



FREE LIFE NEWS

Issue # 73

**"You can be free no matter where you are
If you are IN Christ Jesus"**

March-April- May 2009

LIFE AFTER PRISON

My name is Rodney Carpenter, I'm 52 years old and one year and five months removed from Prison. I did nine and a half years on a 10 year sentence from February of 1998 until August of 2007.

When I was 24 years old my life took a wrong turn coming out of a divorce. Lost a two and a half year old daughter in the process and this was devastating to me. Pretty much blamed God for the whole deal, and turned to a lifestyle of drinking, drugging, and partying.

After 16 years of this. 5 DWI's, and 2 felony charges, by God's grace I became willing to face the facts that my plan for life was a poor one. I was a very beat down and broken man in December of 1996.

My work carried me from my central Texas hometown to Midland, Texas. I worked in a Funeral Home and stayed upstairs. On Dec. 16th, 1996 I received my 5th DWI. In that Jail cell it was very clear it was time to return to God. That I had to quit running from Him.

For almost 2 months I did lots of thinking; lots of examining of thoughts and decisions I had made the past 16 years. I reviewed my beliefs and it led me to these thoughts; I believed God was my Creator; that He created all things. He was, and is the Supreme Power in all life. So, why was it that I thought I knew better how to run my life than He? Then I realized how futile it was, and how I, in fact was such a poor manager of my life. Each day I would spend time thinking of surrendering my life to Jesus Christ.

Now, let me mention that at the age of 7, I made a decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. I made a public profession and was baptized. Yet, from 24 to 40 years of age I chose to live a life of hell.

At 11:45 of the night, February 7th, 1997, upstairs in a Funeral Home, I humbly surrendered my life to Jesus. I made no bones about crying out to Him to take over my life. He certainly did! There was a spiritual encounter with my Lord and Savior for 10-12 minutes. I have not had a drink or a desire for a drink since that very moment. This past February 7th was 12 years. Glory to God!

I waited 14 months for my trial and it finally took place Feb. 24th and 25th 1996. While out on bail in 1997, I met an ex-classmate of mine from high school, Kathie Lane. She was three and half years into being widowed, with three girls and a four year old grandson. God, as I like to say, put us together "on the cool" We actually talked of marriage before we even had a date. In fact, we had not even hugged, kissed, or even as much as held each others pinky. I had tried to help her twenty-two year old daughter through her battle with drugs, shared in testimony and the Bible with Kathie; yet next thing we knew we were talking of marriage.

Seven months later, I go to trial. Left words with Kathie—"No matter what happens always remember this—God is with us." We were planning to marry after my trial as we thought I would be found innocent. But, it didn't happen that way as I was sentenced to 10 years TDCJ. Supposedly, was given a deal called shock probation; would go down for 180 days then back to Court for a sentence reduction to five years and probated.

However, parole wanted me to do more on the previous sentence I had, so they gave me a three year set off. In all I received seven set offs, and did nine and a half years on the ten.

Now when my court date came up in 1998, I told the Lord, *"If I have to go to Prison, I'll hit the door ministering and if I'm not guilty then I'll get busy ministering in the Free World. No matter what Lord, I'm yours."*

Shortly after my surrender in 1997. God gave me vision of a ministry with prisoner's, their families, and the youth. We were able to start this ministry up in 1999.

In 2000, Kathie & I were able to marry by proxy, on June 22. Kathie was God's choice for my wife and partner in this ministry. She stayed with me through every set off and we had a wonderful reunion upon my release on August 30, 2007. She is so very special and precious to me!

We really focused a lot on our own relationship and the kids the first year back. Lots of catching up on.

In my final month of parole (just had 6 months) I contacted Free Life Ministries and was able to stop by and visit them. Mack & Mitzi had ministered twice a month at a unit I was at for five years. We had a great visit and just before leaving they asked if I'd like to join them in local Jail ministry. I told them sure, but didn't think I'd be approved this close to my release. They turned in the info and low and behold they approved me.

Each month Kathie and I get to go to the Jail in ministry with Free Life. It is such a blessing and only something God could have orchestrated. Free Life, Mack & Mitzi are very special to us! Being ministered to though their ministry while I was in Prison, and now being a part of this work is beyond what I thought would be possible. But God loves to act in our behalf in these very ways. (Ephesians 3:20)

God also found a way to have me preaching His Word on a weekly basis. In early October of 2007- little over one month after my release from Prison- I shared my testimony with a small Church. They called me to an interim pastoral role and I have been there 1 year and 3 months now. Another act of God that was far more than I could ask or think. (Eph.

3:20)

You know, if only we will become willing to submit our life to God. He's just waiting for us to reach this place in our hearts. God desires to involve us in His business, and it is truly the life we always searched for.

Those of you who will someday parole back out to society; Be prepared! Get all of the alone time you can with God in His Word. It is very fast and crazy out here. The world and its cares does all it can to choke the Word. (Mark4:18-19). You'll most likely never again have the time or opportunity to be in God's Word so much. So seize the time you have now, while you have it!

For those of you who never expect to be released from Prison, know that you are God's ministers and let Him use you there. God can and will use you there, if only you will let Him. Know that we are all somewhere in the process of being prepared, equipped, for His service. Know that this is but a very short time when compared to Eternity.

You may be reading this and not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, as your Lord. Salvation comes only through Him. (John 14:6; Acts 4:8-13). It is the ultimate gift of love from God. (Eph.2:8) Accept Jesus today into your heart, let Him be Lord of your life and receive ABUNDANT LIFE from Him.

In the love of Jesus,

Brother Rodney Carpenter

You may correspond with Rodney at:

Lighthouse Mission Ministry
6280 FM 913
Stephenville, TX 76401

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5: 11-12

GLEANINGS FROM THE WORD, From the Internet—
Sent in by Farris Whitten

I was watching a red squirrel out in the backyard by our bird feeders. He couldn't get at the suet in the one feeder so he moved over to the sunflower feeder. With some delicate balancing he was able to grab a few to munch on. With his little paws full, he sat out in a sunny spot on the fence and proceeded to enjoy his snack. Sitting upright he munched and contentedly watched people and their dogs walk by. He acted as if he was the king of all he surveyed.

It was a rather ironic picture. The squirrel as king when in reality he's pretty close to the bottom of the food chain and must run and hide from any sort of threat. In a way the squirrel king reminded me of the way many people run their lives. They consider themselves in charge of all they survey but in reality they aren't in control of anything. They make all kinds of plans and set goals without consideration of anyone other than themselves and God never enters their mind.

Stock market crashes steal their wealth. Economies of a global scale dictate whether they have employment tomorrow. Sickness or accident can change their lives in a moment.

Jesus told a parable about a man with this sort of approach to life.

Luke 12:14-21 NIV
Jesus replied, "Man, who

appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. [19] And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." This man was self-impressed and self-important. I have no doubt that if you had asked him he would have told you that he was self-made as well. Yet in the end all of his self-focus led to nothing.

Christ then goes on at length to remind us who provides all we have and need.

Luke 12:22-40 NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the

ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no store-room or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will

have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." We need to keep our eyes on God. We need to be thankful for the opportunities and the things He has provided us.

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Until next time, recognize the source and give thanks.

Hallelu Yah (Praise God)

Be blessed

The One Who did everything did nothing, and all He ever did, He never did.
John 5

Whatever you do, where you live, if you belong to Jesus Christ, the call from heaven has come to you—to the highest honor a human being can experience. The Son of God is spreading His love, His lifestyle, and His life-saving message across this planet—and you know what? He has summoned you to join him in His glorious administration. Don't settle for anything less.

Ron Hutchcraft

CELEBRATION

Last month Free Life celebrated 10 years in ministry. We are so thankful for the calling God has placed upon our lives, we are blessed beyond measure. God recently blessed us a website and e-mail address. Your devotionals and testimonies will be read by many more people, so keep sending them in. Your personal testimony of faith will perhaps be the one which will turn someone to faith in Christ,

The web site is:
www.freelifeministry.com
And e-mail address is-
freelifenews@yahoo.com

God is so faithful to do His work through you, as you yield your life to Him.

*"But now, O Lord,
You are our Father;
We are the clay, and You our
potter;
And all we are the work of Your
hand." Isa. 64:8*

*The Potter knows the clay. How
much pressure it can take. How
many times around the wheel,
until there is submission to His
Will.
He's planned a beautiful design,
but it will take some fire and
time. It's going to be okay, be-
cause the Father knows the
clay!*



UNDER GRACE

Just try to measure East to West or to the ocean's lowest depths. You'll find no record of my past. You'll find my Savior's righteousness.

Under grace, my guilt is gone. My chief accuser lost the war. The record of my sin erased, and its buried deep under grace.

I could not meet the Laws demand. But, God in mercy, had a plan. His Sons own blood, my sins erased. My pardon now reads under grace.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph. 2: 8-9

God's Amazing Grace

God's amazing grace flows through you and me, so others may know and see, a gift freely given, providing us a home in Heaven.

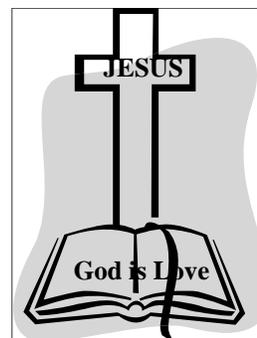
God's amazing grace, telling others of his love, to sing his praises of hope and love. His grace that beckoned unto me, my soul to save for all eternity

God's amazing grace is calling out to you, hear Him say, "I AM the way, the truth and the life", believe and become my child through God's amazing grace.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
2 Corinthians 5:21

Mourning Christian! Why weepst thou? Art thou mourning over thine own corruptions? Look to thy perfect Lord, and remember, thou art complete in him; thou art in god's sight as perfect as if thou hadst never sinned; nay, more than that, the Lord our Righteousness hath put a divine garment on thee, so that thou hast more than the righteousness of man-thou hast the righteousness of God. O thou who art mourning by reason of inbred sin and depravity, remember, none of thy sins can condemn thee. Thou hast learned to hate sin; but thou hast learned also to know that sin is not thine-it was laid upon Christ's head. Thy standing is not in thyself-it is in Christ; thine acceptance is not in thyself, but in thy Lord; thou art as much accepted of God to-day, with all thy sinfulness, as thou wilt be when thou standest before his throne, free from all corruption. O, I beseech thee, lay hold on this precious thought, perfection in Christ! For thou are "complete in him." With thy Savior's garment on, thou art holy as the Holy one. "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Christian, let thy heart rejoice, for thou art "accepted in the beloved"- what hast thou to fear? Let thy face ever wear a smile; live near thy Master; live in the suburbs of the Celestial City; for soon, when thy time has come, thou shalt rise up where they Jesus sits, and reign at his right hand; and all this because the divine Lord "was made to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Charles Spurgeon/ Heartlight Magazine



I AM AN OVERCOMER

My name is David Christian Brock, born in 1966 in Mineral Wells, TX., Where I lived most of my life. My Mother & Father worked all the time, so my Granny kept me a lot, until my parents got home. My Granny died when I was 16, and I became angry and rebellious, I began drinking and smoking weed.

At age 18 I was caught with drugs in my parents home and when I graduated, Mom had my stuff packed, and I was on my own. I attempted to go to College, but after a year I ended up flunking out. This was in 1985. I worked with my father doing electrical work and part-time doing air conditioning for another company in town.

Between 19-20 I ended up in Jail twice for drunk, disorderly conduct, and assault. I went to FL. To live with an Uncle, but that didn't help me, it was a mistake and made things worse. I married and had 3 children, a son in 1988, a daughter in 1992, another girl in 1997. My life was in complete chaos, Drinking, drugging, sometimes working, most of the time not. My marriage ended in divorce. My life was miserable. I was always angry.

I was given the opportunity to go to EMT school, enjoyed that, went on to Paramedic school, and then TX. A&M for fire recruit school, and joined the MW Fire department as a volunteer. This was a high point in my life, but during this time my personal life was tearing me apart, and I continued to drink & smoke weed.

My brother Marc, nine years younger than me, at age 19 started getting into trouble. He was arrested, put on probation, but because of alcohol and drugs, he was sent to SAFE-P for substance abuse treatment. We learned to drink from our father, and our father from his father.

In the Summer of '97 our family suffered a traumatic event. I was on night shift at the Fire station, was awakened to go on a call, only to find out they found my brother passed out in his front yard, with the Police stretching crime scene tape around the driveway. It was then I found out my brother had a bullet hole in the top of his head. We were flown to Harris Hospital in Fort. Worth. As the Drs were attending to my brother, a Methodist priest came waiting to meet me. I didn't believe in God at that time, but he prayed with me anyway. My brother went through emergency surgery, after 6 months in the Hospital and learning to walk

and talk again, he fully recovered. I thought that God surely had saved his life!

Although I witnessed a miracle, the experience took a toll on me, psychologically. My drinking and substance abuse progressed. My brother, out with a buddy, left the party, was involved in an accident, was taken to Jail, because they found a joint in his pocket. This violated his probation and he was sentenced to 25 years in Prison... I was so angry at God. How could He save someone's life and then send them to Prison? I didn't understand.

I began to isolate myself from others in my depression, my drinking stretched to alcoholism and I became addicted to Meth. I was doing quite well financially, had a house, a brand new truck, and just bought a new motorcycle. I was hit from behind one night, and my bike was totaled, I was thrown over the car, but was not injured severely. I think God was trying to get my attention that night.

In 2000 I was so stressed out, so depressed. So sick in alcoholism and drug abuse, I quit my job, I was staying up for days at a time trying to make ends meet. My ex-wife had left the kids behind and ran off with her drug dealer. I ended up having an affair and was charged with sexual assault. I was scared to death. I told the Lawyer to plea bargain to keep me out of Court, He gave a guilt plea. I was given deferred probation. I was shocked, I didn't know what to do? I had to go to probation, pay fines, make meeting, and do community service. After a couple of months I broke down and told probation that I needed help. They said they couldn't help me, I had to go to AA on my own. I had a phone complaint called in on me, and had to take a couple of polygraph tests. That was the last straw. I quit and walked away and never went back.

I had lost my house, my family, my children, my job, and they were trying to repossess my truck. I had committed myself to a life of death and destruction. I lived day by day. I stayed at my dad's on and off until it got to where I couldn't talk to him anymore. I hung out in an old vacant house with no water or electricity, because the dope house was right across the road. All I wanted to do was get high.

One night I was coming back from Ft. Worth, I had been up for days, drinking and doing drugs, I had a wreck, going way too fast I hit a guard rail and almost rolled the truck, but I hit something and it knocked the truck back out in the highway, the whole side of my truck was crushed. I called a friend to come get me. We

went to look at what I had hit, and all I saw was a flattened out guard rail. I think God spared my life that night.

Not long after this I showed up at my dad's place, out of money, out of gas, no where to go, all I wanted to do was lay down somewhere to sleep. His neighbors called crime stoppers on me and they came to arrest me. I had ran for 6 months. I couldn't run any longer. I was taken to County Jail on Sept. 11, 2003. I was so messed up, I thought my dad had called them!

It took several days in a detox tank to come clean. They weren't about to bond me out., I was stuck. This was the lowest point I had ever gotten to in my life. I took a couple of months to begin to think clearly. I was so depressed and so emotional at this time, I started going to Church, looking for answers. God knew I had gotten to the absolute bottom. When I went to trial, I was sentenced to 20 years in Prison. All the wind in my sails were gone, Life as I knew it was gone.

What I thought was the end, was only the beginning. That next Monday night the Free Life Prison Ministry Team came for Church, and I gave my life to Christ. I was given a brand new Bible, and a new start. That was in Nov. 3, 2003. I was taken to Middleton Unit in Abilene and started going to Church. I was baptized the first chance I got. The first class I was able to get into was a Christian based substance class called Spiritual Journey. For the next six months, I took every Bible study class I could get into. I wanted to know more about God and who Jesus Christ was. This was in 2004.

There was an ad in our prison paper for an electrician job, so I applied. I prayed to God that night and told Him I was ready to go where ever he sent me. After a few weeks, I was headed to Huntsville. After a few days I found out that I was going to the Beto Unit. That's where my brother was! I thought there was some kind of mistake? The job I had signed up for was there.

The first week I was there I was called for a visit. I saw my brother for the first time. He yelled out my name and gave me a big hug. I looked and saw my mom and my kids for the first time in two years. God blessed me that day! After a few months my brother was moved in with me in the same cell. For the first time in years I got to find out who he really was. We became really close.

Cont' page 7

FINDING SPIRITUAL FOOD AND REST

As Mack & I were walking at the State Park this morning, we saw the beautiful sight of the Geese flying overhead, and the Mallard Ducks resting on the water. We enjoyed the beauty of God's Creation and Creatures. The thought came to me as I was looking at the Geese flying overhead, how they see everything from above, where to land, what to eat, where to rest. And the Ducks, just floating peacefully on the water, nothing to worry about, not even what to eat. It was then I remembered that we had some cheese crackers in the car.... Well, those trusting Ducks, came scurrying over to me as I broke the crackers up and began throwing the pieces out to them. God provided a little snack!! They fluffed up their feathers as if to say "Thank You", and off they went., resting in their Creator.



The Geese flying overhead reminded me of how God looks down into the hearts of all men, He looks into our hearts to see where He can send His Holy Spirit to enter, to supply the spiritual food and rest that we all are searching for in the times of our wandering far from Him. Although the Geese land, feed and rest for just a little while, Our Dear Heavenly Father will never leave or forsake us, He constantly abides in the hearts of those who accept His Divine love and forgiveness, receiving everything they need for life and godliness. He abides in those who completely surrender unto His leadership.. Seeking to do His will.



As the Geese fly from North to South and back again, always looking from above for a place to land, something to eat and a place to lay their heads for a time, they are simply trusting in their Maker to supply that rest and food. Just as we Christians are commanded to do.

Jesus said,
"Come unto Me, and I will give you rest for your souls." He also said, "we will never thirst or hunger".

He takes our sin and gives us His righteousness.

Are you someone who might have an empty place in your heart that God is looking at from above, to see if He can send His Holy Spirit to find a place to fill, to give you the spiritual food, a fresh drink of water, and rest for your wandering soul? You can be like the Geese and Ducks who completely trust the Heavenly Father to supply all of their needs.

Will you trust Him to supply all of your needs? Will you simply become like a child and receive the gift of Love He is offering to you today, through childlike faith? It is our heart's desire at Free Life to present you every opportunity to accept Jesus, the Giver of Life, into your heart.

He is just a prayer away. Pray with me,

"Lord Jesus, I need You, thank you for taking away my sins at the Cross of Calvary, for offering me complete forgiveness, and new life through my faith in You. I now invite you to come into my heart to save me. I offer myself to you in complete surrender as I Abide in Christ for the rest of my life. Thank You, Dear Lord, for all You are, and for all I have in You. Perfect love and holiness. You are Precious, Lord, and I love You with all my heart, thank You for coming into my heart, and for giving me the faith to believe that You did. In Jesus Name, Amen.

If you prayed to receive new life in Christ, please let us know, so we can rejoice with you. You are special to us, and we love you.

Jesus, the same Yesterday, Today and Forever A Friend
Who sticks closer than a brother, Lord and Savior of all
who will simply believe.

Your Sister in Christ, Mitzi



Words of Encouragement A Word from God

From Our Daily Bread 2008
Sent in by Britton Calvin—Homer, La

"What must I do to get to heaven? The answer has already been given: Jesus, by His death, has paid in full the price for our sins, no matter how sordid, tawdry, or shameful they may be. Your salvation is free. God promises "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18) Our opportunities to obey God's promptings are also fleeting. James warned against an arrogance that assumes endless days will be available to carry out our good intentions. "You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It's even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away...Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it's a sin." (James 4:14-17) A wise man will hear, and increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.(Pro.1:5)"

"No one is good enough to save his or herself; no one is so bad that God cannot save us, and doing what is right today means no regrets tomorrow. "

So let the wise and understanding teach us and continue to help direct our path to help us teach and lead others to faith in Christ and let God bless us all.

I Am An Overcomer—Cont. from page 5

In Nov of 2005, I signed up for KAIROS, and we were both chosen to participate. It was such a special time for both of us and a huge blessing! The next month my brother re-dedicated his life to Christ, and in Jan of 2006 he made parole, and went home six months later. God showed up and showed out!

Since then I have continued in my relationship with God. He has opened several doors for me, and allowed me to do many things. I was able to go to College and complete an A.A degree. I received a fork lift license and was trained as a maintenance mechanic at work. God allowed me to go through Electronics school and I took their test to be certified as an electronics technician. I now sing in the choir and took several Bible classes in the chapel. God continues to bless me.

God allowed me to enter the Beto Faith-based Initiative Program which was eighteen months long. I completed an AAS degree and signed up for another electrician job at the Powledge Unit. I was accepted and was moved to this minimum security unit. God also allowed me to be accepted in the Bible College and am currently studying in their correspondence course. God continues to open doors!

My brother went home to Mineral Wells to live with my dad. He started attending Leaning Tree Church under Pastor Scott Poyner. My brother Marc met Kylie Southern while going to church and in July of 2008 were married. They are expecting their first child in July. God has blessed my brother tremendously! God is so awesome.

I have tried to explain to my family what God has done, is doing and going to do in my life. But words can't express that God is real. I get choked up and start crying every time I try to explain it. It's so overwhelming at times. It is something that has to be experienced. Try him for yourself, and see if God is real. We serve the One True and Living God. The God of new

beginnings and the God of second chances.

When I turned my will and my life over to God it allowed Him to take over and take control. He has repaired my relationship with my family, and my children; He has delivered me from substance abuse, and given me a purpose to live. He has given me a desire to help others who are suffering as well. We spread the Gospel by witnessing to others about what God has done in our lives. There isn't an area in my life that God hasn't had His hand in. I am so thankful that Jesus Christ changed my life and am a new creature, and will never be the same man again.

I hope this testimony helps to explain to you who I am, and where I've been in my life. Most of all I pray, I pray that it tells you where I am now, and who I am in Christ. I want to thank you for reading this, and allowing me to share my life with you. Every time I share, it re-enforces my walk with Christ, by allowing me to see how far He has brought me. I may be locked up right now, but I am finally free!

As I read my Daily Bread this morning, God gives us a blessing. Numbers 6: 24-27;

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. So they will put my name on (themselves) the Israelites, and I will bless them.

This is my blessing to you today.

In Jesus name
David Brock✝

**“You have made known to me the path of life;
You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”
(Psalms 16:11)**

No Power Chairs in Heaven

I don't know about you,
But everyday I see,
More and more of us Baby Boomers,
Getting out of our SUV'

And instead of pulling the tennis racket out,
I cannot help but stare,
At how many of us are using,
These danged old Power Chairs!

Now, please don't get me wrong,
Cuz it can sure spoil a girl!
In the morning when I try to get up,
My mind begins to whirl...

My legs wont work, I got no teeth,
And I'm even a losin' my hair!
And the only way I can go to the throne,
Is in this dad blamed power chair.

No power chairs in Heaven,
We won't need them anymore!
Don't need no buggy to drive around,
At the Heavenly Walmart store.

Cuz I have heard that when we arrive,
We can leave it parked at the door.
There's no power chairs in Heaven,
We won't need them anymore.

So today I'm sittin taller,
It is what I want the most.
There's no power chairs in Heaven,
Cuz I'm empowered by the Holy Ghost!

So when you hear St. Peter say,
"Git outta your chair, let's go!"
Don't hesitate, just move along,
You don't need that thayng no more.

No power chairs in Heaven,
We won't need them anymore.
Don't need no buggy to drive around,
At the Heavenly Walmart store.

Cuz I have heard that when we arrive,
We can leave it parked at the door
(Hooray!)
There's no power chairs in Heaven.
We won't need them anymore.

Written by Karen Bunker
January 27, 2009

The Wonder of God in His Creatures

By Jeannie Thompson

People To People Ministries

The Duck that Didn't...

Davy, who had just turned 11, had always enjoyed spending the summer months with his grandparents on their farm.

This summer, when Davy arrived, Becky, his 12-year-old cousin, was already there and would also be spending the summer with their grandparents.



Davy was happy to see her, and they had a great time together – for the first three days. But on the fourth day, something happened, which threatened to ruin the rest of Davy's visit.

That afternoon, Davy's grandfather gave him a slingshot, which had belonged to his father when he was a boy. Davy had never used a slingshot before and hurried to the woods beside the house to practice for awhile. He tried and tried, but could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back to the house for supper.

Just then, he saw Grandma's pet mallard duck; and, out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly.

Davy was horrified when it hit the duck on the head and killed it. In a panic, he picked up the dead duck and hid it at the bottom of the wood pile. When he stood up, he saw Becky watching him. She had seen the whole incident but said nothing.

After breakfast the next day, Grandma said, "Becky, will you help me wash the dishes?" Becky replied, "I'd be happy to, Grandma, but Davy told me that since you bought him those new jeans, he'd really like to help you wash the dishes today." Then Becky whispered to Davy, "Remember the duck?" So after each meal, Davy helped Grandma wash the dishes.

The next morning, Grandma and Becky were doing some special "girl things" together, so Grandpa asked Davy if he'd like to go fishing later in the day. "Oh, yes, Grandpa!" Davy replied.

At 4:00 that afternoon, Grandpa called to Davy and asked if he was ready to go. But, before Davy could answer, Becky came into the room and said, "Oh, Grandpa, Davy is feeling a little sick. He's going to lie down for awhile and said that maybe I should go with you this time, and he'll go next time."

A dejected Davy appeared in the doorway, as

Becky hurried past him to get ready. "Remember the duck?" she whispered. Davy went back to his room, and Becky left with Grandpa to go fishing.

Davy was miserable; he didn't know what to do. Several times, he had started to tell Grandma about her duck, but then the devil would tell him that Grandma had really loved that duck and would never forgive him. Davy hadn't picked up the slingshot since the accident.

It was now Saturday morning. This was the day Davy had especially



looked forward to ever since he'd arrived...

Uncle Bob was taking him horseback riding! It was to be an all day outing.

Davy and Becky's uncle just had one extra horse, so the plan was that Becky would take the same trip with Uncle Bob on his next visit in a few weeks.

But, as they ate breakfast that morning, Becky said to their grandparents: "Davy is so nice. You know what he told me when we were coming down for breakfast? He said for me to go with Uncle Bob today, and he would wait and go next time."

Davy couldn't stand it any longer. He got up

from the table and went over to Grandma. It was all he could do to hold back the tears when he confessed that he had accidentally killed her duck. "I'm sorry, Grandma, not only about killing your duck, but also about hiding him under the wood pile and not telling you what I'd done. I know it was wrong. Can you ever forgive me?"

"Because I love you, I had *already* forgiven you for killing my duck and hiding him in the woodpile. I was just waiting for you to *come to me*. I told Becky to keep bringing up the duck whenever the time seemed right - *and she did!*"

Davy felt that a weight



had been lifted. He was so glad the whole matter was out in the open. When Uncle Bob arrived, he and Davy left for a wonderful day of camping and horseback riding.

That summer turned out to be the best ever. Davy and Becky lived in different states and couldn't see each other very often. But, from then on, throughout their school years, they looked forward to their summer visits together at Grandpa and Grandma's.

The Duck that Didn't.. cont.

. Whatever is in your past-lying, stealing, cheating, anger, bitterness, jealousy, pride, etc., the devil loves throwing it up to you.

Don't wait! Talk to God about it *right away*; nothing shocks Him. He was "standing at the window," and saw the whole thing *before it even happened*. He has seen your whole life from start to finish; and through His Son Jesus, He has *already* forgiven you for *all* your sins – your wrong attitudes, as well as your wrong deeds.

Not only has God *forgiven* you, He has also chosen to *forget* your sins. And, the moment you trust in Jesus, you not only have God's forgiveness, you also have *eternal life* in His Son.

*Count yourselves dead to sin,
but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body
so that you obey its evil desires.*

*Do not offer the parts of your body to sin,
as instruments of wickedness,
but rather offer yourselves to God,
as those who have been brought
from death to life;*

*and offer the parts of your body to Him
as instruments of righteousness.
for sin shall not be your master,*

*because you are not under law, but under grace.
(Romans 6:11-14)*

*As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
(Psalm 103:12)*

The Duck that Didn't Duck is an adaptation of a story that has been around a long time. You may have read one of the many versions. It illustrates such a great Bible truth!



EASTER SUNDAY 4-12-09

**RECEIVE THE RISEN
LORD JESUS CHRIST
INTO YOUR HEART TODAY**

Can you move a Mountain ?

(or are you still struggling with a mole hill ?)

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ. . . I pray that you each enjoyed the relaxing peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ (over the holidays) , and set your hearts and minds upon Him for the new year.

So what do I mean by moving a mountain. . . . It actually has nothing to do with you. Oh I know the verse saying that if you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you can move a mountain. Yet, if that was exactly what that verse meant we would have mountains jumping around here like popcorn. So what does it mean.... Lets take a look at it. For even Jesus himself says that he did nothing but the Father through Him did it all. Jesus promises to us that if we will be to Him, what he was to his Father two thousand years ago. . He will be to us today as His Father was to Him. You see the power that Jesus tapped into was His faith in God. That the Father would grant to Him His request. . . It was the faith that God is who He says He is, will do what He says He will and is able to do just that and much more. If you are saved you have the God of this universe living in you.... And all that power at our request, but we would rather dwell on the situations and circumstances in our lives. Battling the mole hills in our lives, instead of relaying on Christ to move the mountains in our lives. The faith to move our mountains is the faith that Christ is who he says He is and can do what He says he will. We are perfect in Christ. . . . Yet we need to move our "practice" up to our position. We need to realize who we are in Christ and realize the promises of His. The Word says that He will keep him in perfect peace who's mind is stayed on Him. I don't know how much peace you want but you can have all you want. . . . If you are willing to keep your mind on Him. So isn't it time we realize the power at our "hearts" tip, not our finger tip and start moving those mountains?

Father I want to thank you for your Son. . . For not only the sacrifice of the cross but for the life He lived. For He was the first man since Adam fell to be a man as He as God created man to be. Making Him worthy of giving back to us what was lost through Adam. . Life and light.

In Christ's Love.

Ronald "Bama" Lang

Something to Think About

A friend recently expressed his frustration about how God sometimes seems to just let events in our lives "play out as they may", without doing anything to "help us out".

Yes, I believe that sometimes God just lets things "play out as they may", but He ALWAYS allows those things to happen for a greater reason far beyond what our finite minds can see. He can intercede at any minute, but just think: what if He had interceded for His Son when He was hanging on the cross? We would all be here, living meaningless lives, every one of us destined for hell in the end. His ways really AREN'T our ways. His are MUCH better. I have never really questioned God for any reason. Possibly once, when a friend of mine was dying a few yrs. back from Lou Gehrig's Disease. I prayed & prayed for God to heal him, but He didn't. However, the way my friend lived the last days of his life was so amazing. NO one could attribute it to ANY-one but God. God gets the glory in those things, & it should be that way.

I've recently come to view God's purposes as being similar to a spider web. During a crisis or upsetting time in our life, we can only see how it is affecting us, because we see ourSELVES as being the center of it all. But God has already spun a web around that particular event which "fingers out" in thousands of directions, accomplishing things we won't even know about until we are in heaven. Trust & Faith are the pillars of the Christian life. Those two things show others how strong of a believer we are, & how great God is.



Something to Think About

I've been talking lately with numerous people who agree Jesus MUST be coming soon, with all the world events that are taking place, our economic crisis, etc. I spend a lot of time watching Fox News, because I like to keep abreast of world events, knowing that much of what goes on gives us clues as to where we are in God's timeline. Many Christians are simply ready for His coming, whereas we may not have felt that way 6 or 7 years ago. There is actually a "longing" for Him to return, replacing the fear of the unknown that may have existed in many people before. We most definitely should be looking up.

My mind wanders as I imagine what His return will actually look like. Better than ANY Hollywood director can conjure up on the movie screen with special effects. It's just GOT to be the most AWESOME thing we've ever witnessed. I SO hope we get to be a part of it all. I used to say I wanted to already be dead & gone when all of that stuff went on. Now I pray that God will keep me here until the day of His return!



THE HEART OF STONE

By Ralph W. Hatchell—
dedicated to Cody MaCann

Yes, we all come to the same point sometimes in our life where we turn our hearts to stone! A heart of stone is not easy to live with for there is so much that you lose!

You may say how you can lose from having a heart of stone, as by that no one can hurt you!, Well, my friend let me tell you what you will lose over time.

One of the first things to go from your heart of stone is caring for others as you only think of # 1—yourself! The next is the love of your heart that you give to others. The third is the crying of tears that flow from your eyes and through your heart, as over the years of being so hard on the ones you should love, as you love yourself.

No tears are there to flow so free as God has meant for the release of sadness, happiness, love, so without all of these your heart has turned to stone, as I hurt the ones that I should love! There is only one way to remove that heart of stone, and that way is to come to God for your release as only through Jesus Christ can that heart of stone be turned to joy and love within. Let God's love break that heart of stone.

Don't forget to send that special card



Mother's day is May 10th

Jesus is the answer, He is just waiting for the prayer



HE IS GOD

Earlier on I was thanking the Lord that He is God!! So able! So big! So not me!! We have the privileged and responsible place to be where we receive MANY prayer requests from all over the

world. Needs that are so great. Spiritual battles, little people in comas because of malaria, for heart understanding of people groups hearing God's Plan for them for the first time, marriages that are struggling, grown children making horrible choices, budding relationships faltering, so many different things. How thankful we are that those requests don't stop with us. But rather that we pass them on to Someone who isn't overwhelmed by all the needs and how to work them out for the person's good and His glory; He isn't one to lose patience with "Why don't you just GET it?".

Instead He says, "Come! I will bear your burdens! I know the way and will take care of you and them. It is not too much for Me."



He is the One who wept with His good friends who were hurting when their brother died. He is the One who with a heart of compassion cried out over a city how He wished they would have believed Him, He would have gathered them under His wings like a mama hen with her little chicks.

I don't know about you, but I sure am glad that He is the One in control. So able. So big. So not me.

Have a good day with the One who loves you,
The Mayers

The Mayers have been Missionaries with New Tribes for over thirty years, having served many years in the Jungles of Bolivia. They are now training and teaching others for the same Missionary work. We thank the Lord for their unselfish service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING WHY JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD FOR US

For Americans, blood is messy and to be avoided, but not so with a shepherd. Shepherds have always known about the “blood of adoption.”

Picture the following: In the morning a shepherd awakes to find that a ewe has given birth to a lamb, but the lamb has died. In another portion of his flock, the shepherd finds another ewe that gave birth during the night, but the mother died. So, the shepherd has a childless mother that will probably die of a broken heart. On the other hand he has an orphaned lamb.

Logic tells the shepherd to put the orphan with the childless mother. However, this will not work. The mother knows the lamb is not hers and will refuse to nurse it. Only one thing will allow the ewe to accept the orphaned lamb. The shepherd must slit the throat of the dead lamb and drain his blood. The orphaned lamb must then be washed in the blood of the dead lamb. Then, the mother ewe, smelling her own lamb, comes to the orphaned one and allows him to suckle. In other words, the orphan is given life by his adoption through the blood of the lamb.

The prophets and the shepherds of old saw in the regular events of their flocks, a perfect image of our relationship to God. We are separated from Him because of the sin in our lives. We are dying from starvation and God is grieving with a broken heart.

The Old Testament scriptures promised that a Messiah would come and be the “lamb” by which we would be brought to an intimate relationship with God. The book of Revelation points to Jesus and joyfully proclaims: “Worthy is the Lamb who is slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12)

By Jesus’ blood, “the blood of adoption”, we are received by God. Jesus willingly gave His life so that we might live. “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.” (Isa.53:7)

John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29). The Apostle Paul tells us “Get rid of the old yeast.” (yeast is symbolic of sin) “that you may be a new batch without yeast. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Cor. 5:7)

John the Apostle tells us there is only one way to defeat our enemy, the devil. “And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...(Rev.12:11)

The Apostle Peter confirms that Jesus’ perfect blood never fails to bring redemption. “For you know that it is not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life (handed down to you from your forefathers), but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defeat.” (1 Peter 1:18)

Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior and allowed yourself to be made acceptable to God through the blood’s cleansing? Pray, “Jesus, I accept you as my Lamb and as My Shepherd. Apply your blood to my life that I may be acceptable to the Father. I am sorry about the sins I have committed. Lead me in the way to a better life so I may be more like you, and will be assured my place with you in Heaven. Amen”

If you have prayed this prayer in all sincerity, welcome to the family of God! Continue to learn more about Him through bible study, fellowship with other Christians, and spending time in prayer. As you continue to grow in faith and knowledge, you will see your relationship with God become closer, also! He is the only true way to everlasting life and true happiness.

Peace, Love and Joy will come your way through faith in Jesus Christ

Immanuel Baptist Church
Free Life Prison Minis-
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1413 SE 16th Street

FREE LIFE NEWS

MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2009

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GOD HAS THE LAST WORD

By Dawn Guin

Dear Friend, in Revelation 22:21 which is the last verse of the Bible, it says, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" Also, in Psalms 23:6 which is the last verse in that chapter, it reads, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." This promise is to those who are His.

Isn't it comforting to know that God's grace, His goodness, and His mercy will never leave you, but is even with you right now where you are! Did you know God's thoughts toward you are precious? "How great is the sum of them", David said in Psalms 139:17, 18. David continued: "If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with Thee." Friend, you are never alone. An old hymn (Author Unknown) speaks volumes to me as I pray it does you when it says, "I've seen the lightning flashing, I've heard the thunder roll; I've felt sins breakers dashing, which almost conquered my soul. I've heard the Voice of JESUS bidding me still to "Fight on!" He promised never to leave me: never to leave me alone."

How could we neglect such great a salvation as this?! When we are tempted to sin, as we all are, Praise the Lord we can overcome that temptation the way Christ taught us, by speaking His Word: "Get behind me Satan, for it is written, "Stand fast in the liberty to which Christ has made you free, and be not entangled once again in the yoke of bondage."

We are victorious when GOD has the last Word.

Amen