



St. Dismas Guild

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

www.stdismas.org May 2011

TESTIMONY

By C.H.

Dear Deacon Ken and Marie:

I know that I have not written in a very long time and I have no excuse. I intend to but procrastinate because I have nothing to say. I do appreciate your newsletters though and the Bread of Life Study that you sent me although I need to get back into it.

I continuously read my Bible and ask God to help me forgive others as I would have Him forgive me but sometimes I devolve into vengeful fantasies soon or immediately after I conclude praying to help me forgive. I understand that it takes time. I can feel God working in my life, giving me understanding and definitely more self control than I had before but this cynicism is eating me alive. It affects everything I do and think...my plans...even as I read your newsletter I had to stop myself from revolting at the advice you gave to J.H. about "facing the justice of a Texas court". I recognize that my rebelliousness is a problem, yet tomorrow I'll be right back into justifying the rebellious spirit. I know that the Bible says to obey magistrates and authorities...honor the emperor...all that, but how much is enough? The Maccabees (Judas) revolted when the power became so corrupt. When does rebellion become duty and not sinful?

I know most Americans are not aware of the workings of their government and 'law enforcement' activities but for those of us that know, what are we to do? I have seen so many cops plant evidence on people or coach lying witnesses. I know of one FBI agent who has attacked at least two pregnant women (caused mine to miscarry our child) murder children, etc...yet they don't prosecute their own. Man, I could tell you so much from just what has happened to me personally. God only knows how much this happens unknown to the American public. Where does it end? Am I to continue my silence and obediently work to support and pay taxes to such an ungodly regime? Is that Godly?

I know most people don't care as long or until it happens to them. You remember the quote from the Reverend about the Nazis? "First they came for the Communists, but I was not Communist, so I said nothing..." I don't know...I could continue, you could too. I'm sorry to dump on you but is resistance ever a duty with God?

You know the scripture that says "For those who know the right thing to do, yet do not do it, it is a sin?" Is not standing against our children being forced to learn the joys of Homosexuality a sin? I'm not a Muslim but I pray to God that they don't give up resisting the U.S. because I fervently believe in my heart that if they allow the US to install democracy, next it'll be "tolerance" of other religions/sexual preferences/lifestyles, and on it will continue until it's forced on them like it is here.

I know that you are very pro-government and I really do not want to use the wrong tone with you. I think God will surely punish me for speaking one word against you; in fact I'm absolutely convinced of it. I know that you are a godly man and woman so please don't take this the wrong way, it's not intended as such AT ALL, just an honest inquiry.

I do thank you for everything you do for people everywhere and prisoners in particular. I try to include you in my prayers as much as possible, when my own selfishness doesn't preclude me from adding so many others. I definitely have TONS of imperfection that God will probably be working the rest of my life to barely make a scratch the surface correcting. I know my thinking process is not as perfect as it could be which is why I ask you these

questions..."lean not on (my) own understanding" definitely applies. I'll cut this off - I love ya'll though and wish ya'll the best of health and peace and success in your endeavors. God Bless

C.H. As we grow in the Lord the biggest battle we have is training the mind to think like Christ and not think the way the world thinks. "We destroy arguments and every pretension raising itself against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive in obedience to Christ, and we are ready to punish every disobedience, once your obedience is complete." (2 Cor. 10:4-6) We just celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and now this next 40 days until Pentecost He makes Himself visible to show He is alive. This is a time for us to train our minds to think as Jesus thinks and we do that by reading, meditating and acting the way Jesus did. Man is not capable of perfect justice - God is perfect - Pray for the cops! Man is not capable of writing or enforcing a perfect justice. I would suggest that you pray for each individual that has hurt you and receive the healing love of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 21:22) It is only that healing love of Christ that all or any man can be ever really healed. Pray that the courts will be more Christ like in their decisions. Pray that the guards at your prison can be touched by Christ through your prayers. As Christ lay dying on the cross he prayed, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 24:34) The peace of the Lord will come upon you and you will become a victor and never again a victim. We are not pro-government as we are pro-life. Our government today is pro-death.

DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear Deacon Ken and Marie,

My name is NP and I am writing from Prison. I read your testimony of your conversion and I was moved by how the Lord touched your life. I also read some of the testimonies of the brothers in other prisons and I see that God works in a mysterious way. I hope my testimony touches someone in some way.

I am a man who was put in prison for trafficking drugs and received a sentence of 15 years. Thanks to our heavenly Father, I will go home next year. I came to prison leaving my three boys and my three daughters on their own due to that there are 4 women involved. You can say that I was living an unholy life but I do love all my children deeply. The last woman I was living with, I was married to her, but she decided to go her way 2 years after I came to prison. But thanks to the Lord, she faithfully kept bringing my almost 14 year old daughter to see me. I decided to include her in my testimony because she suffered the most.

She was only 2 ½ years old when I went to prison and we were so close that she had to sleep between my wife and me. When I went to prison her Mother brought her to see me, and when her Mom had to leave, I could hear her crying from a distance. I felt like I just wanted the earth to open and eat me up. Every time she came to see me, she asked me why I can't go home with her. Another time, when she was about 7 years old, she asked me if she could stay with me. After I explained to her that was not possible, she still insisted that I could try to talk to the prison guards to make it possible for her to stay with me. Deacon Ken, how can we cause our loved ones so much pain? How can God allow an innocent baby to suffer so much? How can He allow us to suffer so great by seeing our children suffer that much?

St. Dismas Guild: Catholic Evangelization through Scripture and ministry to the prisons.

Board of Directors: Deacon Ken Finn, President; Marie Finn, Vice-President; Jean Michaels, Secretary; Gregory Witz, Accountant
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After I have finished my sentence, I will be deported to Mexico after I have been in this country for 30 years- another pain for my children. Dear Deacon, please pray for my children so they can forgive me for letting them down. Your brother in the Lord. N.P.

We will definitely pray for your children and your whole family. N.P., I am sorry that you are going through some very tough and emotional times right now but I would encourage you to consider, in what condition is your mind? Have you noticed that the condition of your mind changes? One time you may be calm and stable, and another time worried and very anxious. You might ask, what is a normal mind? Many people think the source of the misery is their circumstances but the real source is their thoughts. Our thoughts certainly affect our attitudes and moods. I suggest you might think about what you are thinking about. I suggest that you get into the word on a daily basis (Philippians 4:8-“...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things”). You need to be attending to the word. You must meditate on the Word of God day and night. I submit that the devil has been controlling your life because he has been controlling your thoughts. You will get more from God’s word when you put more effort into it. You are reaping what you have sown for many years and the result is loss and pain. God allows us the gift of free will. He does not do drugs, only people do drugs. God does not abandon children only people abandon children. I would pray every day for the people that you have harmed or betrayed. God’s power can heal them and His power can and will heal you. God loves you no matter what you are guilty of. Repentance means change starting today right where you are now. Love is sacrificial that is, giving, and lust is self gratification. It is time N.P. to begin to love.

Dear Ken & Marie, Hello. My name is C. J. and I am currently doing a 4 year sentence in TDC for prostitution. I am a recovering addict after 20 years. I have been an active Catholic since '08 when I was baptized in the Catholic Faith although I am really struggling at this moment. I try to stay strong in believing even when in doubt but I am sorry I can't all of the time. Child Protective Services has taken my oldest son of age 12 and is adopting him out. Then my family has been keeping my other four from me. I am writing for your prayers. Also I had wrote y'all about 5-6 weeks ago for a Catholic Bible, Catechism, Bible Study as well as some prayer cards too please, but I still haven't received anything from y'all. Did you get my letter? Also will you start sending me your news letter and a book called “When I Was in Prison” by Father Paulsen. I will put it all to use. Also, this Unit that I am on doesn't have anyone that will do our Catholic Services, so will y'all pray that we start getting someone to come in for our services here? I may sound like I'm being greedy but I'm not meaning to. I'm just trying to get it out there. I'm tired too. I just got off of work and in from school so please excuse me. May God bless you all! Happy Easter. Sincerely, C.J.

C.J. It must be very difficult for you to lose your son but be reassured that with much prayer he will come into a family that will be able to give him what he needs. We have three adopted children and they have been blessed to know in their hearts that God is the answer to the hole in their heart. Their need for belonging and for love can only be filled by God. There are some resources to help foster children be placed for adoption. One is the Rivers of Hope Foundation founded by Philip Rivers, the quarterback for the San Diego Chargers, and his wife Tiffany. God will never abandon his children. “Can a mother forget her infant be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.” (Isaiah 49:15) God’s love is so awesome. We did get your letter and have sent what you requested. God bless you.

St. Dismas Guild Motherhood -Ladies of Christ

Wishing each and every one of you a blessed filled “Happy Mother’s Day”. Whether with children or not, you are all blessed. Somewhere in this life, you have been and still are being a Mom to someone like myself. It’s your Christian love that is mothering to some of us inmates and motherless...John 19:26-27. During this month of Mary, you ladies are in the blessed of company. I am praying you men are adoring and embracing all the women of Our Lord. If you don’t mind, one for me again “HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY” to all of you St. Dismas Guild ladies of Christ. May St. Therese of Lisieux send each and every one of you a rose from heaven. She will. Matthew 27:55-56 Matthew 28:1-8 “The women were always there” Alleluia! “Please accept this embrace” In Christ, E.B.

Thank you so much for the Mother’s Day acknowledgement. We here at St. Dismas Guild thank our Mother Mary for her fiat, saying yes to being the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to being our Mother. For those who did not have a mother that cherished and nourished you, you now have a mother that does that here and now. Our Mother Mary is ever ready to intercede on our behalf to her beloved Son. Jesus who always does what His Mother asks of him. She is telling us to “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5).Obedience to God’s Word brings peace and joy into our hearts. “Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among woman and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now at the hour of our death. Amen



UPDATE

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR, Saturday, June 4, 2011, 8:00AM – 4:30PM (Free Lunch Provided) St. Mary’s Church Hall, 13th/Broadway, Escondido CA 92025. Send name, address, phone, e-mail to St. Mary’s office, 1160 S. Broadway, Escondido CA 92025. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

LIGHT WEIGH is coming to St. Mary’s. Would you like to learn how to overcome temptation and eat the foods you enjoy while you grow closer to God and lose weight? Are you tired of constantly struggling with your weight and feeling like food controls you? The Light Weigh Bible Study DVD series will have an Orientation on Thursday evening, June 9, 2011, 6:30PM at St. Mary’s in Room 10. This will give you an opportunity to sign up for this 12 week program. Phil. 4:13 - "I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me." Lose weight that stays off with God's help.

PRAY THE ST. DISMAS ROSARY FOR LIFE at Woman’s Care, 120 S Craven St San Marcos, Tuesday mornings from 9AM-10AM and at Planned Parenthood, 347 West Mission Escondido on Thursday mornings from 10:30AM-11:30AM.

“I have come to bring life, life to the full.” John 10:10

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Deacon Ken & Marie