



New Castle, IN

I was raised in a Roman Catholic Church but my parents were divorced when I was five years old. My mother had custody of me and switched us to a Methodist church because divorce was such a stigma among Catholics. My father moved back east where he came from and fell into this "New Age" movement which was rising in the late 1960s. Eventually he embraced everything from reincarnation to ancient astronauts. What a stretch for a man who was raised in a strict French Catholic home. By the time I reached the age of 13 my mother got us back into the Catholic Church in time for my first communion. But I very quickly fell away from the church because it just wasn't cool enough for my teenage mind. I wasn't able to receive God's simple but profound message of salvation by grace through simple childlike faith. All of the rituals and ceremony of the church drowned out the simple message. And it took great adversity to bring me around to see God's will for me. Some may consider being sent to prison as being a curse and it is not pleasant, but in so many ways it has been a blessing. It has allowed me to become a child of God and it has secured salvation. Thank you, Jesus for saving me, the only way you know what gets my attention! I would like to share with you a song that I wrote or should I say, the Lord wrote through me. He gave it to me

at a very low time in my life, shortly after I was incarcerated and shortly after I gave my heart to Jesus. I hope to one day find someone who will perform and maybe even record it so that my testimony might be heard in the world.

Where the Living Water Flows

All my life I looked to find things that brings true inner peace, I've reached for every earthly joy but still found no release, yet the truth I search so hard to find was right before my face, in the Word of God that leads me to a far, far better place.

Chorus:

Where the streams of the water flow from the throne and from the Lamb, watering the tree of life which by the river stands, earthly treasures tempt me down the path the world goes, but I will set my eyes upon a place where the living water flows.

All the riches that the world seeks I'll lay down at the cross, as the things I once perceived as gain I now consider loss, and for the sake of things as yet unseen I will take my Savior's hand, He will guide my steps and lead me gently to the promised land.

Now this gift of truth and life I found I ask for you to share, let the peace it brings deliver you from every earthly care, and join me now in reaching for

our new and waiting home where together by our Savior's side forever we will roam. **A.L.**

Marianna, Arkansas

In 1982 I found myself incarcerated in a place where young inmates could make a name for themselves. I was 22 years old and had been transferred there. Not long after being there I heard about this biker that had been on death row but had had his sentence commuted to life. He was in on a murder charge. He shot the guy multiple times on a beach in front of multiple witnesses, he also had received time in Florida for unrelated charges. He was caught in California, tried and sentenced to death row where he was thrown in a cell with his small amount of hygiene, a mattress, and a small pocket size New Testament. It didn't take long for his situation to sink in and hopelessness to override his fear. With nothing to do, he started reading his pocket New Testament. He read it through and when he reached Revelation 22:21 he felt as though he had missed something. So he read it again, still feeling as if something eluded him. He read it once again. When he was reading the book of Matthew he was halted at Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." At the time, he did not believe in God, but he was desperate. He prayed to God, a challenge and a request.

Within a month Florida came to take him back to Florida to be executed there. When they arrived and came to pick him up they went to give the authorities the paperwork to transport him. It wasn't there. They called the department to fax them another copy. There was no paperwork to be found. It was as though he didn't exist in Florida. They left without him. Within the next six months he was told to pack his property, he was moving to general population. He was given a time card that showed he only had a life sentence. It seemed that the paperwork authorizing the state to execute them had also disappeared and a judge commuted his sentence to life. In the next seven years his sentence was commuted three more times until I met him. He was only doing a 25-year sentence. He had turned to God and was in the process of changing his habits to align with God's. At the time I did not believe in God but when he told me his testimony, I had to admit something miraculous definitely happened. We celled up together and I would ask him questions about the Bible. He would give me passages to read but I didn't have a Bible. He bought one from another inmate. I read it and had more questions. He would answer me, but usually would direct me to passages and stories to read. I finally came to believe what I was reading and asked God to show me Himself so I could come to a saving belief. God showed me He was real through small unexplainable happenings. I started exclusively reading the Bible I had bought. Once I got out, I kept

reading and following what I understood. I looked for a church to attend but couldn't find one that adhered to the Biblical standards. No one had told me there was no such thing as a perfect church. I tried every church in my small town and to me they all came up short. I slowly read less and less and gradually stopped. I moved to Arkansas in 1984 and even though I was not doing anything illegal I was not living for God. He finally allowed me to be given a life sentence on circumstantial evidence with no physical evidence at all. In 2005 I entered a life skills class and was introduced to correspondence Bible study courses. I started doing them and like the prodigal son I returned to my heavenly Father. I have experienced great things as I walk with God. I get persecution from some non-believers but it is nothing compared to the rewards I get from God. **V.R.**

Soledad, TX

I just want to take a moment and tell you how beautiful God is... I was a drug addict who broke all God's laws, yet he cared about me. I burglarized houses every night yet God protected me from all harm. God did not look upon where I was for He knew where he was going to take me. God has healed me and given me courage. God has taken me places that I never thought I could go. God has healed my spirit and is giving me joy. The happiness that God has given me is life to my bones, each day I am happier in prison with God than I was alone on the streets. Many hard times God has used to remind me. The prison cell that I thought would destroy me had a Bible in it which led me to salvation. God has walked with me,

talked with me, and healed my addictions. God has fortified my spirit and soul with faith and virtue, God has loved me through it all. My mind was a perverted wasteland, but God turned it into a fruitful garden. I was paving my way to hell but now I walk on streets to gold. God has given me guidance. Because of God's grace my feet shall not go astray. C.T.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

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- Fanny Crosby

Send your testimony letters to:

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