Christian Fellowship Prison Newsletter

June 2023

#### Florence, CO

My name is Michael Birman. I am a Jew from Israel, ex-military in June 19, 2003. I will be 67 years old in April 15, 2023. I will have 37 years in prison; the last 23 in... called... Our Lord and Savior came into my life in 1981. I was given the N.T. in Hebrew. It has not left my side. I read that every day. In 2016, a c/o who did not like me threw it away in a cell "trash". The Chaplain got me a Hebrew/English new New Testament. It's not the same, but it's better than nothing. In a state prison, I was a drug dealer/user, moonshine maker/drinker until 1998 (I am a CA state prisoner sentenced to life without parole). I was told I have "Hep"-C. I went into my cell, got down on my knees and prayed. I asked for my Savior for help with all my heart and soul. The next morning, I woke up, threw away my outfit, gave away - oz. of heroine and never used or drank again. In 2001, our Lord and Savior made a way from my head to my heart. I had gone to the yard and told people that I am done with being a criminal, talking like one, or acting like one; I am going to live my life by a simple rule. #1: The only way to the Father is through the Son. #2: Don't do to others what you don't want them to do to you. My faith cost me my family who want nothing to do with me. They all live in Israel. The last Rabbi in here called me a fake Jew because of my faith. I call myself a complete Jew. Our Lord and Savior was a Jew, and so am I. People ask me how can I be in such peace and I told them. If our Lord will want me out of prison, I will be out. If He don't, I will not. I keep on fighting because the Lord helps those who help themselves. I hate no one. I forgive myself. I apologize to everyone I wrong and I pray ... And that is my story. I am an old man with failing health without any friends or family - far from home. I'm in peace with myself and my Lord and Savior. **M. B.** 

#### Lucedale, MS

My name is James Combs. I have been saved now for a couple of years. I came to know our Savior by entering my narrow place, where I had nowhere else to turn. The weight and troubles of the world were just extremely too great for one human man to deal with alone. So I gave all of my problems and cares to the only person who is able to save us in our time of need, Jesus Christ. Because we cannot get to the Father, which is the Almighty GOD, unless we go through His Son. Christ is our mediator. I poured out my problems and cast my cares on Him because He cares for me. I came to Him out of a pure sincere heart with tears in my eyes repenting of my sins and calling on His name. I received salvation: that day, the greatest gift I could ever have, all because God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

That was the best day of my life. J.C.

# Lakeville, MS

My name is Steve Paul a bond servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. I iust wanted to share with you how I came to know Jesus Christ. I knew of Him but I didn't actually know Him for I was living for worldly pleasures. After about two weeks of me being in the county jail I got saved and then baptized. I got out of jail on bond and found a very good church and got re-saved and re-baptized although I had no Bible at the time. While I was out on bond, I started backsliding; going to casinos and messing with a Ouija board, although I had no idea it was a sin and forbidden so I continued to go to church for a while and then guit. So finally on Feb 10, 2020 I went to court and now I'm serving a twentyyear sentence for a crime which I didn't commit. I just got new evidence which was not brought up in court. While I was back in county jail waiting to come to prison, I came across a Bible. I didn't know how to read it. I know it may sound crazy but I felt the Spirit of the Lord talking to me about reading the Bible but I couldn't read it. I got so mad I tossed it to the foot of my bed and I told God I can't read it because I didn't understand it. Oh, how He humbled me. I sat prostrate on the floor for probably thirty minutes crying my heart out to God and after I got through I never in my life felt so much peace in my life. Something came over me. I can't explain it, but I told God I'd read that Bible if He'd help me to read it and understand it and now 3yrs later I can read the Bible but also understand what I read. I no longer love the things in this world. I have a very close relationship with Jesus Christ. I put Him first, He's my first love. I trust Jesus Christ one hundred percent with my life. I don't have to work about anything for. I know that Jesus Christ is going to get me out of this prison somehow some way because I'm not guilty of this crime and if I were to die I've got faith and I know I'll go to heaven.

### S.P.

#### Richmond, TX

I'm 51 years old. I have been in and out of jail off and on the last three years. And it's been very hard for me. Drugs and easy women have been my sin. This last sentence of 10 years I've got six years done. So I was 46 years old beginning it. I was so sick and tired of wasting my life and coming to jail, so I took a leap of faith this time and signed up for a faithbased program. This is new to me, so I dived right in with everything I've got. So, the last few years have been eye-opening, and all glory goes to Jesus Christ and the Father for a mindset. I never saw it coming. I've got a whole new purpose and foundation now, and all the glory goes to God. He has saved me through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm so thankful for His grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I never knew God like this! I have a brand-new life because of this transformation. I am committed to staying on this journey with Christ Jesus as the forefront of my source and strength toward my future in God's will. **S.M.** 

## Holdenville, OK

When I first came to prison in 2004, I was mad at the world, blaming everyone but myself for my circumstances. I joined a gang because I felt it would give me an outlet for me to spread all my hate and anger, but God would not give up on me. He put people in my life that kept letting me know that God had not forgotten me, so I started reading my Bible. I soon started to see that I was not going to be able to be a gang member and be a Christian (do the Lord's work). I also had an addiction to meth that I would have to deal with. With the help of the Holy Spirit I would overcome. I was feeling a lot of pressure because I knew that I would not just be able to walk away from the gang, and so in my flesh I thought it would be easier to take my own life. On May 1st, 2012 I tried, but since you are reading this you can see that it didn't work out that way, praise God! While I was unconscious God came to me and showed me that if I would pick up my cross and follow His Son Jesus Christ and walk away from my old self that He will show me a better way. So on May 2nd, 2012 when I woke up, the first thing I did was pray that I would be forgiven for all of my sin and that Jesus would come into

my life and show me the way to serve Him and not the world. Since then, I have been out of the gang life for over 10 years. I have been following Christ since then. Every day He shows me how to be more like Himself, as He pours more mercy and grace on me then I will ever deserve. **E.M.** 

#### **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

O soul are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior And life more abundant and free

Through death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there Over us sin no more hath dominion For more than conquerors we are

His word shall not fail you, He promised Believe Him and all will be well Then go to a world that is dying His perfect salvation to tell

Turn your eyes upon Jesus Look full in His wonderful face And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace

# Send your testimony letters to: Christian Fellowship Prison Ministries PO Box 135

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