



## **Century, FL**

I have been incarcerated since January 28, 2018. While in prison, I wasn't doing anything positive with myself, so I was thinking of what I was going to do with my life. I thought and thought. So, I started to think about my kids. I have seven girls and four boys. When I was thinking about them, I started to remember when I was a child. I remember my father used to read the Bible to me and we would talk about Jesus Christ and God. So, I said to myself, "that's it". I'm going to start going back to church and studying the Bible. So I have been doing that now for eight months straight. That was the best choice I have made in a long time. My spirit and heart hunger for the Word. I've gotten a job at the chapel now. I have enrolled into Faith Character Base Program. It has really helped me change my life. I no longer desire the old things I used to do anymore. I'm still weak, but I am getting stronger every day. **C. B.**

## **Kenedy, TX**

I haven't always been a Christian. I was actually raised as a non-practicing Catholic and then during my early 20's, I went from being agnostic to an atheist. I and the other so-called intellectuals that I would associate myself with, thought that I could be good

without God. There was nothing good about me. I was a drunk, a womanizer, and simply an overall arrogant and selfish man living after the flesh. It was not until going to county jail that I was humbled. During my time in county, my attorney would visit me and try to tell me about Jesus Christ (he was saved at my age now). I figured I could simply humor him, since he was representing me for free. It wasn't until I started to go through some deep, spiritual anguish that I finally fell on my knees and cried out to God. I told him that I was sorry for all my sins and all the evil I caused in life. Please give me one more chance to start again. My bond was lowered to an affordable amount the following month. After getting out, I began to attend church and even underwent baptism. I wish I could tell you that I was doing well, but like a dog to his vomit, I returned to my sins. Upon joining my local church, I was given a Bible. That Bible was not opened even once in the four years that I was out on bond. Sure, I quit drinking, I reconnected with my family, and attended church regularly. But all these things do not make me a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Since I never read my Bible, I didn't know what God's will for my life was. I was simply a believer carried to and fro with all the things that this present and

evil world throws at us. Like in the book of Judges, I simply did all that was right in my own eyes. Looking back now, those four years I spent sober and sinning was me simply being another child of disobedience. It took me coming to prison to finally get me to open my Bible, and slowly open my eyes. These last years have helped me grow in the knowledge of my Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, and I know that His Spirit is still working in me. Every day I pray for his help to strengthen me, so that I can be a faithful servant. To remain true to the faith, and to hold fast to our Lord, and to never lose sight of the glorious appearing of our King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.

## **Grady, AR**

I've been incarcerated for 34 years on a life sentence. As with so many young people, I grew up knowing God, but I had a rebellious spirit against all authority. I was surrounded by alcoholism, and at the age of 14, I began using alcohol and drugs and hanging out with the older crowd. It didn't take long for me to start getting into trouble - fights, car thefts, stealing, and was very promiscuous. At the age of 16 I became involved with a woman that was 22 years old and from there my life was completely out of control. My life was one big

party, and I had blocked out God completely. But there's no doubt that God had His hand on me throughout my reckless behavior, and kept me from death. During this time countless people tried to get me back on track but I wouldn't listen. And by the age of 22 I was completely off the tracks. I had lost everyone I cared about and everything that I had, and lost all hope. Then one night with my mind totally consumed with days of drinking and drug use, I got into a confrontation with a man, and in a fit of rage I took his life. As if that wasn't enough to get my attention, I continued using drugs and alcohol for the first three or four years after coming to prison. Then one night after shooting cocaine all night, I said "enough"! I stopped drinking and using drugs at this point. No doubt that the Holy Spirit played a part, amen! As I started distancing myself from my old life and people that I ran with, the Lord started blessing me more and more. Then at 32, 10 years into my sentence, I was introduced to a woman (a godly woman) and in less than a year, we were married, and have been married 24 years now, and going strong. The Lord has restored so much to me, even in a place like prison! I've been so blessed all these years, been clean for about 30 years now, and I'm so grateful the Lord delivered me from the drugs and alcohol, and all the misery it brought me. And I'm thankful for my wonderful wife and family He has blessed me with! My message is hope is never lost! Give your all to the Lord and allow Him into your heart, and you'll be amazed at the

blessing He'll be upon you! Amen!

**B. P.**

### **Abilene, TX**

My name is Eric Rodriguez, and I am here to write about my testimony, and hope that it will help each and every soul who reads this. Growing up in a small place in West Dallas, it was never easy for me to be a Mexican. And going to school was the hardest thing for me because I did not even know how to read or write. Everyone would make fun of me and I never took on that feeling well so I dropped out as soon as I could. Hanging out with the bad kids with so much easier and they never cared if I did not read or write. All we would do is go to the store and steal anything that we wanted, and then brag about it at the end, like it was the thing to do. While, as I got older, the crime got bigger, and by that time, fast money was the thing to do and I was loved by many. Over the years, people came in my life and people left, and I started to feel this pain that I could not understand. But I remember waking up in a jail looking at four walls asking God for help because no one else would come to my aid. I got out to do the same thing and then I would wake up with more and more time in jail to see that no one really cared to even come see me for 15 minutes to let me know that I was not forgotten. That's when I had to learn the hard way. I had to live the prison life behind bars, and when I started I was only 18, and now I'm sitting at a table in prison writing my testimony to anyone that would love to hear. I'm 40 years old now and I have been in and out of jail more than 40 times and this is my

fourth time in prison. And I can say that God never gave up on me. He was with me the whole time and never let me go at all. I learned how to read through the Bible and write letters to those I loved, and some even wrote back. I still got better at each and every time. I picked up on drawing and have gotten so good that I got certificates and they even gave me a job doing art all over Fort Worth, Texas. I have found a little heaven on planet earth. H.O.P.E. is what I call it and soon I will be able to give back for all the wrong I have done and do something good for the world. I never in my life thought God would use me this way, but I hope to say that it is so much better than the way I was living. So I'm here to let everyone know that there is a better way, a better life, a little heaven on planet earth, and it starts with you. Ephesians 2:1-10. **E. R.**

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:7-8

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