

Spring 2009

Volume 2



# Gateway To Glory Ministries

P O Box 863

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0863

**Founded by: Steve and Robin Malek**

## *Change (not the kind in my pocket)*

As a child I used to think that if I ignored something long enough, it would go away. Sometimes that worked, most of the time, though, it didn't. In fact, if I ignored something important long enough (like a cut or a sore), it would change; eventually morphing into something that was much worse (corruption).

Change has been upon us for a long time. We believers have stood by and allowed our morals to be bombarded by a secular culture (ignoring the sores). We see the corrupt effects of our lassitude. In schools: no prayer, teaching evolution as fact, drugs, and teacher/student fornication. In society: homosexuality being celebrated in the streets, pedophilia on the rise, you can't watch a PG-13 movie without hearing the Lord's name used in vain, and don't even let me get started about what we are subjected to on our own TV's ...everywhere change is occurring, and we (believers) have been trying to ignore it, hoping it will go away.

Admittedly, some change is necessary and good, but not change that violates the law of the Lord.

What's the point of this rant? Changing lives and communities is what Gateway To Glory Ministries is all about. What kind of changes? Changes that will one day help our communities fight back against the moral decay that has crept into this society. Men are being equipped with the tools to fight the addictions, the character defects, and the immorality that has been a part of their lives for far too long.

Just as the Ark of the Covenant ("God With Us") went with Joshua to the battles, there are a group of believers who are fasting and praying for this ministry and the men involved in it, from Wednesday evening 6pm to Thursday evening 6pm. We have committed to go into the battle of changing our world with these men. If your health permits and the Lord leads, please consider joining us. As we fast and pray for these men and their changed lives, we too can play a part in turning our society back to the Lord.



## *Changing Lives*

As mentioned above, Gateway is committed to changing our communities through the men the Lord sends to us. It is a testimony of God's goodness when you see the men walking through the church, attending the Bible Studies, soaking up the Word of God, and then sharing what they have learned with others.

Do some of the men who come through the ministry fall away? Sure, but seeds are being planted or watered, and it's God who gives the increase – I Corinthians 3:6-8 (and we know He will!) We choose to rejoice over the men the Lord grips, changes and then plants in our communities, churches and ministries. With your continued support, these men's lives are being shaped and changed for the better.

If you choose to financially support Gateway To Glory Ministries, your donation becomes an investment in the future of our communities and in the lives of those men living in the Gateway home. All donations to Gateway To Glory Ministries are tax deductible.



**Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. – Matthew 7:14**

## Testimony

My name is Jim. I hope my story can help someone else who has been a lost soul, as I once was. What I'm going to share is what my life was like, what happened to me, and how I was brought to the Lord.

I was the eldest of three children and at 9 years old I suffered a great trauma in my life. In 1967, I had just turned 9 and the Detroit riots were in progress. My family was scared, so for protection, guns were brought into the home. My mother was accidentally shot and killed by one of those guns. About 6 months after my mother's death, my father remarried and brought two step-sisters and a step-mom into our home. Not only was this a difficult adjustment, but a history of alcoholism and abusive behavior began to take a toll on the family. Three years later, my step-mom and dad divorced and my father left us, his original children, with our step-mom. She was 28 years old, raising 5 children, ages 9-13. God bless her soul for taking care of us.

I was a gifted athlete at a young age, was popular in high school and even had the "Homecoming Queen girlfriend". Even though things looked good on the outside, I was sad, confused and without God. In my senior year, my girlfriend got pregnant and it was decided to put our son up for adoption. By the time I turned 18, I had lost a mother, a father, and I had also lost a son.

Shortly after the adoption I went to college and found the one thing that kept the pain I was carrying in my heart at bay – liquor. However, liquor began to get the best of me and I moved from college to live at my grandmother's house. This choice cost me a chance at a pro baseball career – another loss. I had thought pro baseball could be my life, so that loss pushed me deeper into drinking, drugging, and women. By the time I turned 40, I had been through a number of jobs, two marriages, and a number of women in between. As I continued on my path of destruction, the consequences (naturally) got worse and soon I was on the verge of

becoming homeless. I tried AA and NA in 1993, 1995, and 1997. The programs were good, but I never gave my will and life over to the care of God, because I never really understood what that was all about. I finally ended up in a recovery house in Flint, hoping to find something different. Looking back I can see that God was working in my life over and over again, but I was choosing not to work in His. Around 2002, I went to Lapeer to live and accumulated some substantial clean time, but realized that something was still missing. Because of that missing piece I moved back to Macomb and fell into my old patterns again.

God saw fit to allow me to go to jail, and this is where the real change finally took place. A man came to visit me in jail, told me Jesus Christ loved me and would forgive me if I chose to let Him into my life and heart. I had been told this many times before, but this time I believed it. This gentleman and I prayed for forgiveness and then he told me about a recovery house he had, called Gateway to Glory. I listened to him, but when I got out I chose to go my own way again. Many times throughout my life, I considered suicide, but couldn't do it. About a month later, struggling with suicidal thoughts again, I decided instead to pick up the phone and ask for help from Gateway. You know what? They didn't turn their back on me, like most people in my life had.

I'm now in the Gateway house and have been since 11/14/08. I'm forgiven and want to learn the way of Christ our (and my) Savior. I want what you people at Bethesda have, happiness, joy, and peace. I'm willing to learn and try and love.

Thank you, Steve, Mike, and most of all Jesus Christ who loved me and died for me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I have an opportunity I never believed I'd have (being close to, and knowing our Lord). God bless you all.

~Jim



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*"A man came to visit me in jail, told me Jesus Christ loved me and would forgive me, if I chose to let Him into my life and heart."*

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## From the House Manager

This election year has been making me think. I love my country, but our government is losing sight of God's principles that our country was built on. Now being politically correct or diluting the truth is just the opposite of what Jesus Christ is all about. Diluted truth, or "white lies", is just that – LIES. "Bending" rules as long as it does not hurt anyone or is "not that bad" is nonsense. It is still breaking the rules.

Men in addiction and the country losing sight of God's principles are both caught up in the same rebellion. They

## On the Inside, Lookin' Out

Praise be to God! No matter where we are, in prison or on the streets, God's offer of salvation is but a word away – Jesus is that word!

I could talk about many things for many hours, but what I believe you good people wish to hear about is how God is moving inside these prison walls. I'm not much of a writer, so please bear with me.

For those of you that never read a tract put out by our church, you may want to. It's more detailed about my past than I'm going to speak on in this newsletter. Ask Robin or Steve for a copy of "Hazards of Life Without Jesus Christ".

Today I sit on my bunk praying for all of you. God is truly awesome. In the Fall issue there were a few words about me and the time I'm doing. I must say that now, I may be on the inside of a prison, but I'm more free than at any other time of my life.

I have been in prison twice before. I did the time, got out, and went back to the same things that sent me to prison. The difference this time is simple. I'm not doing the time alone; Christ is with me each step of the way. By leaning on Jesus, I've learned to find the answers to my daily problems in my Bible. Doing time is very hard on us all. Friends and family are doing the time with us. I pray for peace for all of us and that we will all rest in the Lord's hands as His perfect will is done.

The yard [the exercise area] is filled with many elements: there is a war going

are both turning their backs on God and are in for judgment. We here at Gateway Ministries are instilling God's principles in men so they can be self-disciplined and live in the truth. We have seen men's lives changed even in this cesspool of sin our country is creating.

So remember, we are all sinners in need of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Please continue praying for the men in the Gateway house and also for our government. In those two mentioned above, we need a change in the hearts of men.



on in here. We have problems with drugs, rape, and gang violence. Satan has many foot soldiers in the prison yards, but God is moving. We need your prayers. Many of the men in here are sick of serving Satan. When I served the dark side, I did it well. There aren't many crimes I have not committed. I had made a name for myself in many circles. Now when I walk the yard with a Bible in my hands, some men are unbelieving. Sooner or later they come to talk. When they do, I open our talk with a prayer, then I share with them how easy it really is to call on the Lord, to be added to the Book of Life. I end with a prayer, asking Jesus to send more believers across their path, to water the seed that was planted.

I was blessed with a very powerful testimony. I'm very humbled by the fact that I'm still alive. To be alive is a blessed gift from God and one I don't take lightly. I know He has given me a job to do and I have the tools to do it. There isn't much I can't relate to: from being abused as a child, drug use, to being willing to commit murder. God took me and molded me into a man that is as different as day is to night.

I know that I'm on many of your prayer lists. I'm very grateful to God for your prayers. They are being answered. Thank you all very much.

If anyone wishes to correspond with me or one of my brothers in chains, please contact Robin for the information.

~KP (once King Pin-now the King's Prisoner)



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*"When I served the dark side, I did it well. There aren't many crimes I have not committed. I had made a name for myself in many circles. Now when I walk the yard with a Bible in my hands, some men are unbelieving."*

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P O Box 863  
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0863

Phone:  
586-978-7022

E-Mail:  
contact@gateway2glory.org

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**We're on the Web!**

**See us at:**

**[www.gateway2glory.org](http://www.gateway2glory.org)**

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## *The Final Word*

If I've said it once, I've said it 50 times to the inmates at Macomb County Jail (MCJ)-being incarcerated is one of the greatest acts of God's mercy in their lives. How do I know that and how can I say that with certainty? I can say it because I lived it. God shed His mercy on my life by allowing me to be incarcerated. In fact, incarceration saved me from myself. I was on a path that was leading straight to hell and I was trying to take my wife with me. (You see, no one wants to go there alone.) Every time I ask my Friday morning group of guys at MCJ to raise their hand if they really and truly believe they should have been dead a long time ago, without fail almost every hand goes up.

Not only is God's mercy at work in their lives, but ministries are being bought. The Lord is taking the lowest of the low to school. He puts them behind bars, yes, but really He's putting them in the FBI – the Fish Belly Institute. See, that's where Jonah finally said, "Okay, Lord, I don't know where we're going, but let's go. Just get me outta here!" (my paraphrase) When God calls a person, I've got to believe He's looking for a

"Yes" answer, which doesn't always come easy – especially the first time around. He then leaves that person to themselves for a while. After years and years of rejecting God they find themselves in anguish, at the end of their rope. But that's where the Lord keeps His office, right at the end of our rope. We just have to be willing to let go, and let God.

When my daughter was about 10 years old, I told her a little about my past life before I gave my heart to Jesus. Afterwards, she just looked at me real serious and said, "That just seems like a hard way to live Daddy." My soul screamed a hardy "Amen!" and the Holy Spirit, at that moment, reminded me of Matthew 11:30: ***For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.***

Are you still holding on to your rope, maybe dangling from a thread? Is there just "one thing" that you can't let go of? Remember, God says He wants it all or nothing. So, do yourself a favor. Surrender all and take His yoke upon yourself. It's a whole lot easier way to live!

All glory be to Him who's still on the throne!

~Because of Him and for Him~Steve



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