



## South Bay, FL

Well, growing up, I didn't go to church. My parents were Catholic, and I was bad growing up. I was 12 years old when I was arrested for the first time. Two months later, I got kicked out of seventh grade and never went back to school. I started to sell drugs at the age of 16 years old. Now let me tell y'all, my mom and dad tried their best, but we were a big family. They were living paycheck to paycheck, and I didn't want to live like that. I fell in love with making money, and I was really good at selling drugs and everything that came with that lifestyle. Guns, women, pride, selfishness, greed, prison, power, all that I lived. But let me take y'all to when I was 23 years old when my life changed forever. You see, the devil will put something in front of you and make it look good, but in the end, it will be our own destruction. I didn't know anything about Ephesians 6: 10-20. Now I do, but at age 23, I went to Mexico and got plugged in with the cartel. They told me I didn't need any money, everything fronted. I flew back to Florida and I started moving kilos for the cartel. I went from being a corner drug dealer, to becoming the main man. I was the plug and at the time, I thought I was living the life, but no matter how much money, drugs, parties, women that I had, I always wanted more and more. I was never full, things were just for the moment's pleasure. I was lost and blind to the earthly things. Giving pleasure to the flesh, I was wicked, evil, perverted, sick, and I was just about money, sex, and power. Then on January 21, 2016, I was 25 years old. They arrested me for trafficking meth. They offered

me seven years and I thought I've got money and lawyers, I'm going to trial. But I lost and they gave me 15 years. You would think I would learn my lesson, but no, I came headfirst into prison lifestyle - selling drugs and joining a ruthless gang. I was stabbing people, fighting, and bringing drugs into prison. I mean, you name it, and I was on it. I moved into the gang and moved up in the chain. The only time I went to Chapel was to drop off or pick up drugs. But that's when God himself hit me with Proverbs 3:5-6, even before I knew scripture. Two years ago, I called my people from a cell phone in prison, I called Mexico and I told them that I wanted to pick up where I left off. I had a girl in the street moving everything and they said OK let's do it. Then a couple of months later, she robbed me for the drugs and the money. She left and I didn't see her anymore. Then three months later, I was in my prison cell and they told me to pack it up, because I was going to the outside court. It was a DEA that had come to pick me up. I recounted from the conspiracy to trafficking meth. They took me to the FDC and they ended up giving me 14 years on top of my 15 years in DOC. I ended up with 29 years. When I came back to DOC, I went back to the prison I was at. My name had gotten me more power. But something happened. I got sent to the box for possession of drugs. One day I started to tell God "Why me, I'm not a bad man. I just like to sell drugs." I told him "If you are really like people say you are, kill me, because I don't want to live anymore. Or change me." I didn't get anything that day, but when I got out of the box, He showed me my life. He told me that I'm still

leaning on my own understanding and He showed me the seven years I could have sang in 2016 and then to the point to where they gave me the extra 14 years. He told me to follow Him and He would show me better and greater things. Then I felt something in me at that time. I didn't know what it was, now I know it was the Holy Spirit. And I read Psalm 118:6 and He told me I couldn't have two masters. So, I left the gang, stopped selling drugs, and stopped using women. Since I came to Christ, I haven't talked to women because He told me not to worry, He will send me my wife before He sends me out into the world. Since then, I've been faithful to Him, all day I stay in His word. I stopped living in this world, now I live by the spirit and not by flesh. I am a living, walking testimony of His power, love, forgiveness, and glory. He is going to use my mess for a message. All glory to Him, our Father in heaven. I gave my word, my life, and my will to Him, and see Him working in my life all the time. He has chosen me to do great things for His kingdom, for I do Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 28:18-20. All glory to Him! I thank Him every day that I have peace, joy, and am light in this dark place. People see me in here, and ask how I did it. I tell them, I didn't do anything. God did it all, and He is still working in me, all glory to Him. All I did was have a heart that wanted to repent and open up to Him for Him to work in me. Now I'm free from gangs, power, greed, perversion, and anger. John 8:36

**A.B.**

## Venus, TX

I never really thought how far I had to come to get to know Christ until I ended up in a prison with a 20-year

sentence. By the grace of God, through Jesus Christ, I have been changed and my veil has been removed (2 Corinthians 3:16-17), and can now be used through God to carry out His plans for my life. I'm going to start from the beginning so you can see how I got to where I am now. April 17, 1997 my world was turned upside down, forever changed. This was the day my dad decided to end his life and take my mom's life along with him. The following day, I cut my wrists and was found under a bridge by my oldest brother. My aunt sent me to a mental health hospital. They kept me for six months and then sent me to Kansas City to a hospital called Menninger. This only made my life more of a living hell. I had no trust left at this time and was now 13 years old. I decided to go live with my grandma and grandpa in California. That lasted a few years and then I went back to Kansas. At the same time, my oldest brother left Texas and came to Kansas. I decided to say I missed him. At this point in my life, I was already smoking, marijuana, drinking, and had been smoking cigarettes for some time now. At 15 years old, I got into some trouble and ended up going to Johnsonville Detention for six months. I got out and tried meth the first time in the year 2000. I continued to get into some more trouble. I went to a boy's ranch and got out. In 2002, I went to a community college after a house I was living in got paid for by the grace of God. I didn't go to jail when I should have. I was now 18 years old and still had not decided to stop using drugs. Meth had become the drug of choice. I started shooting the drug. I got married in 2006 and that lasted about three years. In 2009 I met a new girl and had my first child and then another child. In 2011, I lost custody to these kids and I tried to get clean. I just wouldn't

stay clean for very long. All this time I knew of God. It's like I was saved, but didn't even know how many more times he would save my life. I moved to Texas in 2012 after another attempt of trying to end my life after an overdose. I was in and out of a county jail at least 50 times. Out of all that, I only received a misdemeanor charge. It was like God kept calling me still and I didn't listen. 2016 brought us on top of a person's house strung out on meth. Somehow I got out of it. I moved back to Texas and was doing good, although I was still using some drugs, but leaving the powders and meth to a minimum. In 2020 I started using meth again, and within months I was in jail twice. It was now 2021. I was out on bond and was done. I had lost a lot, and just wanted to end it all. Again, my family called to see how I was. I was in dismay. On September 20, 2021, it all came to an end. I got arrested for the third time having been delusional for days. The day I got to prison I got down on my knees and asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior and stopped looking back. Now I see a brighter future, and I no longer feel the pain and regret of my old life. I have peace and joy in my heart now. And it is so amazing to know that I don't have to hurt anymore. **B.F.**

#### **Ionia, MI**

Hi, my name is Dale Bethlehem. I'm 52 years old and was baptized here in prison six years ago. I'm a child of Christ 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. My life had ended. I was sentenced to 120 to 240 years in prison. My mother passed away in 2011, the only person in my life as family. My life

went downhill. I felt numb. That's when I came to prison. I was hollow, because 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 that 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 empty place that I once had. I owe my life to Him and thank Jesus for dying on the cross for my sins. **D.B.**

#### **The Old Rugged Cross**

George Bennard

1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2 Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world  
has a wondrous attraction for me  
for the dear Lamb of God, left his glory above  
to bear it to dark Calvary.

4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,  
where his glory forever I'll share.

**Send your testimony letters to:**

**Christian Fellowship**

**Prison Ministries**

**PO Box 135**

**Fredericksburg, OH 44627-0135**