

## *From the Exodus Mailbag*

### STUDENT BECOMES GRADUATE, THEN TEACHER

**The love of people often increases with performance and decreases with mistakes.**

**NOT SO WITH GOD'S LOVE.**

One of our students who graduated felt God leading her to gather a group and teach our Bible studies. We enrolled 5 and sent the studies with an encouraging note. This was her reply :

*"Thank you so much for your letter of encouragement. It's so amazing to me how God uses the simplest means to encourage and prepare us. You said, 'But remember, God (in His timing) may move them out.' Well, that's what happened before we*

*made it through the first package (of three studies). The best part of your letter is you wrote that you were praying for me 'as you get them ready to share what they have learned'. I realize that I did exactly what God wanted. I got His Word to them thanks to Exodus. Isn't that awesome! I'm not disappointed at all. They have taken the Word with them.*

*I believe God has chosen me for unbelievable, incredible*

*witnessing with my testimony. God's complete will has not come to fruition yet, but it will in God's time.*

*It brings tears to my eyes how great God is and I want everyone to know this incredible love deep within them.*

*Bless all of you for your special gifts in fulfilling the spread of the gospel."*

*Lisa Sandlin, MS*

### SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL BEHIND THE BARS

**OUR PART IS TO BELIEVE GOD.**

**HIS PART IS TO BE GOD AND DO WHAT IS ULTIMATELY AND ETERNALLY BEST.**

Please pray for my strength in the Lord. Satan is on a rampage and he is attacking me and other believers relentlessly at this facility. The more we spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the more Satan tries to discourage us BY having services cancelled, discipleship classes

cancelled or even have the entire facility put on lockdown through no fault of our own.

There is definitely a spiritual battle and Jesus my Lord IS at the forefront.

*Maurice Love, MS*

*When Satan looked at the cross, he thought he had won but Jesus had a different plan.*

*And He had a different plan for me. Now, Satan needs to watch out because with Jesus on my side war has begun! Amen!*

*Carlis Hudson, KY*

## Transformation not Rehabilitation

**He [Jesus] wrapped  
His arms around me. I  
no longer am chasing a  
high to make me  
satisfied because I have  
been happy and  
satisfied ever since I  
have been redeemed.**

Jennifer McQuaid, GA

*It took my coming to  
prison to realize what I  
was missing in my life.  
By me coming to prison  
I lost everything. If I  
had stayed in church, I  
know I would not be  
here. Prison was a  
wake-up call from God.  
I thank Him every day.*

Agustin, Rubio, TX

*It was in 2013. I was in a 8 x 10  
cell all alone without any hope.  
Life seemed worthless. The only  
thing I was worried about was my  
family. Then the chaplain  
explained to me that with the  
same sincerity I was worried  
about my family, God worried  
about me and wanted me to  
believe and trust Him. I saw how  
merciful God was to those who  
truly seek Him as Savior.*

Gabriel Rincon, AR

## "Lost – but not to Jesus nor His love"

This astounding journey that the 35 lessons you and God provided me, brought me back to life. No, not to an old life, but to a new life, that I have never lived before, but would always dream about. Before these studies, I was bruised and broken, a victim and a victimizer. I was essentially lost, but I wasn't lost to Jesus nor His amazing love.

Prior to this study, I almost

gave up. Taking life another day was just too much.

But God would not let this be. He, through you, was the help for me.

I've learned through your studies that who I've been is not who I have to be now. No matter the label that society places on me, I know that I have been forgiven and washed in the blood of the Lamb. I don't stand

condemned; I stand delivered. I stand free.

I have been confined to a wheelchair for over 25 years. But today, and every day, I walk in the spirit

So Exodus, go with God, for He will certainly go with you.

Kendrick Douglas, NC

*Forgive-  
ness  
means  
leaving  
the cause  
to Christ  
and  
deciding  
to be free  
of the  
ongoing  
burden of  
bitterness  
and  
blame.*

## Prayer needed

I am having a hard time here in this prison. I am in an 8 x 10 cell 24-7 and there are people who are trying to kill me. They can't get to me because I am behind locked doors, but I hear them all around

me in other cells telling me they want to kill me. The reason I am in this situation is because I stepped down from being a gang member. Now my life is on the line. I need you to pray for me to

have God deliver me from this situation. I keep my sight on the Lord and I will not fail.

Michael Salazar, AZ



# From the Exodus Mailbag

## Thanks for our Bible Studies

FAITH is refusing to feel guilty over past confessed sins, when GOD the judge has sovereignly declared me pardoned.

It's clearly the Holy Spirit who led me to Exodus. I could not be more impressed. It is like having a loving, mature Christian elder standing by my shoulder as I read the Scriptures and study the lessons. It is exactly what is needed in our time. Our God is an awesome God!

Antoine Green, LA

*Thank you for putting this course together. It is nicely done and very informative.*

*Now I have the words to speak to others when they ask, 'Why is your faith so strong?' God is continuing to bless me and strengthen me!*

*Keep the faith and thank you for your service to me and others.*

Mark Anthony Nealy, FL

A lot of people need to go through these studies. They are so Godly and full of spiritual knowledge, wisdom and understanding of God, Jesus, and the Kingdom of God.

Walter L. Goodwin, CA

## Thankful for prison

I LOVE BEING SAVED - NOT BECAUSE I'M WORTHY, BUT GOD SAW FIT TO SAVE ME BY HIS GRACE.

Jason Booker, TX

[In the past], I played tug-of-war with my faith in the Lord and my life. I became extremely depressed, spiritually empty and suicidal and outwardly violent in spurts! Eventually, due to PTSD from abuse (sexual and physical) all of my life and violent outbursts, I ended up in jail and prison. Thank you, God! I have slowly found out who I am and that I have self-worth and

that God and Jesus are VERY REAL. My Father not only knocks on my door; he thumps me on my brain when I'm not listening to Him.

I am thankful for my time both in prison and my time in isolation here because it has allowed me to get to know my Father and Savior and to build a relationship with Them. In turn, I have appreciation for life. I'm

getting to know myself and for the first time in my life, I'm okay alone and I'm taking care of me!

God is good in mysterious ways. I never would have thought that prison would lead me to faith and given me a new outlook and chance at life!

L.D., CA

## From the Exodus Mailbag

ACCEPT  
EVERYTHING THAT  
FALLS FROM THE  
MASTER'S TABLE.  
  
EVEN A CRUMB.

FOR IN EVERY  
CRUMB, THERE IS  
A MIRACLE  
WAITING FOR YOU.

ENOUGH TO  
SUSTAIN

ENOUGH TO  
SATISFY

ENOUGH TO  
SHARE.

GOD HEARS  
THE WORDS  
AND  
COMMUNI-  
CATIONS OF  
OUR MINDS  
AS CLEARLY  
AS HUMAN  
EARS HEAR  
OUR SPOKEN  
WORDS.

### FREEDOM FROM SIN BASED ON WHAT JESUS DID

I have been raised in church all my life and was convinced that I was saved because I was a good person and went to church every time the doors were open.

But a friend, whom I later married, told me it was not enough and led me to the Lord. I knew I was saved. But one day I was challenged with a test that tempted me beyond what I could handle on my own at the time. I felt so bad about what I did. I was supposed to be a Christian but I was too embarrassed to admit my sin. It caused me to backslide for almost 20 years.

I was so lost in my sin - one sin after another. So miserable. I couldn't pray; I couldn't praise Him. I did not feel worthy of forgiveness. Only in a drunken stupor, did I find the strength to cry out to God, "Save me, I don't know what to do." I was so bound by sin that I just could not break free.

I finally got caught in my sin and put in jail. But what the Devil meant for evil, God used for good. After sobering up, I started reading the Bible again. I found the phrase REPENT multiple times. This rang out in my heart loudly. I had been trying all my life to do the right things in order to be saved when I had been

missing out on my faith in Jesus all along. I remember asking, "Jesus, is it really so simple?"

From that moment I realized that my freedom from sin was based on what Jesus had already 'purchased' for me. There is nothing I can do to save myself.

Since that realization I have experienced an abundant life FREE and delivered from ALL my sin!

M.B., MS

### GOD SPOKE TO ME IN SEGREGATION

As I lay in a prison hospital bed for a month with a staph infection, I prayed for patience. Wow!! Watch out what you pray for. I was moved to segregation with all the criminals that are too violent to be put into population. I was in this 8 x 10 cell, locked down 23 hours a day and one hour for recreation. I was coming from a place where I could walk around outside; I was taking college courses; I was able to call home regularly. When I got locked down awaiting transit to my old facility, I was challenged daily.

Day and night these clicksters (gang members not allowed to walk the line because they are so violent) would bang on their doors yelling some of the worst words you could think of at the correctional officers.

As I continued to study and pray, these so-called tough guys began to tell me some of the deepest things in their lives and asked me to pray for them; so I began to pray for everyone around me. Soon, even the worst of the worst grew calm and would only every now and then make a ruckus.

Through prayer and meditation, I found these guys were no different than myself. Our Lord and Savior loves us when we are broken; He begins to mold us in the way He wants us to be. I found your address in Seg - maybe that's why I was there.

I strongly believe that my Lord and Savior has a bigger purpose for me and my life and I will serve my God just as I served my country honorably and faithfully (12 years and five different combat tours).

Hector Sicre, NM



## SALVATION – STUDIES – FRIENDS

I just finished your course and I want to thank you for saving my life. Like most people, I'm afraid I fell into the category of believing I was saved when I truly wasn't. It wasn't until I started taking your Bible study that I realized by mistake.

The information you present is simple enough that anyone can understand it, yet complex enough to allow someone a little more advanced to sink their

teeth into it also.

I want to thank you for the Halley's Bible Handbook. It is amazing.

Although I'm excited about continuing on with my walk, I'm a little sad at the same time. I looked forward to receiving that small manila envelope, and the anticipation of finding out what my test scores would be can only be compared to that of

Christmas or birthday when I was a child. Losing that will be like losing a best friend and I feel the loss. Thank you so much for being a friend in a place where true friends are hard to come by.

I would like to say in closing that your ministry touched my heart and the day I found out about you was truly blessed by God.

Kenneth Dapp, TX

## THANKS FOR THE STUDIES

As usual this (Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle) was a wonderful study. Your text books are so informative explaining things in an understandable and encouraging format. I am currently being drawn closer to God daily and the Holy Spirit is opening me up to His presence and plan for me. This study gave me confirmation that God will still use me to fulfill His purpose even though I have failed before.

Roxanne Mackey, FL

*I have been saved for almost 12 years. I have been doing prison Bible studies for that long. Your studies are some of the best that I have had the privilege of doing. There is a great need for sound Biblical doctrine taught in the prisons.*

Gary Thompson, OH

From Christopher Jackson, TX

*I have done many Bible study courses through the years -*

*some better than others but all spreading the wisdom of God's Word. The Exodus courses just seem to really expand my knowledge and understanding of God's Word at this point in my life. It has been a blessing for me to come across these courses and it has been very inspirational if not life-saving at this point in my Christian walk.*

*Bless this little old Bible study from this little old town of Lubbock, Texas. I would love to be a part of this ministry to help others as you have helped so many.*

## BEING A CHRISTIAN vs. PLAYING THE CHRISTIAN

I did not realize what I was getting into when I began this Bible study course. I knew I was getting ready to do another Bible study but this one was different. This study challenges the believer to look within yourself and ask 'Am I really a believer and follower of Jesus Christ? Am

I really living a Spirit-filled life? Check yourself daily!!! Are you just a christian (little c) during the week? And then you're a Christian (big C) on Sunday?' NO! Be in Christ and Christ in you every day all day. If you want some free time, do

what Jesus did - PRAY!

Once you start leading the real Godly life not just playing at it, you'll see a big change.

God bless true believers.

Broadus Hill, FL

**GOD  
NEVER  
FORSAKES  
US. HE IS  
THE ONLY  
ONE WHO  
IS NOT  
REPELLED  
BY THE  
DEPTH  
AND  
LENGTH  
OF OUR  
SIN AND  
OUR  
NEED.**

# From the Exodus Mailbag

## TIMELY STUDIES and BOOKMARKS

WITH GOD IN YOU,  
YOU HAVE A  
MILLION  
RESOURCES THAT  
YOU DID NOT  
HAVE BEFORE.

*I was asking what is the will of God for me. After I received my studies (Dis-covering the Will of God), I laughed. God has a way of doing things that grab our attention and say 'yes, it's me'. I struggled for many years in my walk, unsure if I was in the will of God and what His plan is for me. Through this study, God opened my eyes to see I am on the right path. Some things don't come at microwave speed like I want them. The deep things of our*

*life are given in seasons. Glory to God! Thank you because this was very vital in my walk with Christ.*

Amy D. Ivy, TX

This study came right on time. I've been dealing with doubt about my salvation and not knowing whether I am saved or not. I now realize this is an attack from Satan attempting to get me to give up yet again. Thank you for these studies. I have been reading the Bible for 30 years yet still have been living a defeated life, not utilizing the power of Christ

and what He'd one for someone like me. Thank you and God bless.

M.P., CA

Could you send me some more of your bookmarks? I am a cosme-tology student at this prison. I have lots of opportunities to witness the love of Jesus to others. Usually a bookmark is enough to open up a conversation about the gospel and salvation. I then give them your address as a follow-up. Your Bible study is one of the best and I have done plenty. Janet Miller, GA

THE COST  
OF YOUR  
SINS IS  
MORE THAN  
YOU  
CAN PAY.  
THE GIFT  
OF GOD IS  
MORE THAN  
YOU CAN  
IMAGINE.

## KNOCK ON THE DOOR, THUMP ON HEAD IF NECESSARY

In the past I played tug-o-war with my faith in the Lord and my life. I became extremely depressed, spiritually empty and dangerously suicidal and somewhat outwardly violent in spurts. I ended up in jail and prison. Thank you, God! I have slowly found out who I am and I have self-worth and that God and Jesus are very real. My Father not only knocks on my door; He thumps me on my brain when I'm not listening to Him. I am thankful for my isolated time here in prison because it has allowed me to get to know my Father. I never would have thought that prison would lead me to faith and give me a new outlook and chance at life.

Brian Leonard, OK

## I HAVE FOUND THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

I had made a confession many times in a fit of worldly sorrow, guilt and shame. No spiritual birth; no transformation. I sought to fix myself self-help, education and latest of get-well fads. I

journeyed through other world religions and systems of belief. I found myself empty, broken and having wasted much precious time in vain pursuits but then Jesus, my Lord and Savior called me. I responded and

He saved me. Today I declare with personal knowledge that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and all other ways are vain deceptions of Satan. Jesus finished His work on the cross. Robert Rowell, GA



## SATAN – DEFEATED BUT STILL ACTIVE

Every time you send me a study, I feel like you have reached your best and that you cannot out-do the last one, but I can always count on the next one to be better than the one before. I find myself pacing the floor when I mail a completed lesson back for grading because after a few days, I'm looking for the next one. I'm currently enrolled in seminary, but

of all the studies, I look forward to Exodus more than any others. Keep 'em coming! I'm ready for the next. God bless!.

B.H., TX

"Winning Your War Against Satan" was exhausting. He really tried to keep me from learning this lesson. I had to continually pray to finish. Let's just say he put many obstacles

in my way, but I was able to just laugh because I knew who it was. Praise the Lord that Jesus defeated Satan on the cross of Calvary. Amen. Because of the study, I am more aware of Satan's methods. As believers, we must put on God's armor daily. May God bless and protect all of you at Exodus. I have your ministry in my prayers.

M.G., TX

*You may go days without thinking of God, but there's never a moment when He's not thinking of you.*

*You aren't an accident.  
You aren't an assembly-line product.  
You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted and lovingly positioned on this earth by the Master Craftsman.*

## WEEKEND vs. LIFETIME SERVICE

Yesterday, while praying in the prayer circle with my brothers in Christ, I asked God to give us chores to do over the weekend; to let us share in the work He does. Afterwards I thought that this prayer is powerful in that we desire to obey him as humble servants. Later still, as I was studying, I realized that my prayer was quite temporary in that we were only doing chores

over the weekend. Today in our circle, I prayed that God give us careers in His service as He has already paid us for this service. I asked that He post memos in our thoughts and place His policies in our hearts so we can always serve Him as our loving Master. May the fruit of the Spirit be abundant in your lives.

G.S.W., MS

God has put me back on solid ground. I know where I am now God will turn something bad into good. I know at my age (66) He has placed me among young women for a purpose. This is why I want to learn all I can so I can share His word. These girls are hungry and this would be a good place for me to share the Word. God bless your ministry.

Virginia Holloway, TX

## SEEING GOD'S HAND THROUGH THE STUDIES

I have completed several study courses from numerous ministries. They are all good, but EPM I have to say is by far my favorite. It has changed my life. I thank God every day for you and your ministry. I encourage anyone and everyone that is serious in their walk with the Lord to dive right into this course and apply it to their lives. Once again, thank you, each and everyone.

Britt Langford, AL

This is the best Bible Study that I have ever done. I have over 100 certificates and four diplomas. I rate it a 10!

Darlene Underwood, TX

*The apostle Paul never asked for his release from prison. He asked for power to boldly proclaim God's mysteries to those around him. So I will focus on Jesus while I'm here proclaiming His message while*

*He works it out in my life also.*  
Charla Pace, TX

My daughter wrote me asking, 'Mom, when I need you the most, you're not here.' I wrote and prayed this answer is right. 'Baby, I'm always here for you. You can write me, and visit me. But I had to come so God could set me down and make me a better mom for you.' I pray she understands that I am the new Christian, loving, caring, God-packing mom she needs. Goldie Mize, TX



# From the Exodus Mailbag

## DESPAIR TO HOPE THROUGH BIBLE STUDIES

**May the LORD  
bless you**

**Abundantly**

**Exceedingly**

**Eternally**

I am not sure I know how to thank you enough for your dedication to minister to me through the Bible Study program.

But then, I felt abandoned and in jail and I convinced myself that I could not be forgiven and that what little life I had left had no purpose at all.

But your Bible study came into my life. The message of hope and forgiveness

was a part of every lesson and it worked its way into me and I discovered forgiveness and hope. Your work and dedication saved me from a life of despair and your lessons showed me that the blood shed by Jesus Christ washed my sins away just like it does for all who come to Him; yes, even me. Thank you.

R.M., TX

This course has been a big part of my everyday life behind bars. I have gone through disease, divorce and death this past year and this work and study seems to be the glue on hold me together. It's extremely rough for me but I do believe God has a plan and today I have faith and 'a little more wisdom'.

David Tumbarello, CA

## THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR ALL OF US!

YOU TAKE  
WHAT IS  
GIVEN TO  
YOU,  
  
YOU MAKE  
SOMETHING  
OF IT,  
  
THEN YOU  
GIVE IT BACK.  
Amelia Bishop

I asked Jesus to take my life. I didn't want it anymore. I was tired of being a failure - family turning their back on me because of repetitive drug use. In and out of prison and jail all my life. I wanted to die. I asked God to take my life. I'd literally wanted to die.

Then through the Bible and prayer, my life changed as I gave my life to him. I'm a tattoo artist and I quit although that was my income; I'd rather be broke. I spend all my time in the Word and I know I'm filled

with the Holy Spirit. God is real and Jesus is alive. Preachers tell me I'm going to have a hard time finding a church to accept me due to the fact about 75% of my body is tattooed. I was very popular from where I come from in Georgia for tattooing and selling drugs. It would be very easy for me to fall back into the wrong crowds. I do worry about that and I do pray about that.

I have been running from God most of my life and always ended up in the belly of the fish so to speak. Now I guard my

thoughts and surround myself with Christians and not the people I always thought were my friends.

Your lessons have given me knowledge, strength and wisdom to carry on. Thanks and bless you all.

Mark Cooley, FL

*God is good! I want to express my gratitude for your ministry and all of you. I do not take it for granted.*

Lee Walker, TX



## TRAGEDY – HATE – UNDERSTANDING – LOVE

Sometimes it takes something very tragic to bring someone to believe in God. I would have never come to believe if my two sons had not died. When they drowned in my backyard pool, I was filled with hate, rage and anger. I had to find someone to direct all that toward and I couldn't direct it at the wife I loved or myself. So I directed it to God and boy, I let Him have it. I called Him every name in the book. I had to learn more about my new enemy so I picked up the Bible. I read how God loves his

people. I thought, 'How is that when you took my boys?' I read about heaven and how perfect it is. I thought, 'How is it that He gave them what I couldn't?' I read how we can all be together soon. I thought, 'My God, I could be with them again?' Then it hit me. I said, 'My God, how is it that this one I hated the most turned into the one I need the most.' God allows things to happen that He does not like in order to get the results He wants.

Stephen Greathouse, AZ

In the past I played tug-of-war with my faith in the Lord and my life became extremely depressed, spiritually empty and dangerously suicidal. I ended up in jail and prison. Thank you, God! I have slowly found out who I am and I have self worth and God and Jesus are very real.

My Father not only knocks on my door; He thumps me on the brain when I'm not listening. I'm thankful for my time in prison. God works in mysterious ways. I never would have thought that prison would lead me to faith and give me a new outlook on life.

Brian Leonard, OK

## HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR PACKETS

*It is so great to be loved by God, after countless attempts of finding love in faces and places that did nothing but cause me harm. It's good to know that in spite of all that, God still loves me and His goodness causes me to repent. I bless God because He had truly worked a miracle of deliverance in my life.*

Natisha Morgan, TX

I wait eagerly for each new study. When I see that yellow Exodus Prison Ministry packet, I know the Holy Spirit is in it. I know it's full of God's Words. I know there's a message from my Savior, Jesus Christ in that yellow packet just for me and I know there's a message in every yellow packet that everyone gets. God bless!

Thomas Flynt, MS

I just wanted to voice my gratitude for all that you folks have done for me and people like me in the prison system. The fruit of the spirit is so visible and evident in the work you do that it inspires me. Your selfless deeds touch so many from day to day that there is no number one could use to convey the enormity. Thank you and may God bless you and keep you. You have led me on a path back to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for that no words can suffice.

Ekahi Sallas, HI

## CHRIST'S SUFFERING PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE

When I sit here reading what John wrote about all that Jesus went through to save us from our sins it made me realize the love He has for us. I sit here in prison complaining of having to be here, somewhat guilty of what I have been charged with, complaining about the way we are treated by

some guards. When in reality, it is nothing compared to what Jesus went through and was innocent. I have let him down so many times and yet He still loves me for who I am and what I am with all my flaws.

I have never really taken the time

to stop and reflect on what really happened.

I will never be able to give Him the same amount of love back. But I do vow, that I will give Him my all - no doubting, no complaining, no excuses.

Adrianna Perez, TX

*I went from a nobody in the eyes of the people in this world to someone special and a child of God and I hold a place in the heart of God. How amazing is that?*

Ashton Gaddis, AZ



## From the Exodus Mailbag

### JUST GARBAGE OR A REAL TREASURE?

**LOVE IS SHOWN BY THE  
TIME WE GIVE TO  
SOMEONE; WE CAN  
NEVER GET THAT TIME  
BACK.**

**MAY WE ALL REMEMBER  
TO GIVE OUR TIME TO  
SOMEONE IN NEED.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL  
YOU DO.**

WALTER SKIPPER, TX

Born in Chicago, I'm on my 15th year in prison. Just a quick note of how I found out about Exodus Prison Ministry. I found this prayer request on the floor in a pile of swept-up garbage. As I reached down to pick it up, the man sweeping says to me, "That's garbage, prayer does not work." I looked up and said, "Can I try?" and he said, "Go ahead, but this is a prison where Satan resides." Well, the thought of praying for him came to mind. So instead of praying

for my need of direction, I prayed for the dayroom sweeper, that he might find salvation through Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit would change his evil ways. Thank you Exodus for this insight from the dayroom floor.

Don Perdue, FL

*I want to thank you from the middle of my heart for all you do for the lost and forgotten behind these prison walls.*

David Martinez, TX

**I WAS DEPRESSED, IN PRISON AND ADDICTED. THEN JESUS SAVED ME. PEOPLE AT CHURCH SAID I WAS HOPELESS AND I DISGUSTED THEM. NOW THEY SAY I GLOW. GOD BROUGHT ME TO PRISON TO GET ME OUT OF THE PRISON OF SELF SO I COULD BECOME FREE ON THE INSIDE. WHEN I GET OUT THE WORLD WON'T GET INSIDE ME. I WAS TOLD EXODUS HAS A GOOD BIBLE STUDY, SO HERE I AM!**

BRIAN WHITSON, TX

### WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO EARN SALVATION

**The Lord knew the only way He was going to get my attention is to sit me down and only in jail would I sit still long enough to truly get to know the Lord.**

A.P., TX

I'm been a sinner all my life. My sins led me to prison and here I found God. I am here for a crime I committed in 1998. In March 2003 I joined the Army to fight for my country and run from the man I had become. My way of thinking was that I could make things right on my own and serving my country would pay for the sins of my past. No matter how many medals or how good a soldier I was, I could never become the man I wanted to be. My past would not let me go. So after

twelve years of running and thinking I could forget what I did, I received the chance to pay for my crimes. I thought that would help me. I was wrong. There was something missing. Yes, I was paying for my crimes. I lost everything I thought I wanted or needed; still it was not enough. I felt empty. Coming to prison saved me. After coming to prison from jail, I opened the Bible my family had given me. Not for the first time to read, but the first time to really want to understand. In talking with the

other brothers, I finally understood what was missing and how nothing I did in my life on my own would matter. I needed Jesus. I gave my life to Jesus. It has not been easy. Life is still hard and bad things still happen but instead of falling back into my old habits, I give it all to God and know that all things are possible with Him.

Kosta McFarland TX



## MONASTIC LIFE IN A GATED COMMUNITY

*YOU GUYS  
WORK WEEK IN  
AND WEEK  
OUT TO MAKE  
SURE WE GET  
OUR LESSONS  
ON TIME.  
I UNDERSTAND  
YOU GUYS  
VOLUNTEER  
YOUR TIME  
AND THAT IS  
SO AWESOME  
TO BE THE  
RECIPIENT OF  
THIS PRECIOUS  
INFORMATION  
THAT HAS  
TURNED MY  
LIFE AROUND.*

THANK YOU!

Roel Cantu, TX

Living a prison life allows a unique opportunity to truly align with God, and this seems to become more and more apparent each day with placing God first in my life. I would not have had this chance in my previous life of selfishness.

Anytime, I seldom see walls and fences which surround me; with Jesus I live in perpetual freedom. Now I simply live in a monastic life in a gated community.

Christopher Helfer, FL

*While I am guilty of the charges that brought me to prison, it does not define who I am now that I have turned my life over to God fully. There will be those who will label me for the rest of my life, but through studies such as Exodus and reading God's Word, I know how God labels me - as His forgiven and much-loved child. He has used many ways to rebuild this broken vessel into one that He can now use for His good purpose. He is*

*using me in ways that I would not have thought possible. Thank you and I love you with the love of Christ.*

Grover Layne, IN

I have yet to complete a lesson that I don't learn at least one important fact that I did not pick up on earlier in my walk with the Lord. Usually there are several things. Thanks so much!

Thomas Cieniewicz, VA

## SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE PRISONS

This particular study (Winning Your War Against Satan) touched my heart. I actually had to stop in the middle to do some soul searching and let God show me my faults that I had thought were in my best interest. I learned that Satan had more of a hold of me than I thought and I wasn't equipped properly to shake off the evil that was influencing my life. Through much needed time spent with God and His Word, I

*feel that I am beginning to win that battle against Satan and his evil wishes. My heart and soul has always belonged to Jesus Christ. However, I was expecting Him to do all the work. I now know that through Him, I can win the most important battle that has ever been fought, and with His love, power and mercy, I can do His work and win!*

David Plowman, TX

To Whomever Reads This:

Thank you, thank you for answering God's call to do what you're doing. It's more of a blessing than I think you know.

Charles Peterson, Jr., IL

*(upon graduation) These lessons have taught me so much and it makes my heart happy to see my fellow inmates doing the studies that I introduced to them.*

Janet Kennedy, TX

## THANKS AND MORE THANKS

Thank you so much! So often ministries send to us milk - Bible studies that deal over and over with repentance, forgiveness, and salvation. We are to desire the sincere milk of the Word of God, yet we are to go on to maturity, and able to eat

solid foods - the deeper truths of God's Word. And you make this in-depth study available to us. It is an answer to prayer. Your set of Genesis is as good as if from a commentary. Again, thank you, thank you!

Roderick Wilbert, AR

You will never know what your ministry has done for me until you get to heaven. Jesus did not send me to prison; my actions did that. But He allowed me to live and come to prison. Prison has become a city of refuge for me. It is where I began to trust Him in all things and began to live. Praise God - thanks!  
Joe O'Neal, MS



## From the Exodus Mailbag

### JUST AS HE SUPPLIES AIR, HE SUPPLIES WHAT WE NEED

I THANK THE PEOPLE  
AT EXODUS FOR  
ALLOWING CHRIST TO  
WORK THROUGH THEM  
SO THAT HE CAN WORK  
THROUGH US.

COLLIN SMITH, TX

I apologize for the delay in me returning my last set of lessons. I started making excuses why I didn't have time to study. After talking to our chaplain as well as other Christian brothers, I came to realize that there is no legitimate excuse for not having the Word of God in my life. Not having the Word of God is like not having the air to breath that I need to live.

Todd Schwarting, NV

*Hey People...I finished!*

*I've been down 20 years and have done a few ministries, but yours - Exodus is by far the most informative and satisfying ministry I've ever done. I learned more from your books than I did in 12 years of Catholic school. Don't you have another course?*

Richard Crooks, LA

I just want you to know that it does not matter about the award Bibles that you present (we can no longer do that) or any other material reward because these Bible studies are so anointed. They have really inspired me to read more, pray harder and seek the Lord more passionately. God will give your ministry what it needs, even an overflow!

Melissa Watson, FL

### GOD IS EVER SO PATIENT WITH US

I ONCE WAS LOST -  
THOUGHT I DIDN'T NEED  
ANYBODY AND I COULD  
DO THIS ON MY OWN.

TRUTH IS, I WAS NEVER  
LOST - GOD ALWAYS  
KNEW WHERE I WAS -  
WAITING AND WANTING  
ME TO COME BACK TO  
HIM.

HE RESCUED ME THE  
DAY THE FEDS CAME.

CYNTHIA HUEBNER, IL

I had to learn the hard way. I somehow put my kids, money, house, family and friends all before God. God had to remove or allow to be removed all the things I place before God. I'm glad God removed those things so I could clearly see what I had done. I couldn't believe what I had done to God. But I prayed for forgiveness. God set me free!

C.N. MS

*To me it seems the last lessons have really helped me to understand my walk in Christ. I look at them as a map that has led me right where I need to be. God has done things in my life that I know that no man had a hand in.*

*I look at it as getting a tune-up. I was not living like I should so God put me in the shop and gave me a over-haul - new paint job, walk, new insides (meaning a new outlook on life when I was broken down, tires flat and ready for the junk yard. But the*

*work is not finished. I know I have a lot of places that I must get the Word of God out to and even if I am not fond of speaking in front of crowds, I know when I am ready, I won't have to stand there alone.*

Anthony Thomas, FL

SOMETIMES WE FORGET TO OPEN OUR  
HEARTS AND WE DON'T RECEIVE THE  
GIFTS THAT GOD HAS FOR US. SO,  
LISTEN FOR THE CALLING OF OUR LORD  
AND GIVE HIM ALL THE PRAISE  
GARY JONES, TX



## MY TEST OF FAITH

Beth Bolyard, WV

*Today my faith was tested by the verdict of a man,  
The sentence that he gave me was more than I could stand.  
I looked at him in silence as tears rolled down my face  
I cried 'Oh dear Lord, please I need your amazing grace.  
There's no way that I can do it; I can't make it on my own.'  
Then my Father said, 'My child, you are never alone.'*

*Every moment of every day, He's walking by my side,  
I don't have to live in fear; He will always be my guide.  
Even though I may stumble, He lifts me when I fall  
And when I grow weary, He always answers my call  
Burdens may get heavy, I will not despair  
I hold to the promise, My Lord is always there.*

*The Lord wrapped His arms around me and He dried up every tear  
Said, 'Daughter, do not be afraid. I didn't give you a spirit of fear.'  
God's presence filled that empty cell as I bowed my head to pray  
His grace, His love, His mercy all fell on me that day.  
The storm clouds rolled away; a calming peace encompassed me.  
Now I don't have to worry; in God I've been set free.*

## MY WALK WITH JESUS

WILLIAM ARTHUR, FL

GOD WAS ALWAYS A SCARY WORD THAT I NEVER SAID OUT LOUD  
EXCEPT WHEN ALL ALONE, BUT NEVER IN A CROWD.

NOT KNOWING WHICH IS SCARIER - AFRAID OF NOT FITTING IN,  
OR JUST TO BE COMPLACENT AND WALLOWING IN SIN.

BUT IT'S TIME TO BE A MAN, TO PUT AWAY CHILDISH FEARS,  
TO START DOWN THE PATH THAT I'VE RUN FROM ALL THESE YEARS.

NOW I'M NO LONGER AFRAID WHEN THE ENEMY IS AT MY DOOR  
I NOW WEAR THE LORD'S ARMOR SO THE DEVIL CAN'T HURT ME ANYMORE.

NOW I'M ON A WALK WITH JESUS AND HE HAS LIT THE SPARK  
IN MY LAMP OF FREEDOM AND I'LL RISE UP FROM THE DARK.

## You Seem to Understand and Minister to Us!

WHEN I'M WORRIED,  
IT'S USUALLY  
BECAUSE  
I'M TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING  
MYSELF.

WHEN I'M AT PEACE,  
IT'S USUALLY  
BECAUSE  
I REMEMBER  
GOD IS IN CONTROL.

I have a hard time believing someone who has never been in trouble with the law would try to understand what it's like inside these walls, never knowing if you'll get out alive.

But you do. You pray for us and spend your retirement years helping us to know God's Word and Will and Way. You grade our tests and write encouraging notes and those blue certificates that help us to know we have accomplished something. And it's nice that they have just our name (no number that is a constant reminder that we are not really somebody, just a number.)

I've been locked up all my life, more time on the inside than on the streets. Thank you for your time and trouble. C. Iverson, TX

*Thank you so much for this study course (all of it!) I'm the leader of our daily Bible study group and use this course in all my teaching. I, and our group, have learned so much from Exodus! Please send me some enrollment forms for others who could benefit from such a course. God bless you for all the wonderful work you are doing!*

Tom Lickliter, AZ

It continues to amaze me how your mailers and the US Postal Service and our prison mail rooms know just when God needs something delivered to meet our spiritual needs.

K.N., VA

### SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

- to SEE
- to HEAR
- to TOUCH
- to FEEL
- to TASTE
- to LOVE
- to LAUGH

## Only God Inside of Us Can Change Us

I was tired of losing all the time, my way just never seemed to work. So I told the other inmates /gang members that I was done, that I wanted nothing to do with anybody or anything.

But I began to read a Bible (out of boredom) and found something that fascinated me. I accepted Jesus and He has shown me so much. For the first time in my life, I am alive, that is the Spirit of God is alive in me. He has given me new hopes and desires. I tried all my life

to change, but it's only when I accepted Jesus, did it go past 'behavior modification' - it went to 'heart transformation'. Only Jesus inside of us can change us. I am a walking, breathing testimony to that. God is real.

James 4:8 - 'Come near to God and He will come near to you' is so true.

*I love and thank you.*

Stephen Acosta, AZ



## God's Timing is Always Perfect

God isn't going to waste  
*one bit of your hurt and hardships.*

Trust the process.  
Hold fast to God's ways.  
Hang on  
Redemption is coming!

Sorry for the delay! When I received my lessons I was on the last leg of my college semester and I got *bombarded with assignments. It all paid off because I just finished my semester and have graduated with honors. Earning my BBA has been a true blessing and the Lord continues to show favor in my life. I could write a book on the things He has done.*

I am currently up for review, so keep me in your prayers. As much as I would love to be home, I *would like for you guys to pray that the Lord uses me for His Kingdom and prepares the way for my future.*

My release will come, but my standing with God is more important. Thank you for all you do.  
Lee, MA

## Our Students Pray for Us and We Pray for Them

I thank God that this Bible Study Correspondence has found me because I have learned much from it. I pray for the Exodus ministry that provides it to this incarcerated child of God. I am looking forward to my next studies.

Pray that as God's children, we won't be weak in spirit, but let Jesus renew and strengthen our spirits.

Derek Koehler, TX

Dear Volunteers, Thank you for taking time to help us, pray for us, grade our papers, *answer our questions and send out the studies.* May God bless each and every one of you! I have been so blessed and learned so much,

I speak on behalf of your students on the N-5 Ft. Stockton unit. If anyone needs special prayer or rejoicing, we would like to hear about it so we can let the church here know and we'll rejoice or pray with you and for you.

Nathaniel Benson, TX

One of wonderful  
mysteries of  
knowing Jesus is  
that we are able to  
do something the  
world would seem  
crazy or weak - to  
give thanks in  
difficult  
circumstances.

We know that our  
hardships are  
opportunities for  
reflecting God's love  
and setting an  
example.

Paul said to  
give thanks in  
everything.  
Philippians 4:4

## Encouragement through Prayer

-- Discouraged --

As we go through hard times, I see God in it all! There is NOBODY greater than He! As much as we request prayer, we should be encouraged more as believers in Christ to pray for others in this time.

I am encouraged by these studies to reach farther than these temporary places. God isn't limited, so I shouldn't be! Please pray for us to reach out to those around us as well as our families who need the Lord.

Kareem Patterson, FL

*Sorry I'm a little late with my lessons. I've been working in the kitchen from 6 PM to 6 AM and I'm disabled, but I guess while you're in prison, nobody cares!*

*So I've been real tired -the last two weeks. It's hard to sleep in the daytime.*

*I need total knee replacements in both knees, but these people don't care. But life goes on - maybe on the next assignment, I'll get on the list. PS I still love your Bible studies.*

RST, TX

## God Knows What We Really Need and Arranges It!

*Deep in a criminal lifestyle and substance abuse and violence, it was only a matter of time until I self-destructed and was arrested. Because my victim was a police officer, I went straight to SEG or the hole or the box.*

*What was intended to be a form of punishment turned out to be the doorway to salvation for me. Written on the wall of the was written a Bible verse that started my relationship with God. I had nothing in that cell except the clothes on my back, a mattress, a blanket, a small*

*bar of soap with a toothbrush and toothpaste - that's it!*

*I had my thoughts though and I realized the insanity of my life. My attention turned again and again to that Bible verse some other inmate had written. I asked every officer I saw for a Bible and finally one female officer threw one into my cell. I did nothing but eat and read for days and knew I needed to be saved. I got down on my knees and confessed and accepted the Lord!*

*Praise God for how He works!*

Robert Scott, IN