

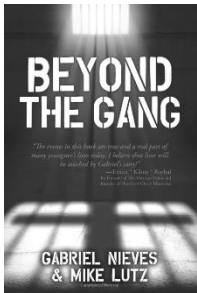
**FREEDOM
IN CHRIST**



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

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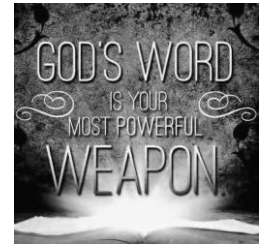
I saw the picture of the book "Beyond the Gang" in the PCM newsletter a few weeks ago. The title caught my attention because of my life and the situation I am in. Since the ad for the book was in the PCM newsletter, I figured it had something to

do with God. I found it interesting that a former police chief would endorse the book along with several other pastors. Gabriel's life sounded just like mine because he was caught up in the gang life. As the story began, I was sure Gabriel was going to end up in prison. Gabriel was good at basketball and it was sad that he messed up his opportunity to be on a basketball team and stay in school. God used an inmate in the county jail to share God's love with him. The book shares a big miracle God did when Gabriel went to court. The book closes with another amazing story of God changing the heart of one of Gabriel's victims. I encourage you to request a copy of the book because it will give you hope and strengthen your faith in God.

M.A. (Juvenile Hall)

If you would like to read Beyond the Gang, submit a religious request slip or ask Chaplain Rick Johnson when you see him.

My name is Othon and I'd like to start by saying, "The word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires..." Hebrews 4:12-13



My parents came to the United States from Mexico in 1976 looking for a better life. Soon afterwards, my dad began selling heroin and cocaine. Our life did get better but not without a lot of other problems. One was my dad having a lot of enemies. The first time I heard God speak to me was when I was six years old. I was hiding in a closet with my mom and two sisters. My dad was in jail and we heard rumors that some men were coming to rob us. I was really scared and when I prayed, I sensed the Lord saying, "You don't need to be afraid, for I will protect you." The next day we packed our bags and went to live with my aunt. It was 1983 and I was 7 years old.

My dad got bailed out of jail and eight months later, two guys came to our house with big pistols stuck behind their belts. My dad let them in and they talked for hours. Two days later, these guys came back while my sisters and I were watching television. They put us in the bathroom and moments later we heard five loud shots. We came out to my mom screaming with blood and brains splattered everywhere. I went to hug my mom and tasted the blood soaked clothes. My dad's eyes were gone and blood was running out of his sockets.

The next year I went to a new school and my first-grade teacher began calling me by a different name (Jose). My old name reminded my mom of my dad and after meeting another man, she wanted to forget about him. I lost my dad when he was killed and now I felt that I had lost my mom to her new husband. I turned to the streets at age 11 and joined a gang.

continued on back

**WE WANT TO CREATE MORE NEWSLETTERS
TO DO THIS WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Please pick up a newsletter application at Protestant / Christian church service.



Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry

continued...

I was in and out of Juvenile Hall several times during the next few years. I remember getting down on my knees in Unit B as a sad and lonely boy crying out to God saying, "Why was I born and why doesn't anyone care for me?" I filled out a request to meet with a chaplain and Chaplain Rick came to see me several times. I got a Bible and was comforted in a way I had never been before.

When I turned 18, Chaplain Rick got me into the Victory Outreach Men's Home and I was there for seven months. While at a car wash with the men, some of my homies pulled up and told me to get in the car. My old girlfriend was inside and they were planning a big party that night. It was on a Halloween night that I left the home and thirty days later I was in jail on my way to prison for the first time. I got out after seven years and picked up my old gang lifestyle. Within a short time, I picked up a 30-years to life sentence. I ended up with Hepatitis C and began expecting to die in prison. Satan is the father of lies who is out to kill, steal, and destroy. It is not easy to serve God in prison and only four other guys on my tier are Christians.

I've tried pretty much everything to be happy and finally realized that the love of God is what I need. Thanks to God, I am now being treated for Hepatitis C and have rededicated my life to Jesus Christ. I am blessed to be alive and know that whatever work God begins, he will finish. Jesus began that work when I was a terrified six year old hiding in that closet. My life isn't the best but I feel the love of Christ in me and by faith I believe everything Jesus said. Today I have peace of mind and know that Jesus Christ is guiding me. Put your trust in Jesus because nothing else will work.

Jose (Prison)

The Bible teaches when you become a Christian, you become a BRAND NEW PERSON!

Do you want to learn more about the NEW YOU and the POWER and FREEDOM you have as a CHILD OF GOD?

If so, consider the Protestant Chaplaincy Ministry's one-on-one weekly discipleship program.

To sign up for discipleship, please submit a Religious Request form through your unit staff.



Hello young brothers and sisters. I still remember back to my first time in the Hall on the way out of my first church service. I was scoping out the free literature. An art piece caught my eye, so I picked up a copy of the newsletter. I'm in my cell checkin' out the art and I see there is a verse on it. I was curious to know what it was about. I didn't have a Bible, so this made me ask for one. Remember, it's my first time busted so a lot is going through my little head. I'm sad, I'm scared, and yes, I'm in need of love. So I look up the verse. It's John 3 v 16 (For God so loved the world...). Everything I needed to know at that moment was in that verse! So, forever, these newsletters will have a place in my heart. It's amazing how someone's actions could have a greater reaction on others without notice. Don't underestimate the power of your words or art. Be courageous and submit your work to the newsletters. You will have a great affect on others.

Chris (Prison)

GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION

The Bible teaches that "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Sin is a wrongful thought, attitude, or action. Sin is the act of doing wrong as well as the willful desire to do wrong. Sin separates you from God. But, God does not want you to remain separated from Him. Therefore Jesus Christ, who is fully and completely God, came to this earth and lived as a man. He had a physical body just like you, but He was born without sin and He never sinned. **When Jesus was crucified on the cross, He cried out "It is finished"** because God the Father accepted Jesus' payment for all of your sin – past, present, and future. But the story doesn't end there. Three days later Jesus rose bodily from the dead to prove that His Word is true and that He is the Giver of eternal life. **Do you want to put your trust in Jesus and receive God's gift of salvation?** Then, simply tell God in prayer that you are a sinner and thank Him that Jesus died in your place to forgive your sins and rose from the dead to give you eternal life. Yes, it is that easy! Why not pray now.

Welcome to the Family of God!

We would love to hear of your decision, pray with you and give you a Bible.

To meet with someone from the Protestant Ministry, please submit a Religious Request form through your unit staff.