

CHRISTIANS IN RECOVERY

GOOD NEWS LETTER

If you want to backslide, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's our business!

THE BIBLE

by Michael Premo

The Bible is *the only* spiritual book of final authority for the serious Christian.

The Bible reveals if heaven and hell are real places. If alcoholism is a *disease* or a sinful, moral weakness. Why God loves homosexuals and fornicators and yet, hates their sin. Why all Christians are in recovery. Why a religious, self-righteous, do-gooder, of all sinners is the most deceived.

The Bible answers the critical questions of life. It has stood the test of time. It is the number one, all time best seller. It is a gift from God to all who are searching for the TRUTH.

The Bible should be opened with prayer. Prayer conveys to God humility, faith and a teachable attitude.

The Bible is supernatural. To understand it the Holy Spirit must be involved in our reading or study.

1 John 5:9— We believe men who witness in our courts, and so surely we can believe whatever God declares. And God declares that Jesus is His Son. All who believe this know in their hearts that it is true. If anyone doesn't believe this, he is actually calling God a liar, because he doesn't believe what God has said about His son...So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have His Son, does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life.

The Bible declares that God created our planet and the entire universe. He made a man and then He made a woman. He gave commandments and everybody broke them.

The Bible tells the stories of men and women rebelling against God. It tells in detail how we as a people are extremely selfish. It tells the truth about our lack of love for each other.

The Bible is a love story! God loves us and He proves it! We don't love Him and we prove it! Yet, He continues to love us!

He gives us second chances and we don't appreciate it. Like dogs we go back to our selfish, established patterns. Yet, He keeps on proving His love to us. We run from Him and try to hide. He chases and finds us. We run again and become like unfaithful whores. Like a crazy man He keeps chasing, forgiving and loving.

1 John 4:8— But if a person isn't loving and kind, it shows that he doesn't know God—for God is love. God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into this wicked world to bring to us eternal life through His death. In this act we see what real love is: it is not our love for God, but His love for us when He sent His Son to satisfy God's anger against our sins. ...and He has put His own Holy Spirit into our hearts as a proof to us that we are living with Him and He with us.

The AA "Big Book" is good reading, but the Bible is better! The "Big Book" does not reveal who the real "Higher Power" is, the Bible does.

Without fear of offending people the Bible declares that Jesus Christ is *the Way, the Truth and the Life*.

As the Christian Church becomes more liberal, social and political it will progressively continue to water down, and humanize the Word of God. The Christian leaders who declare the pure Word of God will be despised and harshly rejected.

Leaders who commit to following the Bible as the blueprint for building local churches and Christian marriages will be criticized for being legalistic and narrow minded.

Jesus said, "The earth and the sky shall pass away but My words will last forever."

2 Timothy 2:15 Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing—rightly handling and skillfully teaching—the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 3:16 The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.

**Drinking, Drug, Gambling
Or Whatever Problems?
Want Help?**

**Weekly Support Group
Understanding
No Perfect Christians allowed!**

Midway Covenant Church
22460 24th Ave. S. Des Moines, WA 98198
Every Friday—6:30 PM

LETTERS FROM THE HEART

Was a warming feeling to read about addicts, helping addicts so to recover their lost souls from that vortex of madness and spiritual bankruptcy. I'm serving time in Monroe on a 3rd strike. I use to have a \$1,000.00 a day crack habit. **Scott**

I was playing cards three days ago when a Brother passed me the book "Backslider". After reading the first page I couldn't put it down till I read half the book. You see I'm a born again Christian who has backslid. Like any other backslider I did drugs and alcohol. A voice in my head told me not to take some drugs which I'm sure was the Holy Spirit. But I ended up listening to my flesh. As a result I'm now locked up. I would like to receive your newsletter. **Ignacio**

I want to stay clean and sober and put my focus on Jesus. **Donna**

I am a backslider and a Christian in recovery. Over the last year not only have I relapsed but I also had a sexual relationship with a woman without marrying her. I also relapsed on Crack after 7 years of recovery. I used to attend weekly *CIR* meetings and many people warned me that what I was doing was biblically wrong. I did not listen to them. Now I'm back in jail waiting to be sentenced. I've repented and have asked God to forgive me. I want to ask all the brothers and sisters at *CIR* to forgive me too. What I was doing was wrong! I really do love God. I'm looking at 13 years. I really could use some prayer. Please send a Good News Letter. **Jeff**

I just read my first "Good News Letter". I am impressed. It blows me away to read so many stories so similar to mine. I always called myself a "Christian" yet just recently I was born again. I realize now that a Christian has a new life-style, and obeys the Word of God. This is my 5th time in prison. I have an inner peace that I've never had before. Could you send me information on your discipleship program for inmates getting out of the joint. I know 11/23/07 seems far away but now that I know Jesus, time is going faster. Thank God! **Keith**

Currently I'm incarcerated in the Pierce County Jail after doing 18 months at *Purdy*. I will be released in a couple of weeks. I have read "Backslider" more than once. I am tired of backsliding! I am 26 years old and I don't want to go back to heroin, and crack. **Falisha**

I read your *CIR Newsletter*. I don't know how I happened to get it, but from it I learned that I am a Christian in recovery. Enclosed is \$20.00, please send me a bundle of newsletters to send to my prideful Christian friends. **Philip**

I was convinced that I would have to keep my past a secret as much as possible. I could not imagine that God might want to use my wretched life as a testimony for His glory. He is setting me free from my bondage of guilt. **James**

For some weak excuse I quit going to your *Christians In Recovery* weekly meeting. I ignored the tugging from my heart and the brush of the Holy Spirit. I now believe if I would have kept fellowship with you guys I would not be here in jail now. I am embarrassed... **Jeff**

I received your most recent *CIR Newsletter*. The article on page 5 was most interesting. But even it did not compare to "Just Sharing My Heart" by Michael Premo. Please tell Michael that it could take up to two more years before he really sees the support. On page 10—my Lord[!], I hope Tom, Bob and Sue (*Trophies of God's Grace*) our out telling their stories. Their testimonies are also a calling. **JD**

In my 5 years in prison I have attended over 300 AA, NA, of CA meetings. I now believe that Jesus is the real "Higher Power". What would it take to have a *CIR* support group established in this Alabama, Prison? **David**

About three years ago I met you and Sue at Shelton. You said on the day I get released to give you a call and you and Sue would have me over for dinner. Well my release date is 4-03-06. I look forward to seeing you and Sue again, having fellowship and becoming part of church. I know God has a plan for me. **Robert**

Michael Premo recently spoke at our Sea Tac Prison. He gave me a copy of his book "Backslider". I really enjoyed reading it. My life has been similar to his except I was a prostitute and crack addict for 26 years. I already believed that Jesus has forgiven me and He loves me, but the book made my faith stronger. I think there should be a *CIR* group in every city. **Lee Ann**

I'm locked up in Anchorage, Alaska. Recently I was sent to the hole for pushing another inmate. To my surprise I found an old copy of one of your *CIR* newsletters. I was a phony Christian. I have faith and thought of myself as superior to other sinners because I was a Christian. After reading your newsletter I must confess that I too am still very much a sinner. I have read the Bible but I now realize that I am still a wretched sinner saved by grace. **George**

I've been going into the jail since January with another lady. I get blessed every time. I would like to get a copy of the *CIR Newsletter* into at least each pod in the jail. I think they would eat them up. Our *Celebrate Recovery* here has dwindled. Please pray for our leadership to regain the vision. The need is real, but communication and the bonding is lacking. I would love to come to Seattle some time and see first hand what's going on with the *CIR* ministry. **Connie**

To do something
I don't want to
is contrary to my
selfish personality.
Are you surprised,
you shouldn't be.

Am I unique,
I don't think so.
We're all about the same,
capable of anything.
Don't be so quick
to judge that convict
you saw on the news.
But, for the grace of God
he could have been you!
If our past was published
would it be pretty?
If all our sin found us out
where would we be sitting?
Can we spell J A I L .

Letter's From The Heart

I was taught to just believe in a power greater than myself. I believed in a lot of crazy, silly things. Now I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This process was long and painful. I fought the Lord for a long time. Then after surrendering To Christ and becoming a baby Christian I backslid. It starting with drinking, then drugging and gambling at the casino's. I came so far and then I failed as a Christian. I felt so much guilt, shame and hopelessness. I felt like God would not forgive me. I was hiding from the Lord. I'm locked up now and everything is OK. God has helped me to realize that He does love and forgive me. I am now on fire for Jesus! I'm learning as I study the Bible. The thought of becoming part of your "Christian boot camp" excites me. Thank you for the *CIR News Letter*.
Russell

I was recently transferred from *Shelton* to *Twin Rivers*. One thing that is most disturbing is all the Brothers at *WCC* I will miss. How important it is to have Brothers, "men of God," involved in my life. It's all about the Brethren, serving, being served, discipling and being disciplined, loving and being loved, being held accountable and holding others to accountability. I am currently seeking out my new Brothers here at *TRCC*. Standing in His mercy & grace.
James

I read two of your newsletters. I was moved and touched by the testimonies and articles. I am a re-born Christian, addict and alcoholic in recovery. I started using when I was 12 and now I'm 34. At 13 I was living on the streets of Seattle. My mom was on herion and ruining her life. I followed in her steps. Because of my IV usage I caught Hep. C. I've been in and out of jails, prisons and treatment centers. God kept loving me and it is so true about the *Footprints In The Sand*. I have re-dedicated my life back to God. I love Jesus and I want to be His disciple. When I get out in 2/22/06 I want to come and be part of your ministry. I enjoy helping people. I know computers, play the drums and guitar and I'm into being clean and neat. Let me know what the rules are for your program. I am serious about my walk with God. I now read and study the Bible on a daily basis. God bless you!
Kevin

I picked up your newsletter at the prison Chapel today and read it. To my surprise I was saved in the Church where you hold one of your weekly support groups. I served God there for ten years. Those years were the fondest of my life. Because of my sin I fell away from following God. I would like to get into your discipleship program. I am like the prodigal son and I want to come home.
Larry

In my recovery I'm learning not to be selfish.
Karen

I read "Backslider". It related to my life. I ran from the Lord and now I'm in a Federal Prison in Seattle. Do you have a program to help Christians get back on track with the Lord? I have the desire to serve the Lord. Please send information about *Christians In Recovery*.
Russell

Could you please send a *CIR Newsletter* to my Mother.
Robert

A friend gave me a one of your newsletters. I was impressed. Enclosed is \$15.00 to help the cause. I would like information on the requirements for getting into one of your discipleship houses. I was saved in 1980, but have backslidden many times. While I was in jail God spoke to me and said, "I set before you life and death! Which will you choose." I chose, "Life". Then He told me to come clean and that He would take care of me. I received a 51 month sentence. I received mercy. While in prison my walk with God has grown greatly. In a couple of weeks my sentence will be served. I pray that I will continue to walk solid with God upon my release. I will need a support group. I have no desire to go back to my old way of living.
Ken

The last time I was in jail I was blessed and inlightended by God. Upon my release I drifted away and it seemed like 7 strong demons were sent to try and pluck Jesus from my heart. I faltered but God rescued me. I recently came back to the Lord. I'm in the process of getting my mind renewed.
Michael

I'm an inmate at Walla Walla Prison. I found one of your newsletters and as I was reading through it I saw an old friend of mine in crime, *Bobby Cotton*. Now she's my new friend in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm proud of her for her good example. I thank God for bringing her out of her bottomless pit and into the Truth. Tell Bobby "Hi" and send her my blessings. Your newsletter brought me joy!
Dennis

A fellow inmate shared his copy of your Good News Letter with me. I cannot remember the last time I was touched in this way. I am from Washington, but I am one of the many Washington inmates that have been sent out-of-state due to over crowding. I want you to know that what you are doing is a one of the greatest things that I know of. I will need a good support group and fellowship of Christians when I get out. Please continue the great work your doing and if you could put me on your mailing list I would really appreciate it.
Shawn

I'm 19 and was baptized when I was 14, but I backslid alot. I've been involved in gangs, robbery, drugs and immoral sex. As I write this letter I'm in the "hole" at the King County Jail. A buddy of mine gave me the book "Backslider". I am very influenced by Mike's biography and that's why I'm writing this letter. I don't want to disappoint my family and fiance anymore when I get out. I've started reading the Bible and praying. I am serious about changing my life.
Joshua

I enjoy reading your newsletter, seeing other Christians making it who have been where I am. It gives me strength and hope. I enjoy the testimonies of the of other inmates. I want to follow Jesus the rest of my life.
John

I read your newsletter for the first time yesterday. God bless you! As a backsliding Christian I can relate to many of the "Letters From The Heart". I lived a homosexual lifestyle for many years. I drank, drugged and hid from my family. By God's grace I am now free. For all *Christians In Recovery* I thank you for reaching out to all of us who are incarcerated and need your love and support.
Ronald

If You're Not In Recovery
Your're In Denial

More Letter's From The Heart

I was reading your newsletter and I want you to know I loved it. The articles and letters were wonderful. I'm a 37 year old male who is so very tired of doing drugs & etc... I've done about 12 years of my life in prison. I want to learn more about Christians In Recovery. I have a good friend named *Mark Zabik* who has changed his life over to God, and is very happy. But for me I'm a backslider who needs help badly. Right now I'm in *RJC* waiting to go to drug court. I need to find some sober people to hang out with. If you have any help for an old drug addict like myself, I would really appreciate it. **Randy**

I'm in prison serving a long sentence for child molestation in the first degree. I plead guilty. My victims were two sisters. They considered me to be their father, they trusted me. Their mother and I were crack heads. We squandered a very large inheritance on crack as we watched porno day after day. Eventually to satisfy my selfish, perverted desires I began to touch and fondle my girlfriends 2 girls. I did this on six or seven different occasions. Eventually I got them to touch me also. My sin found me out when they told their grandmother. The police came and I confessed. The girls were taken from their mother and I was sent to prison. I realize the life long scars I have caused. I am truly sorry. I have found forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Very grateful for your ministry. **A brother in Christ.**

Dear Anthony, (Anthony, is a CIR volunteer letter writer, and Deacon) I haven't got a letter in a long time. Your letter was great! Sue! Mike's wife wrote me a few months ago and that was the only one I have got in about a year. I'm starting to get back on track with Jesus. As for my release? I will never be getting out of prison. I will keep Jesus by me always. When I wake He is on my mind. When go to bed each night He is on my mind. Someday He will come and get me. When I go to the Chapel service I feel my faith growing. **Donald**

I am not a *drugy*, but I am a sinner. I have a loving wife and a English bull dog. I own a nice house on 2 acres. I have put my wife, and home at risk. My wife warned me but I didn't listen. I got involved in some crimes and now I'm at the SeaTac Federal Prison waiting to go to trial. I met a guy in my cell block named Dave and he started talking to me about the *Good Book* and God. For some reason I went with it. I slowly began to read the Bible and go to the Christian services, I felt "hope". I knew that God was working on me. I decided to dedicate my life to God. I have now grown very close to God and all I do is read and study the Bible and other Christian books. Recently I read the book "*Backslider*". When I get out I want to be involved in the ministry. I would like to ask if Mike and Sue could come to our cell block and share with the inmates how God can change anybody's life. Thank you. **Jason**

Dear Sue, I'm 42 years and never been in in trouble with the law. Now I find myself here in Kootenai County Jail waiting for sentencing for, forgery, petty theft and possession of meth. "I'm scared to death what will happen to me." I've been using drugs & manipulating people since I was 13. I want to change! A friend in jail turned me on to you & your husbands newsletter. (I'm not much of a reader) but, I couldn't put it down. I've always believed in God but, when I lost my husband in '85, I lost hope. I was angry with God for taking the only man that ever treated me with respect and love. At home I have 5 Bibles sitting in my closet. I never found time to sit quickly by myself & start reading. I never thought I was a good enough person to have God in my life. I now realize that all this has happened so that I could become closer to the Lord Jesus Christ! I've started reading the Bible and I pray several times a day. Sue, I only have one request, could you and Mike and the church PLEASE pray for me. I want whatever God has intended for me. God bless. Love **Kristy**

Thank you for your newsletter that I just received courtesy of *Earl John*. Earl was a friend of mine on the streets and we also served time together at *Walla Walla*. I am really glad to hear he is living in a *Christians In Recovery* discipleship house and following Jesus. **Eddie**

I would like to change my life and get away from drugs. Can you help? **Bill**

I chose to steal, I'm in Jail again. Today I have 30 days of institutional sobriety. I should be going back to prison, but again God's amazing grace and mercy has interviened. I was accepted into the drug court program. I guess "HE" hasn't given up on me yet. I'll see you guy's at the Friday night *CIR* meeting sometime this month! **Matt**

I'm at Shelton doing a one year sentence, for a crime I committed the night before you guys baptized me in *Angle Lake last summer*. Thank you for excepting me and my family into the *CIR* fellowship. Because of your welcomeness my wife (to be) and my son Sammy are attending church weekly in my absence. I'm crazy in love withn them. When I get out I would like to be married in your church on a Friday night. I now know we can't have sex anymore until we get married. I'm writing this letter to say thank you for your ministry to all of us who are a little "defective". Sometimes life is very painful. God is good! **Johnny C**

Your "**Letters From The Heart**" remind us that we are doing Fathers business!

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience, strength and hope.

Burdens and joys in life are real. God cares and so do we.

Please pray for us and all the brothers and sisters we are trying to encourage and strengthen.

Sincerely, CIR Staff

"Christians come in a lot of varieties, but *perfect* isn't one of them."

**PROGRESS
NOT
PERFECTION!**

A Word From **SUEPREMO**

“The Lord is near them that are of a contrite and broken heart.”

I am at present going through a time of breaking and testing, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

If I had wings, I could fly far away from the issues of my life...but I can't. I must face them.

Simplicity is what I like, but life isn't always that easy. We complicate simplicity with material things and unnecessary distractions.

The battle in my flesh is raging; it doesn't like what's happening. The Lord knows what is happening too. Dare I question the Almighty? NO! The battle is the Lord's but my flesh seems to think it can do a better job.

The thought enters my mind to “Praise the Lord” (yes, He who inhabits eternity and the praises of His people). I enter into His presence with praise and my burdens begin to lift. Joy begins to flow back into my spirit. A little bit of Heaven fills my flesh. I go to sleep peacefully.

When I awake it starts over again...the battle begins, my mind races. Will I try to fight in the power of my flesh or will I yield my mind to the Spirit of my Lord. The choice is always mine.

Ladies we are the “weaker vessel” the Bible says so, God ordained it that way. I confess, “I am weak, I need help!”

Life is too tough for this little girl. I need the help of my Heavenly Father! I need help from my husband. I need help from my Christian family. How about you, do you need help? Do you need prayer? Share your heart, I'll write you back.

SUEPREMO

CIR

PO BOX 98679

Des Moines, WA 98198

CIR Prayer & Share line
(206) 242-2942

Let love for your fellow believers continue and be a fixed practice with you—never let it fail.

Do not forget or neglect or refuse to **extend hospitality** to strangers

[in the brotherhood]
being friendly, cordial and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously for through it some have entertained angels without knowing it
Hebrews 13:1-2

Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them...

Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other.

Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically... When God's children are in need, you be one to help them out.

And get in the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night
Romans 12:9-13

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sin.

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.
1 Peter 4:7-9

A backslider passes a bar and sees a sign in the window:

“All you can drink \$10.”

He stops in and asks the bartender, “You mean I can have as much alcohol as I want for \$10?”

The bartender replied, “Yes, sir.”

“Great,” says the backslider, “Then give me \$20 worth.”

What is your purpose for living?

A sign that hung on the wall of Mother Teresa's office

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered,
LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives,
DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies,
SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow,
DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight,
BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help but may attack you if you help them,
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God!

I was rescued by God. I went to church last night and picked up a CIR Newsletter and took it back to my cell and read it. I need to build a foundation in my life with the Word of God. I will need a church when I get out. **Angie**

I recently accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in the King County Jail. I received a copy of the CIR newsletter and it was a blessing to read it and see that I'm not the only one going through changes and getting right with God. I came from a lifestyle of drugs, homosexuality, prostitution, and crime. I see things differently now. I'm learning how to be humble, faithful and patient. Thank you CIR! **Dennis**

I'm 37 and I just realized I don't know how to live. I'm here in prison and yet I'm happier than I've ever been in my life. God is telling me to follow in the path of the Lord. I surrender! **MC**

What The Bible Says About “Prosperity Preachers”

by Michael Premo

The infamous *JIM BAKKER* used to be a prosperity preacher. After serving 5 years in prison he changed his doctrine, (after God humbled him). He confessed and repented of his prosperity heresy and greed.

Before Brother Bakker was brought down I was a client in his recovery house called “Fort Hope”.

I and the other men in recovery used to watch these extravagant prosperity preachers being chauffeured in black limousines around the hundreds of acres of the Jim & Tammy Bakkers kingdom. These preachers were famous TV pastors and evangelists. They thought of themselves as superstars. They expected to be treated like royalty and they were.

In those days Jim’s prosperity ministry was taking in over 4 million a week through the mail. Jim received his cut of 1.9 million that year.

The humble pastor and his wife that headed up Bakker’s recovery ministry that I was part of was paid \$1,200. per month and they had kids. But, they weren’t famous, dramatic, charismatic celebrities. They were just faithful humble servants.

Greed was the reason Tammy divorced Jim after he was sent to prison. She remarried another rich guy. It’s hard to live humble (moderation) after you’ve been accustomed to living large.

The love of money is the root of evil that causes most divorces.

Love for money prevents gifted, God called, Christians from surrendering to the full-time ministry.

I appreciate the testimony of *David Wilkerson*. He is a well known evangelist and pastor, sold millions of books and for years has driven a reasonably priced Honda.

Christian leaders are tempted to bow to the temptation of greed. Jesus resisted and set the example.

Ezekiel 33:31 So they come as though they are sincere and sit before you listening. But they have no intention of doing what I tell them to; they talk sweetly about loving the Lord, but with their hearts they are loving their money.

Ezekiel 34:2- Woe to the shepherds who feed themselves instead of their flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the best food and wear the finest clothes, but you let your flocks starve...I will save my flock from being taken for their food! ...and I will destroy the powerful, fat shepherds.

Matt. 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**

Titus 1:7 For the bishop as an overseer and God’s steward must be blameless; not self-willed or arrogant or presumptuous; he must not be quick-tempered or given to drink or pugnacious (brawling, violent); he must not be grasping and **greedy for filthy lucre** (financial gain).

1 Tim. 3:2- A bishop(church leader)...not a lover of money—insatiable for wealth and ready to **obtain it by questionable means.**

2 Tim. 3:1- ...in the last days...people will be **lovers of self** and [utterly] self-centered, **lovers of money** and aroused by an inordinate (greedy) desire for wealth, **proud and arrogant...**

2 Tim. 3:3 For there is going to come a time when people won’t listen to the truth but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear. **They won’t listen to what the Bible says** but will blithely follow their own misguided ideas.

Jude 1:11 **Woe upon them!** For they will follow the example of Cain who killed his brother; and like Balaam, **they will do anything for money;**

Prosperity preachers manipulate the church to sacrificially give, so that they can extravagantly live.

Rev. 3:15 I know your [record of] works...I will spew you out of my mouth! For **YOU SAY**, I am rich, I have **prospered and grown wealthy**, and I am in need of nothing; and...you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, naked.

2 Peter 2:3 These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money.

Isaiah 56:11 And they are greedy as dogs, never satisfied; they are stupid shepherds who only look after their own interest, each trying to get as much as he can for himself from every possible source.

Jeremiah 6:13 They are swindlers and liars, from the least of them right to the top! Yes, even my prophets and priests!

1 Tim. 6:5 ...men who are corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth, who imagine that godliness or righteousness is a source of profit—a money making business, a means of livelihood. From such withdraw.

Titus 1:11 And it must be stopped. Already whole families have been turned away from the grace of God. **Such teachers are only after your money.**

1 Tim. 4:1, 2 But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. These teachers will **tell lies with straight faces** and do it so often that their consciences won’t even bother them.

The host of the TV “*Giveothon*” declares “Three people that are listening to this program are being challenged to give one million dollars to this ministry. If you are obedient to give your significant gift, God in return is prepared to give back to you a significant blessing.”

Preachers can get rich this way if they are willing to become a phony, slick salesperson. If they are willing to twist scripture, lie and dirty their character by greed. How far they are willing to corrupt themselves will determine their degree of “*prosperity*”.



Paul Austin

Paul came to a *CIR* meeting as an alcoholic in recovery. He's had (3) DUI's. He testified with joy that he had 6 years of sobriety. But, he failed to mention that he had a habit of looking at Internet porn and that he was sexually active with a Christian Sister that he was not married to.

Paul came to another meeting and the Holy Spirit jumped all over him. He confessed his fornication and porn issue. He asked for prayer and repented. He sought accountability and fellowship. That was about 18 months ago.

Recently Paul was ordained as a Deacon. He is on full-time staff being trained for the ministry. He's learning how to be a servant. He's learning how to be faithful. He's learning how to praise Jesus in everything. He's learning how to be swift to hear and slow to speak. He's learning to be content abounding or abasing. He is learning as a disciple to carry his cross and die daily.

Paul was saved in a prison cell in Seward, Alaska. He served God faithfully for a short season. He got a taste of the goodness of God and the fellowship of His people. Then he compromised his convictions and became just another backslider.

The Holy Spirit drew Paul back. He messed-up the first half of his life, but God has a powerful plan for the second half.

Paul is a wretched sinner saved by grace and he knows it. He fits in with all the other imperfect leaders in this ministry.

CIR welcomes Brother Paul as part of the family. We love him, and God loves him more!

DENIAL

An unconscious defense mechanism characterized by refusal to acknowledge painful realities, thoughts, or feelings.
(Webster's Dictionary)

OJ said he didn't do it, "the glove don't fit".

Mr. Clinton said he didn't have sex with "that" girl.

Prosperity preachers thinking that God wants them to be extravagantly rich, by manipulating Christians.

Fat preachers thinking they are the moral majority.

Jesse Jackson thinking he's a *reverend* and not a politician.

Republicans thinking that God is on "their side".

Homosexuals thinking that God approves of their life-style choices.

Christians "shacking-up" and thinking that they don't have to be married.

Denial, we've all done it! Sadly we'll all do it again. Some do it more smoothly than others. Some are habitual at it.

Painful realities are hard to confess.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

James 5:16

After confession and prayer comes *repentance*.

Godly sorrow combined with a healthy fear will motivate a Christian to repent.

REPENT means to change. If you drink and drug you stop. If you lie and steal you stop. If you curse and gossip you stop.

This total package doesn't happen in a day or week. This process takes a lifetime, one step at a time, one confession at a time.

Without humility it will never begin. Without humility it will not continue. With humility we will come out of denial one day at a time.

MyVirtuous Lady

by Michael Premo

Sweet SUEPREMO, and I are getting away for the weekend to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.

I wanted to sweep her away to Hawaii, she's never been. But, it was not to be. Yet, because of her virtue she is abounding with joy about spending two nights in the *Doubletree*, across the street from the Lloyd's Center (a huge mall) in Portland. It's costing \$274.00 including tax and a parking fee. That's the most we have ever spent on a two day Hotel stay.

An elders wife handed Sue a fifty dollar bill last night in church and said "You and Mike go out for a nice dinner." Another close girl friend handed her fifty bucks and said, "Buy something for yourself." Sue, was so excited and thankful as she shared her blessing with me.

She grew up in a small two bedroom, 1 bath house in Aberdeen, Washington with (6) brothers and (1) sister and two beautiful hard working, loving parents. Sue, has good memories of her childhood.

For twenty five years *sweet Sue* has traveled down many roads with her *in recovery* husband. She's never owned her own house. Her cars have always been older. She jumps up and down with child like joy when I bring her home a coat I got for ten dollars at the Goodwill store. Sue thinks of others before herself. She lives to give, and she likes it that way.

A virtuous woman
who can find?

Did I find one
or did God find one for me?

Virtuous woman are not
bought with silver or gold.

Her beauty is deep,
love is in her eyes.

She rises and sings to Jesus,
gives me oatmeal with a kiss.

Your right,

I don't deserve this!

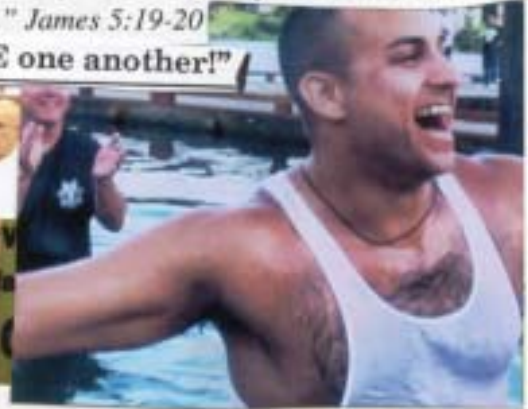
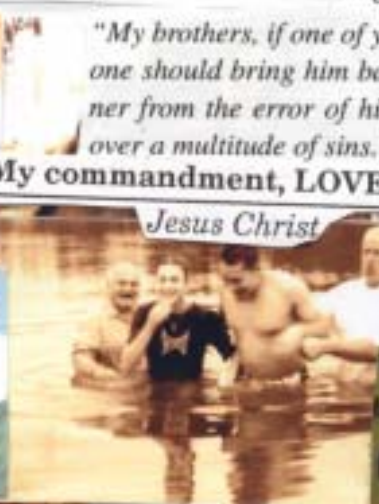
Maybe, it's got something
to do with amazing grace.
SUEPREMO, my virtuous wife,
thank you for 25 years.

Jesus said, GO therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...

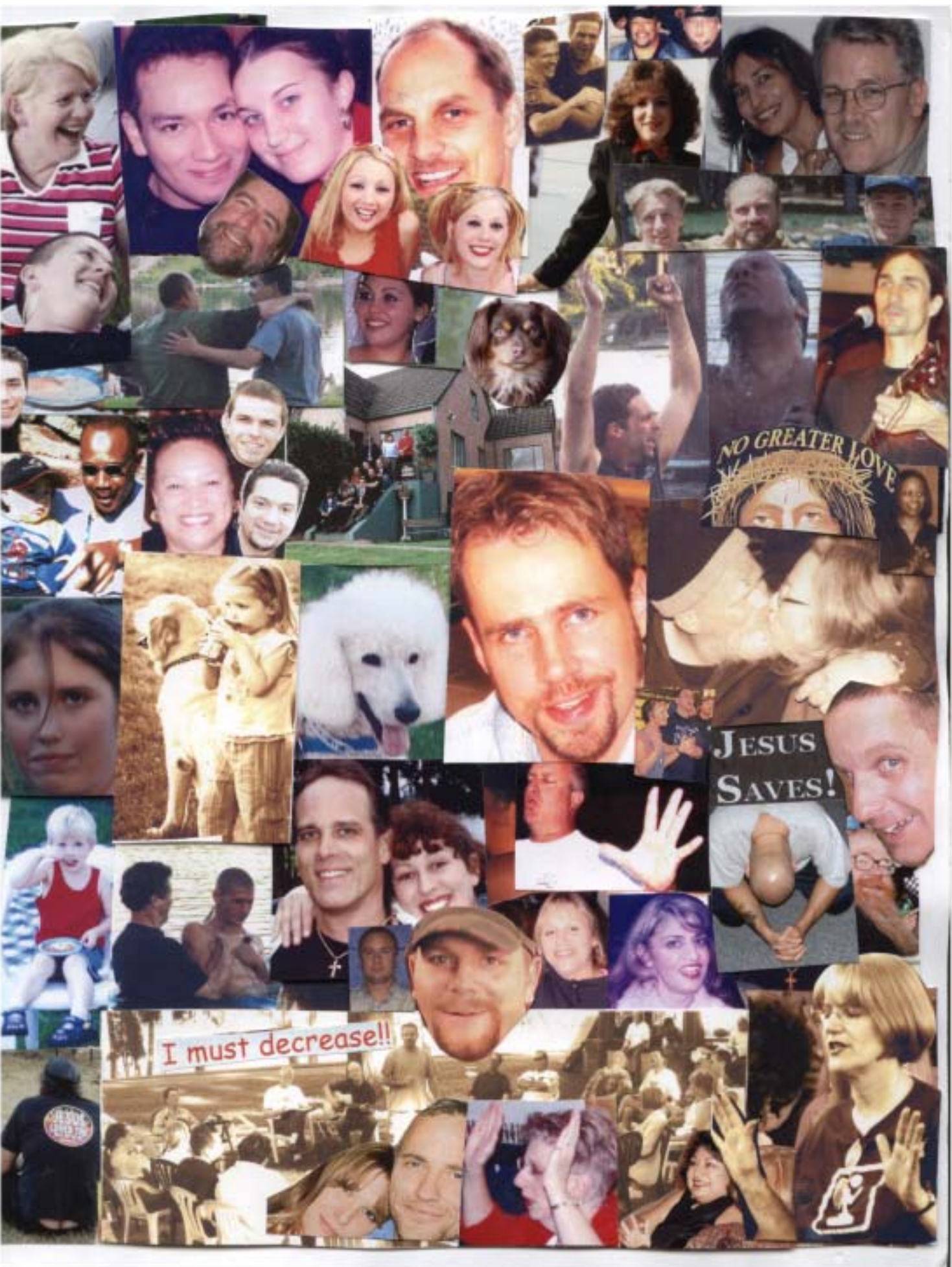
"My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whosoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20

"This is My commandment, LOVE one another!"

Jesus Christ



I love JESUS!!



I must decrease!!

NO GREATER LOVE

JESUS SAVES!



TROPHIES OF GOD'S GRACE



Barbara

I've been married (9) times, seven to the same man. Graduated from college, Been clean and sober over 20 years.

I counsel and teach women on how to handle life on God's terms.

My husband and I have been part of the *CIR fellowship* for over three years. During this time my husband backslid many times. He likes crack, pain pills and "street walkers". He absolutely refuses to stop smoking.

The reason I've married him seven times is because I love him. The reason I've divorced Him six times is because I can't stand him.

When I've been unfaithful to God and it happens a lot, He always forgives me, takes me back and reveals His love to me. I never deserve it! How can I not forgive my husband after what God has done for me?

My husband is a Christian. Like me he's in recovery. Neither one of us is perfect, but we're making progress. Sometimes I think of myself as "better" than my husband. Then I realize with my nine marriages many Christians could think of themselves as "better" than me.

Life is hard for me. My mother recently died. I work long hours in the business world. I never know what my husband is up to. My health isn't the greatest. I have a cross to carry. Someday's I carry it better than others. I am determined to finish my course. Obeying the Word of God is difficult sometimes. I love Jesus!

If your hurting, write me.



Anthony

I was born into a disfunctional family. In school I had a hard time doing what was asked of me. I got into a lot of trouble. I was pulled out of school and became state property. I felt like a reject.

I managed to go through a couple of marriages and helped raise 5 kids.

Years of drinking and drugs began to take it's toll. In my brokenness I began to admit my need for God's help. Slowly I began to experience His love.

I lived in a downtown mission for almost two years. I cleaned toilets after dozens of street people were finished throwing up and making huge messes. God was teaching me how to become a man of God.

I came to *Christians In Recovery* about three years ago. Pastor Premo told me about the discipleship program. I checked it out for awhile. It was made clear that if I chose to become a disciple it would take a serious commitment. *I wasn't ready*. I went off in a different direction. I needed to get my butt kicked some more. Sometimes I'm hard headed.

About a year ago I came back to Brother Premo and said *"I'm ready and I want to be a man of God."* I was given the right hand of fellowship and moved into a discipleship house. Living large in a simple way.

I decided to lose my life so that I could find it. My purpose has become clear. I'm addicted to the ministry of the saints. I study the Bible, and do my work as unto God. The Father's business is my work.



Sharon

I use to walk the street as a prostitute. I sold my body to strangers. Now I walk the street as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. I still talk to strangers, but my message is different. My message is the Gospel.

I'm on a mission for God. Since I was born again I have become a *"Jesus Freak"*.

God wants me to tell everybody about Jesus, and I want to.

By God's grace I survived living in the drug jungle. I've been clean and sober for 2 years. I attend AA meetings and I'm not bashful about telling them who my "Higher Power" is. They've heard it before, but I'm going to keep lifting up Jesus.

I'm a member of the *Seattle Christians In Recovery*. They understand where I've come from. They give me fellowship. I feel comfortable with other sinners saved by grace.

I'm not ashamed of my testimony. I've been forgiven of all my terrible sins. I was blind and now I see. If I don't praise Him, I would be an unthankful coward.

In the last year God gave me a Christian husband. I told him about my past and he married and accepted me just like Jesus has. This last summer my husband and I were baptized in Angle Lake. Our future we trust into the hands of God!

You are encouraged to write any of these *Trophys of God's Grace*.

CIR

PO BOX 98679

Seattle, WA 98198

AIRING DIRTY LAUNDRY

Society and most church people don't believe in exposing their dark past or in confessing present struggles.

Reasons for not coming out of the closet are obvious.

1. It's nobody's business.
2. It could hinder my future.
3. It is humbling.
4. What about my imagine.
5. It could brand me.
6. It's too shameful.

The fact is our personal testimony includes the ugly, along with the good stuff.

Discretion and timing are considerations when exposing the real us.

The truth sets us free. The truth is what hurting people relate to.

King David, confessed the ugliness of his sin and so did the apostle Paul. Somehow this reality brought glory to God.

These two great men could have kept their dark side hidden or even denied they had a dark side. They could have projected total strength.

Why did they expose their weakness?

Mary Magdaline was known in the Christian community as a women with a past, an ugly past. She had seven demons cast out of her body. Yet, God somehow got glorified by this testimony.

Jesus saves only one kind of people. People with dirty laundry.

Amazing grace that saved a **wretch** like me. "Oh wretched man that I am! There is none that is good, no not one." Yeah, we have some good days and moments when we shine. But compared to Jesus we flat out miss the mark!

Christians who want to project an imagine of strength and personal holiness will be resisted.

God is looking to use those who have nothing to boast about.

We are saints!

Is spiritual (seeks to please God)
Is humble
Is a great giver
Is joyful
Is a people person
Is a forgiver
Is full of grace
Is disciplined
Is sincere
Is motivated by love
Is seeking to glorify God
Is thankful in everything
Is Spirit controlled with words
Is at peace and trusts God
Is evangelistic
Is a diligent student of the Bible
Is a prayer warrior
Is a radical worshipper of God
Is patient and kind
Is a speaker of truth spoken by love
Is caring and compassionate
Is honoring to the physical body (exercise and healthy diet)
Is submissive to authority
Is faithful (keeps word)

Is a SAINT

The Christian is a saved sinner. We were lost sinners. We sin less and our sins might be different since becoming Christians. But we are still wretched sinners saved only by the grace of God. In the flesh we are ugly, in the Spirit we are beautiful.

The spirit is willing the flesh is weak! The Spirit wars against the flesh. The flesh does not want to submit to the Spirit. Every day a Christian battles between the will of the Father and the will of the flesh. This battle between the flesh and the Spirit will continue until we die or Jesus returns. Humility brings victory. Pride guarantee's defeat.

Jesus had the same war and he won every battle. He was tempted, just like us. He resisted every temptation. He denied His flesh and obeyed the Father, every single time, everyday.

Unlike JESUS, we fail everyday in some area of our life. We win some, we lose some. Some days we yield to the Spirit and choose to let love rule. Other days we are selfish, lazy complainers. Sometimes we except responsibility for all actions, other times we are blamershifters or we just deceive ourselves and refuse to admit and confess our sin.

Romans 7:22- I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned; But there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free. So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus.

We are sinners!

Is carnal (seeks to please flesh)
Is prideful
Is selfish (greedy)
Is depressed
Is standoffish (isolates)
Is unforgiving
Is judgemental (nick picker)
Is lazy
Is double minded
Is motivated by personal gain
Is seeking personal credit
Is negative and unthankful
Is a gossip, backbiter, negative
Is fearful and trusts in people
Is hypocritical and self-centered
Is neglectful in personal study
Is not spiritually minded
Is reserved about praising God
Is impatient and rude
Is a liar and cannot be trusted
Is cold and unconcerned
Is a defiler of Temple (gluttony, lazy, smoker) etc.
Is rebellious and unruly
Is unfaithful (undependable)

Is a SINNER

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO HEAVEN!

by Michael Premo

Is your name written in the "Book of Life? If it is, you will be spending eternity in Heaven!

If you die without your name recorded in the "Book of Life" you will be cast into the "Lake of Fire". No ifs or buts about it. It is written and so shall it be!

The Holy Bible declares that it is appointed for all people to die and then be judged by God!

Heaven or Hell, that's all there is. Heaven is ALL good! Hell is ALL bad! Your eternity will be spent in one of these two places.

Do you know if you're going to Heaven? If you don't, PRAY now and ask God to help you understand the following scriptures.

John 3:3... Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God."

John 3:15-18 That whoever believes in Him **should not perish** but **have eternal life**. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life**. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Acts 2:21 And it shall be that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord—that is, invoking, adoring and worshipping the Lord (Christ)—**shall be saved**.

1 John 5:9 ...surely we can believe whatever God declares. And God declares that Jesus is His Son. All who believe this know in their hearts that it is true. If anyone doesn't believe this, he is actually calling God a liar, because he doesn't believe what God has said about His Son. And what is it that God has said? That He has given us eternal life, and that **this life is in His Son**. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have His Son, does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that **you may know you have eternal life**.

Romans 10:9, 10 For **if** you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved**. For it is by **believing in his heart** that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth **he tells others of his faith**, confirming his salvation.

To go to Heaven one must be "saved" or "born again". People who have experienced this will confess their devotion and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I was born again in 1971. *I got saved!* My name was written in the Lambs Book of Life. I received by faith God's gift of eternal life. I did not deserve it then and I do not deserve it now. It is only by amazing grace that anyone gets to go to Heaven.

I prayed a simple prayer and my life was changed forever. Since 1971 all my sins have been completely forgiven. God offered me His love and grace. I received it. Since then I have fallen on my face many times. He has enabled me to rise from each fall.

Do you want to go to Heaven? The choice is yours.

Humble yourself. Be quiet, be still and examine your life.

What is your purpose for living? What is the purpose of life? Where does God fit into the big picture? How big is God and how big are you? What if Jesus is everything Christians and the Bible say He is?

If you want to go to Heaven, pray NOW.

Ask God to forgive your sin.
Receive Jesus as your Lord.
Thank Him and praise Him!
Go to a Christian Church.
Tell people about your faith.
Take one day at a time.
Read the Bible (daily).
Do what the Bible teaches.

P.S. See ya in Heaven!

Michael Premo is the founding pastor of *Seattle Recovery Fellowship*, located in Seattle, Washington. He is also the Director of *Christians In Recovery*, a Seattle based ministry that focuses on restoring backslidden and self righteous Christians.

He has received thousands of letters from around the world from those who have read or heard his personal testimony.

To receive a free newsletter or more information about this ministry please write *Christians In Recovery*, P.O. Box 98679, Seattle WA 98198

Jail Ministry

By James Tibbetts

In jail, the stage has been set by God. He has prepared the hearts of His people. He has brought them to a place of brokenness. A place where they can hear God speak. He is drawing them by His Spirit and then walks in a faithful jail minister.

What does the jail minister bring to these hungry broken souls? We must bring them the GOOD NEWS! God loves them and Jesus saves! We must bring them hope and understanding.

Remember back to the moment that you were saved. How did God get your attention? Did God prepare your heart to receive His message?

There are at least four types of people in jail. Those who are Christians and need encouragement. Those who are not Christians but are open to God. Those who have hard hearts and not open to God's love. Those who are mature disciples of Christ and are ready and willing to minister to the jail minister.

The mature jail minister goes behind the wall wanting only God's will to be done. It's all about God's agenda. The Holy Spirit must lead the program!

Things to consider.

Think of others better than yourself. *Phil. 2:3* Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Be humble.

Gal. 6:3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing he deceives himself.

Be sincere. *1 Tim. 1:5* The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Do not be afraid of looking foolish. You don't have to be perfect. If you are sincere and humble God will honor your efforts.

Stay out of God's way. *Zech. 4:6* So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

If you come with your own agenda you may miss out on what God wanted to do, or worse yet, get in His way.

Be sensitive to the need of the moment. *Eph. 4:29* ...but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Without shame pray and praise God. *Acts 16:25* About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Keep it simple. *1 Cor. 2:1-* When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power.

Be faithful. *Rev. 19:11* I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True...

I was introduced to the jail ministry by Mike Premo and he instilled in me the importance of being faithful. He said "Give me a faithful man over a gifted man any day."

Stay away from foolish arguments. *Titus 3:9* But avoid foolish controversies ...because they are unprofitable and useless.

Be like Jesus and relate. *Heb. 13:3* Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners,...

Do not be ashamed for the inmates but put yourself in their shoes and sympathize with them. If you or I were caught for all our crimes throughout our life would not we also be locked up? *But for the grace of God there go I!*

Do we think we are better? If we do, then we are deceived and not able to effectively relate to other sinners.

Who is qualified to be a jail minister? *Is. 6:8* Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here am I. Send me!

1 Cor. 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

A little over three years ago I rededicated my life back to God. I repented of my self indulgent lifestyle and asked God to make me a true disciple of Jesus. I committed to be a faithful jail minister.

I'm doing the work of the ministry. I have been given the opportunity to participate and not just sit in a pew and observe. I like the action.

Serving God is now my purpose for living.

James Tibbetts lives in West Seattle with his wife Cynthia and son Trenton. He is the Director of the CIR jail ministry, training and taking volunteers into local, state and Federal prisons. He also serves as an elder in his local church, *Seattle Recovery Fellowship*.

Would you like to learn more about becoming part of the jail ministry? James is waiting to encourage and assist you.

MORE LETTERS FROM THE HEART

My name is John Hopkins I have received so many blessings after reading the book *"Backslider"*. I am now totally sold out to God. Last summer I won a bible from your ministry for an article I wrote on "Evangelizing behind the wall". While at *RJC* I used the bible you sent me in my study group. When I was sent to the state prison I was forced to surrender all my personal property, including the bible and all my copies of the *CIR* newsletters. It is a hope of mine that you could dig-up some old copies and please mail them to me? The Chaplain here is loaning me a nice study bible (praise God) so I'm set up in that area. When I get out in Six months I will be given back my bible that I won from the *CIR* ministry. I pray for the victims of my crimes (I did property crimes). I pray for my loved ones whom I've hurt by not being there to be part of their everyday lives. I pray that God would heal me. I put in a lot of time with Satan in my past by ignoring Gods love. I prayed that God would provide me with fellowship and He has. I prayed that God would provide me with a Christian cellie and you can guess what happened. On the "Chain-Bus" ride to Shelton I started talking to a young man about God (Evenwyne). He seemed to truly love God. When we arrived at the prison and received our cell assignments, they put me and Evenwyne in the same cell. Praise God! We study God's word, fellowship and even sing praise songs to God everyday. Your ministry has been a life saver for me. Without your encouragement I could still been lost. **John**

I am a backsliddin Christian. I am currently in the Seatac Federal Prison because of my sin. As a result of my sin I have lost my marriage of 15 years. I destroyed friendships, trust, respect and community standing. I am now carrying a label for the rest of my life. I have admitted my sins and asked for Gods forgiveness. I lost everything but I have regained my walk with God. I know without any doubt that God has not forsaken me. Last Monday I attended my first *Christian In Recovery* support group here at the prison. The Holy Spirit was in that meeting. I have a 18 month sentence but when I am released I would like to start a *CIR* chapter in Oregon. Until then I will continue to attend your weekly *CIR* meeting behind the wall. For the first time in a very long time, despite my surroundings, I am at peace. **Lee**

Every month *Chaplain Peck* (Walla Walla) sends me Christian literature as I'm locked up in a cell 24 hrs. per day, so reading Christian materials is my fellowship with others. For the 1st time I was given a *CIR* newsletter and "WOW". Finally people I can relate to and who understand me and who are not ashamed to admit "We all fall short of the glory of God, even those who love the Father and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. As I was reading *Letters From The Heart, Trophies of God's grace, Just sharing my heart, and Restoring Fallen Leaders, by Jim Feeney*, I felt as if I were in a church of Spirit filled, Jesus praising believers. Thank you sooo much for such inspiring & uplifting fellowship. I got all this and more from (1) *CIR* newsletter. I've been "down" 8 years for a drug charge. I will be getting out soon. I prayed and asked the Lord to send me to a church that He wants me to be part of. I'm asking if I can be released to your ministry. I promise to participate and abide by all the rules and duties. I desire to contribute something back. I hope and look forward to fellowship with you, till then please join me in prayer: *Bring my soul out of prison; the righteous shall surround me, for the Lord shall deal bountifully with me.* Psalm 142:7 **Julian**

I went to prison chapel this morning and got a word. *Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good character. These types of people should be avoided, lazy & slothful who have no vision and the angry and immoral. The kind of people God wants us to hang around will motivate and encourage us in the will of God. We should hang out with people who are sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle and patient. Sympathy meets two fundamental human needs 1) the need to be understood. 2) the need to have your feelings validated. Sympathetic Christians will build friendship and fellowship. Real Christian fellowship is a place where mistakes are not rubbed in, but rubbed out. Where mercy wins over justice.* **Gary**

Secrets & Lies—everyone has pain.
So be kind. Everyone you meet
is fighting a battle!

I was a gang member in the street and then I became a Texas prison gang member. Now I am a true sold out gang member for Jesus Christ. When I read your *CIR newsletter* compassion came on me toward all those lost sheep your trying to reach. Thank you for touching the outcast of this world with the message of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please send more newsletters. I love you guys. **Reynadozo**

The Chaplain let me pass out your newsletter to all the girls in our city jail. I told them to pass them on after their done reading. I tell the girls in jail that Jesus identifies with them more than with a lot of free world people who think they have it all together. His heart is for those who know they are imperfect Please send more newsletters. **Aunt Connie**

Dear *CIR*, thank you for sending your newsletters. I'm a 37 year old dope fiend from hell. I want to stop backsliding. I've done over 14 years in prison. Currently I'm in *RJC* waiting for drug court. I read *CIR* newsletters over and over every week. They make me feel that I have really accepted my Savior into my heart. **Randy**

I want to congratulate *CIR* for your ministry accomplishments. I have been a severe backslider. I read *"Backslider"* about a year ago and was moved by that book. My relationship is strong with God now. I don't ever want to backslide again. I want to do God's will, not mine. Before I ended up here in prison I was building my little empire. I owned 30 houses and had a job that paid me over 100,000. per year. My wife and children went to church with me each Sunday. My kids went to a private school. Then one day I ran into an old friend who gave me a bag of speed. I was so solid in my life situation that I thought I could handle it. That first bad decision led to many more. In three years I lost my family, my houses, became broke and homeless and now find myself in prison serving 29 months for writing bad checks. When I get out I want to make myself available to the *CIR* ministry. I want to live the rest of my life for God's purposes. Your Brother in Christ. **Mike**

Christians In Recovery Good News Letter is published on a semi-regular basis and mailed as the Lord provides through His people.

This ministry operates on a shoestring budget. Volunteers freely give of their talents and finances to help make this labor of love a reality.

Of the thousands of letters we have received, very seldom will a donation be included in the envelope. The majority of the people we reach are broke or in prison.

We need money for postage and printing. Our short term goal is to send this newsletter to every prison on the west coast, including Alaska. With your help we will do it. Thank you for your consideration.

We accept any donations of of legitimate value. Running vehicles, good furniture, building materials, tools, jewelry, real estate and etc. Come by and break bread with us. *Anytime!*

(Eggs & Toast and the Holy Ghost)

Help Wanted!

Want to serve God?

Qualifications:

1. Willing to give.
2. Ability to follow instructions.
3. Willing to be humble and faithful.

(Help needed)

1. Prayer warriors
2. Phone counselors
3. Letter writers to prisoners
4. Computer expert (Mac)
5. Expert web page creator
6. Writing and editing
7. Public relations
8. Physical laborers
9. Good cooks

Want to take your faith into a jail or prison? We are looking for faithful volunteers.

We are seeking
Worshippers — Not performers
Servants — Not stars
Can you play a music instrument?
Pray about it; Then meet us at the
Friday night recovery fellowship.

(Beans & Rice and Jesus Christ)

A backsliders prayer

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hysop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You...
Psalm 51:

Name _____

Address _____

I would like the following names put on your Christians In Recovery prayer list: _____

Please send newsletter

I'd like to help!! Amount enclosed: \$ _____

CIR is A Not-For-Profit interdenominational ministry. We are available night or day to help the Christian who is struggling. We offer Biblical counseling, support groups, hope and fellowship. Our "Higher Power" is the Lord Jesus Christ!

With your prayer and support this newsletter will continued to be printed. **Thank You!**

Christians In Recovery
PO Box 98679 Seattle, WA 98198
(206)242-2942



Meeting at Midway Covenant Church
22460 24th Ave. South Des Moines, WA 98198

Fridays at 7:30 PM (206) 242-2942
(If you get lost, don't be shy. Pray and God will show the way!)

This NewsLetter may be viewed or downloaded for FREE at: <http://www.skybreeze.com/srf/news3.pdf>

Every member is in recovery. The leaders are all the chief of sinners. A congregation that needs amazing grace. Discipleship is about progress not perfection. The Holy Bible is our book of final authority. Spirit and truth worship is our goal. The Holy Spirit is encouraged to lead our services. Jesus is Boss! Love is the greatest!

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PO BOX 98679
Des Moines, WA 98198

**JESUS
IS
BOSS!**

Hurting people getting help—By helping hurting people.