



# Christian Fellowship Prison Newsletter

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## Fort Worth, Texas

My name is Reynaldo Chazarreta. I'm 56, spiritually 16 and I'm from Fort Worth Texas. I was brought up in a dysfunctional home as the black sheep of the family. I had experienced every abuse you could imagine by the age of nine. I also started using at that age of nine, and hit the streets, looking for some type of understanding toward life, but I went about it wrong and found myself doing nothing but wrong. I was so far gone by the age of 11 that I was known to be Satan's number one soldier. Even though the streets hated me, in reality, they had no choice but to love me. So, for many years I was living without a cause, although I had it all. It just wasn't enough, there was something missing in my life. I even went as far as finding me a good girl and making her my wife. She has been with me for 34 years and I've been with her for almost 5 years, because prison has had me for at least 28 years. In the process of in and out of prison, I've grown worried and tired to the point where I didn't even want to live anymore. I began living on a death wish, and it wasn't long after that God had to intervene and stop me in my tracks before I did something drastic. So, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, saying, "Give yourself back to me and I'll show you that I am all you need. I will make you complete, just believe, and you'll receive the Holy Spirit, which is really me. I'll be your helper for I am the Great I am, and after today, all you have to do is take a stand, and I'll do the rest. I'll bring out your best." What could I say, but have your way? Thank you, Lord!

**R. C.**

## Iona, MI

Hi my name is Dale Bethlem. I am 52 years old and was baptized here in prison six years ago. I'm a Christian and love the Lord. I have done several Bible studies by mail and love to read the Bible. I have never done a statement of faith before, so sorry if this isn't a very good one, but I will do my best. I have been locked up since 2013. I was sentenced to 120 to 240 years in prison. My mother passed away in 2011, the only person in my life as family. But we were close. After she passed, my life went downhill. I felt numb. Then when I came to prison, I was hollow. God was not in my life, my life was over, and I had bitterness in me. Then in 2018 I found God. He became the salvation I needed, so I got baptized and have been with the Lord ever since. He has blessed me with a new outlook on life and filled that hollow place. I owe my life to Jesus for dying on the cross for my sins.

**D. B.**

## Gatesville, TX

You must not quit  
 When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
 When the road you're trudging seems all uphill.  
 When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
 And you want to smile, but you have to sigh.

When care is pressing you down a bit  
 Rest if you must, but don't you quit!  
 Life is strange with its twists and turns  
 As everyone of us sometimes learns.  
 And many a failure turns about

When he might have won, had he stuck it out.

Don't give up though the pace seems slow.

You may succeed with another blow!

Success is failure, turned inside out.  
 The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.  
 And you never can tell just how close they are,  
 It may be near when it seems so far.

So stick to the fight, when your hardest hit

When things seem worse, you must never quit.

Amen

**T. C.**

## Lincoln, IL

I pray this finds you and your loved ones and your ministries in good spirits and God's grace and blessings. My name is Carmen G. Stonemark. I am writing from Togan Correctional Center. I am 61 years old, have been incarcerated since July 11, 2018. My outdate is June 30, 2034, but with good days so far I've earned 13 months. God is the one who knows my exact outdate. I was born in Romania into an orthodox Christian family. As a child, I went to church with my mother and developed a relationship with the Lord. Then I got sexually molested by a family friend, and that put a distance in my relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ. I never did any drugs, or alcohol, but I started having sexual relationships at 16 1/2. I got pregnant, and my father took me to have an abortion. And after that I had about three more abortions, for which I am so ashamed and it stays heavy in my heart. At 26 years old, I came to the US with my husband and two little

children. My husband was a womanizer and an alcoholic. He abused me physically, emotionally and sexually. I had my third child here in the US, and I found myself divorced and with three children that their father did not help to raise in any way. I turned to the Lord for help and He blessed me with a good job, teaching at the community college. But I always relied on my own ability. I only went to God when there was no way out from what I was getting myself into. On July 11, 2018 I got arrested and wanted to commit suicide in my jail cell. That particular night I had everything ready in the favor of taking my life when I felt a hand on my shoulder and I heard Jesus talking. He told me that He knows all that I have done and that He loves me in spite of it all. He told me to reach for His hand, and grab hold. He will never let me go as long as I keep holding onto Him. He will be with me to the end of ages. And this was not my end. He has better plans for me. I fell on the floor, crying and praying. That night my life changed, a new chapter was beginning. I got a holy Bible and started reading. Since then, I read it from Genesis to Revelation over 10 times.

**C. S.**

#### **Clayton, NM**

My name is Toby G Chavez. I'm the kind of person that grew up in "The Varrio". I grew up gangbanging, doing drugs, leading gangs and selling drugs. Then I graduated to prison gangs and prison politics. I've been in prison for 26 years now and in 2020 I gave my life to Christ. I'm now a mentor here at NENMCF and I'm the leader of a program called celebrate recovery. Each and every day I have to deny myself and carry my own cross, because of the new creation I have become. My old self of being a product of rape, a convicted murderer, a liar, a thief, and a

deadbeat dad, is all dead, and now a new life I live in Christ. I love sharing my testimony with others, due to that, inmates really relate to me, because at one time I was just like them. I love the power of God that shines through me and helps others believe they can change too! **T. C.**

#### **Oakwood, VA**

There was a time when I was only living for myself, whether it was in school, sports, relationships, my marriage, or just in every-day life. I only thought about benefiting myself in life. When I realized that God's protection was keeping me alive, through all of the troubles and pain, I became filled with selfish pride. I knew it was God all along, but I took the glory, thinking that life was going to give me everything that I wanted, and like God was going to give me, me, me, me. Then I ended up in a cold cell for crimes I didn't even do. I was broken and surrounded by darkness. I had been stripped of my beautiful family, my freedom, and that selfish pride. That's when I acknowledged God and reached out and opened my eyes. It was then that I realized it was never about me. I wasn't still alive for me. It was for everyone else. It was for His glory, not mine. Now I am healing and his light never stopped shining around me. This is true joy in life. **J. S.**

#### **Rusk, TX**

I've been saved for almost 11 years now, since December 17, 2013. Before that, I asked Jesus to come into my life and I was even baptized, but I wasn't saved. I say that because I didn't walk the walk of a saved person. I was using drugs, cussing, fornication, pornography, pride and fighting, etc. I knew of Jesus, but wasn't with Him in truth or the Holy Spirit. I guess I am trying to say that I knew of Jesus and thought I was saved, but my life

didn't match up with His Word. One thing I did know was that God was real and faithful even though I wasn't. I would get high on meth, and sometimes would tell others I was getting high. Through that God was faithful. I was so strange. I was very paranoid when I was high. I committed murder December 16, 2013 because I thought my girlfriend was trying to have me killed. The next day when I woke up and realized what I did I cried out to God in Jesus name and said, "Please save me." I said to God that I don't care if I spend my life in prison, I just wanted to be with Jesus, no matter what happens. I just wanted Jesus to save me. I've never been the same since. Living for Jesus in prison, I've never felt so free. I've never known that my life could be so full of joy and peace. God has given me His grace and joy, and I am completely washed in His blood. I can smile in the face of my adversary, the devil, and anything that is thrown at me. I've been saved for almost 11 years now. I'm so blessed! I stay in the Word of God and His grace, power, and His love. I am growing in the truth and power of His grace and love daily. Thank you, Jesus!

**J.T.**

**Take the world, but give me Jesus,  
All its joys are but a name;  
But His love abideth ever,  
Through eternal years the same.**

**Oh, the height and depth of  
mercy!**

**Oh, the length and breadth of  
love!**

**Oh, the fullness of redemption,  
Pledge of endless life above.**

- *Fanny Crosby*

**Send your testimony letters to:**

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