



Carrabelle, Florida

I would like to say this, "I literally owe my life to God." I grew up in an abusive childhood. When my mom was pregnant with me, both my father and mother went to prison for drugs. I was born in a Texas prison infirmary. I did not see my mom till I was seven years old when she got out of prison. She asked me that day who I wanted to live with, her parents, or my dad's parents. I told her that I would like to live with her and her response was this, "Sorry, that is not one of the choices". By this time, my uncles (her brothers), had been getting high on a drug called meth for the last two years, and one of them was secretly sexually abusing me. I was nine years old when I got to meet my dad for the first time. Three months later, he was sitting in a recliner chair, no more than 7 feet across from me and he looked at me and smiled like everything was going to be OK. Then he looked forward and put a 12-gauge shotgun to the side of his head and blew his brains out in front of me. Just to say the least, I was very angry with God and didn't understand why everything was happening to me. I thought God had abandoned me. But I know He did not, and that I know for a fact!! You can imagine the life I lived for a long time. The drugs, the anger, the women, and all the criminal lifestyle. I am so ashamed of all the hurt that I caused to people in my life. I wish I could take it all back. I knew for my life to change I needed to have God in it. I gave over my life to God and asked Him to make me new and to forgive me for everything that I had done to people. I give thanks to God for everything in my life because I can't

imagine my life without Him now.

S. H.

Harbor city, NC

I grew up in Shelby NC. I was raised in church by my aunt Vick. Every weekend she'd come pick up my little brother and me to go stay at the farm. Friday and Saturday was all play, but Sunday was Church. It was the highlight of my week. Little Ricky, my little brother, was a year younger than me and he was my best friend. We went everywhere together. As I got old enough to choose my own path, I grew away from God. At age 11, I started smoking weed. At 12, my best friend and little brother became sick. He was 11 and an MVP state All-Star basketball player. He bumped knees with a guy in practice and what seemed to be fluid came up on his knee. It wouldn't go away, so my parents had it checked. It turned out to be osteosarcoma- bone cancer. I was losing my best friend. For a long time I blamed God and spiraled deeper into my addiction. At age 15 I lost him. His body just couldn't fight any longer. I spent years after that being hurt and angry. I went from smoking weed to shooting meth. I've done a lot of things that I'm not proud of to get high and even more because I was high! In 2024 at Pasquotank Correctional Institution, I had an encounter with Jesus Christ. As I got so tired of being tired, I cried out and asked Him to save me from myself. He told me to chase Him like I chased drugs, and I wouldn't believe my blessings. When I put the energy I used to put into getting and staying high into seeking God and digesting His word, many doors started to open for me. Just a year and some change later,

I'm at Tabor City and I'm working in the sewing plant. I'll be minimum custody by the end of this year and I've got to say it wouldn't be possible, none of it, without God. And there really is freedom in Jesus Christ. And those of you who read this that knew the old me, you know only God could have broken my chain. And if He did it for me, He can do it for anybody. Because who the Son sets free, will be free indeed. All praise to the Most High!

J.E.

San Antonio, TX

I was born and raised in Abilene, Texas. I grew up in a godly family, no drugs, no alcohol, or abuse. I went to church and knew about God but never knew Him personally. I managed a produce department for Albertsons supermarket then I found a better job as a manager at Abilene regional Medical Center in the housekeeping department. In that time I had two children and a wife, but I did not have Christ in my life. I was a rude manager to my employees and ignored my wife and cheated on her. I bought my kid's time with material items. On top of everything, I was addicted to meth and one night I was driving from work and was high on meth and had a car wreck. The other driver did not survive. Her name was Sarah Morrison. I was at fault and was charged with intoxicated manslaughter and fought my case for five years. I left my position at the hospital due to my crimes and their policy. But even though I didn't have God, I see He had me. I was blessed to find a job as a manager at Harrison Simmons University in housekeeping. They are a second

chance job opportunity and gave me a chance. That opportunity changed my outlook on life and I stopped using drugs on August 28, 2018. I started doing things with my family and my children started caring about people. My wife and I had issues, she was struggling with drug addiction when I was out and when I came to prison, she left my kids at my dad's and disappeared. I am praying for her. My children and I talk a couple times a week and I'm learning in my Bible who our Lord is, so I can finally live and be the son He wants me to be. I still have a hard road ahead, but now that I have put God number one I know I will be OK and my family. **M.T.**

Lucesale, MS

My name is James Stevens and I am a new believer. Before I found God, I was a sinner of epic proportions. And I found myself sitting in a jail cell looking at a life sentence for the things I was doing in the places I was going. My life was just a mess and I was going nowhere fast. Until one day they came and got me out of my cell and informed me that I had a visitor. So I walked into the visiting room, not knowing what to expect because I had burnt all of my bridges with my family. So when I sat down, I walked my mother's pastor. We talked for about 45 minutes or so before he left. Brother Stephen had me sit with him in prayer. While he was praying, I just felt this warm welcoming feeling overtake me. After I got back to my cell, I just knew that there was something missing in my life. Brother Stephen came and saw me every week for almost 3 months. I got saved and reborn onto Christ in August 2019. Since that day I have found joy and peace through Jesus Christ, my Lord. I have since joined a Bible college and I'm trying to spread the Word as I am commanded to do. It has been

five years since that day and God has done so much for me and I love Him with all my heart and soul.

J. S.

Mayo, FL

My name is Kenneth Holland. I've been in prison on a nonstop ride for the last 20 years. I started in 2004 when my friend died while we were running from the police in a stolen car. I was charged with his death and I'm still here on a second-degree murder charge. But God, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, has kept me all these years. I haven't carried a shank or any other weapon in any of the camps I've been at in all of the years I've been inside the prison system. The only weapon I've carried is the Holy Bible and His word written on my heart. God's goodness is so great. He is the Master, the Master over all creation, and His Word is true. What His word says is true and real and will come to pass just as He declared. He knows the end from the beginning, and the victory is ours through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who washes away all our sin. Neither height nor depth, neither angels nor demons, neither things present nor things to come, can separate us from the pure and holy love of the Father. I am presently at Mayo C. I., and I am among a few brothers in Christ in my wing who get together often each day in prayer and fellowship and sharing the Word of God. We are often spending our day, studying to show ourselves approved unto God as Paul admonished Timothy. Last evening, our number was its highest at five men, among a wing that holds up to 56. There were five men in one room, praying and sharing the Word of God. Encouraging one another and growing in the knowledge of salvation in Jesus Christ by the

resurrection power of the Holy Spirit. God is awesome! **K. H.**

Nearer still nearer

Mrs. C. H. Morris

1 Nearer, still nearer— close to Thy heart,
draw me, my Savior, so precious Thou art;
fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast;
shelter me safe in that Haven of Rest,
shelter me safe in that Haven of Rest.

2 Nearer, still nearer— nothing I bring,
naught as an off'ring to Jesus, my King—
only my sinful, now contrite heart;
grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart,
grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

3 Nearer, still nearer— Lord, to be Thine,
sin with its follies I gladly resign—
all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified,
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

4 Nearer, still nearer— while life shall last,
till safe in glory my anchor is cast;
through endless ages, ever to be nearer,
my Savior, still nearer to Thee,
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to Thee.

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