

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

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STORIES OF EX-CONS WHO'VE TURNED THEIR LIFE AROUND

Each month we will try to share with you a case of an individual who has been released from prison and went on to make a positive impact on society.

THE PSYCHOLOGIST WHO RECEIVED A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

Noted forensic psychologist Paul Fauteck's early life can be described as chaotic at best. A native of Wichita, Kansas, Fauteck was a mischievous boy in his youth. His schooling ended abruptly after he was discovered with the wallets of the other boys in the locker room. Afterwards, Fauteck continued to engage in questionable activities, including carrying a concealed weapon and smuggling his Mexican wife into the country. However, what really got Fauteck in trouble was when he joined a group of men who issued counterfeit checks. For that, he was sent to federal prison, where he frequently spent time in solitary confinement for bad behavior.

After a while, Fauteck finally decided to go on the straight path, a decision galvanized by his father's death just before he left prison. He later moved to Chicago, where he eventually ran an advertising agency while he finished his studies in psychology, having been told by his psychologist friend that he had a natural aptitude for helping people. In time, Fauteck became one of Chicago's most respected psychotherapists. He also became a forensic psychologist for the local justice system, where he worked for more than a decade before he retired. The culmination of Fauteck's long and arduous road to recovery came in 1992 when he received a pardon from President George H.W. Bush. Although retired at present, Fauteck continues to push for improved rehabilitation programs to give ex-convicts a better second start in life.

GOD WANTS TO USE YOU TOO — BY GENE PURTLE, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF “THE KEYS ARE AT THE CROSS” PRISON MINISTRY.



Several years ago, I had the opportunity to travel outside of the United States a few times and visit other countries. It was quite an eye-opening experience for a guy that had seldom even traveled outside of my home state. People by and large are very similar, but cultures are often quite different. Things that would seem normal and expected here, at home, may make no sense to someone from another culture.

I remember being surprised by the lack of “service” in a restaurant in a European city. It took forever for someone to come help us and then a long time before they came back. The glasses of soda were very small and no free refills! But their culture was not speedy service, but to sit and enjoy a meal. They were accustomed to spending the evening together around the table.

I recall the magnitude of the poverty and how so many lived day to day in a Central American country I spent some time in; neighborhoods of tin shacks where entire families lived on the side of the road. Although we, in the United States, are so established in our way of life, thinking it the best, I found the spirit of God working in his people in both of those places I mentioned.

Some cultures on our planet are very difficult. It is difficult to watch on our televisions the stark contrast, and even horrific violence, in some places around the world. Although it is hard for us to see, God is still working in his people there as well.

Prison has a culture of its own. When men and women become incarcerated they walk into a city that has its certain ways of operation. Everyone knows their place in this culture, both staff and inmate. Although the people all look the same as those you know from home, things are now done differently. This is even more pronounced in high security facilities.

Living in this culture can be difficult to adapt to. There is very little freedom of choice regarding anything. You must deal with the sometimes harshness of staff, whose greatest concern is safety and security. Then there is the separation from family and often times difficulty with others which sometimes leads to violence.

It seems such a dark place. Yet God is there. Just like the fiery furnace and lion’s den in the book of Daniel, and the angel of the Lord in Acts 12, God is there. The Bible is full of examples of men incarcerated, or in captivity in other lands. He used these men mightily to accomplish his will within that difficult captivity, and beyond. Even to this day, His Word communicated to us, through them, is changing lives.

There are multitudes of God’s people doing prison ministry now and looking for more opportunities to expand that. Many organizations work to get Bibles and other religious materials inside the walls and fences. I pray those that must live there will make good use of these resources.

Changing the culture of prison life may not be a likely outcome of our efforts. However, God will use believers to change one man or woman at a time who must live inside that culture. Those people God will use are not just volunteers from the outside, nor even Institutional Chaplains. He will use believing inmates and staff to help others enter a Kingdom culture.

I pray you can be part of that effort in some way.

“WORDS TO GROW BY” - LINDA LEWIS, GMI DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

TRUST

Proverbs 3:5-6 (AMP) says:

Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart
And do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him,
And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles
that block your way].

Often times, it's hard for us to believe just how profound and true these promises are, but during those times, when Satan tries his best to make you believe otherwise, we'd like to encourage you to pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father,

**I may not understand how everything will work out,
But I trust You.**

I don't see a way, but I know You will make a way.

**I have faith that at this very moment You are touching hearts, opening doors,
And lining up the right breaks and right opportunities.**

**Things may look dark and bleak now,
But I have faith that my dawn is coming.**

**In Jesus' name,
Amen**

Trust, Believe and Shout **NOW** for the **VICTORY!**

A POEM – “WOVEN” by Marilyn Bouniu © 2018

I could never have imagined
Where this path would lead me
I had to be very determined
Because it indeed was not easy

It was disruptively tough
And at times chaotically rough
But I had never once regretted
Walking down this chosen path

The path that my Lord had chosen
Was indeed the best for me
It was all wonderfully woven
To make the best of me

“FROM THE YARD” (EACH MONTH WE WILL BRING YOU CONTENT FROM ONE OF YOUR BROTHERS INSIDE)

HERE ARE TWO SHORT PIECES – BY STEVEN CLARK (AKA “SCRIPTURE MAN”), NORTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

“Pressing Forward”

Philippians 3:14 - I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

What are you pressing toward? It’s whatever your passion is.

As you press toward it...Pressing on brings on “Pressure”

“Pressure” brings on “Oppression”

With “Oppression” brings on “Compression”

“Compression” brings on “Depression”

When all of this comes about, and you choose to keep pressing toward your passion, remember

As you look to the Lord, He’ll see to it that you make an “Impression”.

“Food for Thought”

We may not like every place that we’re placed at the time that it happens. But if, and when, you’re calm, that’s when the Spirit can talk to you. He’ll tell you what you must do. Be a witness! It’s not your honor that’s at stake, it’s for the Glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the Lord bless and keep you all in His Love,

From Your Brother in Christ Jesus

Riddles

Can you solve these riddles? (The answers are on page 8 if you’re struggling to answer any of them.)

Why couldn’t Jonah trust the ocean?

Who were Gumby’s favorite Bible characters?

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Who was the smartest man in the Bible?

Where was Solomon’s temple located?

Why didn’t they play cards on the Ark?

Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

Who was the fastest runner in the race?

What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

Why did the unemployed man get excited while looking through his Bible?

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

What animal could Noah not trust?

How does Moses make his coffee?

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?

What kind of man was Boaz before he married?



Just for Laughs



Down by the River

A pastor was completing a sermon on abstaining from drinking alcohol.

With great expression, he said, 'If I had all of the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

With even greater emphasis, he said, 'And if I had all of the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

And then finally, he thundered, 'And if I had all of the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!'

The church was silent. Not a single congregant made a sound.

The music leader then stood up hesitantly and said, 'For our closing song, let us sing the hymn "Shall We Gather at the River."'

Options

One Sunday morning, a pastor announced to his congregation: 'Friends, I have here in my hands three sermons: a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.'

'Now, we'll take the offering and see which one I'll deliver.'

The Haircut

A pastor who was known for his lengthy sermons noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service.

Afterwards, the pastor asked the man where he had gone.

'I went to get a haircut,' the man replied.

'Why didn't you do that before the service?' the pastor exclaimed.

'Well,' the man said, 'because I didn't need one then.'

The Lamb

If Mary had Jesus, and Jesus is the lamb of God, does that mean Mary had a little lamb?

The Nap

A Sunday school teacher asked her children on the way to service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

New Testament Books

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

JOHN
 JUDE
 TIMOTHY
 ACTS
 JAMES
 LUKE
 PHILEMON
 EPHESIANS
 TITUS
 PETER
 GALATIANS
 HEBREWS
 COLOSSIANS
 ROMANS
 MARK
 MATTHEW

Closing Words

LONNIE JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GROWTH MINISTRIES INC

Are you a “peace **maker**” or a “peace **keeper**”?

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

As Christians we are often called to be **peacemakers**. Many people confuse that call from God with being a *peacekeeper*. A peacekeeper does just that. They attempt to keep the peace without any friction. They avoid any type of conflict. They rarely disagree with anything because they do not want to confront anyone. However, as a **peacemaker**, you may be required to oppose injustices in order to bring about peace. There are times when, if you avoid confronting people and situations, you may allow the enemy to continue to disrupt people's lives and thus they live in perpetual chaos and frustration. So, in order to set things right, you have to **make** peace. Your “peace making” will usually come in the form of spiritual warfare. If you look at the history of most countries, there was no peace until there was war. I know this sounds radical but from time to time God requires us to be bold, courageous and speak up for those that are weaker than ourselves. **Romans 15:1 King James Version (KJV) - We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.**

What must I do to be saved?

If you have never accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, or if you have turned away from Him living a life of unrighteousness, and wish to be connected to Him, then take a moment and say the prayer below:

“Lord, I confess that I am a sinner and ask for your forgiveness. I believe that your son Jesus died on the cross for my sins and was resurrected with all power. I invite Jesus to be the Lord of my life and your Holy Spirit to come into my heart to guide me for the rest of my days. Amen.”

Romans 10:9 says that *if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

If this is you, please write Growth Ministries and we will gladly help you start your new life in Christ.

Growth Ministries, Inc., Attn: Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 4375, Olathe, KS 66063

WE HAVE MOVED

Q. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

A. Because he knew there was something fishy about it.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah; he was floating his stock while everyone was in liquidation.

Q. Where was Solomon's temple located?

A. On the side of his head.

Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

Q. How does Moses make his coffee?

A. Hebrews it.

Q. How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?

A. By his net income.

Q. Who were Gumby's favorite Bible characters?

A. Shadrack, Meshack & AhBENDago.

Q. Who was the smartest man in the Bible?

A. Abraham. He knew a Lot.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Q. Who was the fastest runner in the race?

A. Adam, because he was first in the human race.

Q. Why did the unemployed man get excited while looking through his Bible?

A. He thought he saw a Job.

Q. What animal could Noah not trust?

A. Cheetah

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.