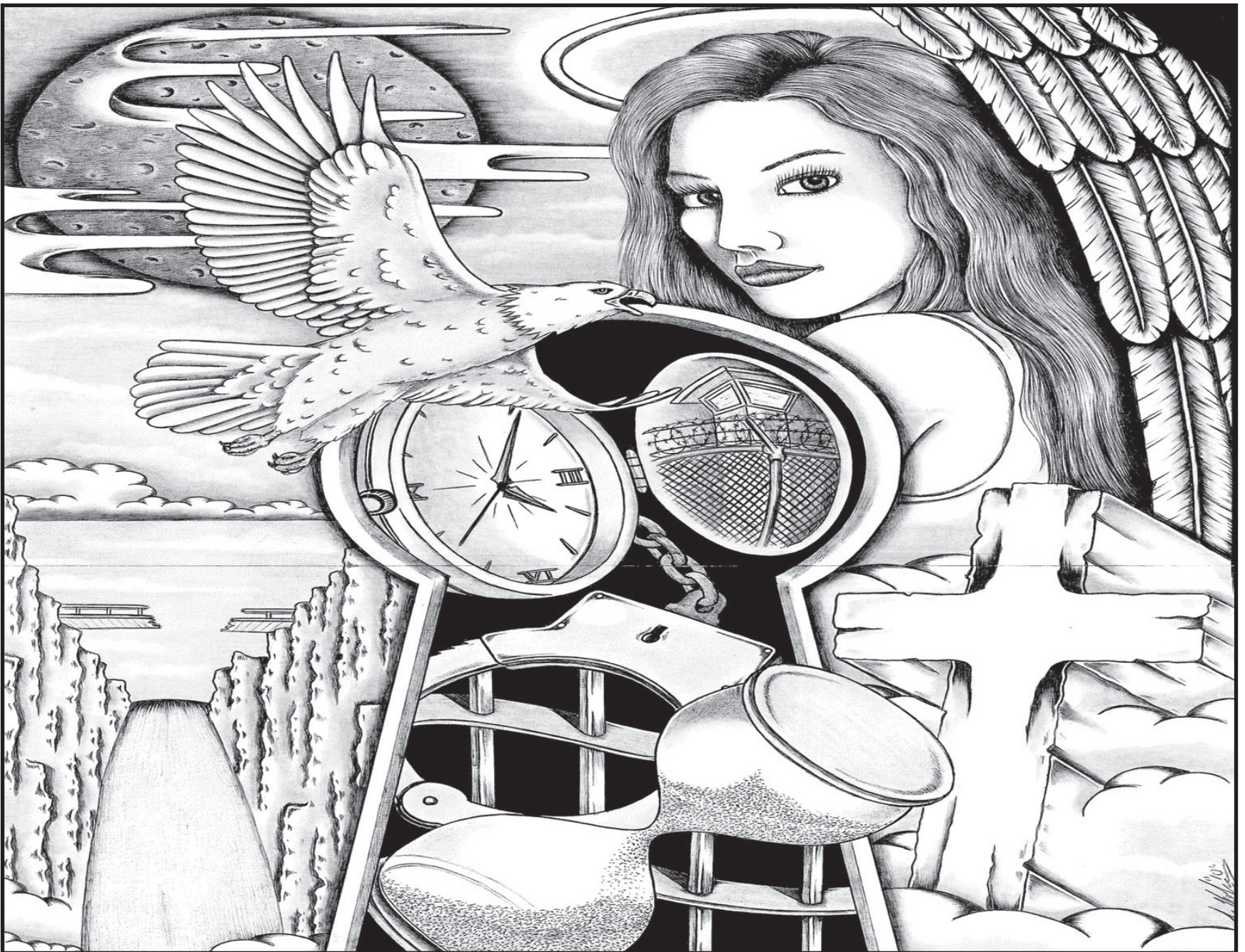


YARD OUT

Vol. 14 No. 3

A PFC Publication



Inside...

*Right In
Our Faces*

*Tired and
Broken Inside*

*Fast Lifestyle
to Nowhere*

and more

YARD OUT is published by Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries.

All contents are presented from a Christian world view. Such contents reflect the experiences of the featured subjects and not Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries or its staff.

Sorry, we cannot offer legal advice or provide contact information to anyone, inmate or civilian. Nor can we provide financial help to anyone incarcerated. We are grateful for every inmate who writes to us, but the total number of letters is too much for us to use all such material, nor can we reply personally to each letter. Yard Out is published three times a year. Yard Out does not have a mailing list but requests for single copies will be honored. Please look in your chapel reading racks for the latest issue.

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Blind Faith by Scott Holmes won Honorable Mention in *Yard Out's* 2010 Art Contest.

YARD OUT

Vol. 14 No. 3

Start a new life... GET CONNECTED TO GOD

If you feel there is more to life than what you see pass before your cell bars everyday, then YARD OUT has good news for you. You can know that God loves you. You can meet the real Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, sent to earth by God his Father to die for our sins. Jesus showed the love of God by His mission and proved His divinity by His physical resurrection three days after He died by crucifixion. These guidelines from the Bible tell how to receive Christ.

Trust God to create an internal change in you. A power bigger than yourself is available if you ask. "But to all who did accept Him, He gave power to become children of God." John 1:12

Understand your need for change and see that God is giving you a chance to start a new life. "Truly... I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God," John 3:3

Admit your basic selfishness. Be honest about the hidden motives of your heart. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Realize that salvation is God's free gift. Nothing you do can earn it. "Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God..." Ephesians 2:8-10

Express your faith. Believe God will do what He promised. "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Show your need to receive Jesus by prayer. "For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

Talk to God one-on-one. In your own words, tell Him how you felt after reading these Bible verses. Or simply repeat the sample prayer given here with an open and sincere heart.

"God, thank you for loving me so much you sent Jesus to die for me. Please forgive my sins. I'm sorry for all I have done wrong and for all the pain I have caused others. You promise to forgive all who ask. I give myself to you now. Come into my life Jesus, and be my Lord and Savior. Fill me with the Holy Spirit, and help me trust you for the rest of my life. Amen."

Take a few seconds to be quiet and think. Did you sense God's reality? Or know the presence of His love? Regardless of any feelings, your forgiveness is based on His promise and not your emotions. By talking to Him daily and reading the Bible you will strengthen your faith and grow to know God better. If you have questions about your new life in Jesus or what it means to be a Christian, please send for our free literature. Write to:

Prisoners for Christ, P.O. Box 1530, Woodinville, WA 98072

Name _____ ID # _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fast Lifestyle To Nowhere

by Bart Werdelin

I was adopted at birth and raised in a good Christian household, with a loving mother and a father. I had everything a boy could ever want. I had good friends, played in every sport, lived in a good neighborhood and even had my own dog—Lightning; who was a faithful Basset Hound. I wasn't the smartest kid in school, but my mom and dad supported me in everything I did. But there was also another side of me, which was rebellious, and as a kid I put my parents through hell.

Things started going downhill very quickly. My parents got a divorce when I was about 14 years old. I started running away, and hanging out with people who drank and used drugs.

At fifteen, my father told me I could no longer live with him, and I found myself with nowhere to go. I ended up in another state, living on peoples couches, and ended up in a foster home.

The foster home was pure hell. It wasn't long that I was on the streets again. But through all this, I managed to still attend high school, regardless of where I slept the night before.

A friend of mine introduced me to a family that was willing to be my legal guardians, so I stayed with them until I graduated high school.

My mom and dad attended my graduation. Even after all the hell I put them through, they were there to support me. To this day, that moment still brings tears to my eyes.

I enlisted in the Marines and also got accepted to go to college. With my high school grades, I knew that only the hand of God got me in. So I was going to college full time while being in the reserves to pay some of my bills.

But both the military and college came to an abrupt halt. I became addicted to alcohol, and was kicked out of college and got an early discharge from the military.

Since I was no longer in college, and really had no direction, I got in my car and just drove anywhere.

And for the last 25 years, that's all I've been doing; just living from state to state, working in restaurants—mostly bartending and waiting tables—because that's the only job I could drink for free and always have cash in my pocket.

One day, God put a stop to all that... I was tired of running and tired of living that fast lifestyle that was getting me nowhere.

But one day, God put a stop to all that. I found myself without a job, without a home, and I was tired. Tired of running and tired of living that fast lifestyle that was getting me nowhere.

I found myself walking into this church on a Sunday morning. I sat in the very back. As I listened to the preacher. He talked about "running from God," and said when we did that, our lives would always be a mess. When I heard what he said, I immediately broke down in tears. It was as if the pastor was talking to me.

That night I accepted the Lord Jesus into my

heart, and ended up enrolling in a discipleship program. Upon completion, the church asked if I wanted to go to their Bible college. They would pay all four years. I knew this was my calling.

But I had to wait a few months before the semester started, which meant I had some free time. I thought I was strong enough to once again work in a bar.

How wrong I was. Before long I found myself drinking and staying out late at night. And before I knew it, Bible study was no longer an option for me.

So once again I found myself running. I did this for the next five years, trying to find peace and happiness that never came. Before long my lifestyle caught up with me.

I ended up looking at 15 years in prison. Once again God stepped in with His mercy and grace, and I ended up getting four years.

And you know what? Thank God for prison. Since I've been here, I've learned to trust God. It took me coming to prison to become humble and broken.

Even though the real test will come once I'm released, I am confident I will be able to overcome all the temptations of this world, because I now have a real personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Time is drawing close for my release and I will be out of prison next year.

I will not lie and tell you I'm not scared. But I believe I have the tools and faith that God has given me to remain on the right path.

Last of all, my brothers and sisters who are in prison, God loves you. Whether you have a year left or 30 years or even life, God still has a plan for you. All He wants you to do is trust Him. God is real. Sometimes you need to be in a place where you are still enough to finally listen.

Bart Werdelin, Crawfordville, FL

Hard Life: Trying to See the Light

by Jonathon L. Orcutt

Ever since I was a young kid, I had anger problems. I was considered the no good kid, the trouble-making, bad-influence kid. My family was sort of distant from me. Other families didn't want me around. As I got older, I grew hate toward my family, and people period. I always thought I was the tough guy, no matter what.

I started fighting, stealing, getting expelled from school and running away from home, hanging with drug dealers, fighting dogs, and playing with guns. If it was wrong, I was doing it. My hard life began when I was eight or nine years old and I was able to realize all the drama in my life.

By this point at thirteen (I had no one to stand by me) I started assaulting my step mom and family. I was going to juvenile for long periods of time. My real mom was a strung out alcoholic (who) gave me to my father at age four, so she could go her own way. He never knew I existed. I was all alone and felt like giving up on life.

Instead of just hanging with bad people, I became one myself. I started

fighting my own dogs, selling drugs—I was in it all. By sixteen, I started believing in God but I didn't respect Him. I did all my bad, sinful things. By seventeen, I was trying to kill myself, abused heroin, and tried to hang myself.

(Then) I met this girl. She was the best thing ever. She wasn't a God going girl but she wasn't a bad girl. She wanted me to wake up and see the true light of life before it was too late. Well, by now, I thought it was too late. I (was) 20 years old and doing two years in prison because of my wrong choices in life.

But really, it wasn't too late. It was just (the) beginning. I woke up in prison, realized my wrong, and most of all found God. During a phone call, my wife told me, "Honey, I love you. So do your kids. But you've got to find God. He will help all of us with this."

I went straight to my chaplain and asked for a Bible. It all changed that minute. My wife made me realize the light of God. I started praying every day, thanking the Lord for finding me. Now I can truly say "God is true and He is real."

Because He kept me on Earth (the) many times I tried to leave. He blessed me with a wonderful family. He blessed me with wisdom for knowing and believing in Him. I now see the light; knowing someday when He is ready and the time is right, He will let me go free and share what He's given me with everybody else.

Yard Out has been a blessing in helping me and allowing me to share how God found me. Just believe. He will come to you too.

Jonathon L. Orcutt, Carlisle, IN

RIGHT IN OUR FACES

by Jean L. Lewis

Growing up, I never wanted to be a lawyer, doctor, accountant, or even a fireman. In the environment I grew up in, I wanted to be a drug dealer. In my neighborhood, the drug dealers were my role models.

As I got older, I started selling drugs. I never called for this lifestyle; this lifestyle called for me. It felt good to be able to provide for myself, even though it was illegal.

On July 12th, 1999, I bought a Kawasaki 600 Ninja. At the time, I felt like there wasn't anyone or anything that could stop me. Little did I know, I was wrong.

Four days after I bought the bike, I took my girlfriend home because I had some business to handle only a few blocks away from my house. It's funny how you sometimes see things before they happen, but still go against your better judgement.

Anway, I turned on the main road and someone ran a stop sign and hit me on the blind (side). When I flew off the bike, I got hit by two other cars.

I woke two months later in the hospital. When I saw all those tubes running out of my body, I couldn't believe my eyes. I thought I was dreaming. I didn't know how I got there or why. I don't remember the accident, even (to) this day.

The doctors told me that I had a collapsed lung, a broken leg, my brain moved around in my head, and my spleen had been removed (due to internal bleeding).

What I know about the accident was what I was told. The doctors said the only reason I survived was because I had on a helmet.

Even while I was in the coma, the hospital called my mom while she was at work and asked her to come to the hospital to sign papers to unplug me off the life support machine.

My mom said, "What God started, God will finish. Only God can pull the plug." My mom is very religious and she did a lot of praying for me.

As I started to get better, I started doing even much worse things to get money. I started doing a lot of robbing and crazy things just because I survived a horrible accident and thought I was invincible.

I felt like I couldn't die.

I was going in and out of jail. My mom kept trying to push me toward God. But the more she pushed, the more I pulled.

I really started accepting God after I got a 20 year sentence for robbery, because He was the only one I could turn to. I realized I didn't have to survive that accident, but God allowed me to live.

I think God wanted me here (in prison) for a reason. If I was on the streets, something bad could happen.

I was never born with a silver spoon (and) was less fortunate than most of my peers. No day is promised to me. I thank the Lord each and everyday that I'm breathing.

God has a plan for us all but we have to take time to find out what it is. Sometimes, it's right in our face.

Jean L. Louis, Crestview, FL

A Dream So Long Ago...

"A New Creature"

by Tammy Cuyler

Just the other day, a voice whispered in my ear. "Tammy," it said, "it's time again to seek God while He is near." I was frightened and nervous as I turned around to see; where the voice was coming from that was whispering to me.

I knew I was alone, and I knew that I was sane. But there came that voice again whispering my name. The next time it was different, it was filled with so much bass. I turned again to look and there standing in my face; an Angel of the Lord, this I know it had to be for it had wings and in His hands were photographs of me.

He showed me all the times I stood out in the world. There even were some pictures of when I was a little girl. Then there was a picture, one I never would forget. There I was surrounded by my kids, in a box inside a tent.

The tent was in the wilderness and there was no one else around; and there beside the wooden box was a hole inside the ground. I cried out, "What does this mean? Tell me before I go insane!" The angel closed his eyes and said, "Tammy, this is not a game.

"God has sent me to tell you what you need to know, so I will tell you what these picture show. The wilderness is the world, the tent is the house of God. Your kids are burying you 'cause you made their lives so hard.

"It's not too late to change, my friend, this God wants you to see. You must change while you can and teach the way to eternity. God's house is always open, so listen to what I say: Teach your kids while you can and teach them to obey.

"They will never leave you and neither will the Lord. It's now time for me to depart this world, so you can make this easy or hard."

I fell down on my knees right then and praised God with all I had inside. For I was a new creature. The old Tammy had just died.

Tammy Cuyler, Hawkinsville, GA

National Inmate Christian Art Contest *Enter Now!*

Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries announces its 2011 Annual Art Contest!

FIRST PRIZE \$100 • SECOND PRIZE \$75 • THIRD PRIZE \$50

Mail artwork to:

ART CONTEST

Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries

PO BOX 1530

Woodinville, WA 98072

RULES: Entries must be original art work of the inmate. There are no restrictions in style or medium (pencil, paint, pastels, ink, etc). Art must be free hand, not copied or traced, not contain nudity, and measure no bigger than 10 x 14 inches. It should have a title, a Christian theme, and be signed by the artist. Entries must be submitted by November 30, 2011. Entries received late will be placed in next year's contest. The art will not be returned to the sender. Sorry but COD packages will not be accepted. All entries become the property of PFCOM and may be used for Prisoners for Christ promotions. Only winners will be notified by mail. A news article in the first Yard Out published after the contest will also print the results. Please check with your prison hobby-craft program policy to see if the contest is approved at your institution (prizes may be limited to award certificate only). Prizes are awarded to inmate trust funds. The decision of the judges is final.

----- **CLIP & SEND** -----

Entries must be accompanied by information requested below. Please write clearly. By signing, inmate agrees to all rules and authorizes use of their name and institution for PFC promotions.

Signature _____

Printed name _____

Inmate ID number _____ Location within prison (if any) _____

Institution name: _____

Institution address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I Blamed Everyone

by Robert D. Helser, Jr.

Before I came here I had a wonderful home in (a Pacific beach community), and went to church every Sunday. I was married to a great lady. We have five beautiful kids and lived the life of a middle class family. Who could ask for more? Then our lives took a turn for the worse.

My wife became ill with lung cancer and died in 2003. I tried to stay strong for my kids, but I felt the world was closing in on me. I started to blame the Lord for my problems. "Why did you take her from me? Why are you letting all these things happen to me, my Lord? Why?"

I let my grief and loss get the better of me, or should I say the Devil. I then committed a horrible crime, which destroyed my life and the one's around me. My kids were shocked.

I blamed everyone around me and I blamed the Lord. So then I was sent to prison. I wanted to kill myself and I almost did.

Until I saw a Bible left by (my cell's) previous tenant. I started reading it and I cried. The Lord never gave up on me. I gave up on Him. The more I read the more my heart melted. I decided to continue my walk with the Lord.

My family has blessed me by never giving up on me. My kids are here all the time, telling me they knew I would find myself again through the Lord, and I have.

Now I am born again, and now I plan to take with me the love, the joy, the faith, that He's restored in me out there in the world to share with everyone to see.

I enjoy *Yard Out*. I like the prison poems and inmate pen letters. It helps me open up more to life, myself and most of all to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

He has a plan for all of us. Everyone (should) open their hearts to our Lord, and you too can be saved. How great is our God. Amen.

Robert D. Helser, Jr., Aiea, HI

"By the Word"

"BY the WORD of the LORD the HEAVENS were MADE and ALL the HOST of them by the BREATH of His MOUTH. He GATHERS the waters of the sea TOGETHER as a heap; He LAYS up the DEEP in storehouses. Let ALL the earth FEAR the Lord; let all the INHABITANTS of the world STAND in awe of Him. For He SPOKE and it was DONE; He COMMANDED and it STOOD fast." Psalm 33:6

Solve the following word puzzle by finding the capitalized words from this verse quoted from Psalm 33 in the grid of letters below. Circle each word until all twenty-one words are found. The order of the letters is not necessarily left to right. They may be up and down, diagonal, backward or even right to left. Have fun and don't give up. All the words are there. Thank you Earnest Gieswein, Bowling Green, MO for this submission.

A	B	Y	C	X	F	D	N	P	S	X	U	D
M	E	F	G	E	G	I	H	M	I	V	T	A
O	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	J	A	S	K	L
U	L	R	T	M	L	H	O	O	O	D	R	L
T	S	Y	H	T	Z	A	U	H	R	V	E	W
H	T	A	E	R	B	B	Y	A	E	B	W	D
Y	A	Z	R	A	C	I	B	S	H	C	O	E
F	N	D	S	L	G	T	H	D	T	N	I	F
J	D	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	D	D	K
L	P	R	M	O	G	N	H	X	G	R	N	I
O	D	E	P	J	T	T	S	P	O	K	E	O
R	K	Y	E	S	M	S	O	W	T	O	Z	A
U	L	R	B	D	T	N	S	V	P	T	C	W

Sequoia Project

Bible Study Correspondence School

Two feet of bark protects the giant Sequoia tree from perils in its environment. The Bible likewise protects, and builds spiritual strength, godly character and endurance of faith to those who study its timeless principles. Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries offers a free Bible Study Correspondence course to inmates in any U.S. institution.

Please send the following information to begin your studies now.



- Name:
- ID No. & Location
- Institution Address
- City, State & Zip

Mail to:

Prisoners for Christ, Bible Study Correspondence School,
P.O. Box 1530, Woodinville, WA 98072

Inmates write

Pen Letters

Dear Yard Out;

Thank you for all (the) inspiration and testimonies that give us behind the wall the strength and faith to continue. I am new to the Christian way of life, and know it's going to be a hard walk for me. But I must change my pattern of thinking because it has brought me nothing but headache and lots and lots of pain. Believe you me, I can tell you first hand. Because of my way of thinking, a lot of times I just said, "I give up." But God always woke me up and told me, "No, son. That's not the way. Just hold on. Change is coming." So to all those out there who want to give up, just hold on. Get to your knees and pray and really mean it. Watch and see the changes in your life. Never give up.

Milton D. Faison
Waverly, VA 23891

Yard Out is the most wonderful publication; period. When copies arrive at our facility, I become ecstatic knowing that I am about to be enlightened by the nuggets of wisdom, captivated by the dazzling artwork and esteemed by the experiences which are cornerstones of each issue. Laughter and tears accompany the poetry of some remarkably gifted individuals. The power of God, love of Jesus and comfort of the Holy Spirit has been infused and is manifest in every drop of ink. *Yard Out* is a medium for God's grace to shine in a world where it is so desperately needed. On behalf of thankful (inmates) we give you our appreciation.

Lance H. Lindsey
Lockhart, TX

I'm a new inmate here and picked up *Yard Out* newsletter outside of the chapel after a

Sunday service a few weeks ago. I really enjoy reading your publication. *Yard Out* is new to me. I didn't know such a publication existed. It was an encouragement and an inspiration to read the wonderful testimonies and poetry. It was good knowing that others going through the same challenges and struggles I am (going through) are grateful and willing to share their gratitude to the loving God we all serve.

Charles Gillian
Cresson, PA

This is my fourth prison sentence. I'm currently in prison for selling drugs. I was really struggling to find myself; who I really was, etc. I came across a copy of *Yard Out* and it truly changed my life. Thank you and God bless.

Jason Loch
Faribault, MN

I lived a life that no kid should ever live. I'm twelve years old (and) I'm facing a life with two and a half years of institution. I'm a sex molester at a young age. I got into sex and drugs at age ten. And it became a habit. My family is a hateful family. I've been raped, shot in the stomach with an automatic air-soft five times, and have drunk beer. I've been abused by my step dad. My mom finally kicked him out for our family to have a better life. Once I went into the institution, I knew I had to do something. So I said a prayer and allowed Jesus into my life. What about you? Have you let Jesus in your life? If not and you want to, please pray: "Lord, today I confess and ask your forgiveness of all my sins. I accept your son, Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior. From this day forward, I seek and desire your will for my life. In your son's name I pray. Amen."

J.C.
Spokane, WA

I've read your newspaper a few times and it's very encouraging (to) see how people have found God in their lives. Sad to say, I've made a pattern out of coming back and forth to prison.

I have no one to blame but myself. But I'm forever blessed because after all the struggling, using drugs and everything else the devil has to give, God has been there every step of the way. With God all things are possible.

Raul Alvarado
Seattle, WA

I see good things in *Yard Out*. There was a time when I forsook the counsel of the Lord. I turned away and rebelled against Him. I became lost in my sins, put in chains of addictions. I sat in darkness. The shadow of death was not far from me. I could not see my way out, so I allowed sin to rule my life. At times I did not care if I lived or died. I became cold and empty inside. The only thing left to do was to turn back to God and ask for forgiveness. I said, "Lord, don't leave me to die in my sins. I am sorry I went astray." Oh, what a forgiving God He is. He reached down from heaven and gave me His hand. He opened my eyes and showed me His plan of how to become a better man.

Steven Fritz
Huntingdon, PA

I've read your publication and was impressed with the articles. For this brother in Christ, it's good to hear about people's testimonies and their faith in our Lord. It brings me hope in knowing that there are people still trying to make our time in the chain gang better (by) knowing and coming closer to our Lord.

J.H.W.
Raiford, FL

Letters sent to *Yard Out* must be accompanied by the release form found next to the "Headed Your way, *Yard Out*" cartoon on the last page. Signature is required for use of the inmate's name. Contents may be edited.

**Please send material to:
Letters to the Editor
c/o *Yard Out*
P.O. Box 1530
Woodinville, WA 98072**

TIRED AND BROKEN INSIDE

by Taylor Little

Before I surrendered my life to Christ, I was out running the roads, stealing and taking pills. The demon of addiction had control of my life. I knew I was going to die young if something didn't change. After hitting rock bottom and getting arrested for felony charges for the second time, I knew I had enough.

I was tired and broken inside. Jesus was the only one who could change me. Before I got arrested I would look in the mirror and see beauty on the outside but on the inside, I felt dead and Satan was telling me my life was almost over. I might as well give up.

I was hopeless and out of control in my addiction. I was 19 years old when I felt that way. Now I am more whole than I've ever been. I am delivered from drugs. My family is being restored in my life.

I spent ten months in the county (and) constantly prayed for God to give me a clean heart. He showed me that I was bound with unforgiveness of my past. My past was keeping me entangled because I couldn't forgive myself.

I surrendered to His will and forgave myself and let go of the burden's

in my heart. I felt a weight lift off of me and from that moment I began to move forward in my personal relationship with Jesus.

He told me, I needed to be thankful I was in jail, because He put me here to save my life. Everyday is a new day, and don't get me wrong, God never said it would be easy living for Him, but it is worth it. Jesus is definitely worth it.

Without Jesus, I would never have been given the opportunity to get my life together. My family would have had to bury me at a young age and I would have spent eternity in hell. I know this because when I was in county, the Lord showed me a vision while I was in prayer.

I saw myself in the front of my dad's church, in a casket with my family members standing around me. I said, "God, why are you showing me this?" He said, "If you would not have turned to me, this would have been you."

Jesus has changed my life forever. All things have become new. When you go through trials, listen to the Lord. Obey God and leave the consequences to Him. He is the only one who can transform us from the inside out.

Even when you don't feel like your purpose is being fulfilled, stand on the promises of God. Even on our worst days, He loves us and will never give up on us.

Taylor Little, Brooksville, FL

Prison Poetry

Transmute

by Phillip Tompkins

I can tell you all about the thousand Jesus fed.
I can tell you all about how He raised the dead.
I can tell you all about the lives He saved.
I can tell you all about how He raised from the grave.
I can tell you all about how He calmed the sea.
But I'd rather tell you about how He saved a wretch like me.
I could never do anything godly, I was always sinning.
Without Jesus in my life, I was always losing, never winning.
When I accepted Him as the Lord of my life,
the heavy load I carried became very light.
He said, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
I find that to be very true because now I stand upright.
He took the broken pieces of my life and made them whole.
And with His tender touch, He sanctified my soul.
I have come to know Him in ways I can't explain.
He now dwells in my heart and I'll never be the same.

Phillip Tompkins, Tennessee Colony, TX

"Let's Bounce"

by Dave Shinn

I'm bouncin' down a bumpy road, trying to get my due.
My life's been down right crazy cuz I've never had a clue.
Things they've been a changin', ya know they always will.
It's forever gonna mess with me 'til I quit "standin' still."
If you're lookin' at the masses—liars, thieves and cheats,
I pray I'll never go back to that cuz I can't take the heat.
I really wanna find some peace and be blessed by something new.
If you're bouncin' down my "bumpy road" it's not a pretty view.
Too many of us suffer, we get overrun with pain.
A lot of us don't get it, cuz we're full of too much game.
I'll make some wholesale changes, it's what I need to do.
I'm done with life beatin' me and finished feeling blue.
As I was lookin' to my left, and then to my right,
I wondered who was guiding me, then I saw His light.
I started bouncin', bouncin', bouncin'. I prayed on it all night.
I finally just decided to cease my inner fight.
Wow! I'm bouncin', bouncin', bouncin', sidesteppin' all life's goo,
a bumpin; and a jumpin'"—I'm doing back flips too.
I've got this friend named Jesus, He's my "ace in the hole."
Now I'm on a faith based mission. Heck, He saved my soul.
I'm rollin' down His highway and crusin' down His road.
Life's gotten so much easier since I gave the Lord my load.

Dave Shinn, Grafton, OH

Get Closer to God

by Kevin Caesar

Some of us have it easy, and some of us have it hard.
But life will surely change, if you just get close to God.
You can be on top, and then you fall behind.
Get closer to God, He will give you a sign.
Sometimes we don't believe, wondering who we should trust.
Get closer to God, no weapons can form against us.
And even though you hurt inside, the pain will surely cease.
Get closer to God, and He will bring you peace.
You being a chosen few, you know when He's near.
Get closer to God, you'll feel him in the air.
Everything has it's time, and you may not understand.
Get closer to God, He's the one who made the plan.
God has mysterious ways, and you don't know the odds.
But Jesus has a way for you to get closer to God.

Kevin Caesar, Lancaster, CA

The Change

by Michael Alberts

I sit here with time to think, behind these prison walls.
For the crimes I have committed, are the cause of my downfall.
But I do not blame others, as I'm the only one,
that I am in this prison, for the wrongs that I have done.
I want to say I'm sorry, to all I did offend.
But there are so many, the list may never end.
So I ask for God's forgiveness, and to change the way I am.
Because if He is with me, I know I really can.
And I have made a promise, that I will try to keep.
That I will believe in Jesus, and with faith, I'll take that leap.
So I will try to walk the walk that Jesus wants me to,
and I will try to talk the talk the way He used to do.
And when this life is over, I want the world to know.
That I will be with my Father, and to Heaven I will go.

Michael Alberts, Navasota, TX

Shake the Devil Off

by Yolanda Currie

I think I'm a real good person inside,
but messing with Satan, I almost died.
I had to get back right with Christ,
I should have never left His sight.
That's when I started getting weak,
and the Devil is hard to beat.
I wish I would of thought before I got into this mess.
But Satan was putting me through a test.
He said he comes to steal, kill and destroy,
he plays with us like we're his toy.
But I'll keep running, running and running until I win.
I no longer want to live in sin.
This time I want to give Jesus my all
and will go back to Him even if I fall.

Yolanda Currie, Indianapolis, IN

Uncertainty

by Jason Loch

The day is coming closer, my freedom is near.
I am full of happiness, with just a hint of fear.
It's like a broken record, the same song a thousand times.
Please, Lord help me and ease my worried mind.
I need things to work out and fall into their place.
I want to see the smiles on all my children's face.
This is my last chance, I got to get it right.
I have Jesus on my side this time to overcome the fight.
Like in Jeremiah 29 "I know the thoughts and plans for you."
That is God's answer and I know He'll see it through.

Jason Loch, Faribault, MN

True Life

by Edward W. Gallagher

When I think about the way it was, a tear comes to my eye.
But now I have new beginning with Jesus by my side.
It isn't easy, not at all. I can not walk, only crawl.
To serve my Lord, to serve Him true,
To leave the old, embrace the new.
Accepting Jesus in my heart, has lead me to a brand new start.

Edward W. Gallagher, Somerset, PA

Retraction: The poem "Pray, Watch and Wait" printed in a previous issue of Yard Out was sent in by someone who was not the actual author. The poem was written by William Billington of Cheshire, CT. We wanted to give credit where credit was due. While Yard Out is blessed to received hundreds of poems from inmates who wish to have their material published in our newspaper, we are not in a position to know who the original author is. There is no way to cross reference all the material with other publications. Our submission coupon clearly states material should be the original work of the sender. You, the prison poet, are on the honor system. To avoid copyright infringement, please do not take credit for material if not written by you. Thank you.

I Was Discouraged... But Jesus Found Me!

by Jim Pemberton

I was so discouraged the way things were going.
I was frustrated and upset. And it was showing!
I was about ready to give up on everything I tried...
and remember the nights I laid awake and cried.
I thought of God, whom I once had professed,
but now I was doubtful, confused and so depressed.

Just then, I felt a voice coming down,
and soon felt God's love and presence all around.

His voice spoke clearly that particular day.
And spoke three words to me; "Trust and obey!"
These words had a new meaning and touched my heart.

For Jesus has loved me. Right from the start!
I poured out my heart to Him with every burden.
He rolled back the dark clouds and "heavy curtain."
He helped me to focus and give my worries to Him.

As a new life began to transform from within!
I've given to Him my every problem and every need.
His word and spirit has given a new direction to lead.
Won't you allow Him to change your life this hour?
And experience His love and life-changing power?

Jim Pemberton, Spanaway, WA

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This coupon must accompany all submissions. Material is subject to editing by Yard Out. It is expected that such material is the original work of the sender. No payment is given for items used. Sorry, but material will not be returned.

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