

“Letter From M.O.M.”

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

WWW.MovingOnMinistry.com

www.PrisonMinistry.net/movingon

Volume 47 – April 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



As we approach April 15, we remember it is time to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but also to give to God what is God's.

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

- 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 Request

The Mom of M.O.M. (Jeanne) needs continued prayer. She had surgery for her fractured vertebrae in her neck on 2/23/2009. Only had to do 2 instead of 3 of them. Please pray for Pain relief and a speedy recovery.

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.

Forwarded Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to keep my eyes fixed on you. You are my strong tower and fortress. Show me areas in my soul that are easily manipulated by the enemy. Reveal to me where I am harboring darkness, that I might dwell in the impenetrable shelter of your light. Lord, forgive me for being so easily offended, and for carrying offences. Father, my heart is often foolishly weak and defensive. Yet, I trust in your promise that I am a new creation. With faith I ask, grant me the un-offendable heart of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Rudy U

"The Art" of Death Row Conversion to Eternal Life Covenant

I don't have interest in your Monthly Newsletter at this time (M.O.M. sent one anyway). However, I am interested in your quest to reach folks with the Word of God. And your newsletter may help them, to pique the interest of others in God's Word, particularly in Jesus as Lord of their lives and, thus, Savior of their eternal

souls. If my artwork can help y'all in that way, I am all the way for that.

I am a Disciple of Jesus, an Ambassador for Christ with my doctrine of God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit. One What (in nature) and three Whos (personhood).

Saved in June 1997, I hit God's Word and studied it (still do) in the same fervor I used to hit the iron pile, like a man on a Mission.

I've been on the "Row" (San Quentin Death Row) since '92. Having landed on Condemned Grade "A" Yard 6 in East Block in October 2006, and finding two other Believers, but no organized fellowship, well, I founded one.

Now I co-lead the Yard 6 Fellowship with Mouse, with Mouse teaching on Sundays, and I give a sermon on Wednesdays, weather permitting. We have seven "Committed to be Held Accountable" Brethern in the Fellowship with other folks that float in and out as Guests. It was "more inclusive," but it became a "cheap grace" thing, thus the committed aspect with a personal choice and means that ya ain't gonna come worship one second and live like the devil the next, not as a member (take note you churches on the outside). The choice is free and open to each individual, but ya got to make one. Otherwise, you're a guest. There are 6 such yards in East Block, 5 have believers, but the Protestant chaplain only comes/holds services in the unit chapel for two of those yards, neither of which is ours. So, Mouse and I do it, disciple, on our own. We hold communion once a month, leadership meetings, group meetings, etc. We are growing these men so they can lead when mouse or I are gone. **RCT**

More Facts of Heaven **By Jeanne (Mom of M.O.M.)**

Dear friends in Christ, my name is Jeanne. I am Chaplain Bob's mom.

When I wanted you to draw me a picture of what Heaven might look like (contest that ended October 2009), I thought you would go to the Bible. There are many scriptures that give you a picture of Heaven. Look them up and read them. It will excite you what Heaven is like.

53 Facts about Heaven

1. Heaven is being prepared by Christ Himself **John 14:3**
2. Heaven is only for those that have been born again **John 3:3**
3. Heaven is described as a "glorious city," likened to pure gold and clear glass. **Rev. 21:11,18**
4. The name of the city is "The New Jerusalem." **Rev. 21:2**
5. Heaven is in the shape of a cube, with the length, width, and height being equal. **Rev. 21:16**
6. Its size is 12,000 furlongs (roughly 1400 miles) long, wide and high. **Rev. 21:16**
7. The city rests upon 12 layers of foundational stones, with each layer being inlaid with different precious gems. **Rev. 21:19-20**
8. Each foundation has the names of the 12 apostles on it. **Rev. 21:14**
9. The wall around the city is made of pure jasper. **Rev 21:18**
10. The height of the wall is approximately 216 feet. **Rev. 21:17**
11. The wall has 12 gates, three on each of the four sides. **Rev. 21:12**
12. Each gate is made of solid pearl. **Rev. 21:21**
13. Each gate has on it the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. **Rev. 21:12**
14. An angel stands at each gate. **Rev. 21:12**
15. The gates will never be shut. **Rev. 21:25**
16. The palaces may possibly be made of ivory. **Psalms 45:8**
17. The "River of Life" is there to insure everlasting life. **Rev. 22:1**
18. The "Tree of Life" is there to insure abundant life. **Rev. 2:7, 22:19**
19. It will bear its fruit each month. **Rev. 22:2**
20. The Throne of God will occupy the central palace. **Rev. 4:2, 22:1**
21. It is likened to wheels of burning fire with an emerald rainbow canopy. **Dan. 7:9, Rev. 4:3**
22. It is surrounded by 24 small thrones. **Rev. 4:4**
23. Near it stands the brazen layers described as a sea of glass, like crystal **Rev. 4:6**
24. Beside the throne are four special angels who worship God continually. **Rev 4:8**
25. The Golden altar is there with bowls of incense. **Rev. 5:8, 8:3, 9:13**
26. The Menorah, or seven branished lampstand fixture, is there. **Rev. 1:12, 4:5**
27. The Holy Ark of God may be there. **Rev. 11:19**
28. The main street of the city is composed of transparent gold. **Rev. 21:21**
29. The city will shine with and be enlightened by God's glory. **John 17:24, Rom. 8:18, Rev. 21:11,23**

30. It is a place of holiness. **Rev. 21:27**
31. It is a place of beauty. **Psa 50:2**
32. It is a place of unity. **Eph. 1:10**
33. It is a place of perfection. **I Cor. 13:10**
34. It is a place of joy. **Psa 15:11**
35. It is a place for all eternity. **John 3:15, Psa 23:6**
36. There may be a tabernacle. **Rev. 15:5, 21:3**
37. There will be no temple. **Rev. 21:22**
38. There will be no sea. **Rev. 21:1**
39. There will be no tears. **Rev. 7:17, 21:4**
40. There will be no sickness. **Rev. 22:2**
41. There will be no pain. **Rev. 21:4**
42. There will be no death. **Isa 25:8, I Cor. 15:26, Rev. 21:4**
43. There will be no more thirst or hunger. **Rev. 7:16**
44. There will be no more sin. **Rev. 21:27**
45. There will be no more judgment upon sin. **Rev. 22:3**
46. There will be no need for the sun or moon. **Rev. 21:23**
47. There will be no night. **Rev. 21:25, 22:5**
48. The city will be the bridegrooms gift to the bride. Christ's church. **Rev. 21:2, 10**
49. It will be shared by saved Israel. **Heb. 11:10, 16**
50. It will be shared by the holy angels. **Dan. 7:10, Heb. 12:22, Rev. 5:11**
51. The Father will be there. **Dan. 7:9, Rev. 4:2,3**
52. The Son will be there. **Rev. 5:6, 7:17**
53. The Holy Spirit will be there. **Rev. 14:13, 22:17**

Activities in Heaven ?

1. Singing – Isa. 44:23, Heb. 2:12, Rev. 14:3, 22:17
2. Serving – Rev. 7:15, 22:3
3. Learning – 1 Cor. 13:9, 10

Live Every Day as Though it Were Your Last . . .

AND, Tomorrow you Would be Facing God

We see individuals, that profess giving there life to God, and immediately want to know the “secrets of Revelation.” Revelation is not for “unbelievers.”

Obedience can be looked at in many ways, but we want to seek the Godly way of looking at it. Decision, commitment, covenant; which of these is considered to be obedience.

If you love me, you’ll keep my commandments.” John 14:15, 21, 23

4 characteristics of a True Worshiper

Most important word in the non-Christian life is “repentance.” Most important word in the Christian life is “obedience.”

1. Trust God
2. Preoccupied with God’s loving kindness
3. Walks in truth
4. Does not get involved with evil doers.

5 Ingredients of Worship

1. Thanksgiving
2. Praise
3. Love of His presence
4. Trust
5. Commitment

You **CANNOT** be worshipping God and living in sin! We see people that display the appearance of a “gift” and find they are living in fornication. We see people that profess God is in control of their life and see they put drug use above Him.

I Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

I Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

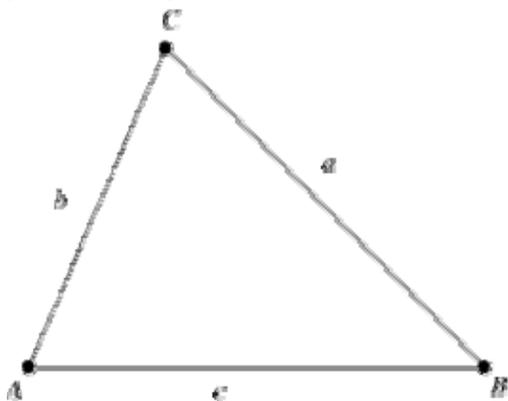
Food for Thought By Chaplain Bob

I have had many requests for deeper subjects and thought provoking articles. A few of the past articles of stimulus and thought have been;

1. Criminals, Gang-members
Anonymous (Vol. 8)
2. Cost of Incarceration (Vol. 11)
3. Three Types of Lost (Vol. 14)
4. Galaxies & Quarks (Vol. 29)
5. Conquering Compromise (Vol. 18,41)
6. Angels (Vol. 36)
7. Slacklining (Vol. 39)

Many of you know of my education background and the desire for knowledge (book learning) and the greater desire for wisdom (God given). I took classes in Physics, Integral and Differential Calculus, Quantum Mechanics, Oceanography and Oceanographic Engineering, and all the other courses required from the 6 to 7 colleges and universities I have attended.

I want to stretch and challenge your thinking.

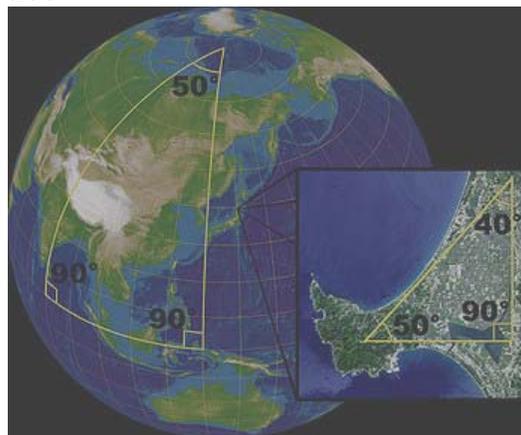


Triangle in Euclidean Geometry

If we look at the laws that apply to algebra and geometry, there is a fact that the sum of all three angles of a triangle totals 180 degrees (i.e. $90+45+45=180$,

$90+30+60=180$, $47+32+101=180$). This is a true statement when dealing with Euclidean Geometry.

When we leave this realm and actually go into a 3 dimensional logic, non-Euclidean Geometry, we find that the previous true statement, is no longer true.



Triangle in non-Euclidean Geometry

In looking at a triangle in a 3 dimensional layout on the earth's surface, we find that we can have a triangle made up of 3 angles ($90+90+50$) equaling a total of 230 degrees. In fact, if we encompass $\frac{1}{4}$ of a hemisphere with the triangle, all three angles will be 90 degrees ($90+90+90=270$ degrees). This new level of logic totally changes from the logic of Euclidean Geometry, because of adding a 3rd dimension to the logic.

Now, imagine adding a 4th dimension of time. God is not limited by this dimension, any more than he is limited by other dimensions. We try too hard to explain God in human terms, by bringing Him down to our level, instead of accepting us as being human and trying to approach God as who He is – Holy Father, Savior, Creator of all.

As we look at the logic of the stories in the Bible, we often cannot explain them in human dimensions. We wonder, did Noah actually build an ark, or is it just a story? How could God provide that much water to float the ark that Noah built? Well, the ark, or at least its remains, has been discovered for quite a long time.



Noah's Ark September 2002

Sighting of remains of Noah's Ark



Satellite view of the Ark remains

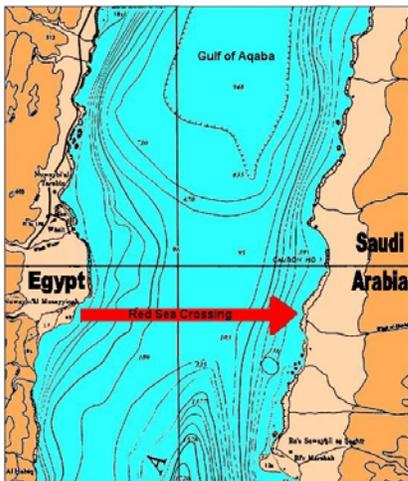


Distant view of Ark as it sits



Anchor stone used on Ark

What about the story of God parting the Red Sea, and the Children of Israel crossing on dry land? Did the soldiers of Egypt really get buried with the waters of the same area that the children of Israel crossed dry?



Location discovered of Red Sea crossing



Coral-encrusted human femur

Human femur (leg) bone found in bottom



Pictures of 6-spoke chariot wheels remains at bottom of Red Sea



Chariot wheel showing 5 of 6 spokes



Complete outline of 4 spoke wheel

There are also pictures of what is believed to be the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah. There is a sedimentary layer around the entire earth indicating that the entire earth was covered at one time with water (think the flood?). There is the Shroud of Turin (burial cloth) that is believed to have the imprint of Christ as He was transfigured in the tomb.



Isn't it time to seek God, at his level, instead of Him continually seeking us at ours?

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 in Michigan

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

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

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

The Committed Christian



John 13:36-37



by Cooper Abrams

Modifications by Chaplain Bob

Jer. 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

John 13:36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

John 13:37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

John 13:38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, the cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

*Note: Any time a word is repeated twice in the Bible, it is intended as something strongly expressed. Only word ever repeated 3 times in the Bible was **Holy, Holy, Holy**.*

Introduction: Down through history men have used many ways to identify themselves as Christians. The sign of the fish, chains around their necks with crosses are two of the most popular. Once, Christians even identified themselves by a special haircut. Many wore marks on their coat lapels, robes and special clothes. Today we see, "Jesus First Pins", crosses, fish, bumper stickers, posters, T-shirts, Bibles. Many "clergy" wear, collars, robes, black clothes. There is no such distinction with God or in His word. We are all servants of the Lord, who are required to be faithful stewards where ever the Lord calls us to serve Him. We use the biblical word pastor which likens the pastor to a shepherd looking over his sheep. I choose normally not to use that

term or title, but refer to myself as a chaplain, because in God's word...only God is to be revered and only He is reverend. See Psa. 111:9)

People use these symbols to identify themselves as Christians. There is nothing wrong with the symbols, yet they present a problem.....they are totally superficial! It is fine if you are a Christian and wear a button or pin, but I think God has a better way for a believer to identify himself.

You could wear a button, be a church member, identify yourself as a Christian and not be one. There was a man who was arrested for murder who had a cross around his neck. There was a TV news report, where a prostitute was wearing ear rings that were crosses. God's way is to be preferred, which

means a Christian is to be recognized by how they live. You see the buttons, etc are totally superficial or outward. The outward should show what the inward is, just as baptism should be a display on the outside of what has happened on the inside.

There are even persons who ID themselves with Christ by the way they talk. They speak much of Christ by using the expressions, "praise the lord," "God bless you," or "Jesus loves you." Some talk about Christ all the time. There is nothing wrong with any of this. But a lot of the things done outward, and if the heart is not right, or they are not living as the Bible teaches, it is of no value. Many of these people attend unbiblical churches and are a part of churches who teach and practice false doctrine. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

Much more noticeable than any button is the way one lives his life. A true Christian who is committed to Christ, can readily be recognized by what they do. A true Christian doesn't need a button or the sign of a fish bumper sticker on the back of their car to let people know they are a child of God. You should not have to tell anyone, there should be visible evidence.

ILLUS: While traveling, a lady cut me off in traffic. It happens all the time, but this time the I took special notice. The car had one of those Christian "fish" signs on the back. Another time, a car that cut in front of me had a bumper sticker that said, "Christian are not perfect, just forgiven." Being the person driving had been so impolite and dangerous, I said, "Yes, that is certainly true!"

JESUS' FINAL ADDRESS BEFORE GOING TO THE CROSS. John 13:33-35.

WHAT IS THE GREATEST NEED TODAY IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS!

What each of us who profess Christ must have is a life that shows a genuine, dynamic, visible, detectable commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. This is not unusual, or out of ordinary, *THIS IS NORMAL, ORDINARY WAY OF A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE*. Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a *LIVING SACRIFICE*, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your *REASONABLE SERVICE*."

It should not be normal for a Christian to be complacent, uninterested and not committed in their or others lives to Christ! However, we all know that there are many such people who profess Christ as their Savior. Sin should detest Christians.

THE COMMITMENT OF PETER. John 13:36-37. "Talk vs. Walk"

Peter's statement of committal to Jesus was, "*I will lay down my life for you!*" Jesus' response to Peter's enthusiastic was to tell him that before the rooster crowed, three times he would deny him. That at first seems to be a very negative thing to say. Jesus was not trying to discourage Peter. Peter was learning, as we even need to learn something that would be important for his life. Please take this message in the spirit that Christ gave it.

We are not born committed to Christ; that comes from learning all

about God's plan for the world and our part in it. As we learn we become more committed. Peter's response was an emotional one. Yet to truly live for the Lord and be used by Him we need more than an emotional response to the call to serve our Savior. Much of the Christian movement today has as its driving force, an emotional reaction to service to the Lord. People are stirred by music, choruses, and rhythmic preaching! People rush down isles in a moment of emotional, yet often never live for the Lord, or see their lives changed. Emotional response is good, and one gets emotional when you see all the glory and love of God in coming to this Earth, and dying on the cross for us who are lost in our sins. He loved us who are His creation so much, that even when we rebel against him and sin, he came and suffered and died for our sins. THINK. Who is Jesus Christ? He is our God, and Creator who is all powerful who spoke the universe into existence. Yet, Almighty God, came to this earth, humbled Himself to sinful men and allowed them to crucify Him...Why? That He might redeem them from their sins, make them the children of God so they would spend eternity with Him. That is AMAZING and shows the Love of God.

But the emotion of the moment will fade. Then the question is: What is motivating you and filling your heart with joy when the emotion of the moment falls? What will keep you going when you are alone, or are tempted, physically tired or exhausted, or you just feel complacent? Peter did deny Christ, as Christ said, but later, when completely disillusioned, Christ appears to Peter by the side of the sea. Peter had left with several other disciples and returned to his trade as a fisherman after

Christ's death. Is this a display of commitment? Jesus appears to Peter as he returns from a night's unfruitful fishing. Jesus tells him to cast out again and put the net on the other side of the boat. Peter complains, saying they had fished all night with not luck, (this is not about 'luck') but because Christ said it, he would obey. Needless to say the net then was overflowing with fish and it started to break.

Jesus then says to Peter, "*Peter do you love me more than all these?*" (probably referring to his returning to his business of fishing) Peter responds, Lord, you know I do! Three times Jesus asked this question of Peter and each time after Peter's response that he does, Jesus says to him, "Peter, then feed my lambs!

Jesus, the Lord, was showing Peter that to be true to Christ one had to live it. Peter had often given it lip service, yet when the emotion fades, and he thinks Christ is no longer with him he returns to fishing. Jesus wanted him to see that he was not as committed as he even thought he was. Peter was embarrassed and he saw himself as God saw him. Outwardly, Peter had a good talk, but he was failing in his daily walk with the Lord.

Peter also did not get mad and take offense at being challenged to examine himself. Later, Peter writes his Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter. What a change! As you read through the verses of these epistles, note that he is encouraging and urging fervently, passionately for believers to serve the Lord. The emotion is still there, but now it is accompanied by a devoted and consistent service for the Lord.

Have you thought about what is true faith? Faith is action that is founded in commitment. The part of faith that gives its life is its trust and commitment

to the promises of God. Commitment and devotion to the Lord in His truth will keep you going no matter what the circumstances.

In Hebrews 11, the Bible gives us faith's hall of fame. In each example, in spite of whatever hindrance or difficulty, the person acted upon the promises of God. Coupled with God's promise was a vision and desire to see God's will done. These people got down and did the often hard and difficult work, because they believed in God and His word. Many gave up their very lives serving the Lord.

Today we can see the end result of their faith and we think of their work in glorious terms. We think it was exciting and thrilling. Yet the truth is, often, all they had was God's promise to keep them going. They had no other encouragement. Often it was hard, tiring, and disappointing work. Think of Noah. No one outside his own family believed God's message. Wasn't that wonderful?! He worked hard long day after day, building a ship on dry ground. Did the people compliment him and recognize him for his great achievements? No, they mocked him to shame. It was hard back breaking work. Yet, his faith, yes, his commitment in trusting God, kept him going and he completed the task which took till he was 120 years old! During all that time he preached and not one person outside his family believed!

Why didn't Noah just quit?! Surely, most people would quit, and for good reason, there was no result. He couldn't see how it made any difference. He had every human reason and right to quit. Everyone belittled him and thought him a fool.

He wanted to be liked just like everyone else does. He wanted to see some success just like you and I. He did

not want to be at odds with the whole world!

But you see, Noah knew God and he trusted God. His faith was real. His trust was real and because of his faith in God his course was set. He could not quit no matter what.

ILLUS: During the many persecutions of Christians in the first 300 years after Christ returned to heaven, Christians were often tested as to their commitment to the Lord. Many thousands were committed to Christ and proved it. Even as the lions and wild beasts rushed to devour them, they kneeled in prayer and thanked God for His great love for them. They did not have to die! All they had to do in order to be released was to offer a small penance to the Roman emperor or give a small sacrifice to a idol. Yet, their walk matched their talk. An eighty year old man named Polycarp, the second century martyr, who was burned alive at the stake said, *"I can not deny Him, who has been so faithful to me all these years."* As the flames were burning his body, the soldiers thrust spears into his side. The blood ran so from his body that it partly put out the flames. So they rekindled the fire and finally burned to death.

TODAY CHRIST IS NOT ASKING YOU AND I TO DIE FOR HIM. HE IS SIMPLY ASKING US TO LIVE FOR HIM

How does all this relate to us today? What are our churches doing? What are we individually doing for the Lord?

The Bible says God gives gifts (talents for service) to every believer to do the job God wants done. The question then is this am I in faith, committed and trusting in the promises of God? Am I faithful in prayer and studying the word of God? Am I faithful to my local church

that Jesus in Ephesians 5, says He died for? Am I faithful in my attendance and giving, in doing the work that needs to be done? Am I being a faithful witness for the Lord in how I live and in telling others about how they too can be saved?

There is work for all. You see it is not a matter of CAN I do, but rather WILL I do what God wants done. Am I faithful in loving and serving my fellow believer? Do I call and encourage him. Am I friendly, do I visit and am sensitive to the needs of others. If I am available when needed?

Often the everyday work of serving the Lord does not seem glamorous as the lives of those in the Bible. Today we are not ask to do great things like building a great ark, or as Abraham, taking a great journey, or Moses leading the Hebrews and doing great miracles, or Gideon, mighty fighting the hordes of the Midianites? However, we must be willing.

Are you sure that what God told them to do, is more glamorous or easy than what He ask of us today! God put Noah to working building a ship on dry land and preaching to people who thought he was crazy. God sent Abraham on a journey in a strange land full of people who wanted to kill him. Moses surely had it made didn't he? How about having to listen year after year to the bickering and complaining of the faithless Hebrews.

What of the great job God gave Gibeon of delivering the Israelites. The first thing he is seen doing is destroying the altars of Baal "in the middle of the night." Some of them belonged to his own family. That was work that surely

would get him in trouble with his family and the local idol worshipers.

Do you see what I mean?

Commitment, the result of true faith works, just works and does what must be done. It is not looking for the lime light. Often it is never publicly recognized. There is no thought of reward. In times when all seems lost, the way seem fruitless...the commitment of faith to the Lord just keeps on going. That is sign of true commitment. It is always easy to get folks to do the jobs that everyone knows must be done. Some are menial and not seen. Christ may have such a position for you, would you serve gratefully, thankfully anyway just to have a small part in the Kingdom of God.

Dear friend do you rely on carrying a sign, talking a certain way, wearing a pin, or having a bumper sticker on your car to identify yourself as a Christian?

Oh, dear friend, can people see you are a child of God, by the committed way you live your life.

Is your service with your lips or your feet. If we are truly Christ's, then we in the Spirit must say, "Yes I desire to serve Him from the heart! The proof is in what we do. That is the test. It is not what you say, but what you do. Would you be honest enough to ask yourself that revealing question? Does what I do so I love the Lord? Would you love the Lord enough and are committed enough to where you see your failure, to confess it as sin and make a new commitment to live for Christ.

Commitment Brings Contentment
Phil. 4:11-13

Inmate Art by
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