh poet of the living God.
Dare to walk where angels trod.
Tell your world in rhymes of praise,
Of Jesus, whom from the dead I raised.

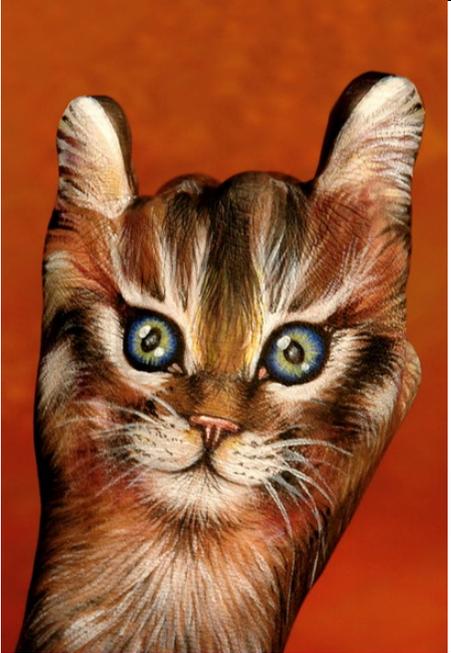
I give you words full of life.
Use them as an end to strife.
Send them by land and sea,
For this is your destiny.

I have chosen you especially by name,
So set aside your sorrow and shame.
And speak now on my behalf,
Of love and peace, and even wrath.

Listen closely for my inner voice,
And pen your rimes of choice.
Then cry aloud, as I speak to you,
So others may know me as you do.

“**Hand Painting**” 5 times as great as Finger Painting.







My wife, Linda, had read that they spend about 3 hours to prepare the hands with each of these paintings.

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

To My Dream Seeker (Return)



To all my Christian brothers and sisters at BWDF and around the world, this is the Fisherman from Tulare County. Well it's been a long time since you have heard from me in the Moving On Ministry newsletter, but it's all good because the Lord has been molding me the right way, and has been molding me the right way, and been doing so many good things in my life. Now it's time to let you Christian brothers and sisters know what he's been doing. The time is 11:00 AM and I am on the yard at Tehachapi State Prison. The sun is shining and the wind is blowing. But as I set here looking at our Lord's creation, and beautiful mountains, it's so beautiful how our Lord made this world – He's GOOD. These things that the Lord has been doing in my life are so wonderful. It's like I get on my knees every morning at 5:00 AM and ask the Lord what He has planned for my day? But the last few mornings He's been talking to me to write this letter to all my Christian friends that are behind the wall and let them know that there is all kinds of help out there, and faith, if you just let Him work in your life. It's the only way that you're going to make it out there in

The following article is the first article of “**Message in a Bottle**” from **AF** (the Fisherman). Those of you that have followed the articles on “**My Dream Seeker**,” (starting with **volume 17, July/Aug. 2006**) know of the love for the Dream Seeker. Now we present “**Keep It Real – Something to Think About**” as written in a prison cell by **The Fisherman**.

the real world, because Satan is strong out there. He doesn't want you to do any thing good out there, but go back to your old ways and that's sad. You know I have been in Tehachapi for almost two years, and been faithful to all the Christian brothers and to all the Christian programs, and to church, since I've been here. I have not missed a Sunday since I've been here and I've seen a lot of people come and go. But there is something that I see almost every day that hurts my heart so bad, and I had to let you Christian brothers and sisters know, and keep it real with you. What I see is there are all kinds of Christian brothers, who will be all up in church, and worshipping the Lord, and then go home, and come back in a month or two, with a new case of a violation. And when I see them come back, it hurts me so much, because they were not keeping it real with our Lord, or themselves, and that's something I want to tell you Christian brothers and sisters, you cannot fool the Lord. You're only fooling yourself. Christian brothers and sisters, you either serve our Lord Jesus Christ to the fullest, or don't at all. Don't play with him because at the end,

you will get the short end of the stick. You will never go wrong if you stick with Him by your side. And that is what is happening to some Christian brothers that leave Christ behind. They think they could go out there and make it, without Christ, and you can't. Satan is too strong out there in the real world, and the only one that could beat him 1000 times is our Lord Jesus Christ. I know what it's like to not have Christ by my side, it's "hell." But now that I have Him in my life, I am a strong man. I will never go back to my old ways. My future wife, the Mermaid (she writes the [Dream Seeker](#)), has been so strong in serving the Lord. The good Lord gave both of us correspondence, and I write her all the time and she writes back and shares the Word with me, and what she is doing in her recovery. And at one time in our life, we wouldn't even be thinking about sharing the Word. But the good Lord brought us together after 16 years, and we couldn't have done that without our Lord by our side. The Lord is molding us the right way, to share the Word with other people when we get out of prison. To give back what He has done for us, to show that there is hope in serving Him. If He could change our life, He can change anybody's life. But you have to stay strong and have faith in Him. And you don't give up, don't do what Satan wants you to do. Do what

our Lord wants you to do – Serve Him, because the real world needs good Godly Christians. Brothers and sisters, just look around you. Look at all the jails and the prisons there are – over crowded. Look where you're at. Satan is real. Only God can change your life. I am telling you all, Wake Up and listen to our God cry. He will hear you, promise you. And one more thing I want to say to you Christian brothers and sisters, every time you guys see Bob and Linda from **Moving On Ministry**, you should thank them and pray for them, because they are God's gift to prison and jail inmates. Without them, me and the "mermaid," and other inmates, would not be saved. That's why I call him "Angel Bob." He and Linda came a long way, and no matter what, **Moving On Ministry** will never give up on you, just like our Lord Jesus Christ. So, keep them in prayer and the ministry. I want to say, I'm so proud of you. Stay strong and what ever you do, all of us Christian brothers and sisters are behind you. And when our Lord Jesus Christ is done, molding us, we will be together, and very strong, serving with **Moving On Ministry**. God is good. Thank you, all Christian brothers and sisters. I will keep you all in prayer when I'm on my knees, morning, and night. Love you all.

Love, the Fisherman AF