

Father's Day 6/17

Partnership for Re Entry Program (PREP)
PO Box 77850 Los Angeles, CA 90007
Telephone (323) 371-0757
www.PREPLA.org

OASIS



June-2018

Freedom
Within

Summer Solstice 6/21



Sister Giulii done gone wild!

The 3 MOTORCYCLE SISTERS wish you a wild summer of riding with the wind in your heart and grit in your soul.

From the desk of Sister Mary Sean



Sister Anne Notorious Biker



Sister Mary abandons PREP for biking

The legislation that put Mother's Day before Father's Day was wise legislation. Is Mother's Day before Father's Day to show the order of importance?

We at PREP (more men than women), wish all Father's a beautiful FATHER'S DAY!!!

May 19-20 marks the last art show (American Martyrs in Manhattan Beach) of the 11th season of show. We had seven shows. These have become to us at PREP a signature of the program. They serve not only as a friend-raiser but as a two-fold education

- The work that PREP does to work with the incarcerated through self-help correspondence courses to provide rehabilitation; PREP also greatly values and prison visits to know firsthand who we are ministering to.
- That positive programming in prison transforms inmates to return to the community

The staff at the art show are living proof of this change. Staff members talk at the Masses and receive much praise for the change and new life.

We at PREP remain in deep gratitude to each of you who send us your art. Particularly we thank MCCF Wizards of Taft and IAOP (Inmate Arts Outreach Project) at Mule Creek for regular "packages" of art work.



The first show of our 12th season will be September 22 at Homeboy with their 5K walk/run, followed by a show at Pilgrim Place September 29. Thank you for continuing to send us your treasured pieces in these 4 months so we open with your spectacular art. We thank you.

PREP has been blessed with BRITTANY FRIEDMAN, a PhD student from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Brittany is interviewing 50 former Lifers, women and men, as part of her dissertation research.

We give very special thanks to LUKE SHELDON who has been reviving PREP's website for the past six months. Check it out: PREPLA.org. You will like it!!! We are presently setting up the website to get donations on-line.

Fathers, we praise and bless you and your children. And we send blessings and love to each of you, Sister and Staff.

LIFE ON THE INSIDE

PREPARATION FOR LIFE by Rudy Mercado

So where do I begin? There is just so much that I could say right now. But I am limited with space. In July of 1990, I and two others participated in taking a young man's life. At the time I was an impulsive, self-centered, immature 16 yr. old kid.

It is shameful to say that I began my life of utter destruction at the age of 9. I was ordered to counseling with my first arrest. I would end up in almost every type of detention you could think of!! This negative life I was living continued well into adulthood to about the age of 35. Although I had aged in number I was in many ways still that 16-yr. old. I could attach almost any defect of character to myself. I created an extensive criminal record in and out of the system.

Let us fast forward 27 years to Wednesday, February 28, 2018, going to my 4th suitability hearing. I was in the board room calm and confident. It lasted three hours. A break was taken for them to decide what they will do. I returned to the board room awaiting to hear what so many of us long to hear. That magical statement was said: "We find you Suitable for Parole." I was not sure that I had heard what I did. But yes, it was true. Talk about a flood of overwhelming emotions. Whew! All of those Turning Point modules of self-reflection as well as other self-help groups definitely contributed to my being prepared. And not just for that day, but I believe also for the foreseeable future. There is no doubt in my mind it was all vital, including the Gang Awareness course.

Chuck Giannini, after a long struggle with cancer, passed away on June 2nd. Chuck was surrounded by wife Kelly, sister Denise and children. Chuck was an incredible servant at, CHCF, loved by Staff, inmates and particularly the very ill.



It is definitely important to understand and have insight to my criminality. It is one thing to just attend groups, learn and gain tools to become an all-around better person. But another to actually live, learn and apply them to our daily lives and eventually pass on what we have. So, not only has it helped me with my behavioral issues, but I also learned to deal with my substance abuse problems. I thank the Creator I'm in a good place. One of the most important things for me is that I have gained understanding of what I have caused my victims. Prison has saved my life. Yes, it is important to change, but I believe it is equally about others as it is for ourselves. So now I await for the Governor to sign off on my suitability. I am confident that he will, just as I was confident the day of my hearing. It does help to have a support network here to help keep me grounded. I will continue to mentor others. So now I have different conversations. I seek answers and guidance to a new set of challenges and I am looking forward to them with excitement. It has already been more than a month since I was granted parole and it has flown by. I can only imagine just how fast-paced it is going to be out in society. But, knowing that I have overcome obstacles throughout my incarceration has made me strong and confident in my abilities. I don't profess to be an expert or know it all. But what I do know is that what I have learned and applied to my life definitely helped me gain a finding of suitability. I close by giving thanks to Sister Mary Sean and the entire spiritual army behind her at PREP



Specialized Blankets by Johnny Lopez



Ruben Martinez ISP



Joshua, Sr. Giulii, Dale, Jeremy, Sr. Mary, Souriyio, Harvey, Fred, Alfredo, Dan, Paul, Nora, Gary
Celebrating 16 years of PREP 5/12 2002-2018

LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE

By Dennis Anderson

After thirty years in prison, I didn't know what to expect on my release. The surprises I ran into were far greater than anything I'd expected. The world I entered was one that caused me to stare in wonder.

On the bus trip to LA, I got my first introduction cell phones. But a cell phone is far from being just a phone. It was a device that everyone on the bus became totally absorbed in. What they were doing was a mystery to me. But with phone jacks to charge the phones located at each seat of the bus, their importance was easily understood.

Two major barriers faced me on my release from prison. There was technology. It appeared to be insurmountable. The second was the way social interactions took place. The world had become a far more impersonal place than the one I had left. There were emails, text messages and tweets. To a great extent these had replaced personal contacts with those one knew. The speed of communications was instantaneous! The use of the U.S. Postal System was called "donkey" mail.

For six months following my release, I resided at HealthRight 360. While the number of groups I had to attend was burdensome, they provided me with a reintroduction into society that I badly needed. I plodded along a step at a time. Getting an ID was no easy task. Along the way CDCR had changed my birthday. To get my Social Security retirement, I had to reestablish my proper birth date. It took miracle to unwind the mess!

The pieces slowly came together! Living in transitional housing where 187 former lifers resided helped immensely. There was a broad learning curve. It made it so that there were always those who could reach out and help those who'd been newly released from prison. Gradually, I went from being helped to being a helper. I became a volunteer and then became a part time employee at PREP. The efforts I'd made to get a date of parole were put to use. I could reach out and help others who were in the same position that I'd been a short time before. I spent my time working to open the same door for others which had been so difficult for me to open for myself.

2015, I moved to Northern California. What I expected to happen didn't! New ordeals were stacked one upon another. I had to deal with the fact my daughters didn't want to have anything to do with me. What made it so hard to deal with is that it destroyed the dream that had kept me going for years while I was in prison. I then uncovered a major family problem that had to be dealt with. My legal background allowed me to do so. It has taken me over two years to bring the matter under control. In retrospect, it was as if God had a plan for me. Time after time following my release, I was placed in the right place at the right time.

Remember! Trying to make your way in the world on your own today is nearly impossible. Everyone needs help sometime and somewhere! Also, it is good to learn the importance of helping others. In the long run, one who does so ends up being rewarded by the sense of peace brought into their lives. But in helping others, one must learn that it can be done by reaching out and helping one person at a time.

The past is past! Don't let it define your future life. Learn from it! Life will be difficult at times, but with God's help, we can change ourselves and move forward with our lives. When one finally reaches that point, you will discover that it was ever so worth the journey.



The surprises I ran into were far greater than anything I'd expected. The world I entered was one that caused me to stare in wonder.

On the bus trip to LA, I got my first introduction cell phones. But a cell phone is far from being just a phone. It was a device that everyone on the bus became

totally absorbed in. What they were doing was a mystery to me. But with phone jacks to charge the phones located at each seat of the bus, their importance was easily understood.

Two major barriers faced me on my release from prison. There was technology. It appeared to be insurmountable. The second was the way social interactions took place. The world had become a far more impersonal place than the one I had left. There were emails, text messages and tweets. To a great extent these had replaced personal contacts with those one knew. The speed of communications was instantaneous! The use of the U.S. Postal System was called "donkey" mail.

For six months following my release, I resided at HealthRight 360. While the number of groups I had to attend was burdensome, they provided me with a reintroduction into society that I badly needed. I plodded along a step at a time. Getting an ID was no easy task. Along the way CDCR had changed my birthday. To get my Social Security retirement, I had to reestablish my proper birth date. It took miracle to unwind the mess!

The pieces slowly came together! Living in transitional housing where 187 former lifers resided helped immensely. There was a broad learning curve. It made it so that there were always those who could reach out and help those who'd been newly released from prison. Gradually, I went from being helped to being a helper. I became a volunteer and then became a part time employee at PREP. The efforts I'd made to get a date of parole were put to use. I could reach out and help others who were in the same position that I'd been a short time before. I spent my time working to open the same door for others which had been so difficult for me to open for myself.

2015, I moved to Northern California. What I expected to happen didn't! New ordeals were stacked one upon another. I had to deal with the fact my daughters didn't want to have anything to do with me. What made it so hard to deal with is that it destroyed the dream that had kept me going for years while I was in prison. I then uncovered a major family problem that had to be dealt with. My legal background allowed me to do so. It has taken me over two years to bring the matter under control. In retrospect, it was as if God had a plan for me. Time after time following my release, I was placed in the right place at the right time.

Remember! Trying to make your way in the world on your own today is nearly impossible. Everyone needs help sometime and somewhere! Also, it is good to learn the importance of helping others. In the long run, one who does so ends up being rewarded by the sense of peace brought into their lives. But in helping others, one must learn that it can be done by reaching out and helping one person at a time.

The past is past! Don't let it define your future life. Learn from it! Life will be difficult at times, but with God's help, we can change ourselves and move forward with our lives. When one finally reaches that point, you will discover that it was ever so worth the journey.

By Anthony Briseno

My thankfulness goes out to my Father God! I am an ex-lifer who served 23 years of my life in the prison system. My first 14 years I was in total darkness and lost without any hope. But appearing at my first parole board hearing was a wakeup call for me. I finally realized that I needed help, I needed change in my life. I started to do some soul searching within myself to figure out my issues. I began a relationship with God to get things started, that there alone is what set the tone of my change. Participating in every self-help group you could think of. In the beginning it was hard but little by little as I applied what I had learned to my life, my daily living started becoming better and I was able to understand myself, understand my behavior and become responsible for my actions. In January 2015, I appeared at my 5th parole board hearing and I was found "suitable" for parole. Wow!!! Those words that everyone wants to hear. I knew this was just the beginning of a long journey ahead of me. Now I



had to prepare myself for the outside world. Believe me it wasn't easy, I had my ups and downs. Thank God for having a support network system to get through the obstacles. To make a



long story short, I paroled to HealthRight360 in Los Angeles and completed the 6-month program. I worked at Homeboy Industries who help me enrolled in college and got me into trucking school where I'm now a certified class A truck driver. In the past 3 years I focused on accomplishing goals which many have been completed. I bought a home in February with my beautiful wife and recently was discharged from parole. It's a blessing brothers. You must stay committed and dedicated to change within. Trust in God, you will be blessed and succeed in your goals. God bless, former ex-lifer



Appreciation Day at St Peter's by Fathers Bob Juarez, Ken Deasy, George Horan



This season of Art Shows has come to an end. We are forever grateful to you for your many contributions and pray you will continue to send in your marvelous works of art that help to support PREP. Our next season will begin again soon and we are again in need of your continued support at PREP.

I would like to donate to the following organization in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please fill out this form and send to:
PREP
P.O. Box 77850