

# FREE LIFE NEWS

Proclaiming the mystery of the Gospel, which is CHRIST in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:27

SPRING EDITION 2013 # 89

Mack & Mitzi Hall-Directors

## *Free Life Prison Ministry-Uganda Begins*

### Happiness

I found happiness, I found peace of mind, I found the joy of living, perfect love sublime. I found real contentment, happy living in accord. I found happiness all the time, wonderful peace of mind when I found the Lord.

You will seek and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. Jer. 29:13

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I don't know how to put it this time, but as usual, I will write out of my heart based on what I saw, felt, and heard. First allow me say this, "Not until you go to a jail or prison, you may never realize or know what it is to be incarcerated." Here in Africa there is a saying that goes, "Anyone who wishes you jail or Prison wishes you death". Yes, to some extent I acknowledge, there will be people who will never be transformed in this life unless they first

get incarcerated, yet not everyone in prison is a bad character. Though some of them are guilty of offences, still some are very innocent.

### My first Witnessing to the incarcerated

Last year I was inspired to start a Prison outreach. As an obedient servant of God I simply harkened to the voice of God, and said "Here I am Lord send me." Since I had never done this ministry before, I told mum Mitzi and consulted her with some issues concerning this ministry. It's al-

ways good to consult on issues before you take the first step, yet the best person to consult should be the person who is or has been in that field .After receiving every document authorizing me to move to any prison with the Gospel of Christ, I, with my team, started out to the Jail. Though none of my team members had ever participated in prison ministry, every one of us felt bold and courageous to take the Gospel to the incarcerated.

Turn to page 2

### In The Desert

by Sheila Sellinger—FMC— Carswell, TX

It was a hot summer morning in the Sonora Desert, the sun shone down on the dry ground and the Prickly Pear, Ocotillo, and Saquaro cacti clawed at me as I wove my way through the landscape. The hills behind me rose up as towering mounds, contrasting the purple mountains

in the distance. I'd left the path and couldn't find it again. I was lost! Tears clouded my eyes and slid down to my quivering chin. My friend's dad had warned us to stay close. Where were they? I'd been having so much fun exploring on my own, but that was before I remembered the

snake that we'd passed on the trail. It had been sunbathing, and to my eight year old eye it looked enormous. I took a shuddering breath, I would find a road.

I trudged on for what seemed like forever before I located a shallow, narrow dry-bed and stepped into it. Turn to pg.7

What we made sure was to take with us every document of identification and authorization lest we too be incarcerated of trespass. Since I had never been incarcerated, inside my heart I knew I couldn't really minister fully to the incarcerated to their maximum expectation, So I made sure that I went with the Powerful Messenger to the incarcerated, the FLN. I simply knew and trusted that what I couldn't speak, the Lord would use the articles that are in the newsletter to minister to His people, so for this specific mission I made 500 copies of 2 past editions.

After close checkup by the security personnel we were allowed in. As we entered the prison compound we could see remorse and distress covered on the faces of the incarcerated, some were seated lonely, looking helpless, others were busy doing some work, on the other side of the men's wing there were men involved in cooking. All the men were clothed in yellow attire. We could clearly notice that some men had for long been incarcerated, basing on their outfit which was torn and faded in color, these men seemed to have come in agreement with what had come to them. The newly incarcerated would be noticed because their outfits still looked fresh, these had a lot of grief on their faces. The conditions at this particular prison are very horrible and disgusting. We saw starvation, sleeping on naked floor, stricken with sickness, yet without treatment, are the sum up of the lives of these incarcerated people.

Having called them together so that we could minister to them, we were clothed with grief, at the standards of living these people are in. yet as men of God we quickly gathered up ourselves to minister to them. We could notice that even as we went on praising God, some people were far from

what we were doing, it was clear to notice the bondage upon these people, some were very hungry, attracting our attention to give them what to eat, others wanted us to contact their people, As we continued to minister the love of Christ to them, slowly by slowly the yoke of distress started to break off some of them. I showed them how Christ loved them despite of what they were going thru, at the end of our ministry we called an altar call and we were alarmed to see the reception to this call, almost each of them wanted to be prayed for, every time we have gone to this prison we embrace them with love, because we noticed that many of them are desperate of being loved, Before we leave the prison every session of our ministry, we hand out the copies of the FLN, which has indeed been a great tool for our prison ministry. Every time we go to prison, the inmates ask us for more copies. One inmate said, "The FLN is very good, it speaks to my spirit, even when you are not here with us, we can read it any time" Since the FLN is mainly written by inmates, it really speaks to the inmates here in the Ugandan prisons. After starting the prison ministry, I profoundly realized the divine significance and impact that the articles in the FLN bring. People in jails may need food, clothes, etc., but I have recently discovered that they desperately need the word of God. What really beats my understanding is the fact that people who are outside prison don't have that much yearning and quest of hearing God's word, yet those in prison are more receptive, yearning for the Gospel. They just don't want to miss any opportunity of hearing about God, in their helpless, hopeless, situation. But it's disgusting that just a few of us would love to go to the prisons with the saving word of God. I am so awed by

the way God touches people simply by reading the articles published in the FLN. Surely God's word is spirit and it can move even in written form convicting multitudes of souls across every continent of the world. We may not be able to reach the vast places of the World physically with the gospel of Christ but I'm sure we can financially support the publication of the FLN and in that way we shall have transformed a soul for Christ. The Bible says "Go to all the nations .... My thanks goes to everyone of you who is financially supporting this newsletter and everyone who contributes an article, May God richly bless you and keep up that spirit. Right now as I write I feel more blessed that we are taking God's word to jails. We do ministry on every 1st Thursday & 3rd Monday of the month. We have plans of getting the FLN to every Jail in Uganda; we already have the contacts of the prisons and jails in the entire Country, so we are going to work with the Wardens to see that we send in the copies of the FLN. To the jails & prisons nearby we shall go there physically, but for those far we shall send the FLN using the vehicles that go there. I will keep updating you of everything as it happens here in the prison ministry.

Hebrews 10: 32-39

BE BLESSED JESUS TIMES

PASTOR SISYE ROBERT

FREELIFE – UGANDA EAST AFRICA

**Salvation comes through no other than Jesus Christ. Trust him today to be your Lord and Savior, he died to take away your sin, to give you eternal life, and the power to live an abundant life here and now. Don't delay, He is coming soon to snatch His Bride away, don't be left behind, Call upon the name of the Lord and you will be saved. No one is turned away.**

## ONCE FOR ALL

Did you realize that Christ's resurrection is also our resurrection? Did you also realize that Christ's death on the cross was also our death on the cross? Surprisingly, many people have never associated themselves quite that personally with the Easter story. But really, that is what we all must do in order to "experientially" know the reality of the resurrection life.

We have all been united with Him in both death and life! (Romans 6:5-7). It's interesting though, just how many people do not understand that the true meaning of the Lenten Season is that "Death was defeated" and "Life was awarded" to all who believe.

Believe what? Believe that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, and that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (Romans 6: 6-8). That's what the whole process of reconciliation is all about.

The word "reconciliation" means to make an adjustment. It is the process of bringing together two things which differ one from the other so that they can now agree and be as one. Atonement carries much the same meaning.

My mother was an excellent bookkeeper. The Hardware store that she worked at for so many years was blessed to have her! Through her, I learned a lot about the "Bookkeeping World." I learned the importance of how the ledger must always agree with the total income being equal to the sum of the profit and the total expenses for the year. And if by chance the two figures do not agree then reconciliation must be made, by adding a figure from one side of the ledger to the other to bring about a balance.

In like manner, God had to "balance the books" (so to speak) on our account because we had put ourselves into debt to him...by way of our sin.

This Holy week symbolizes the glorious and beautiful way of atonement; and the high price that had to be paid in order for us to

be made "alive to Christ." But there is also a daily reckoning that has to be made. An entering into our ledger of faith, the agreement that Christ has "once for all" paid the price, and that our name can be forever written into the Lamb's Book of Life!

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:9-11, NIV).

Hallelujah...the debt had been paid....once for all!

## COME OUT FROM THE TOMB

Have you ever felt as though the burdens you encounter and the cares of the world have drawn the very life out of you? Well, I have good news for you! God wants you to Come Out From The Tomb.

He wants to raise you from the dead and give you new hope and strength to endure the difficulties of life.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11: 29-30

We entomb ourselves with the sins of the world, allowing our lives to be wrapped in the shroud of despair. Because we have forsaken the "joy of the Lord," we no longer have strength to fight!

"This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10b

"O Lord, the king rejoices in your strength. How great is his joy in the victories you give!" Psalm 21:1

As we continue in this state, we begin to grieve for who we once were in Him. We long for the sweet communion that once bloomed in our hearts. The merriment of that relationship is lost and the door to the tomb begins to close. Our worship no longer smells sweet, but is a disappointing odor to God and those around us.

Our God is very capable of raising the dead and bringing complete restoration in our lives just as He raised Lazarus from the dead. He had to Come Out From The Tomb.

Sometimes God allows us to be placed in the tomb to serve as a testimony to others when He brings us out.

"Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word." John 12:17

This is relative to my situation when suddenly I was thrust into the role of a single parent. I allowed the sins of worry, unbelief, and doubt to take control. There was no joy in my life and depression allowed me to die. It was impossible to help anyone else because there wasn't enough strength to help myself. Now the door to my tomb was closed.

As I lay there in my state of lonely depression, God ministered to my heart that He was there. He promised that He would never leave nor forsake me. Immediately, strength came back into my soul.

The stone to my tomb rolled back as He whispered Romans 8:28 in my heart:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God used my situation as a witness to encourage others by giving them hope to live. We must focus our attention on Him, so we, like Lazarus, will be able to hear His voice when He calls: "Come Out From The Tomb."

No matter what your affliction or bondage is, God is able to raise you from the dead spiritually. When we place our faith and trust in Him, as we lie silently beneath the cares of life, He will do for us just as He did with Jesus. He will raise us from the dead, roll away the stone and say, "Come Out From The Tomb" and live. Matthew 28:2-10



## HARDHEADED

My name is J.D Hancock. I'm writing this letter because I want to share the message of God to those who need it. I'm 27 years old and currently in Federal Custody. Can I say using meth was worth it—emphatically NO!- no drug is worth it —Period!! Everything happens for a reason. God saw my struggles and snatched me out of the darkness and into his loving arms. He shined his light on me once again. See, I've been hard-headed for some-time now, not heeding to the warnings God was sending me. I chose to ignore them. Let me tell you, you can't run from God. Recently I lost my Grandmother and slipped into a bad depression and didn't want to live anymore. I sat on the edge of my bed one night thinking I'd rather be dead, because I was lost —But God-had a better plan for me all along. It was to prosper me and not to harm me. I was being a fool. *"For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; <sup>33</sup> but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."* Prov. 1:32-33

I remember when I gave my life to Christ at the age of 6, upstairs in my Grandparents home. I was filled with God's love and he chose me to do a good work. Listen, many of us are locked up by the mistakes and choices we made, but we have a God Who is full of mercy and grace. He disciplines the ones he loves. He saw that we weren't listening to him out in the world, so he put us in a place where he could work on us. *"Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray."* Prov. 1:17

Trust in the Lord. He alone is the source of perfect love and truth. It is only by surrendering to Him that we can experience true love and discover how our lives should be lived. God is forgiving and patient with us in our failings. *He is quick to help us back on our feet.*

Thank and praise the Lord for his love

and grace. Let him bless your life. He wants to take control. God always keeps his word and his promises. God's love never ceases to them who hear them. God's delivering power should motivate us to live for him with all our strength. Don't give up hope, trust in Jesus, he will hold you and guide you through this wilderness.

## THE THREE TREES

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell.

"Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest. I shall hold wonderful treasure!"

the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

"Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven.

But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals.

The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail on an ocean, or even a river; instead, she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard.

"What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their

**THE THREE TREES, CONT.**

dreams.

But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox.

“I wish I could make a cradle for him,” her husband whispered.

The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. “This manger is beautiful,” she said.

And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake.

Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, “Peace.” The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun.

And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man’s hands to her.

She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the

sun rose and the earth tremble with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God’s love had changed everything.

It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you feel down because you didn’t get what you want, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

Source unknown

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**“Shout To The Lord”**

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
Let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King;  
Mountains bow down and the seas will  
roar  
At the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,  
Nothing compares to the promise I have  
in You.*

*My Jesus, My Savior,  
Lord, there is none like You;  
All of my days  
I want to praise  
The wonders of Your mighty love.*

*My comfort, my shelter,  
Tower of refuge and strength;  
Let every breath, all that I am  
Never cease to worship You.*

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At the sound of Your name.  
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Nothing compares to the promise I have  
in you*

## Tough Questions by Max Lucado

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Some questions aren't always easy to answer. Maybe that's the way it should be! Here's just that kind of question:

"I get tired of hearing people brush aside troubles with the platitude in Romans 8:28, 'All things work together for good.' Isn't saying that cruel?"

The verse says, "We know that

in everything God works for the good of those who love Him." I think it's one of the most helpful, comforting verses in the entire Bible. It announces God's sovereignty in any painful, tragic situation we face. Why? Because we know God is at work for our good! He uses our struggles to build character.

So what do we do? We

trust. Totally! And we remember. . . God is working for the good. Yes, any verse can be misused, but that doesn't make it useless!

He  
is  
Risen

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## FLN— News

It has come to the time when we have had to cut the newsletter to 8 pages, We have not received the articles we usually have in the past, for one reason or another, so we had to make this decision. This newsletter was created for you to share your Christian testimony and gifts of writing to encourage others. We need your help to continue this publication. Your testimonies and articles of faith are touching lives across the Country and in other parts of the World. Help us to continue this venue of sharing the Glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose love endures forever. Read Psalm 136. Jesus told us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. This is our unique opportunity to go into all the World. Send your testimonies of faith or articles of encouragement to the address on the back of this paper. Limit them to about a page and one-half, so all can be included. Thank you so much, and may His blessings be yours today.

*Mitzi*

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## Today's Verse

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — Romans 5:8

### Thought

Interestingly, the Bible doesn't ever just say that God loves us. Instead, it says: "God demonstrated his love..." "In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and gave..." "For God so loved the world that he gave..." Love is more than emotion or intention. True love, redemptive love, God-styled love is active; it does something. For us, Jesus did more than something; he sacrificed everything. What's more, he did it when we most needed it. He demonstrated his love when we were sinners!

### Prayer

Father, thank you for loving me. I love you. I love you for what you've done. I love you for who you are. I love you for your promises. I love you for your faithfulness. Most of all, dear Father, I love you because of Jesus who showed me just how much you love me. Please empower me to show my love by serving and giving to others as Jesus did. In his name I pray. Amen.

## "Power over Our Misdeeds" SpiritFire

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For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. — Romans 8:13  
tniv

### Key Thought

"Try harder!" That's the dominant message most folks hear out of religion, especially as religion deals with chronic misbehavior and addictive sin. Yet nearly all of us know from experience that trying harder doesn't do it. Oh yes, many do need more passion to live for Jesus, but simply trying harder doesn't give us any more passion and nearly always sets us up for greater failure and disappointment. The bottom line of the matter is made clear in Romans chapters 3-8: we can-

not be righteous on our own efforts, no matter how hard we try! In fact, such an approach to holiness left Paul saying these words: "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:27). Paul's answer is two-fold. First, God sent Jesus as a sin offering for our sin. Second, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to live the life of God. The Holy Spirit, when given reign in our hearts, produces fruit that reflects the character and compassion of God (Gal. 5:22-23) and transforms us to become like Christ (2 Cor. 3:18). Part of this transformation includes power to move past our addictive sins and find life. When the Holy Spirit is allowed to work in our lives, we are

changed because the Spirit has power over sin, death, and destruction.

### Today's Prayer

O God, my Abba Father, thank you for the gift of grace that you gave me in Jesus. Thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit set loose in my life. I ask that you do release your Spirit's power to help me overcome the misdeeds of my body and transform me to become more and more like Jesus each day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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### In the Desert, cont.

The crusty sand crunched under my pink tennis shoes, and I shivered with fear. I had to find a road! I was hot, thirsty, and tired. I began to imagine horrible terrors. What if the huge snake found me? What if it ate me? Sobs wracked my small body and my nose ran. I studied every shadow, my fears increasing until I finally wet myself. That was the last straw. With soggy pants, I ran along the dry-bed as fast as I could and soon came to a road.

I emerged onto the road's shoulder, and to my right was a young couple pulling hiking gear out of the trunk. I approached them; wet, snotty, and tear-faced, and confided that I was lost. They had pity

put me in their car, and drove me to the Ranger's Station, where my friend's dad was frantically making his report. No one minded the nasty mess I'd made of myself, they were just overjoyed to have me back.

Sometimes in life, we step off the path that the Father has been leading us down and we get lost. We may wander in the desert for years, not knowing where we're going, but certainly dangers surround us. We may have seen the serpent somewhere along the way and feared that he would devour us at any moment.

But, what took us off the path to begin with? For many, it could be pride. It might be that we scoffed at the warning to stay

close, or we didn't believe the utter helplessness that would accompany separation. Pride tells us that we can make it alone, even while walking on sand. Pride won't admit to being lost, of needing help, or of failure. It leads us on a winding trail until we finally face it and realize our plight. Then we struggle with doubts and the painful thorns of our sins that tear at us as we search for the road to salvation. We cry out in desperation, running blindly, hoping to be found, and before we know it, we're there. We look up and see our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, waiting for us to come to Him admitting that we are lost. When we do, he rescues us and takes us to the Father. No matter the nasty mess that we've made of ourselves. He's just overjoyed to have us back.

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## SECOND CHANCE

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But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

— Mark 16:6-7

Do you need a second chance today? On the first Easter morning, Peter needed one. There in the Upper Room, he had insisted that he would never deny Christ. But just as Jesus had predicted, Peter not only denied the Lord, but he denied Him three times. The last glimpse Peter had of Jesus before His crucifixion was in the glow of the fire in the high priest's courtyard, where he actually made eye

contact with Jesus. And then he went out and wept bitterly.

What kind of look do you think Jesus gave Peter when their eyes met? Do you think it was one of those I-told-you-so looks? Do you think it was one of scorn, as if to say, "How could you betray Me?" I don't think it was either one. I think it was a look of love, a look of compassion that said, "I still love you, Peter." And I believe that is why Peter went out and wept bitterly. He had failed the Lord so miserably. He probably thought there was no hope for him.

But then a message went out from the empty tomb that Jesus had risen, followed by these instructions, "Go, tell His disciples—and Peter. . . ." It was

not, "Go tell the disciples, including Peter, James, and John. . . ." It was just Peter, because Peter needed a special word of encouragement.

Do you need encouragement today? Maybe you have fallen short. You didn't plan on it, but it happened. And like Peter, maybe you ended up with the wrong people in the wrong place at the wrong time, ultimately doing the wrong thing. God gave Peter a second chance. And He will give you one, too—because Easter is for the person who needs a second chance.

Call on Him while He is near. He is listening for your voice saying, "Jesus I need you. Come into my heart and save me. I want my second chance."