

From behind the wall

by Larry Baker 35021
Salem [OSP] Correspondent
by Larry Starcher #37013

An Eternal Rehabilitation Program

God is alive and well in prison, as well as out there.

I came to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior last October (1976) while at the O.S.P. Forest Camp. When I went on school release in December, I promptly forgot that commitment and "Back slid." Consequently I'm back inside the walls and realize the errors I made and have come to know Christ in my everyday life very intimately.

One hears a great deal about "Bible-backs" in prison; those who try to ride the Bible out of here and promptly leave it on the front steps when they leave. Those people usually come back before long. They are very comparable to the "Sunday Morning Christians" that abound out there, or those who have gotten "fox-hole religion." I'd be untruthful if I said there isn't a certain amount of this in here. It's unfortunate, but true, just as there are phonies in every field or cause.

On the positive side, when a man in here finally reaches that point of realizing that he can't run his own life and uses God to take over -- really surrender to the Lord and trust in Him, only then does the healing, rehabilitating process begin.

After coming into a closer relationship with God, I've found that He seems to have a special place in His heart for prisoners. Nearly every major figure in both the Old and New Testaments were in prison at one time. Jesus Christ was crucified between two convicts. The whole nation of Israel was held prisoner by Egypt and Babylon, yet they were delivered. There are numerous promises to a prisoner in Gods Word. My favorite is Psalms 68: 6, "God setteth the solitary in families: He bringeth out those who are bound with chains, but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."

Jesus taught about remembering and visiting those in prison. (Matthew 25: 36-40). Isaiah 42: 7 tells of the Lord's servant sent to... "to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." These are just a few of the scriptural promises God has given convicts.

Earlier I mentioned rehabilitation and healing. God has the only "rehab" program going that really works. In the past fourteen years I've seen and tried a



Deonne Washington attends Law Class at O.S.P.

whole lot of different programs -- you see where I still am. As long as we look to man and his doings for our supply or salvation, we are going to be disappointed. However, when we submit to our Creator and look to Him as the Source of all, He is faithful to deliver us.

This has been brought home to me while in O.S.P. I've found a peace and tranquility in Him that I've never known before. No amount of burglaries, drugs or alcohol have given me the sense of self-worth and contentment or love for my fellow man that has come since I've begun serving my Lord.

Man called religion the opiate of the masses; many people call it a crutch. I agree -- because I've found that by trying to live on my own is just about as successful as a one-legged man at a fanny kicking party. All the pain that comes in a normal life can be turned over to Him -- after all, that's why Jesus was nailed to the cross.

Through this new life I no longer feel a need to harass the guards here or cause trouble with other convicts. This same security is what gives me the will to go straight when I leave here.

Unfortunately, we have the same problems with the officials of this penal system that exists in all other fields. Man

simply is too proud and hung-up on his own achievements and abilities to be able to accept or acknowledge that ever-present Being that has existed from the beginning. Man wants to be given credit for coming up with solutions to all of his problems from rehabilitation to the energy crisis. He's too proud to look to his ever-loving Creator for the answers.

by Deonne Edward Washington
O.S.P. Black Culture Club Treasurer

Religion -- "Belief in God"

Here at the Oregon State Pen, religion for Baptist brothers is only two times a week. These times are on Sunday only.

Black inmates whom are -- involved with church -- are very strong. They have to be -- mainly because, when you talk about church around other inmates here at O.S.P., they don't associate God with church, they associate the rap or rapist with church -- and they use that as an excuse for not attending. And this would be in regard to Blacks or whites.

Now, on the second Sunday -- that's a different story. When Black women appear it seems like every Black brother within miles shows up. And it's not to praise God with the sisters (but to stare). I'm not trying to say every man doesn't

know "God" but most of the brothers there have a pride level, and will not allow their names to be lowered.

There are about twenty-five strong brothers that I know of -- that are involved with the church system, and for the most part a good percent are not (rapo's) or (rapists) and if they are -- they are praying for forgiveness -- and I believe if we ask ourselves if that's wrong -- I don't believe you'd say yes.

For the most part -- inmates believe in God -- but because there's a percent of men attending with moral charges -- they shy away.

Also, men use church -- or try to use church as a way out of O.S.P. So the powers to be here at O.S.P. don't care about the men and their religion beliefs.

Most brothers will be upset about this article, but then that's the way most people react about the truth.

by Larry A. Harnden #35001

I'm a man. A man doing life in the Joint for murder. I'm a man whose life before he came to the Joint wasn't the kind of life anyone would want to brag about. It don't matter now what kind of life I had before. What matters is what kind of life I have now in Jesus Christ! Yes, I am a Christian! A follower of Jesus Christ, My Lord and Savior. I'm not ashamed of confessing Jesus Christ as my Lord and I'm also not ashamed of telling you that I got down on my knees and cried my heart out to the Lord, asking him to come in and save me cause I messed everything up in my life.

You know what? God heard my plea! I was saved that day. Born again of the spirit, washed and cleansed by Jesus's blood, baptized in the Holy Ghost, saved! I wouldn't trade one second of my life I have now in Jesus for all of that old corrupted life I had before. You laugh and talk if you want to but I know. I know and am persuaded that he (Jesus) is able to keep that which I have committed to him until that day.

Now, you don't see no collection plate here in this letter and you don't see no plea for legal support to get me out. Why? Well I'll let you figure that out. Read the above again, maybe that'll help.

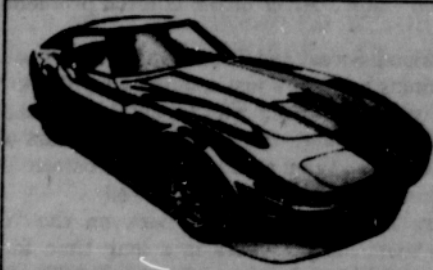
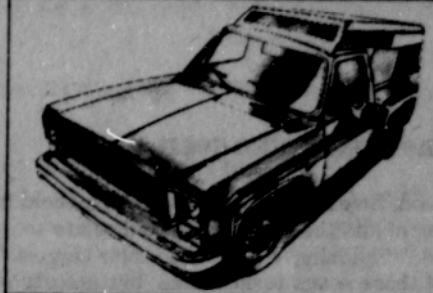
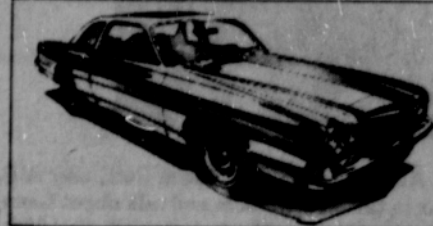
Walk in the grace of God people, there is no other way back to God but through his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

Yeah, I'm a man. A man doing life in the Joint for murder.

May God lead you to Christ.
God Bless you Brothers and Sisters.

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Executive order not affected by Court's seniority rule

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department's equal employment opportunity (EEO) program for federal contractors and subcontractors is not affected by the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding seniority systems, Assistant Secretary of Labor Donald Elisburg said.

Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits federal contractors and subcontractors from employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin. The 1965 order is administered by the department's Employment Standards Administration, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).

"Federal contractors and subcontractors, and their employees, should be aware that the Supreme Court ruled on the effects of seniority systems on employment practices under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, not under Executive Order 11246," Elisburg pointed out.

"This department has long held that discrimination continued under the guise

of a seniority system is a violation of the employer's contractual agreement with the government," he said. "We will continue to demand modification, under the executive order, of pre-1965 seniority systems which perpetuate the past effects of employment discrimination."

Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended, prohibits all employers with fifteen or more workers from employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

The Supreme Court's May ruling in International Brotherhood of Teamsters vs. United States, held that bona fide seniority systems which existed prior to 1964 but lock in the past effects of employment discrimination are not a violation of Title VII and, therefore, not subject to challenge.

The court based its decision on an exemption in Title VII which states that use of different standards in employment practices is not illegal under a bona fide seniority system, so long as there is not intention to discriminate.

Jefferson auditions dancers

The Jefferson Performing Arts Center announces auditions for Fall Dance Classes. All students who wish to enter intermediate or advanced classes and who have not previously studied at the Jefferson Center must audition. Beginning level students need not audition.

Audition schedule: Thursday, September 1, 1977: Intermediate Level -- 10:00 a.m.; Advanced Level -- 11:00 a.m.; The Jefferson Dancers -- 1:00 p.m.

All high school students must apply for admission to the program; college students are admitted on a space-available

basis through Portland Community College. All dance classes are full year classes and may be taken either for high school or college credit. For more information, call 287-1398.

Dance artists in residence for school year 1977-78 will be: September 1-30 -- Lowell Smith -- choreographer and dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem. October 10-29 -- Alwin Nikolais and the Nikolais Dance Theatre. November 14-19 -- Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco. January 28, 1978 -- Dancers with Dennis Whayne and his exciting new company.

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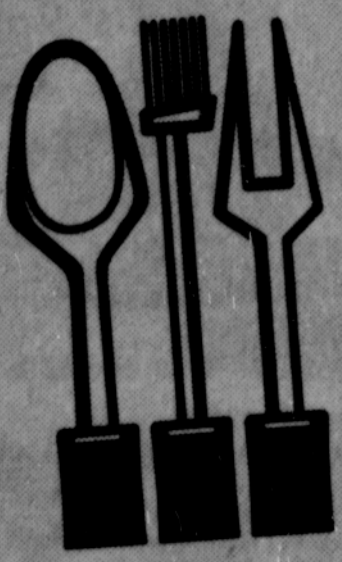
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