



"An Inside Look"

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

A Prison Ministry

Fall 2015

"A Radical Change!"

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My name is Emanuel Walton and I gave my life to Jesus! If it were not for Him and His message, I would not be the man that I am today.

The Bible says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, behold the new is come (2 Cor. 5:17)."

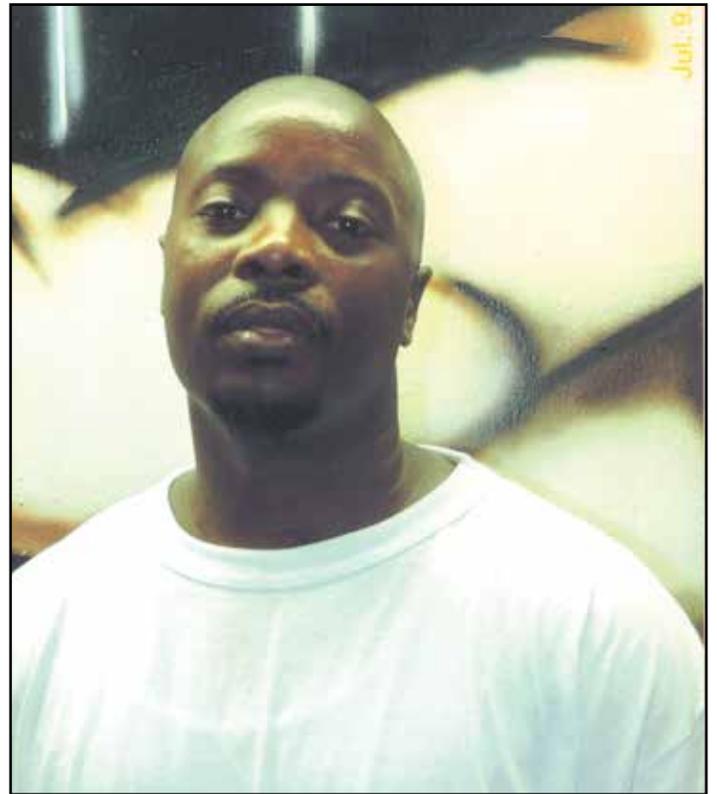
Jesus showed me that there must be a radical change in the inner attitude of a person. He taught me that "out of the heart are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). I know that no external force, however great and overwhelming, can at long last destroy a person if they win the victory by the Holy Spirit within them. The Lord, over and over again places His finger on the inward center, the crucial arena of the heart, where the issues made manifest through our choices, determines our destiny.

Ephesians 6:12 says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Due to my inadequacy, I was an angry person and after stealing the breath that our Creator had given to another person, I was devastated. I felt as though I'd lost my humanity. I needed a new beginning and eventually I found myself with no where else to turn. I received the Lord as my Savior and I got baptized in Trenton State Prison in 2006.

However, things still didn't go well for me because I didn't give God all of me. It wasn't until 2014 that things began to look up; that was the year I genuflected asking God to take control totally, and then, I truly started trusting Him with my life.

I pray that everyone becomes a believer and we learn to trust Jesus fully so that the fruit of love may grow in the hearts of us all. Thank you, Amen!



"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." (Jn. 3:36)

“The ‘Long’ Way Home!”

Hi, my name is Leonel Quintero and I’m from Guatemala. I come from a humble family in which screaming, indifference, and fights were the norm. I didn’t know what it was like to have a father by my side because I grew up without one. I began to work from a young age so that I could help my mother. I remember she used to cry because my younger sisters would ask her to give them something else to eat other than tortillas with salt.

I left my hometown without money. It pained me to leave my mother by herself, but I wanted her to have a better life than the one she had. When I received my first check, I saved it and bought guns so that when I went back to my country I could take vengeance upon those who had humiliated my mother. But instead, I began to drink and use cocaine so I stopped helping her. I forgot the promise I had once made to myself: to take vengeance upon those who had caused us harm.

I only cared about money. I appeared to have things that I never had and to be someone who I was not. Before long pride and arrogance kicked in and pushed me to make mistakes that caused me to live on the streets, even under a bridge. Alcohol and drugs destroyed me so badly that I was eating from dumpsters.

Suddenly, I went from having money, to begging for money on the street, from eating good meals, to eating meals from garbage cans, from sleeping in warmth to sleeping in the cold streets; finally, from the streets to the county jail, and from county jail to state prison. That was a downward spiral if there ever was one.

It wasn’t until I was sentenced to 12 years in prison that I remembered God and the good advice that my mother used to give me. My supposed friends had all turned their backs on me. One day while in my cell, I recognized that I was miserable and worthless. Everything that drugs and alcohol made me feel wasn’t even real or true, everything was temporary and had come to an end for me. I felt more empty than when I thought I had it all. Now, I found myself in a cell, and I wasn’t worth anything, nor did I have anything. Days passed by and I would think, what should I do now that I don’t have anyone, not even my fake friends that, when I needed them most, they weren’t there?

One day, a fellow prisoner came to my cell and began to speak to me about Christ. When I was on the streets, people shared Christ with me, but at that time everything was about me. I didn’t want Christ because I had money, and for me, money was my god, therefore Jesus had no place in my heart. That day, that young man said, “Jesus loves you, and He wants to change your life!” I wondered, how can Christ change me if I’m already locked up? Finally, I made the prayer of repentance and I received Christ as my Savior and Lord of my life, but I didn’t feel anything at that moment.

Today, even though I’m locked up physically, I’m truly free! Only Christ is the giver of true freedom that the world can’t give you. I thank God that I’ve found the right path because the one I was on was filled with pain, rejection, and loneliness; worst of all, it was a path of death. What path are you walking on today? There is only one way and He is called Jesus.



"Much more then, being now justified by His blood . . .

"The Battle is 'Worth' the Bruises"

Hello this is Philip and I wanted to personally reintroduce Mark to you. This is Mark's second time in the "Inside Look" and the Lord has since made him a mighty man of God! The Lord has smashed the self out of both of us and He is now using Mark much in all venues. I could not be more proud of Mark and I own him as my son. It has been a long hard broken road that brought us both to Christ, together though, we joyfully kiss the Rod that smote us, and that, with great joy! Please hear Mark's heart afresh after 17 years of growth...



Since that time back in 1999, where "Freedom Found" me, it has been quite a journey. Here it is now, 2015, and the Lord continues to baffle me with His favor and mercy. I never imagined it possible that the Lord would allow my mind to be "transformed by its renewing (Rom. 12:1-2)," but the WORD is "alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb.4:12)." The Lord Jesus Christ has proven Himself mighty and merciful to me, a sinner, and I can do nothing other than thank Him for His Grace.

Mark (far left) on ministry visit with Calvary Chapel Old Bridge

Presently, I am in my 28th year of incarceration, I am left wondering how the Lord delivered me from the attempted homicides, suicides, and deplorable living that my life had grown accustomed to within these prison walls. I once read, "Stone walls can not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage; His presence e'en a cell can make, a Holy heritage." And beloved, if you can only believe the Truth of the gospel your existence will change from the value of dust to that of a diamond. God Loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, He died in my place, if you see the need of His dying in yours, your journey can begin as well.

If you read the title to this, you will see that I do not believe in easy believism. This Christian journey is treacherous, and dangerous, and if it is not God in control you may lose your way by looking around. BUT God, who is "able to keep us, and present us faultless, (Jude 24)" is able to make a way out of no way. When the valley has been passed through you will bask in the glory of those mountain peaks, realizing as I have, that the "Battle is 'Worth' the Bruises."

Be encouraged to know, that if the Lord has not forsaken me, the chief of sinners, He will not forsake you. He promises it in His Word, and His Word is Truth (John 17:17). Did you know that God even magnifies His Word above His own name (Ps. 138:2)? You can take Him at His Word, and even attempt to challenge Him in it, but rest assured that the more you search in the Word (Bible), the more the Word will search you.

Allow Him to have His way with you and your life will begin to change according to the new heart you will receive. He did it for me, and after all these years He continues to renew my mind and leave me in utter amazement at His work in peoples lives, as well as my own. Join with me in prayer for the continued use and effectiveness of this ministry, because if it had not been for the Lord working in and through Debbie and Philip, back in 1999, I would not be writing this today. To God be the Glory.

. . . We shall be saved from wrath through Him." (Rom. 5:9)

"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again . . .

"Back at Home!"

My name is Tony. I'm 27 years old and serving a 22 year sentence. My story may sound recycled, but it is all truth. I was raised up in the church, participating in almost every form of ministry. As a child, I didn't have any say about going to church. I enjoyed it but, at a certain age, when I really started making my own choices, I felt like I was being forced to go. I refused to accept that church was for my own good. So I slowly faded away from the church and that was a big mistake.

It is written, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

I was already doing things I knew to be wrong, but I did them quietly. After I left the church my wrong-doings became more blatant. I tried my hand at selling drugs, but the money wasn't fast enough. Then, I started robbing, all the while slipping further into darkness.

It is written, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (Ephesians 5:11)

Due to the fact that I was raised right, I knew I was wrong, but I ignored that "little voice," who we know as the Holy Spirit, telling me such, until it was too late, and thus, my sentence.

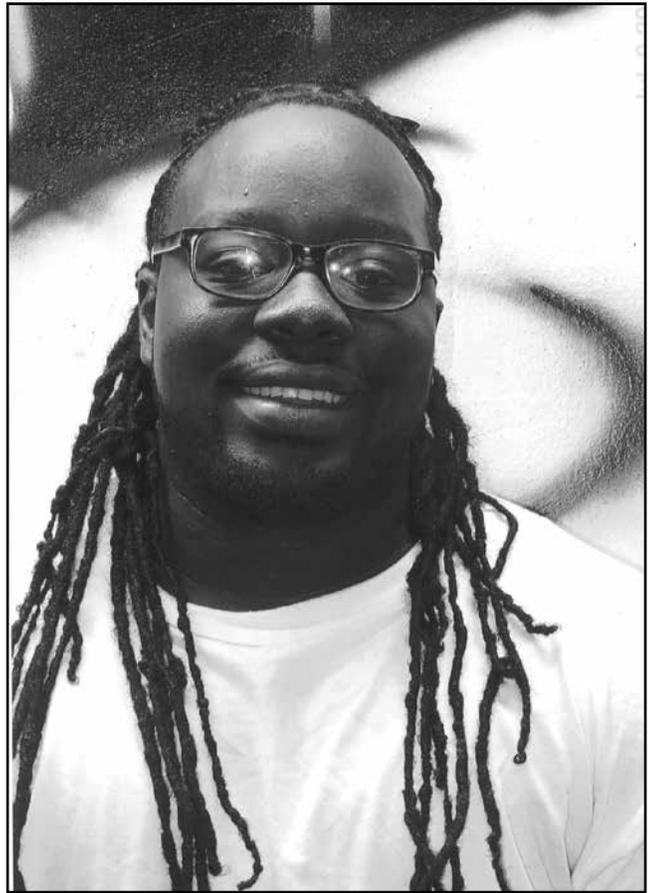
Even though I was running the streets, my family never stopped praying for me. It is written, "Men ought always to pray and to faint not (Luke 18:1). They never stopped encouraging me to pray, and to get back right with God. For the first few years of my bid, I found myself procrastinating. I would go to Chapel once in awhile but I felt like I was going through the motions because my family desired it. My reality check came though when my mother and grandmother passed away.

After the tears, I realized that they were saved and that they were in the place where all the followers of Christ longed to be. I knew that if I wanted to see them again I would have to stop playing around and accept Christ back into my life. It will always be a long Journey, because shortly after their death I got in trouble and I ended up in Ad-seg (lock-up) for two years.

It is written, "For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child." (Hebrews 12:6)

It was during that time alone that I started to pray more and read more. When my two years were up, I had the option of Northern, Southwoods, or Rahway. Something (Someone) told me to choose Rahway, although I knew nothing about the Chapel here. My first Sunday here in Rahway, I went to Chapel and I've been attending ever since. I'm now an active member of the church and I have no intention of turning back.

Since coming back to Christ I've reconnected with certain family members. It has been a long Journey so far, but my goal is to claim victory so that I can meet Jesus face to face and see my mother and grandmother again in Heaven. Thank you for listening to my testimony of sin to salvation. Be blessed.



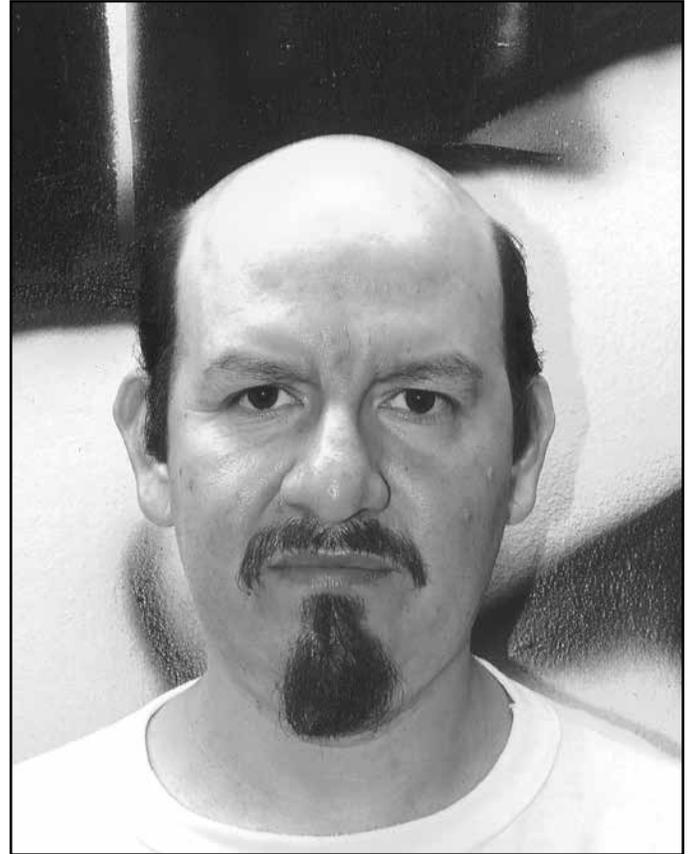
. . . He is lost and is found and they began to be merry." (Lk. 15:24)

"Changed by the Word of God!"

My greatest desire is that when you read this brief testimony that God would change your life, touching your heart in a special way. That you may recognize, confess, and believe that Christ died for us on Calvary's cross to save us from eternal judgment (Romans 10:9).

Hi, my name is José L. Monterola. I was born in El Salvador. I was raised in a humble family. Even though my parents were not Christians, they educated me with good principles. For most of my childhood, I obeyed all of their advice and teachings, not all to perfection, because I gave them some headaches too. Whenever they admonished me because of my errors, I knew that they wanted the best for me. My father and mother always used to tell me not to forget their advice.

When I got old enough, I talked my father into letting me go to the United States. I could have made this decision by myself but because of the respect I had toward my parents, I talked to them first. They allowed me to travel to the United States, but before doing so, they read to me from their good advice book. The first years out of my parents house were good, but this did not last for too long. I began doing things that I shouldn't have been doing, and sadly all these things came to my parents ears. I remember having a serious discussion with my family for invading my personal life. When I used to call my parents, the only thing I heard from them were complaints. This in turn made us argue more, and so, I ended up abandoning them!



The type of life that I chose would not get me too far. I began to hang out with people who were involved in illegal businesses; I liked it because I made more money than in a regular job. I was involved in a totally different world of drugs, alcohol, crime, and any misdeed that would cross my path. My ambition for money changed my life completely. We know how to start down a bad path but we don't know how it will end; it could be in a hospital, death, or prison. You can end up in one of these three. My problems began to multiply fast and suddenly I found myself involved in difficult situations. I was arrested many times, but I had never hit rock bottom.

In 2009, I committed the crime for which I am locked up. When this happened, I thought that everything was over. I began to feel bad because I was away from my parents. I didn't even know what their health condition was. I remember I began to read a Bible which was given to me but I didn't understand anything. Little by little, I began to comprehend a few things and one night the Lord spoke to my heart. That day I fell on my knees, and I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior, and I asked for forgiveness. I also asked Him to take my family in His arms. God did not only answer my prayers but He dramatically changed my life since that night.

On November 25th, I was baptized here in Rahway. I began to attend services and to participate in Bible studies. Suddenly, I became part of the usher group and also the opportunity to teach Bible studies was given to me in a short time. God has done great things for me. Now, I am in contact with my family and I am living a life dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. God continues to work in my life. I am willing to press on as God allows it.

My prayer is that these words of my testimony can have an effect in your heart by the hand of God. May you give God an opportunity to change your life and that of your loved ones.

"The Missing Peace"

Hello, my name is Martin R. Fitzgerald. I will be 45 years old in July, 2015. I'm from Edison, New Jersey and was fortunate enough to live with both parents. I had a complete family with three brothers. My childhood could be considered normal. We were a family that did a lot of things together. We would all sit down for dinner and say grace. We'd go to drive-in movies, the park, fishing, and sometimes we would just stay home and play bumper pool, board games, or card games.

Being raised to be responsible, I began working at age 11, doing odd jobs around the neighborhood. When I was 12, I was permitted by my parents to deliver newspapers and was given a small route. We were required to attend church until we reached a certain age, at which time, my parents permitted us to stop attending.

Even though I went to church, church wasn't "in me", so when I was between the ages of 13 and 14, I decided to no longer attend. I always had a sense there was something greater; that God existed and was real; but I didn't know where or how to find Him with all of the different religious practices. I can remember participating with Muslims at a Mosque in Newark, and meeting with a Jehovah's Witness each week, while I sought the word of God in my life. I had a tough time with that, so I did what I thought was best or okay for me.

Throughout junior high and high school, I hung around the kids I thought were cool, using drugs sometimes, smoking, and drinking. As a result, I had some minor brushes with the law. Although I had graduated school, I still hung around the wrong crowd. By the age of 21, I had gotten married and had a daughter. During that time, I became addicted to heroin.

My life had become increasingly worse. I couldn't hold a job, because many companies were drug testing. Somehow I always found work and took care of my responsibilities. But my addiction had grown out of control; I shoplifted and even robbed to support it. My marriage and family life had been put aside and I finally wound up incarcerated at the age of 25, my daughter was just 4 years old.

During my incarceration, I came to know Christ as the one I was looking for. I had reached a point of exhaustion. I was not only missing my family, there was a void which needed to be filled. A fellow brother in Christ invited me to attend a service. I felt comfortable in this setting; I began to attend regularly. However, I was not ready to publicly admit that I needed God to be at peace. The pastor asked us to pray alone; ask for GOD to come into our hearts, so I tried it for myself. This was the moment that I was moved to confess with my mouth what I now believe in my heart. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior in March of 1996 and during that summer I was baptized in the name of the Lord. At that moment and at this present moment I have the peace that I longed for.



Martin w/daughter and granddaughter

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

"Philip's Heart"

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 2015 fall issue of the "Inside Look". As always, I want to give honor to Sister Debbie for all the loving work she does on our behalf and also for our wonderful Pastor, now, the Reverend "Doctor" Larry Akins. Under him, I watch the Lord working daily in the hearts of the men here in this prison. It never ceases to amaze me how gracious God is to sinners.

It is written, "God demonstrated his love to us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." (Rm. 5:8)

May the Lord be praised for all He is doing in the hearts of the men here in Rahway. Sometimes as I watch the Lord moving here in prison, I think to myself that a captive audience is not a bad thing. What better way to get a saddle on a horse than to put him in a corral where he can be trained and taught. I do not know about you but I needed to be trained and taught what a detriment I really was to myself. Honestly, we all need to be refreshed by the truth that we were indeed buried with Christ! How quickly we seem to forget that God thought so little of our lives, choices and wisdom that He slew us in Christ! Consider that when your pride rises up and declares that "you" never ended up in prison like "them!"

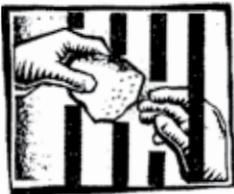


Philip w/his family and new great grandnephew Kaspian

As I shared last time, our whole prison culture is being challenged by Truth and the move of God's Spirit. The Lord is saving men from every venue and moving in a mighty way in their hearts. I am privileged to be a part this Body! Again, I couldn't be more excited to be a member of this fellowship and I invite you to partner up with us in this move of God.

With that thought in mind, I want to present to you these brothers, blood-bought and washed, by the Lord Jesus Christ. They are faithful men of God carrying the Banner of God's Love in the darkness of prison walls. Please join me in prayer for their growth and the restoration of their families.

Joyfully in Jesus
Philip



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"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
