

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 46 – March 2009

“I Can Only Imagine”

As you receive this volume of **Letter From M.O.M.**, we have many new writers of articles, we are putting some more of the testimonies of “How God Changes Lives” as well as some of our own written articles. We can truly say that the “high” that many of our inmates have been trying to get through the wrong methods, is being surpassed by those putting God in control of their lives.

Watch our website

www.MovingOnMinistry.com

We are affiliated with International Prison Fellowship

<http://PrisonMinistry.net/movingon>

and Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Volunteer

www.GoodNewsJail.com



You can't cut out the Middle Man

Letter From M.O.M. Volume 46
March 2009

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.

Addresses to contact Ministry Volunteers

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

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

Jesus Prayer Ministry
Sis Denise
P.O. Box 7925
Chula Vista, CA 91912

Armor in Ministry (A.I.M.)
Brother Rocky
P.O. Box 7032
Visalia, CA. 93290

Ask for a copy of our complete
“Resource Supplemental Letter”

For 2009, Bob is doing Bible study at BWDF on Mondays and at MCF on Thursdays.

The Sunday after the 2nd Saturday of each month is Bob, Rocky and Linda’s assigned day for 3 to 4 chapel Services at Corcoran State Prison (“Old” Corcoran).

Bob has requested CMC clearance & Rocky has requested Wasco clearance.

Bob and Rocky have also been doing the Miramonte Conservation Camp #5 chapel services every other Friday.

Bob and Linda are scheduled for the Bill Glass Ministry in Fresno, CA (4/30-5/2), then (9/17-9/19) the No. Calif. Event, then (10/22-10/24) the So. Calif. Event.

M.O.M. Needs

- (Praise) New Tractor is here for Camp Clarius development.
- Pen-pals to write inmates
- Finances
- Testimonies
- Development of Squaw Valley Property (Camp Clarius)
- Development of Nevada property
- Development of Arizona property
- Graphics artist for books
- Drawings to publish and share

Prayer/Praise Request

The Mom of M.O.M. (Jeanne) needs continuing prayer. She had neck surgery on 2/23/2009. The surgery was to put a metal plate for vertebrae 3, 4, & 5 in the neck. The doctor only had to do 4 & 5. Immediately after the surgery she was speaking praise to the hospital staff. Within 2 hours after the surgery, she was sitting up and talking with Bob. God is Good, ALL the time!

The Source

One of my favorite Bible teachers, Chuck Missler (66/40 broadcast), had recently shared a message that you can determine the source of situations by the outcome of how we express ourselves. Does the event bring us closer to God, or does it drive us away from God? How does the death of a loved one affect us? Draw us closer? Or drive us away? Knowing they are with God, we should be rejoicing. Are they in the presence of our Lord? Are we in the presence? We do not want to present ourselves as so straight and firm as to push away the lost, but we should never compromise God’s ministry either.

Letters that Express it All

We like to post real life situations, because God works in real lives and He is the one that gives "Eternal Life." Every week we get many letters that state "I love hearing the testimonies." There are so many, we cannot publish them all, and the sad part is – people not involved in jail / prison ministry do not get to read the many letters we receive daily (average 2 to 11 each day) and try to keep up with and answer.

God's Perfect Intervention

Hey Chaplain Bob, I got your newsletter and it came right on time. You don't know how bad I was. I laid on the floor for 3 weeks, thinking about nothing but killing myself. I even went to the top tier and marked my spot where I was going to jump on 1-7-09. But something happened, we got locked down that day for 24 hours (God did this) and I got your letter (God did this). I got a calm in my soul and I started wanting to live again, but not like I was. Now I'm in prayer group every day, and I look forward to getting right. I pray for mom (yours), and mine is in the hospital. . . . I need a lot of help chaplain Bob. Please help me. I look forward to hearing from you.

You can use anything I write if it will help somebody. I only wish I would have realized 43 years ago what I was doing and took the other road. This has been a long hard way to go, and I wish it on nobody. If you live wrong, you will end up with nothing or nobody but yourself, and probably not like what you have, like me. But if you live right, you'll probably have everything you

need and most of what you want, and probably like yourself in the end. God's way is a lot easier. I'm glad I finally opened my eyes and heart. **TWA**

Jesus is Real, He Who Grants the Pages of Life

In the beginning, while the heavens and earth were yet without form and shape, you looked upon us from eternity, loving us for all you created us to be, accepting us just as we are. So, as we reflect on the time we have and the life you have given us, increasingly aware our blessings and miracles flow from your hand alone.

With all we have, we celebrate and ascribe worth to you, who created all things and by whom all things were made. The sovereign ruler of earth and sky, your heart is not to curse, neither is it your desire to see anyone lost; but you allow everyone to experience your divine unconditional love. Your will is the ultimate goal, and in your conscience you have care – fully orchestrated our steps.

You have authored the "Pages of Life"! Dear God, we are forever grateful for your non-ending glorious greatness that you grant to us all openly and freely. What more could we possibly need?

(To all my fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride. If you don't want off at this stop, stay aboard, the saga continues . . . stay tuned **RLA**

Note from Bob:

We published this letter as it came in because it parallels the things we were writing about in this month's newsletter. In our article, More Facts, the subjects of will, desire, and salvation are discussed. *****

Testimony

God's Mercy for Recovery

Dear Chaplain Bob and Sister Linda,
Praise the Lord for His mercy
and Grace!

I take great pleasure in writing this letter to you. So many things have happened to me over the past few months, and it's only by the grace of God that I'm still here and able to testify of His mercy.

Five months ago, I did something shameful, which led me to be placed in Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg; the "hole"). I was put on two different medications to help with the depression and the other problems that I was having at the time.

What I did, ate me up badly. More so, because of all the people that I had hurt back on the yard; inmates and staff. I had let so many people down – in the church and out of the church – and the regret was overbearing. So overbearing that prior to being actually placed in the "hole," I was put in the hospital here at Corcoran State Prison for suicide watch. I was there for about two weeks, and during that time, I had no choice but to fall on my knees and literally cry out to God for help. I needed relief. I needed peace. And only God was able, through His Son Jesus Christ, to give me that.

On top of that, a messenger bearing bad news told me that if I ever came back to the yard that I left from let's just say, I wouldn't be able to stay. I knew what he said at that time was true, but little did I know of the work that God was doing on my behalf.

On top of that, I received a felony D.A. referral for what I'd done. I

had two strikes already. A third one would only mean, as we all know so well, life in prison.

I'm not writing this as a story. The reason why I'm writing this is to share with you some of the things that God did in the midst of all this, and to mention a couple of people that God had, or used, to encourage me through this situation. Like Chaplain Bob, and his caring wife, Sister Linda.

God did not forsake me in my time of trouble. As the sons of Korah wrote in Psalms 46, God was, ", , , a very present help in trouble." When we're faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. He cannot deny who He is. He cannot deny that He is God, who says, ". . . if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14), and who declares, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me (Psalms 50:15).

Not only did God forgive me of my sin, and cleansed my heart from all unrighteousness with the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for us, but He also came to my aid through my entire court process; touching the hearts of the judge, and the prosecutor, and the defense attorney. Simply said, instead of receiving my third strike, life sentence . . . I was given 6 years with 80%, which will run consecutive to the sentence that I'm already serving time on. All I can say is, "Halleluiah to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world . . .

Great is our God, and great is His mercy!” God delivered me, and now I’ll spend the rest of my life glorifying Him!

During this process though, there were times when I failed and had to get back up. Failed again and got back up. And then I learned that if you cast your burden on Him, He will sustain you, for He shall never permit the righteous to be moved. Let go, and let God!

At the same time all this was going on, I received many encouraging letters from various people, many of them being from the Christian brothers on 3B yard, the yard I was initially on, and happy to say “am on.” (It’s all God people. What can I say, His peace surpasses all understanding. Prov. 16:7)

Among the letters that I received were those from the “boot wear’n, car ‘whip’n” Chaplain Bob, and again, his caring wife, Sister Linda. They have been a big dose of encouragement to me. From sending me the M.O.M. newsletter, and notes, and Tweety Bird messages – being sure to tell me not to follow the enemy’s ploys to take me on the wrong path, and keep focused – to the postcard Sister Linda sent me – and you know how she is with those postcards, Ya’ll – that said “Every thing’s BIGGER in TEXAS!” It even had a picture of a fish that was as big as the little boat the fishermen dudes were on! But what got me is what she ended her note with: “Remember that God has ‘bigger’ and better things in store for you.” God bless you Sister Linda & Chaplain Bob, for the Love of Christ you continue to show me and others, during our times of trouble. Amen

Now to the meat of it all. This is specifically for you Chaplain Bob & Sis Linda, and whoever else you choose to let read this. You have been a great blessing to me. Not just in the past five

months, but every time you come here to visit and minister to us. I have something to declare to you. May you receive it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

I declare this word according to the blessings that has been placed on my life, through the mercies of God, as it is written in Genesis 12:2, 3. For I stood before the Lord in repentance and made it known to Him that I didn’t want to be a curse any longer to His people, or anyone else. So God forgave me, and blessed me. And out of that blessing I write this vision.

As I said previously, you have truly blessed me in my time of need. And God has promised me in my time of healing and restoration, that He will bless those that bless me, and curse him who curses me. And he tells us time and time again, that if we give, we shall receive . . . a “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.” It will be put into your bosom. “For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

On 12/24/08, a money order was sent to TBN from my account, on your behalf, your ministry, and Prison Ministries everywhere. It was for \$10.25.

I remember sitting on my bunk before the Lord, and asking Him how can I be a blessing to them. I began to see, in my spirit, the M.O.M. newsletter in color – once again. Also, greater access into prisons and not just to the gate, a consequence of faulty promises. I saw the expansion of your ministry, including the many volunteers it will take to operate it. Financial stability with abundant growth, and not a “we just make it through.” I began to see your desires and needs for M.O.M. and for the people – the men, women and children –

you minister to. I even saw Sis Linda pregnant (smile, it's not impossible – “and the Lord said to Abraham, why did Sarah laugh . . .”) But I don't think you would want me to go there. Most importantly though, I see the thousands upon thousands of souls you're going to reach, and through the grace and mercy of our Savior and Lord, . . . save. For when you both are gone on to be with the Lord – halleluiah ! – your ministry will continue to go and prosper, for your children shall inherit it, and do the work, or should I say “finish” the work, that our Great God and Father began in you. All to His purpose, and to His glory. Amen

After I saw all these things, I prayed accordingly. And I know that God hears me and answers me (Proverbs 15:29, Jer. 33:3) And when you write or send the newsletter, and tell us what you need, whether it be for provisions or for healing, I pray accordingly. For there is nothing too hard for my God, who

supplies all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Believe it. Expect it. This is not a ploy or game. And I'm not looking for fame. Check this out. Exactly 21 days from the date the money order went out, I saw on TBN - where the money went – Paula White and Mike Barbour, who's involved in prison ministry, talking about prison ministry and the need for churches to be more involved. Also that Friday, would be Jan, 16 of this year, Paul and Jan Crouch, founders of TBN, were on there talking about what . . . Prison Ministry. So I know that God did not overlook my seed, but watered it and is even caring for it, that there may be a great harvest for the Kingdom of God. And willing laborers, such as yourselves, will not only plant seed, but will see your own harvest, and you will help others by reaping where you have not labored.

Chaplain Bob, before you go, you will see a harvest, for there will be more than one. **ATJ**

More Facts By Chaplain Bob

We see individuals that come to a church looking for a church that is lenient in accepting people where they are. They want a church that forgives them (often as they continue in the same sin). For a church to offer this atmosphere, it is doing a great injustice to these individuals. When the church offers this type of forgiveness, the individual does not seek the face of God, because he has already found the “forgiveness” he was seeking. It is forgiveness in the form of acceptance. It is forgiveness in the form of staying where the individual is at. It is forgiveness that did not require repentance.

How serious are we about our faith in God? How serious are we about our relationship with Christ? How serious are we about repentance and turning away from sin? **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Prov. 3:5-6 (NIV).** The Hebrew word for ALL (KOL) actually means ALL. What do we intentionally overlook? What do we ignore? What do we allow in our lives or our children's lives?

Desires vs. Expectations

As we talk to individuals, that express their expectations, they expect God to be their unlimited supply for all their needs. They do not deal with reality of what God's desires are for us, and what His expectations are.

In summary, our desires should be based on God's expectations.

Keeping On

We must "keep on keeping on." The scripture never points out how well we start the race. It does not even stress the fact of being first to finish. God's Word does point out "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course (race). I have kept the faith." **2 Tim. 4:7** (KJV). God's Word talks about the alternative, if we do not totally dedicate our lives and endure. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." **2 Tim. 4:3-4** (KJV). I want to say that to these scriptures, "the time has come." We are seeing each day, the prophecy of God being fulfilled. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady (reckless), highminded (haughty), lovers of pleasures, more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness, but denying

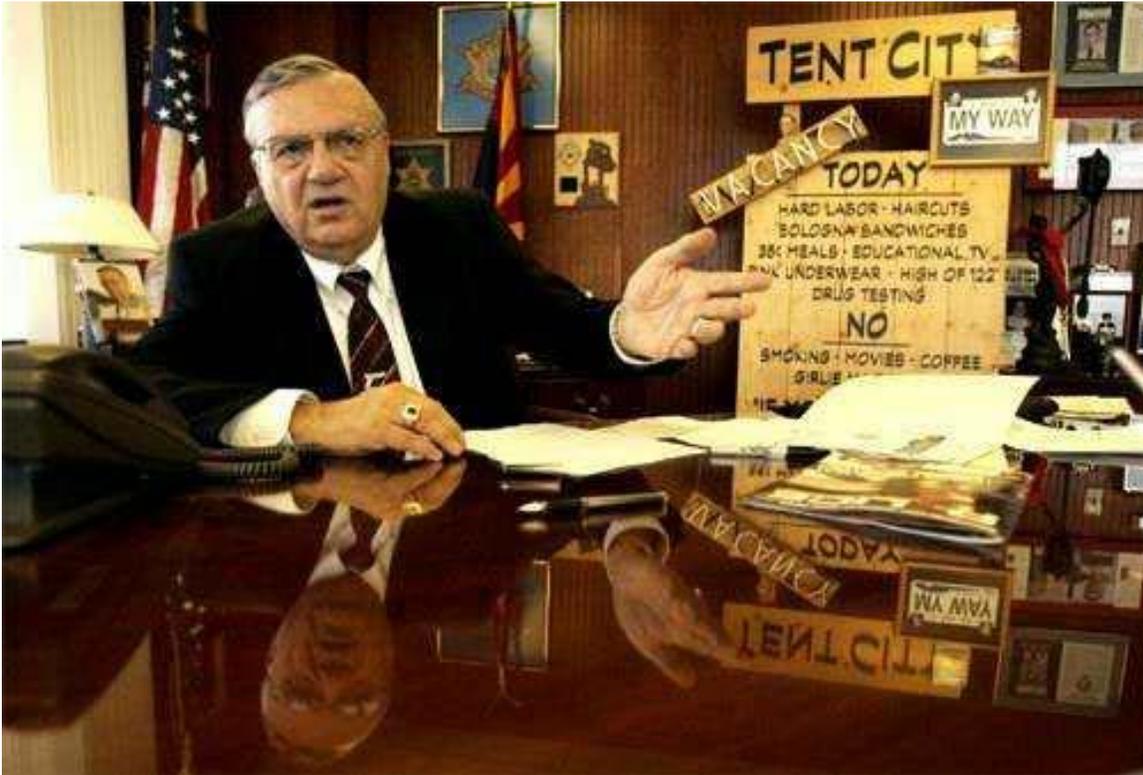
the power thereof: from such turn away." **2 Tim. 3:1-5** (KJV). But, God's Word gives us guidance, it gives us a plan, and an expectation of God. "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." **Matt 10:22, Mark 13:13** (KJV). As many have heard me say, "I am not here to please man, I am here to please God." Often we worry about what others will think about us. We worry about the things we say will make others mad or offended. We need to call sin as sin. Giving sin another name, such as living together instead of fornication, altered lifestyle instead of homosexuality, recreational drugs instead of sorcery, and the list goes on, does not make it right.

How serious is this covenant that we make with Christ? It is the most important and serious decision you will ever make, and keep. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." **Heb. 6:4-6** (KJV).

Looking at Psalms 103, we read that God strives to give us salvation and can eventually quit presenting it to us. "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide (strive), neither will he keep his anger forever." **Psalms 103:8-9** (KJV).

SHERIFF JOE IS AT IT AGAIN!

You all remember Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Arizona, who painted the jail cells pink and made the inmates wear pink prison garb (*see the article in Volume 8 or our newsletter*). Well.....



SHERIFF JOE IS AT IT AGAIN!

Oh, there's MUCH more to know about Sheriff Joe!

Maricopa County was spending approx. \$18 million dollars a year on stray animals, like cats and dogs. Sheriff Joe offered to take the department over, and the County Supervisors said okay.

The animal shelters are now all staffed and operated by prisoners. They feed and care for the strays. Every animal in his care is taken out and walked twice daily. He now has prisoners who are

experts in animal nutrition and behavior. They give great classes for anyone who'd like to adopt an animal. He has literally taken stray dogs off the street, given them to the care of prisoners, and had them place in dog shows.

The best part? His budget for the entire department is now under \$3 million. My wife and I adopted a Weimaraner from a Maricopa County shelter two years ago. He was neutered, and current on all shots, in great health, and even had a microchip inserted the day we got him.

Cost us \$78.

The prisoners get the benefit of about \$0.28 an hour for working, but most would work for free, just to be out of their cells for the day. Most of his budget is for utilities, building maintenance, etc. He pays the prisoners out of the fees collected for adopted animals.

I have long wondered when the rest of the country would take a look at the way he runs the jail system, and copy some of his ideas. He has a huge farm, donated to the county years ago, where inmates can work, and they grow most of their own fresh vegetables and food, doing all the work and harvesting by hand.

He has a pretty good sized hog farm, which provides meat, and fertilizer. It fertilizes the Christmas tree nursery, where prisoners work, and you can buy a living Christmas tree for \$6 - \$8 for the Holidays, and plant it later. We have six trees in our yard from the Prison.

Yup, he was reelected last year with 83% of the vote.

Now he's in trouble with the ACLU again. He painted all his buses and vehicles with a mural that has a special hotline phone number painted on it, where you can call and report suspected illegal aliens. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement wasn't doing enough in his eyes, so he had 40 deputies trained specifically for enforcing immigration laws, started up his hotline, and bought 4 new buses just for hauling folks back to the border. He's kind of a '**Git-R Dun**' kind of Sheriff.

TO THOSE OF YOU NOT FAMILIAR
WITH JOE ARPAIO

HE IS THE MARICOPA ARIZONA
COUNTY SHERIFF

AND HE KEEPS GETTING ELECTED
OVER AND OVER

THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS
WHY:

Sheriff Joe Arpaio (In Arizona) who created the ' Tent City Jail':
He has jail meals down to 40 cents a serving and charges the inmates for them.

He stopped smoking and porno magazines in the jails. He took away their weights. He cut off all but 'G' movies.

He started chain gangs so the inmates could do free work on county and city projects.

Then he started Chain Gangs for Women so he wouldn't get sued for discrimination.

He took away cable TV until he found out there was a federal court order that required Cable TV for jails. So, he hooked up the cable TV again, only letting in the Disney Channel and the Weather Channel.

When asked why the weather channel he Replied, *So They Will Know How Hot It's Gonna Be While They Are Working ON My Chain Gangs.*

He cut off coffee since it has zero nutritional value.

When the inmates complained, he told them, *'This Isn't The Ritz/Carlton.....If You Don't Like It, Don't Come Back.'*

More On The Arizona Sheriff:

With Temperatures Being Even Hotter Than Usual In Phoenix (116 Degrees Just Set A New Record), the Associated Press Reports:

About 2,000 Inmates living in a barbed-wire-surrounded tent encampment at the Maricopa County Jail have been given permission to strip down to their government-issued pink boxer shorts.

On Wednesday, hundreds of men wearing boxers were either curled up on their bunk beds or chatted in the tents, which reached 138 degrees inside the week before.

Many were also swathed in wet, pink towels as sweat collected on their chests and dripped down to their PINK SOCKS.

'It Feels Like We Are In A Furnace,' Said

James Zanzot, An Inmate Who Has Lived In The TENTS for 1 year. *'It's Inhumane.'*

Joe Arpaio, the tough-guy sheriff who created the tent city and long ago started making his prisoners wear pink, and eat bologna sandwiches, is not one bit sympathetic. He said Wednesday that he told all of the inmates: *'It's 120 Degrees In Iraq And Our Soldiers Are Living In Tents Too, And They Have To Wear Full Battle Gear, But They Didn't Commit Any Crimes, So Shut Your Mouths!'*

Way To Go, Sheriff!

Maybe if all prisons were like this one there would be a lot less crime and/or repeat offenders. Criminals should be punished for their crimes - not live in luxury until it's time for their parole, only to go out and commit another crime so they can get back in to live on taxpayers money and enjoy things taxpayers can't afford to have for themselves.

Poetry Section

Moving On

I move on
Nothing can hold me back
I'm a progressor like MP3's,
From CD's, tapes & 8 tracks
I stunt in my boots
Made of snake skin
From the serpent that deceived Eve
And caused man to sin
. . . . I move on

I move on, I say
No longer chained to my past ways
Even though I've got the marks
And the bruises
From sins down the wrong path
Many years lost
Many years shed
And at times it was my own blood
That left the sheets red
. . . . But I move on

Greater is he that is in me
For I can do all things
Thru Christ who strengthens me
Now up yonda' I sing for glory
I move on
Yeah, I move on
Leaving tracks in prison concrete
And in African sand
Heel, tread, toe
It don't matter
As long as at the end
Of my journey, I still stand.
. . . . I move on

With no apologies
No regret, no remorse
No "I'm sorry's"
I do what I do
For I love what I do
Speakin' the Gospel's truth

Haven't you heard?
Beautiful are the feet
Of those who bring good news
Oh . . . did I show you my boots
. . . . Moving on

Hey, miss me with the drama
I'm a baby's momma
Street bred but Spirit led
My tomb is wide open
For I've been raised from the dead
Given a testimony
So watch how you handle me
As my husband said
We preach boldly with no apology
It's gonna mess up yo' mind
When you hear what happened to me
And I know there are
Some women out there
Who experienced the same thing
Who's finding it hard to move on
Hard to forgive wrong
Emotions up and down
Like an R & B song
It's sad to say
Yeah, I used to be that way
Until I learned to "Move on"
Until I learned a new song like:
"In Jesus I believe
For Jesus set me free
Nailed to a cross
When He died for me.
Jesus gave me life
When He rose from the grave
And as he promised
I know He's coming
back for me one day."
. . . . Moved On

A. Tremayne Johnson

The Lighter Side

Innocence Is Priceless

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Randy standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.



The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Randy."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.



Finally, little Randy's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service, the 9:00 or the 10:45?"

Specials Planned for 2009

We are hoping to do some preaching & special concerts with Heather Layne. Heather is a National Recording artist and just released her 6th album.



Bill Glass Champions for Life Ministry

Our scheduled events for 2009 with the Bill Glass Ministry are as follows;



Bob getting his Jail bar cross



Keith tearing phone book



Keith Bending rebar



Tully Blanchard



Keith with Linda

(4/30-5/2) Fresno, CA

(9/17-9/19) No. Calif. Event

(10/22-10/24) So. Calif. Event.

TAKING IT TO THE BRIAR PATCH

For those who don't know the Disney's story 'Song of The South' a character named Brer Rabbit, who after being captured by old Brer Fox and bear, began to plead with them". *you can do anything to me, but please don't throw me in the Briar Patch!*"

When these two old fools heard his pleads for mercy they threw him into the briar patch, it was then that old Brer Rabbit begin to chant, "**BORN AND BRED IN THE BRIAR PATCH!**"

The point was he used strategy to out think them. They thought they were hurting him, when in actuality they were hurling him into a safe and profitable place.

We can squander so much precious energy, sanity and joy fighting against people, places and things, when God is just using one's foolish adversaries' to propel one into His perfect will. We can rest in Him for "...we know that God **causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose** (Rom. 8:28)."

CAUSE AND EFFECT

God truly is working behind the scenes on our behalf (Read- 2 Kings 6:17). An excellent example is found in the life of Joseph. The son of Jacob (Israel) who was sold to the Midianites by his envious brother's and ended up as a slave in the land of Egypt (Gen. 37:28).

Holy Scripture tells us, that throughout all his set backs and negative experiences in this foreign land, "**God was with Joseph**", and He continued to bless Joseph to the point of eventually being exalted as governor over Egypt second only to Pharaoh (Gen. 45:26).

CAN'T TAKE IT FROM ME

We need to understand that Joseph's God given blessing (*divine favor & approval*) was not nullified because of his environment or circumstances. Life has a way of throwing the unpredictable at us and we can so easily become spiritually, morally and mentally shipwrecked when our faith is tested seemingly beyond measure (*please read - 1 Tim. 1:19, 1 Cor. 10:13*). Many good people have been taught to believe that their covenant relationship with God



can be severed because of people, places or things. Don't let go of God's grace motivated promises because of wrong theology, but rather stand firm in your faith for God does not change his purpose or fail to keep His covenant as scripture confirms to us that "**...the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable** (*unalterable - Rom. 11:29*)

The Prophet Balaam rightly stated "*How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced* (*blame or brand publicly - Numbers 23:8*)?"

CAN'T STOP IT

Scripture tells us that "The steps of a good man are **ORDERED** (*commanded, destined or ordained*) by the Lord; and he delights in his way (PS. 37:23)."

You see my friends; once again I remind you that our destiny lays not in the

tossing of the dice nor by the will of man. But as Christians our destiny is directly commanded, ordered by God Almighty. Scripture once again confirms this fact to us for He says to the church "...Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut (obstruct the entrance - Rev. 3:8)." No matter how it looked, tasted, sounded, or smelled, God was with Joseph, and like all who have been called to walk by faith the great King of Israel David also understood this fact quite well for he himself writes, "*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil, for You are with me... (PS. 234a)*"

THE FULLFILLMENT

Like my dad would tell me 'A lie will linger around, until the truth shows up', and that's exactly what happened the day when Joseph's brother's unknowingly stood before him seeking food during a great famine. It was then that Joseph confronted his siblings with the forth coming dialog "Then Joseph said to his brother's "*please come closer to me.*" *And they came closer. And he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve writer's insert - (your life) life. "But Joseph said to them,"Do not be afraid, for I am in Gods Place (perfect will)? As for you, you meant evil (you meant to hurt me) against me, but God meant it for GOOD in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive (Gen. 50:19-20)."* As I meditated on these sequences of events, God opened my eyes to a very relevant fact, though we thrive to be

people of integrity as Joseph, we so often fail to reach that perfect standard (*I know I do*). I am reminded that I just like Joseph's brothers am in need of a Savior and it was for that reason that one much more greater than Joseph, (*Jesus - Immanuel – God with us – Matt. 1:23*)) took the form of a servant (read - *Phil 2:7*) and much more than a servant, but a redeemer to the fallen and pathetic human race (read - *Titus 2:14*).

We were not met with vengeance or hostility as we stood before King Jesus, even though we were helplessly lost in our sins (read - *Rom. 5:6-8*). All the Angels in Heaven rejoiced as we repented (*reversal of sinful lifestyle*) of our transgression (*trespass, rebellion, sin - Luke 15:10*) and we were welcomed with Mercy (*clemency*) and Grace (*unmerited favor - Rom 3:27*). Yes there will be trials and adversaries in our lives, but please be comforted by knowing that "*No weapon (armor) that is formed (created) against you will prosper (be profitable or be successful); and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.*"

This is the heritage (inheritance, share) of the Lord. And their vindication (justification, salvation) is from Me," declares the Lord (Isa 54:17)."

And you can take that to the briar patch! Thank you as always for allowing me to share my experience, strength and hope with you all, and may the Lord continue to bless you.

Rev. Joe A. Rivera
Pressing on Faith Ministries
39798 Oak Cliff Dr.
Temecula, Ca. 92591

I PRESS TOWARDS THE GOAL (I MOVE ON) FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS PHIL. 3:14

Inmate Art by
Runako L. Ayers

"Here's looking at you Bob" from a strong christian brother
to another continue to carry the torch of Christ, by spreading His-
word because we are truly living in the last days take care, God bless you
man.

— RUNAKO LUTALO
AYERS

↓
P.S I'LL BE SENDING
YOU A "REAL"
PHOTO HOPEFULLY
SOON...

