

**Mother's Day 5/13**

Partnership for Re Entry Program (PREP)  
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**Memorial Day 5/28**

# OASIS

**May-2018**

**Freedom  
Within**

## LIFE ON THE INSIDE

### Found suitable for Parole with Gratitude to PREP

by Jason Berger ~ SATF

God bless you at PREP for all you've done for me and my family. I send my love and gratitude to you and the PREP program and will forever be indebted to y'all. With your help I achieved a grant of parole on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017. I truly believe that it was your PREP program along with your great support letter which helped persuade the Board to grant my Parole. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I would like everyone striving for a parole grant to stay strong and never give up. **"What we believe is out of sight, is only just around the corner to those who work for it."**

When I was arrested at 16 years old for the cold and callous crime of murder robbery in 1992, it was the rule that anyone with a sentence of 26 to life would never go home. I sadly believed this and spent 13 years undermining my chances for relief by engaging in violence and a degree of criminality that was only self-destructive to myself and others. Luckily, having come across the PREP program and other inmates who found change, I was given a second chance to redeem the person I was before prison and reach a level of **insight** needed to be a productive member of society in here as well as upon my release.



**Ruben Martinez ISP**

**It's never too late to change and should you take this step in your life,** the Board does recognize **"real change"** and rewards it.

Thanks again for your help and trust in endorsing my release. I hope to repay your belief in me through living right and giving back as well as paying it forward. Take care and keep up the good work as I will... Love always Jason. ♥ ♥ ♥



**Michael LaCapria  
Mule Creek**

### It's Easy to Feel Hopeful on a Day Like Today

Three Year Denial by Mark Lugo CTF

I hope all is going great for you and the PREP family! This hearing did not go as hoped. I was given a three-year denial. Even though I've been denied parole at five of my six hearings, it doesn't lessen the punch when I hear the commissioners say, "Unsuitable."

After the 6 ½ hour hearing, I waited at East Gate (work exchange) for another hour to be taken back to South facility. I was still processing my three-year denial as the workers were returning from maintenance shops, vocational programs and industries. Seeing friends from my 16 years at Central facility was a good thing. Lots of jokes all around about: messed up programs at Central and South facilities, dorm living, bad cellies, writeups, court cases, Lifers on level one yards living with Short-timers, and gossip. We all had jokes about everything, because it's what lifers do on the road to doing life.

The clouds give the area some spectacular shows. It gives my eyes something to marvel at while my mind on more To Do lists, grappling with "Now what?" Adventure is going on around here (and there is always something going on), or just thinking about the world. It's also my way to decompress.

As the Board-outcome-on-the-brain was gnawing at my, "It's going to be alright" coping process there was a moment (as if cued by the cosmos) where clouds came more alive and exploded with vibrant colors. It took my breath away and calmed my disquietude... and then a memory resurfaced with the Uber-upliftingness of a Sunday psalm.



**David Galves ASP**

"It's easy to feel hopeful on a beautiful day like today. But there will be dark days ahead of us too. There will be days when you feel alone and that's when hope is needed most. No matter how harried it gets or how lost you feel, you must promise me that you will hold onto hope. People need that and even if we fail... what better way is there to live?"

Hope is hope, wherever it comes from it is found in "Hang in there!" cat posters. It is found in Romans 5:3-4... "But we also rejoice in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character and character, hope." It is found in a Spiderman movie where Mary Jane (played by Emma Stone) gave her it's easy to feel hopeful on a beautiful day like today's graduation speech. The point is it is found especially when it is needed most. I'm sorry I'm unable to give you better news of my Board hearing. Thank you for your continued positivity, prayers, and support. Hopefully things will go better at the next hearing.



**Jose Rodriguez ASP**



# Feedback

## Gang Awareness Binh Nguyen PBSP

It has taken me over 3 years to finish TP1. I am turning in my last lesson. I'm very proud of my accomplishments. Thank you to everyone who has helped grade my lessons and sent me lessons. Thank you PREP for being the bridge to my freedom.

## Anger Management Jose A Urenda CTF-C

All what I learned and my experience with this program has made me a better person and a more loving father. I will use what I learn in all my anger situation. I will all ways pray to my God which is my catholic faith.

## Anger Management Robert Dech NORCO

My experience taking this course was good. This course keeps me pushing on and staying in thought about negative and positive choices.

## Found Suitable Paul Pommells WSP

God is good. I got found suitable for parole at my very first parole consideration hearing. I know that I did not do it alone. I had a lot of help. I started taking the PREP Insight course, doing it twice and each time it helped me a lot. I must thank all the paid and unpaid workers at PREP and all the beautiful contributors who help keep PREP funded. Please don't stop because you are all doing God's work. Grace & Peace



PREP staff enjoyed an afternoon at Dockweiler Beach in El Segundo to welcome TIN THANG home after 22 years' incarceration and 8 months immigration hold. Pictured are: Tin, Elissa Mirzael, Tone, Sister, Tony Kim, Alfredo Cruz and Paul Cortez. Great way to celebrate EARTH DAY on April 22! Long live our planet EARTH.

From the desk of Sister Mary Sean

We celebrate ALL MOTHER'S this month, praying especially for MOM'S who strive to be the best you can be to your children. We love you!!!



In the last couple weeks, we at PREP experienced several wonderful events: a day at UCSB with Dr. Susan Derwin and her team, and two art shows!!! Two years ago, Dr. Derwin and I connected to collaborate on an Interdisciplinary Humanities program within the prison. In November, 2016 we visited Kern Valley and introduced the Humanities Program to inmates. This is a series of six literature pieces in a wide variety of subjects. The participants do each of the pieces, reflect on it, send their reflection to Susan, have the reflection reviewed by a student in Susan's class and send the next literature piece back to the participant.

On Thursday, April 26, Tony Kim, Gary Thomas and Alfredo Cruz were members on the panel for the conference "Humanities in Prison". The day was very powerful as we listened to teachers tell of their work with inmates in Humanities. Of the day, Tony relates: "Being able to personally see the advocates that represent our voices from the inside was very meaningful". Al shares: "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." As I listened to the speakers it dawned on me that I was in a room full of learned people using their knowledge of history to save those who otherwise were doomed." And from Gary: "As a former lifer, I am grateful to know that inmates are being educated to reintegrate into society through literature." **Thank you, Susan, for working with us at PREP.**

On April 14-15 PREP held its art show at St. Lawrence Martyr in Redondo Beach and on April 28-29, at St. Joseph's in Long Beach. The high value of the shows is two-fold: to engage the parish community in the work of transformation within the prison system, especially in Lifers, and the shows serve as PREP's fundraiser. **We are grateful to all artists who send us your masterpiece and to the parishioners who so fully support this work.**

As May flowers bless us, we continue to pray for MOTHERS and for each of you. We send blessings and love, Sister and the PREP Staff



Art Show Staff: Tony Kim, Mario Ortiz, Dan Adamik, Al Cruz and Sister, dine at La Valentina Grill after the St. Joseph art show.

**More Feedback:** Four of us completed INSIGHT. I am not a lifer but I wanted a better understanding on INSIGHT and to be part of a positive setting with my peers who are seeking to be better. The packet was done during our weekly "Lifer Group" and has helped me to continue to build on myself and with others. Thank you. Mali Williams SV

## Art Show Update



**May 5/6 St. Denis**  
2151 S. Diamond Bar Avenue, Diamond Bar, 91765

**May 19/20 American Martyrs**  
624 15<sup>th</sup> St, Manhattan Beach, 90266-4805

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