



# "An Inside Look"

*Our Father's Persistent Love Ministries, Inc. • P.O. Box 871, Oakhurst, New Jersey 07755*

*A Prison Ministry*

*Fall 2012*

## "Rockin' For The Rock"

My name is Victor Muglia and I'm currently serving a 38-year sentence. But the good news is that I'm currently serving the Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Music has always been a huge part of my life. From a young age, I've pursued musical perfection to the point of no return. Unfortunately, everything up until now was simply in vain. I thought I was a rock-star. Immersed in sexual immorality, disobedience, and drugs, I became an ego-driven character who used music to justify the perversion I believed in. I drank and drugged to the point of losing my mind, which inevitably led me to the terrible offense I had committed. Now I'm in prison.

However, there was a Rock-Star greater than I could have ever imagined. This Rock-star showed me love when my heart was filled with regret, sorrow, and self-hate. This Rock-star saved me from self-destruction. This Rock-star is the one who is the Rock of Salvation, the star from Jacob. Praise His name and His infallible holiness!

When the Rock came into my life, I was crushed beneath the weight and was broken. But the Spirit of God filled my heart, unflattened my body, and fully healed the cuts and bruises. I sought forgiveness, reconciliation, and a heart of love and selflessness. A mind of humility, was given to me. The Lord revealed to me His path of obedience and plan for me. His plan was to use me for His glory and to influence others toward Christ. I knew I was blessed to have the gift of music to use for His glory. First and foremost though, I must abide by His commandments, follow His footsteps, and seek His kingdom.

Since receiving Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I have accepted my role as a guitarist for the EJSP Choir. I express my love for God through the music, praise and worship. I hope people will see the Rock that is hovering over me, and that He is using me for His glory. I hope I can influence people to come to Christ through the music.

I used to rock for women, myself, and other worldly pleasures. Now I rock for the One Who is the Rock!



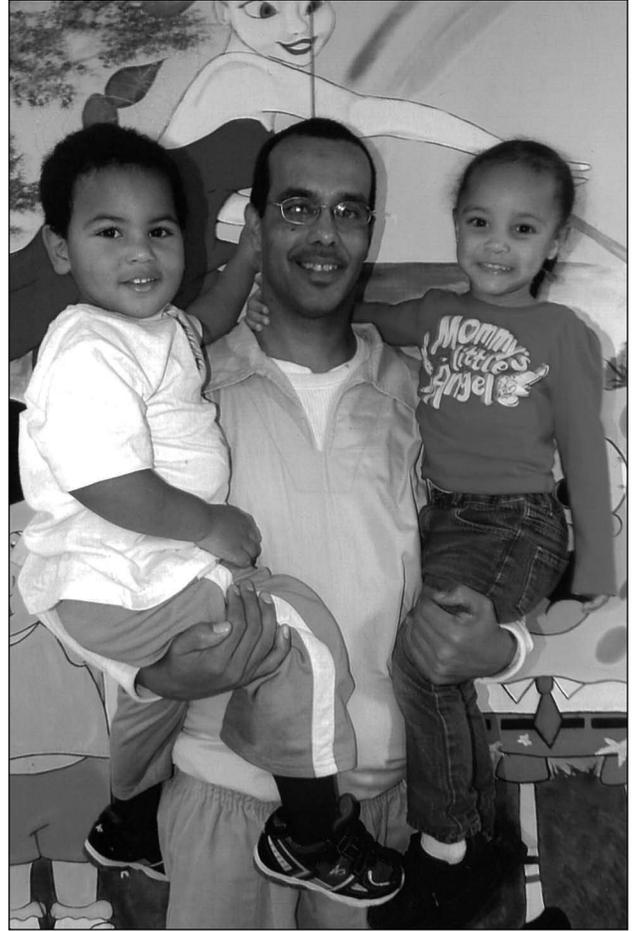
*Left to Right  
Joanne, Sarah, Victor, & Victor Sr.*

*"Let God be exalted, the rock of my salvation." (II Sam. 22:47)*

## *"Finally Home"*

My name is Jaime Figueroa and this is my testimony. I'm 43 years old and serving an 11 year sentence. This is my 3rd prison bid. I've spent most of my life in trouble and in and out of jail. Sadly, I've led a life full of sin, deceit, and destruction. I never cared about who or what I hurt, just as long as I got what I wanted.

The last time I was arrested in October of 2010 was my breaking point. I was locked up in the Monmouth County Jail and was feeling like my life was over. I began to attend Bible study classes that were given by a man I will never forget, Brother Bob. In the first few classes I was very quiet and curious. You see I've been running from the Lord my whole life. All I wanted was to party and feel good. I never really knew that Who I was running from, was Who I should have been running to! I began praying, asking for guidance and for a sign from God if He was really real. Then, one morning I was taken to municipal court for a disorderly charge. I was given a small fine and was waiting with other inmates in the courtroom to return to the county jail. A woman I've never met or even seen before walked up to the officer that was with us and handed him a receipt for me. She had paid my fine! I thanked her and she looked me in the eyes, smiled, and said, "God bless you!" To me that was the sign I was looking for. The next time Brother Bob came to the county, I gave myself to the Lord. I feel it's the best decision I have ever made and even though I'm still incarcerated, I've never felt more at peace in my whole life!



*Joshua (Grandson), Jamie, Zy'miah  
& Joanne (Grandaughter)*

From the county jail I was classified to go to Southwoods Prison but I didn't want to because it was too far from my home. My wife who has been saved since 1992 told me the Lord would put me where he wanted me. I ended up going to East Jersey State Prison (Rahway) and I am so blessed because the Christian services here are awesome! No other prison in NJ has services like ours! We are truly blessed here. I have a long road ahead of me and I still struggle at times with certain things. I have trust and faith though in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and know that He will keep His promise and work it all out for the good. (Rom.8:28)

I now have confidence that my life isn't over. Really it has just begun! I've learned so much in my short walk with Jesus. I care about others now and I've learned how to love. I thought I knew what love was, but I was wrong. If you haven't given your life over to Jesus Christ, please do it now. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone! Believe me it will be the best decision you have ever made! I'll be praying for you.

## *"Peace Discovered"*

My name is Philip Gonzalez and I am 51 years old. I have two sisters and a brother and I am the youngest of four. I would like to share a little of my testimony with you about what Jesus Christ has done for me. Before I was "saved" I "thought" I was living the good life, but I was wrong. As a child, I was raised Catholic and we went to church fairly regularly. I also made my sacraments (Catholic requirements). At that point, I "thought" I knew who God was.

When I started getting a little older I didn't care for the church at all. I had better things to do, like hanging out with my friends, going to the bar or just partying all night. There were also the bar fights and the violence. I knew it was wrong but it didn't matter. That's the way it was. That is exactly what the devil wants us to believe that such behavior is okay. Well, it is not.

It says in II Timothy 2:22, "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." In verse 26 it says "...and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

Eventually, I settled down a bit, got married and bought a house. Life was good and we had a baby, it's a boy! Everything was going good for several years, yet, I wound up getting a divorce. As time went on, I started going to nightclubs and listening to different bands at different bars. I actually met an awesome lady who became my second wife. To this day, I love her very deeply with all of my heart and I thank God for her every moment.

My job was in construction. I built and fixed whatever it took to get the job done. Sometimes at the end of the week after work on Friday, we would sit around and drink or go to the bar or both. That was never good because I had to drive home, and as we all know, drinking & driving do not mix! One Friday while driving home I had a very bad accident and an innocent person lost their life.

I was charged and sentenced to 16 years (with mandatory 85%). After the accident, but before going



*Philip and Lisa Gonzalez*

to prison, I was mentally a mess. I just could not believe what had happened! Something inside of me said, "You need to go to church." I thought, "But where would I go? I know that my brother-in-law goes to some church so maybe I should ask him?" He was more than happy to take me. I was "shocked" because it actually made me feel a little better, so I kept going back. I then met the Pastor, we talked and he prayed for me. I also met other good Christian men and they prayed for me too. Finally, I confessed my sins and received Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. That was the best decision I have ever made! Since then, I have the loveliest lady and the best marriage in the whole world because, by grace, we are now in Christ! I have also quit smoking after 35 years! Above all, in this nut house, I have an inner peace that comes only from the Lord! So don't delay, please come now and find "your" rest in the Lord!

## *"The Long Way Home"*

My name is Jimmy Reed. I was raised in Asbury Park, New Jersey by a wonderful mother who was also raising my three brothers and sisters alone. Growing up was a real challenge for us but nonetheless we did the best that we could. I never knew my biological father, not his name or even what he looked like. To this day I still do not know whether he is alive or dead. My family was not very spiritual or should I say "church going," however we did believe in God.



I must admit that I could not grasp the concept of God being a living spirit and not a living person in the flesh that I could see with my own eyes. To put it plain and simple, I had no faith! While growing up I was introduced to the drug game at the age of ten, unbeknownst to me by a so-called friend of the family. I remember that he used to give me big manila envelopes with smaller envelopes in them, and I would take them wherever he wanted. One day I got curious and opened one up and discovered it was weed so I took some and that was the beginning of my downfall.

I started hustling with a few friends and at the same time I joined the "Nation of gods and earths." At the time this was my answer to God because they taught that I was God and I accepted that because they said they were God too and I could physically see them. Over the many years I began to have many doubts about their teachings because the same ones who professed to be gods, including myself, were the biggest drug dealers in the neighborhood! I realized that this was a contradiction but I stayed with it because it was normal in my hood. How foolish I was! Eventually I did something that I will regret for the rest of my life, I took a life over money!

During my time in prison, which was 12 years, I parted from that belief system, but I did not come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior yet. I was just wandering in the wilderness. I went home and went back to my old ways of selling drugs and before I knew it, I was right back in jail. While I was in the county jail I got a letter from my girl and she said that she was praying for me. Those simple words led me to pick up a Bible and start to read it. At the time I did not understand what I was reading but my curiosity, or should I say God's love for me, made me press on. I started to attend Bible study and before long it all started to make sense to me. Even though I was a sinner God sent His only begotten Son to die for my sins that I might have everlasting life!

I now have a true Father in my life and I know who He is! I now realize that it is because of God's grace and mercy that I am here today alive and well! God is good and everyday I seek him so that my relationship with Him stays as strong as possible. I have two more years to go. I know that when I get home it will be tough but I also know that with God in my life I will be alright!

## *"A Spiritual Transplant"*

My name is George Lane and I'm 37 yrs. old. I was born in Perth Amboy, NJ but moved to Easton, PA at a young age and was raised there. I was brought up in a good home by my mother and a very loving step-father. At the age of 17 I graduated high school and thought I was wise enough to do things on my own.

That simply was not the case at all. I soon fell into the streets and to a world of drugs headfirst. I wrestled with a heroin addiction for 10 long years. Amidst all of the insanity, I physically lost the beat of my heart on three different occasions. All three times there was nothing else worldly doctors could do. But glory be to God for His tender loving mercy and I was brought back to life.

At that time I didn't know I had a need for Jesus Christ in my life. I didn't know Him but He knew and wanted me even though I didn't deserve Him. Now that's unconditional love that only the Lord is capable of. You see my heart was hardened. I had yet to receive a spiritual heart beat (Exodus 10:1-2).

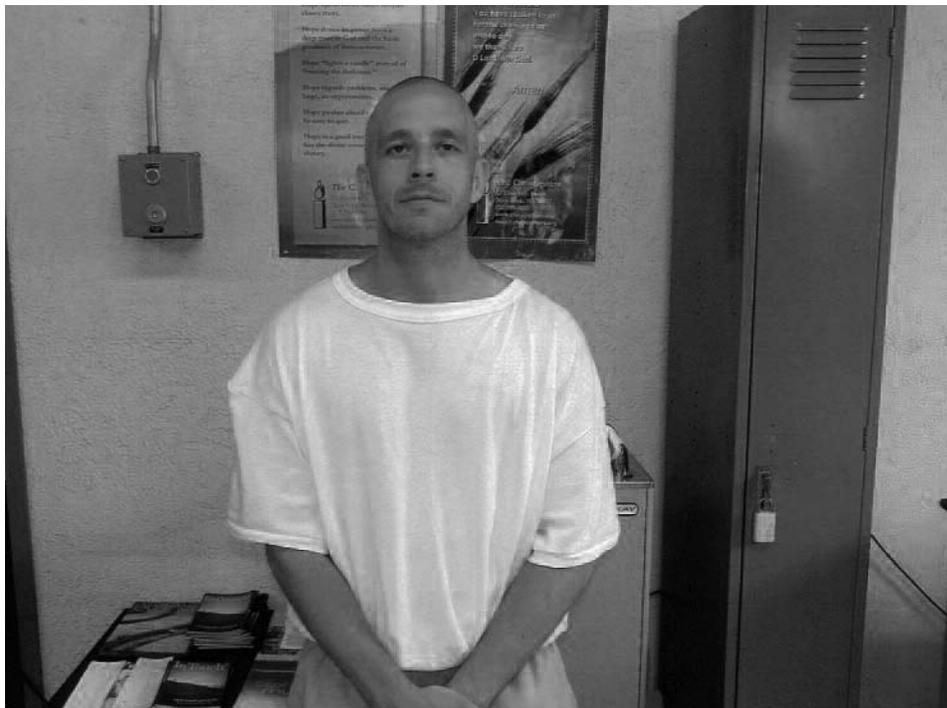
Four and half years ago I lost my mother to cancer, who was my best friend. I was devastated and my heart became even harder. I was looking towards everything but Jesus Christ for help. Shortly after my mother's death I ended up on the county jail and glory be to God I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I received a spiritual transplant, a heart of flesh. Unfortunately, I was unaware that I needed to fill that heart. I now knew about the Lord but I needed to learn how to trust in Him.

Unfortunately only six months after my release from jail I was incarcerated again. While there, I was looking and praying to God for the reason why this was happening again. I received my answer from the Holy Spirit in the way of Proverbs 3:5.

I am currently serving a 12 yr. sentence for armed robbery at E.J.S.P. I believe this sentence has saved my life. I thank God for the things He has done and is doing in my life right now. Since I have started to focus on God's will and not my own, I have been truly blessed. Since my heart has been filled with the Love of God, things such as worry, doubt, anxiety, and fear which used to make my heart beat fast are being replaced with things like joy, peace, and love, Hallelujah!

Have you ever felt like you're all alone or like you don't matter, perhaps unloved, like you don't even know if you have a pulse? If so, I encourage you to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and receive for yourself a new heart and watch how your life begins to change in amazing ways (Rom. 8:28).

Is everyday going to be great? Probably not. Change takes time, but it's much easier to feel alive when your alive in Christ with a heart full of love and a strong spiritual heart beat.



*"I know the plans that I have for you..."*

## *"A Man Without A Purpose"*

My name is Juan Carlos Garcia and I would like to share my testimony with you. It seems to me that before I became a Christian, my life was just total chaos. I had no excuse because I had a good education, a beautiful wife and fantastic parents. As a professional in many trades, I could have had any kind of job and was making good money. But to top it all off, I was also involved in illegal activities, traveling to other countries, and women---lots of them! My life was parties, women, while trying to make as much money as I could.



*Rahway Christian Choir  
Juan, sixth from left, front row standing*

There was always lots of violence and alcohol. The order of the above does not matter, because I thought it was a good life, but I had no purpose. I made money because it was what I thought I had to do to have a good life. It still was not my purpose though, but was the only thing to do. My life became more violent with each day that went by until it did not matter who I hurt. I ended up losing my wife, and son, and from there, everything went downhill until I ended up in prison with 10 life sentences.

In prison, I learned about Jesus Christ. I had accepted Jesus in my life on the outside of prison, but all I knew about Him was that he was God. Now, in prison, I understood that He died for me on the cross. I realized that He suffered for my sins (which by the way, were too many for me to have deserved Jesus' forgiveness and grace). According to the Bible, Jesus forgave me of all my sins and not only those sins but all the sins I have committed since I was saved! Unbelievable! Praise God! I was going to make it to heaven after all.

I was still not satisfied. I had no purpose in my new life, but I had a good friend which I could count every time I felt sad, down, or when I was lonely---His name is Jesus and the Bible is His word!

One day (18 years ago) a friend of mine that was serving God in the ministry of music asked me to join him and play the guitar for Jesus. At first, I told him no, but later he explained that he was returning to Chile and that the service needed somebody for the opening music time. How weird? Most of these people did not even know me. I forgot that Jesus knew me well and what His purpose for me was.

Now, 18 years later, I'm still serving the Lord Jesus Christ by playing for Him in every prison I go to. He gave me my wife back, my son, and reduced my sentence. In total, I have done 21 years in prison, but thanks to Jesus in a few more years I will go home to my wife, son, and grandson. My Dad is also alive and well at 85-years of age. But most importantly I now have a big purpose in life that is to serve the Lord in the music ministry for the rest of my life. I am now complete, joyful, without violence, without booze, and I'm with only one women, my wife, and my family. Until you find your real purpose for your life it will be empty. I know by experience that Jesus is the purpose for our lives, but it is up to you to ask Him and seek Him out until you find His specific purpose for you.

*...plans to give you a hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11-12)*

*"I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matt. 25:36b)*

## *"Philip's Heart"*

As always, I greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to thank the Lord for another opportunity to speak on behalf of the men in this 2012 fall issue of the "Inside Look".

It is written, "Then were there brought unto Him little children that He should put His hands on them, and pray, and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer (allow) little children and forbid them not to come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. And He laid His hands on them..." (Matt. 19:13-15)

Sometimes I wonder how far off we may be in our thinking of what pleases the Lord, or more so, what does not. The "disciples" in this teaching apparently thought they knew the Lord's will well. Why wouldn't they? Hadn't they walked with Him everyday for years? They must have thought He would be "bothered" by the children. They could not have been further from the truth! He not only created them but He also delights in children!



*Ministry visit at Rahway Prison*

I wonder comparatively, "Are we 'bothered' by prisoners around us?" Men and women of ill repute, even sinners of the basest sort...what would others think of us! Beloved, I have no doubt that Jesus would say, "Forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God!" Do you bring prisoners before the Lord in prayer that He may lay His hands on them? If not, do you at least support Debbie in her tireless efforts on their behalf? She is not "bothered" by prisoners, she loves them just like her Lord does. She is daily at war in the trenches winning their souls! Where are you? Beloved, consider coming alongside Debbie with support in prayer, in volunteer works and in much needed financial help.

Join us also in prayer for these special brothers as they grow in grace...

Joyfully in Jesus,

Philip



**Our Father's  
Persistent Love  
Ministries, Inc.**

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*Yes!* I (we) would like to participate in God's ministry of reconciliation in the following ways:

- I (we) will pray for you on a regular basis.
- I (we) will support you financially with a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly gift.
- I (we) will give a one time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) can help with the Half-Way House.

*"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners." (Heb.13:3)*



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## **“Mission Purpose”**

Our Father's Persistent Love Ministries, Inc.  
is a non-profit organization whose goal is to achieve  
reconciliation in the lives of incarcerated men and women.

We believe, according to this scripture verse, that

**“If anyone is in Christ,  
He is a new creation, the old has gone and the  
new has come. All this is from God, who reconciled  
us to himself through Christ and gave us the  
ministry of reconciliation.” - II Corth. 5:17, 18**

*Reconciliation in the lives of incarcerated men and women;  
first with God through Christ , second with their families, and third with society . . .*

***Statement of Faith Available***

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