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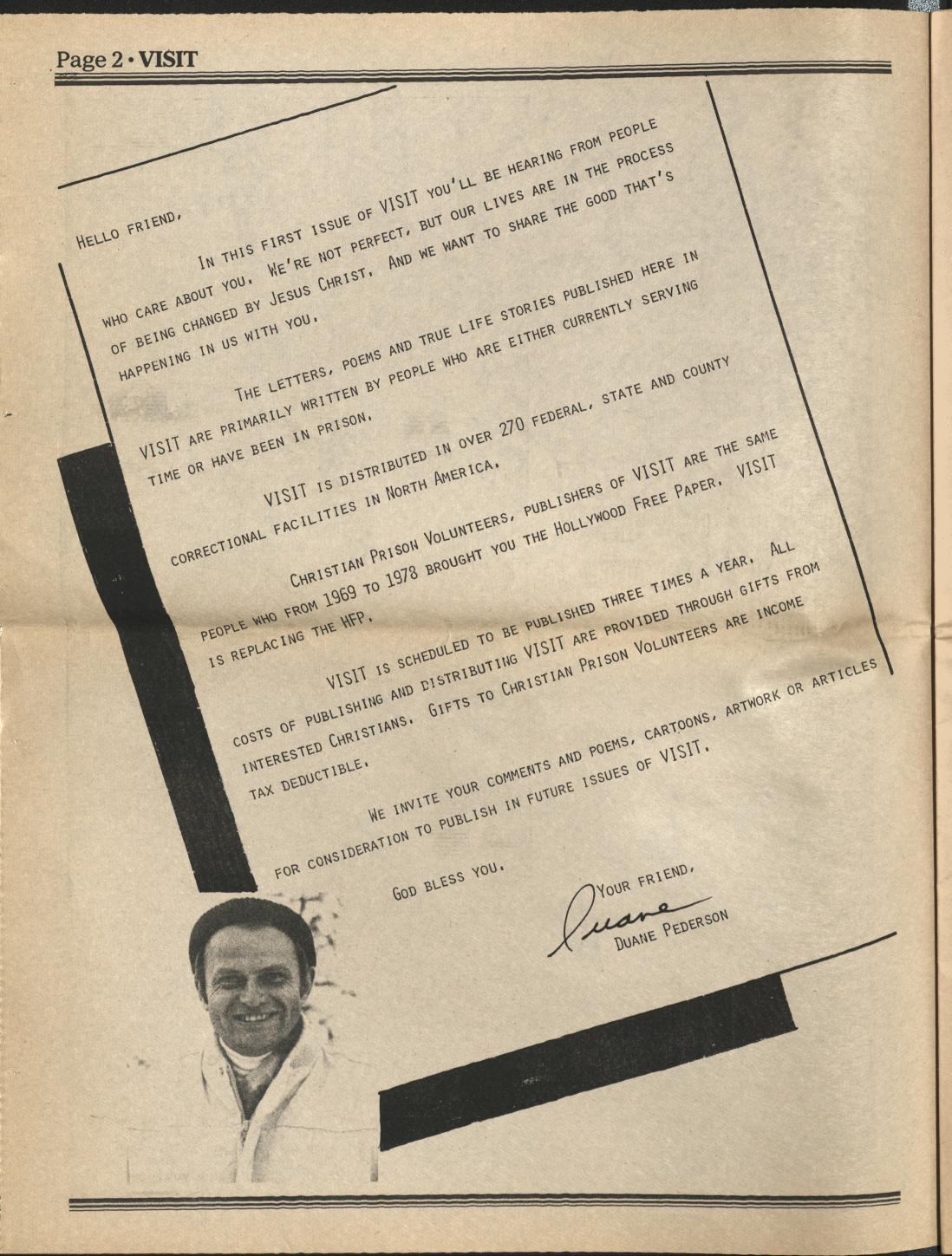
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FRIEND TO FRIEND

Christian Prison Volunteers Box 1949 · Hollywood, CA · 90028



The GAPTA

BY DUANE PEDERSON



Do you want to be happy? Really happy? Many people say they want to be happy. But very few people are really happy.

You can be happy! You can discover today the secret of true, lasting, real happiness. A happiness that no one can take away from you, no matter how hard they try.

You can make new lasting friendships. You can succeed in accomplishing your dreams. Your plans can come true. You will be able to give this same secret of happiness to others. Making them happy people.

One of the greatest roadblocks to being happy is...your past. Your failures. Your disappointments. Your mistakes. These never need bother you again. You're going to be free

of their negative influence. The happy new you is breaking free.

The reason some people never discover the happy new you come alive inside of them is that they are afraid to cut loose the old unhappy you. They've become comfortable with unhappiness. Grown used to unhappiness. Accepted unhappiness as a way of life.

You can't have both. You can't be happy and unhappy at the same time. There is a way for you to be eternally happy.

The greatest teacher who ever lived, Jesus Christ, has given to us a way to be happy. He said, "I have come so that you might have a happy full life." (John 10:10) He has made a way for you to become, happy new you.

The first step is to get rid of the past. Repent of the mistakes and failures in your life. Turn away from the old way of living to Jesus Christ and his way of happy successful living.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Jesus Christ is waiting for you right now, he will take all of your past mistakes and failures away from you. No matter what these mistakes might be...lying, stealing, robbing, killing. As Jesus Christ takes your past from you, he says, "I will forgive your failures, I will remember your sins no more." Hebrews 8:12.

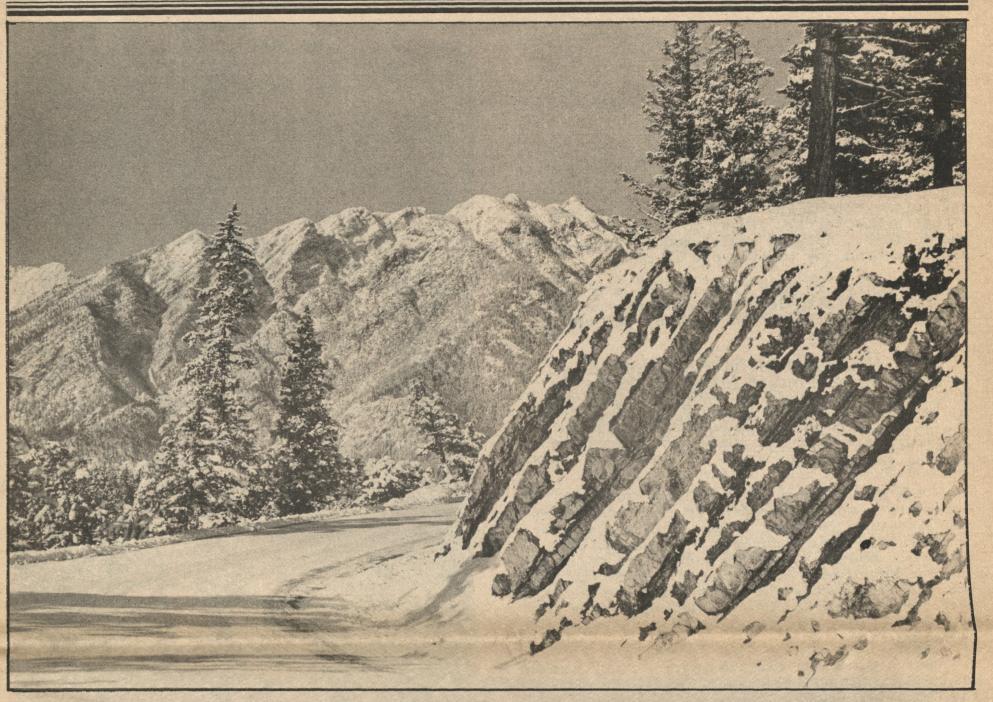
Have you ever heard of an offer like this? Jesus Christ takes your past as you give it to him...and in exchange gives to you a happy new life.

You no longer need to be affected by negative influences. When you give to Jesus your past and accept his new life, you have also accepted responsibility for your life direction. You have chose to live a happy new life.

When a negative influence (a thought in your mind or a suggestion from someone) comes your way you have the strength within you to

reject that negative influence and to keep focused





on the positive happy new you. You are now really living for the first time. You have a new life.

Your turning to Jesus Christ right now is the beginning of the happy new you. Jesus Christ called it being born again (John 3:1-22).

The old unhappy you with its failures, sins and mistakes has been buried. In the same way in which you bury anything that is dead.

The happy new you has been born. You are a new person. You are starting life fresh today. Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

To live your new life, you must "forget the past and go for the future." To poke around in the garbage of the past only gets you dirty ... Jesus Christ has washed you clean. A happy new you has started to live.

I know, to see if he would permit a book to be written on his life of crime. His crime had been highly publicized making his name well

This prisoner, having already experienced the new life I've been talking about, replied to the promoter, "the Bible tells me that Almighty God heard my prayer and has forgiven me of all my sin and has also forgotten it. The Bible also tells me I am to forget the past and look only to the future. So, I will not let you remind productive new life.

me of my past. No you can't do a book about my past."

This is a positive statement from someone who knows both sides of life. The past negative with its hurts, mistakes and disappointments. And the happy new life with its joy, happiness and exciting challenges. This man chose to remember the new life and to forget the past. The old is dead and buried not to be dug up for reviewal.

To forget the past includes, forgiving others for all abuse and hurt they may have caused you. Jesus in the prayer he taught us to pray said, "...forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us." Matthew 6:12.

Christ then emphasized the importance of forgiving others as he said, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Recently a book promoter contacted a prisoner Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15.

> Your forgiving others lets you permanently cut loose the past. You can forget the past with a clear conscience.

The happy new you can now set new directions for your life. You can live a positive happy

Crisis, confrontations and problems are not roadblocks for the happy new you. They are challenges to conquer on your new pathway of promise. You have a new Strength living within you giving you power to overcome all difficulties.

Learn to welcome struggles in your happy new life. Struggles help you to grow. If a butterfly is helped out of its cocoon. That butterfly will come out a cripple. It is through struggling out of its cocoon that it becomes a healthy butterfly. Ready to live life to the fullest. Able to soar through the air bringing happiness and joy to everyone it meets.

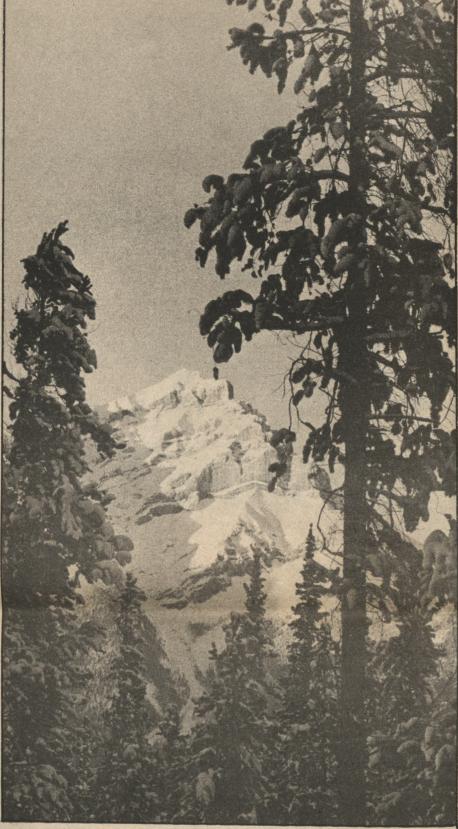
Struggles in your life are there to help you become a fully developed complete person. Able to handle life. And to point the way of happiness to others.

This new power now living inside of you is Jesus Christ himself in the person of the Holy Spirit, who has come to live within you. You are able to say with the Apostle Paul, "I can do every thing through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13. The happy new you is now alive.

The thoughts we think and the words we speak are powerful forces. Your thoughts give you direction for your life. Your words bring into reality your thoughts. "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10.

Here comes the exciting part! Tell someone today of the happy new you. Your talking about the happy new you will help strengthen you. In the same way, as regular weight lifting down on the iron pile makes you stronger, able to lift more and more weight, each time you talk of your happy new life to someone, the happy new you becomes stronger. You receive more power and strength within the more you talk about the happy new you.

Happy new life, to the happy new you.





He can put a grin on your Chin

PRAISE THE LORD! He has shown me His won-derful love. Jesus has brought about so much in my life in 2½ years that it is unbelievable. Praise Him!

Since the time I put my trust in Jesus to come into my life, lots of good things have happened. He has made me complete

He can even put a grin on your chin — at least He has mine. It happens once we allow God to begin to do His thing with us — filling in the gaps in our personalities. For one thing, we see a new purpose in our being here. God's love for us shows by the changes that take place within our lives. Through the strength Jesus produces in us, we become able to handle whatever comes along. Not blowing it under pressure is an accomplishment. Seeing your own life start to be meaningful and productive as never before brings inner joy. The Bible teaches that Christ in us through His Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and temperance.

Praise God, it is happening in my life. He blesses me in so many other ways, as well as

being out of San Quentin a mere 5 months. I have so much for which to be thankful.

The Lord has given me a wonderful Jesus loving wife whom I love dearly. He has provided me with a job I enjoy, and a group of believers with whom I can freely worship the Lord. The Lord has a way of making wonderful things happen for His own. All the little things that are important have a way of taking care of themselves when the Lord is directing our lives. Being able to trust Him to provide and to direct makes the difference when you are relying on Christ the Lord.

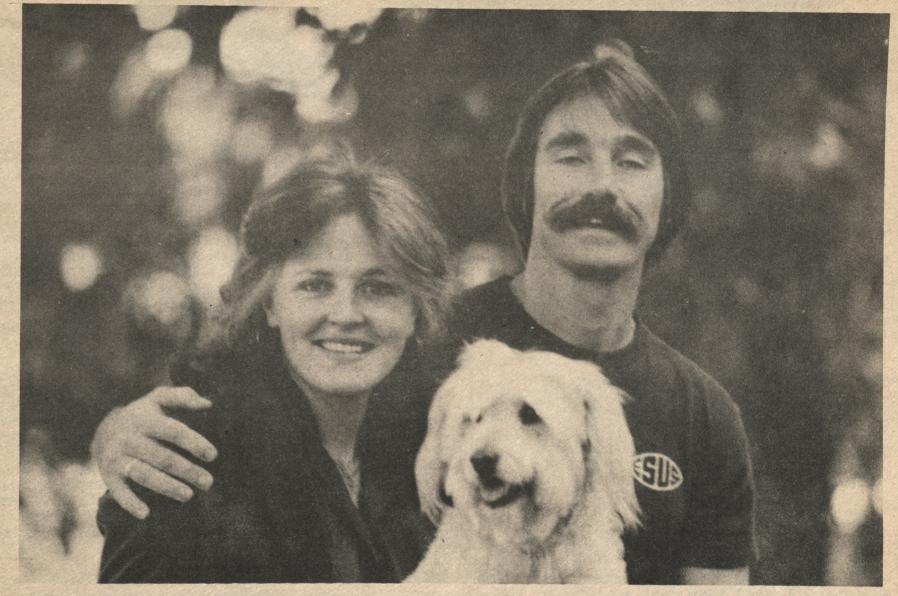
Being out of prison makes for quite an adjustment. We have to deal with many responsibilities day by day that prison just doesn't require of us.

I am having to learn to fit it all in so that my relationship with God is kept up, my marriage developed, my friendships made stronger, my job responsibilities maintained, and the work of spreading the gospel done. I also have to get the order right in which these things go. So I can say it takes a lot of strength to adjust. And without Jesus I don't believe I could do it. I was not able to do it in the past.

With Him, it is usually a joyful, exciting new life. And I love the challenge of the new life in Christ. I am very happy with all that is going on in my life as a Christian. Jesus truly is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

What a life!!!





Hazel and John Bishop and Christmas Lips.



I WAS TIRED OF THE MISERABLE life I had been living. I had tried everything: pot, hard drugs, booze. Five times I had been in the penitentiary. I was back in my home town of San Antonio, Texas. But nothing was right.

Something had happened to my brother, Juan... something good. He came to me and told me that he knew who could change me. Even though I had been a drug addict all my life, he said he knew someone who could change me immediately.

"Who?" I asked.

"Jesus!" he said.

I felt something getting to me, but I wasn't ready to repent the way he said I should. Two days after that I was in a park where I met some drug addicts. I told them what my brother had

said -- about how I could be changed if I would believe in Jesus and ask God to forgive me.

In a sullen mood I sat down on a bench. A wino came along and sat beside me. I was chilly. This guy had a coat. I figured he wouldn't know the difference, so I took his coat. This caused a fuss. Somebody got a policeman.

I was arrested.

While they were booking me the thought came about how much I needed to change. My brother's testimony shot back through my mind. I was getting tired of the kind of life I had been living. I was dirty...weary...miserable. I cried out to be changed and I felt the power of God taking over in my life. My brother must have known what was happening. The next day his pastor called.

"Alfonso," he said, "come home. If we pay your fine, will you come and live with us?"

I went. The power of God had changed my life and Jesus had transformed me into a new person.

There was so much that had to be changed.

At the age of 12 I became a gang fighter. I took the name of Poncho and became known as a tough guy all over San Antonio. I drank beer. I stole to get whatever I needed.

I was introduced to pot. At first I was afraid. But the guy who was getting me to smoke said, "No. This will make you feel nice. You'll feel like you're walking in the sky." That was the beginning of 25 years of addiction.

At 17 I was a tough gang leader. Anyone who wanted to come into my neighborhood had to ask me first. The police kept track of me. My record and arrests soon led to a penitentiary sentence.

On my first trip there I began doing the same things I had done in my neighborhood. I was a little guy who didn't like anybody to make fun of me. I was always fighting. I started using hard drugs. One time I managed to escape from the penitentiary. But the dogs found me and I didn't get far.

As soon as I had my release I was back in San Antonio stealing, fighting, cutting people. I started selling hard drugs and that was what got me into the penitentiary the second time. Life in Texas was becoming a series of alternating trips: in and out of the penitentiary.

Eventually I was sent to Leavenworth. It was when I got out of there that I began to feel the need to change. I thought maybe that getting away from San Antonio would make a difference. So I went to New York where I got right back into drugs. Then I went to Chicago where I got into a lot of trouble.

The worst thing that happened was when a Chicago street gang attacked me, thinking I was somebody else. They began beating me up, claiming I had stolen something from them. They tried to pull my teeth out with some pliers. When they dragged me to a bridge I figured it was all over. They were about to throw me over the bridge railing when a police car came. In all my life I've never been so glad to see a police car. They ran. And I ran in the opposite direction. I got away.

I went back to San Antonio. It was then that my brother started to tell me how to change.

So God saved me. By a miracle He came into my life. And now I have committed everything to Him. I know who lives inside of me, and I want to tell everyone how God has changed my life.

It has been 7 years. I've finished Bible school. Now my brother, Juan, and I are going into prisons and everywhere to tell how God can change people through the love of Jesus.

If God can change Poncho -- that's me -- He can change anyone!

God's Love and Teardrops

Jesus our Savior
Nailed to the tree;
Nothing could have held Him there
But...
His love for you and me.

Streams of red crimson
His body did give
To pay for our sins, friend
That...

In Him we can live.

Tears of His heartbreak
Poured out from His eyes,
Tears of such sadness
For

His children He cried.

Death in its darkness Tried to cover the Light, But...

His love for His children Conquered the night.

He arose on the third day: Total victory and power. Yet...

God cries for His children In this very hour.

His voice soft and gentle Speaks to you and me: Give me your chains And your prisons. Let my love... Set you free.

-- Ellis S. Hayes

a friend

What is a Friend,

Is he someone there when you need him, Is he someone you can write or talk to Is he someone who helps you if he can Is he someone who shares your happiness and sorrow...

Is he someone who lets you know what he thinks even though he may lose you as a friend.

Yes, a friend is all of this but most of all he is someone who cares...
Yes, someone who cares for you no matter who you are.
Yes, this is a friend,
This is my Friend...

- Bill Nolin



INEEDED. TO SEE MORE THAN THE TIP OF THE TREE

BY CHRIS PARENTE

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO LOSE it in that jail cell in Fort Lauderdale. The girls who were locked up with me were getting squirrely. Without booze, without a guy, I felt hopeless. But there were two things that kept me hanging on. One was a lady who came by in the afternoon and played records and read a book to us. The other thing was the tip of a tree I could just barely see through the high county jail window.

I kept looking at the tip of that tree...

Several years later I saw the entire tree of God's plan of life and salvation. I saw it with the help of Ilene, a beautiful and loving woman who took me into her home. Gently she talked with me about the truths of the Bible until I was willing to open my heart and allow the Holy Spirit to have complete control.

I started drinking when I was 16. I had moved with my family from Queens, New York, where I was born, to Inglewood, California. One night I had been waiting in front of the donut shop where I worked. My boy friend was supposed to have picked me up. Instead, some friends came by and told me there had been an accident. My boy friend was paralized in the hospital. I went straight home, found a half gallon bottle of wine, and began drinking straight out of the

From then on I was heavy into booze...mostly wine and vodka.

I didn't finish high school. As soon as I was old enough I took the G.E.D. and enlisted in the army. 13 months of that and I went AWOL. Back in California I got married. But that didn't last long. Soon I was drifting around the country, first with one guy and then another. More than once I landed in jail -- charged with being drunk and disorderly...or hitch hiking...or interstate auto theft.

Besides California, I was in Wyoming, Illinois, Louisiana, Texas and Florida. One time in Florida I actually caught sight spiritually of the tip of God's tree of life.

There was a lady at my bus stop who kept asking me if I knew Jesus. She told me that I ought to let Him come into my life. I finally went with her to her church where I went forward and made a confession of faith. I felt a new freedom from things that had been bothering me at that time. But it was not long before I was back in the old pattern.

After that I was in the midwest where I hit a real low. I was alone. I couldn't find work anywhere. I drank water and ate potato chips for a whole month. Then I took a job in a massage parlor. I hated what I found myself doing. I kept saying to myself, "This can't be

Then I met a married man who paid all my bills for me. He had me living in a trailer. For a year I did nothing but lie in bed smoking

Enough of that and there could be no place to go but a detoxification center. I went. When I got out, I didn't drink for 6 months. Then I got mixed up with another guy...and back to booze for 7 months. I stayed drunk that

whole time. For variety we did drugs: acid, speed...we shot up MDA. I really felt like I was in hell.

I knew I had to leave that lifestyle. And that is where Ilene found me. I was drunk when she took me to her home. At first I didn't respond to her counsel. But her warmth and love were so great. One day in the kitchen I turned my head around and listened. That was it! The Holy Spirit did a work in me! I experienced God's full salvation.

That day in Ilene's kitchen was during February, 1978. Two months later I was baptized.

God worked miracles in my life. He led me into a warm fellowship of His people. He directed me to a neat trailer which became my home. He is allowing me to live in a beautiful country where I can enjoy not only the tip of the tree, but the whole woodland. And he has me working and witnessing in the very detoxification center where once I stayed.

God had been after me for a long time. But it was not until I put complete trust in Him that He made such a dramatic change in my life.

Today I AM THE CHRISTIAN I AM A CONTENT man. I have a happy marriage, a son born in 1976, a good job teaching in a children's home and a place of responsibility in an active church.

But it was not always so. Today I am the Christian I hated and despised at the beginning of the decade of the seventies. I was a campus radical -- a counter culture revolutionary. , deeply committed against the moral outrage of the Vietnam war. I smoked pot, drank heavily, mobilized campus radicals and had a swinging sex life. I was one of the three most prominent radical leaders on the campus of the University of Illinois.

Then in 1973 I became depressed about my life. Several factors contributed to this. First, the woman I had been living with for 4 years suddenly left me. Second, a cooperative grocery store project of mine had fallen through. Third, I began to feel that there was something missing in the whole counter culture movement. . . I remember sitting and watching people coming out of a theater and wondering how they could justify their existence.

My depression spread to others. The war in Vietnam was over. The Kent State thing had happened. The outlook for college revolutionaries was gloomy. I called some meetings to see what could be done, but the meetings were unproductive. There was backbiting and arguing. Some called for political revolution. It was chaos.

One hot summer night I called for one of these meetings. . . I remember the date well: August 9, 1973. I left my bar tending job early and had some time on my hands, so I wandered into a bookstore. I picked up a book with a racy title. If I had known what was in that book I would not have touched it. It was Bible prophecy telling about things that would soon be happening on planet earth. I read a little. . . then more. . . I finished a chapter. The book was making me see the Bible in real terms, telling me where history was going.

I replaced the book on the rack and hurried to my meeting. It was strange: except for one girl, no one BY VERN FEIN came. The week before there had been 30! I hurried back to the bookstore and read some more. When I put the book down I was stunned. I was frightened. . . I couldn't even drink that night. The next day I bought the book. And soon I saw that I had to get

I talked to a girl who was an occasional customer at my bar. She knew a campus minister. Soon I was involved in a small Bible study for non-believers.

into the Bible to understand what the book was talking

That campus minister patiently answered my millions of questions. Finally he asked me, "Will you accept Jesus?"

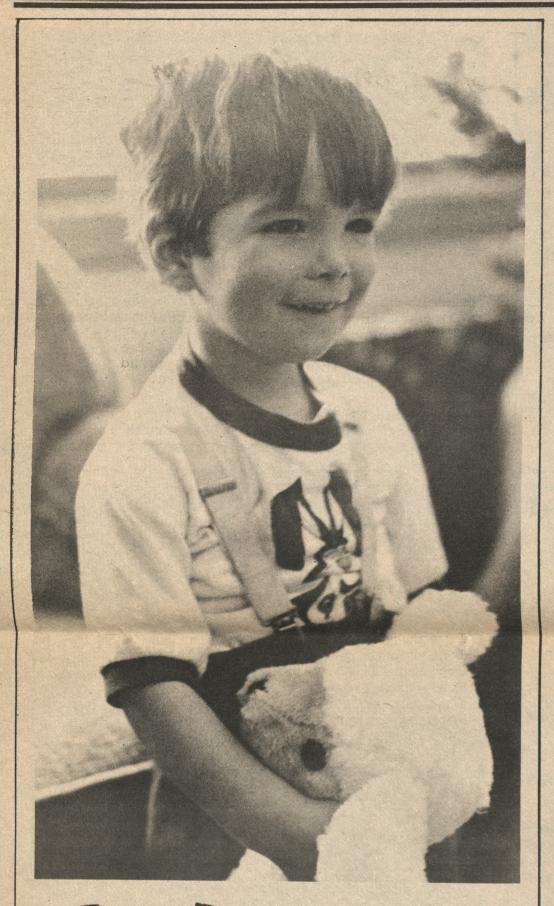
I did. I made my commitment alone while driving the car to my brother's house. Then my whole life turned around. I saw that drunkeness is wrong, violence is wrong. . . you don't sleep with a bunch of different women. . . or steal from anyone, even those in power. The style of my life changed. So did my friends.

When I became a Christian most of my former associates in the political reform movement would have nothing to do with me. They thought they were supremely intellectual and would not listen to what I had to say about the Bible. But you know, slowly. . . one at a time, some of these have come to know Jesus. And He changed their lives too.

One of those who came out of the counter culture darkness into the light is Ilyse, my loving wife.

God also touched her with His Word.





Less the LITTLE Comments of the LITTLE with a little with

The Answez

We can't afford to let life pass, Not knowing why we are. Though many seek in endless ways, We need not look too far.

Many will not acknowledge,
That our paths are often wrong.
Yet, before our very eyes,
Stands an answer true and strong.

We need not search beyond the scope, Of what we won't accept. Too often we neglect the source, Where life's secrets are kept.

One book contains the answer,
To life's mysterious plod;
Yes, life becomes more meaningful,
When we read the word of God...

- Joseph Andrew Lovato

From Behind the Walls

Bobwire, electric fence, 12ft. high Within a mass of Brick and Steel Here is where I bare my cross Just as Christ did upon the hill.

For crimes I surely committed
Prison has become my destiny.
Unlike Christ, who was innocent of sin
But because of Him I am free.

The freedom that I now have
Does not allow me to walk down the street
But I can share the love of God
With whomever I chance to meet.

Yes, I have my share of troubles
Lonely nights and seemingly endless
days,
But the good thing about being in
prison
Is, I'll always have a prayer to
pray.

Even though brick walls surround me
I have become "spiritually free"
Though a long prison sentence
bounds me,
No element on earth can keep God
from me

I may not be the perfect Christian example
But at least, I've answered my
Masters call
And one day, I will join my spirit
To be free from behind the Walls.

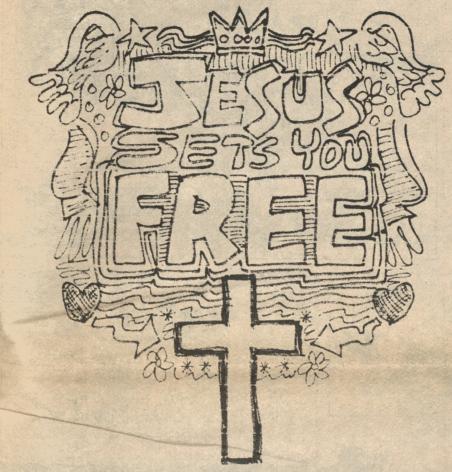
- the Poetic Prophet Bill Bridgers

Jesus

Death is a life without Him,
is a day without His comfort,
or a night not knowing of His love.

Life is a day with Him in your heart, is a day living just for Him, or a night knowing He will be there in the morning.

-- Debbie Lynn



Come into My Heart

Come into my heart my Jesus, the door is open wide--Come partake of the treasures which linger deep inside.

There you will find sweet laughter, and smiles that will light the way--This tender thing will fashion me like a beautiful bouquet.

Jesus, you will find also inside me a chest of faith and hope; These that give me strength to climb atop the steepest slope.

Sincerity will also linger there, for this cannot do me wrong, For JESUS LOVE is the power to fill my heart with a song.

All these are tied with truest love, Jesus, a treasure far beyond my measure, Giving to my Jesus that I love blissful years of faith's pleasure.

-- William Couture

God in Heaven

God in heaven, I pray to Thee,
Protect my woman and keep her free...
For I'm her man and I've done wrong,
But my love for her will always be strong.
My sweet love, this is for you,
For I only have a few months to do.

Some people make mistakes as well as I,
But we both know it's too late to cry.
I can't hear or see the trains or cars
Because all that's here are walls and bars,
Cold damp cells, with naked floors,
Endless corridors behind locked doors,
Beds of steel, endless nights of torment and shame
Where broken hearts become searing flame,
And shattered dreams like ghosts descend
Upon burdened souls of forgotten men.

-- Bruce T. Croft

I Went into the Recesses of My Mind

I went into the recesses of my mind,
I searched for a certain kind:
Pot-pouri? No. Self praise? Nay, I looked
Everything seemed to be all booked,
I continued to look, up and down,
Nothing seemed to be found.
Then finally further down a light
Piercing like a star in the night,
What I found in me that day,
Take a journey with me if you may.
I found the love of Jesus right there:
So poignant and deep, benevolent and fair.

-- Rudean Daniels

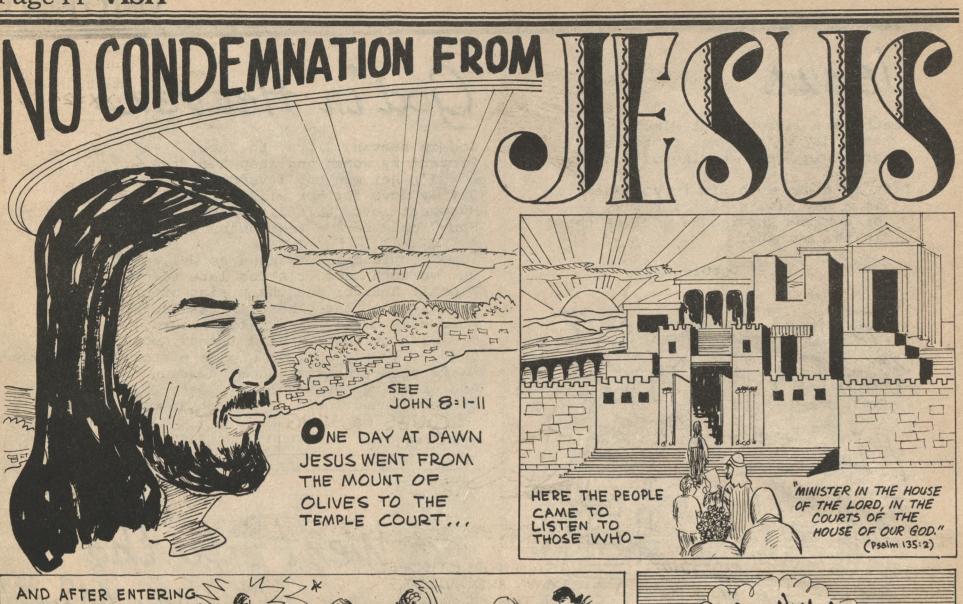
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AND AFTER ENTERING
THE COURT, JESUS
SAT DOWN
AND BEGAN TO
TEACH

TEACH
THE PEOPLE.



MARINE

SOON THE TEACHERS
OF THE LAW AND THE
PHARISEES CAME DRAGGING
A WOMAN WITH THEM.

TEACHER, THIS WOMAN WAS CAUGHT IN THE ADULTERY!

IN THE LAW, MOSES
COMMANDED US TO STONE
SUCH WOMEN ...

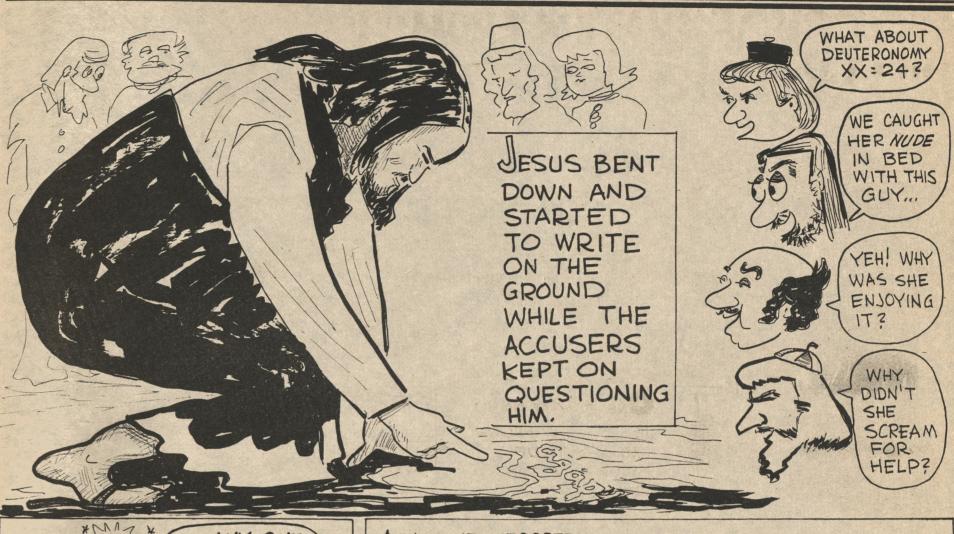
NOW-WHAT DO YOU SAY?



AND SILENTLY THEY WAITED FOR JESUS TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTION, BUT ACTUALLY THEY WERE SCHEMING TO TRICK JESUS.

THEY WERE USING THE QUESTION AS A TRAP

IN ORDER TO HAVE A BASIS



THEN STOOD IF ANY ONE OF YOU IS WITHOUT SIN, LET HIM BEGIN STONING HER! STONING HER!





JESUS SAID: ! HAVE COME INTO THE WORLD AS A LIGHT, SO THAT NO ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME SHOULD STAY IN DARKNESS... FOR ! DID NOT COME TO JUDGE THE WORLD, BUT TO SAVE IT!

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MAY GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU STUDY AND SEEK TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER.

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Visit · By · Mail

- OR -

Visit-By-Mail is a program of matching people inside prison and people on the outside who are both looking to develop Christian friendship by mail.

If you would like to write to a Christian on the outside, simply write us a letter telling us your name, age, special interests and anything else you think may be of interest to someone on the outside.

We will then include your name and information in our next regualr bulletin, which is sent to all interested Christians who request it.

We leave the selection of your name up to the people receiving our Visit-By-Mail bulletin.

Visit-By-Mail is not a "lonely hearts club" or "match makers". Visit-By-Mail rather seeks to provide a means for Christians to

develop friendship and to fellowship by mail.

When you write your new friend follow rules of common sense, respect and good taste.

Building a new friendship is a two way street...everybody has their own thoughts, ideas and problems. Respect your new friend. Friendship is based on mutual understanding and shared common interests. Friendship based on what one person can do for or give to another person, in way of money, gifts, etc., does not last.

Make it your personal goal to understand and encourage the person you write to.

We care. We're here to help. If you have any questions write to me: Duane Pederson.

To be listed write: Visit-By-Mail
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