



*I set your prisoners free  
from the waterless pit.  
Return to the stronghold,  
you prisoners of HOPE.  
Even today I AM declaring  
that I WILL restore  
double to you.*

*Zechariah 9:11-12*

## Giving Thanks

### Highlights – Recent Prison Correspondence by Michael Sgobba

“Michael, Thank you for writing me back. I appreciate it so much. It feels good to know that people care. I have found I can pray and talk my problems over with God. Also I have been coming to realize I haven’t been as good of a man as I thought I was. I know I have got a long way to go. I guess recognizing my faults & knowing I’m a sinner is good... my 1<sup>st</sup> step. I truly honor your opinion, Michael, as you were the first and only person to call me out per who I was and what I was: a sinner with lots of faults. Best part is, for some reason, it didn’t upset me & push me away, but it made me really think. I thank God for sending you to me!!” Mike W. @ Seatac Federal Detention Ctr.

Also, Tom S. @ WCC-Shelton, wrote this month...

“Dear Michael..., I pray daily to surrender my will to God. He brought me here and gave me a job in the Law Library! When I was in the Chapel, God led me to a book called ‘Serve in the Spirit’ by Watchman Nee. What a blessing this book has been. He talks about the breaking of the “outward man” (*old self*). The Lord arranges the most suitable environment for us, causing our inward man to grow and our outward man to break – and – never neglect the arrangement of environment! Once we are enlightened by the Lord, it is easy to accept discipline. As the light shines, we bow our heads and pray, “O Lord! I praise You!” I want to be able to fully accept His Will for me and be able to say: “Oh Father! How can I not drink the cup You have given me?” I was in the Word and the Holy Spirit led me to: Phil 2:13, “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” My point to all this is that He is working in me and I am grateful for what He is doing in me through the Holy Spirit and putting me here to break me.”

*(from Michael: Another great letter...I have been working with Aaron for nearly eight years. He has received Christ as Lord and Savior. He has grown into a strong man of God! He is serving 51 years to life.)*

“Hello brother, thank you for your recent card, prayers and wise counsel. I am a grateful recipient of God’s goodness. You are my Pastor, and God has not shown me another... It is surreal. I see miracles before my very eyes. So beautiful. I stand in awe of our Savior’s mercy, persistence, and mighty power. It is amazing how God is imparting supernatural wisdom, knowledge and understanding into my brother’s life here. Our visits are fruitful. We now fellowship in ways like never before! I am doing well, brother Michael, endeavoring in the work of the Lord. Be encouraged! You make a difference.”

*In His grip - Aaron O WCC - Shelton*

Jail Ministry  
Prison Ministry  
Reading Glasses  
Bibles & Books  
After-care Ministry  
Clergy Visits  
Pen Pal Ministry  
Mentor Network  
Bible Studies  
Transitional Homes  
Resource Ministry

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Every Year  
House of Hope  
Is serving over 9,000  
prisoners,  
ex-prisoners  
& their families  
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I never knew God. I had this overwhelming emptiness I filled with everything except God. I was addicted to drugs, abused by my boyfriend, and estranged from my 3 beautiful children (16, 11, 9) that I hadn't seen for almost 2 years. The first time in jail, I was relieved because I was safe. I knew I wouldn't be abused. Yet I still had a need to draw my strength from him, when all along it was God I needed. I requested to see the Volunteer Religious Coordinator, Kati, at the jail. I got a book titled the '*Power of a Praying Wife*'. As I read, I started to pray. I realized it was about changing me not him! I asked the Lord into my life during that jail stay. Yet, still scared & afraid, I left jail wanting to change, but I did not know how. I went back to what I knew. One hour out of jail, I was back with the man that had been abusing me, I was homeless and loaded again. Four months later, I was back in jail. This time I requested to see Kati and told her the truth (*and the truth will set you free*) John 8:32. I put all my guilt, shame, and sorrow in front of her and she told me that our Father God loves us no matter what. She told me I was His child, that I was made in His image, and that I was loved. She read me the verse "Come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest". Matt 11:28

I struggled with feeling unworthy of God's love. Why would he want me after all the horrible things I had done and the horrible mother I had become? Then I learned about His son Jesus and that He died on the cross for all our sins. I began to feel less shame, regret, and heart-ache. I began to pray and seek God with all my heart. I got honest with Kati and told her I had no place to go. She asked me to consider Seattle Union Gospel Mission Hope Place. I knew God was giving me a cross-road to choose. I could trust God or go back to the street and continue to live in the chains of addiction and abuse. She showed me the true meaning of God's love and taught me how to trust and know God. I am at Hope Place now and I have seen my kids every week. I pray with my kids over the phone and talk every night! I have been clean and sober for 106 days by the Grace of God!! I no longer have this empty aching place inside. I am a child of the One True King and I love God and I know Him today. I live in a beautiful community of women. I get to have two rooms. My kids can stay with me anytime they want. I attend Christian classes all week. Every day I thank My Father God for intervening in my life through Kati, Heather and Michael (Religious Coordinator Team). Without them showing me a new life through Jesus Christ, I would be chained to the life of addiction and homelessness.

I am a child of God! I am a Mother to my children! I AM REDEEMED! There is hope for my future and it's all because of God's undying Love for me!! When life gets hard or stressful, I feel so blessed that I have this peace and hope for the future.

How do you explain how amazing He really is?!!!!!!

I WEAR A ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!!

I am SO IN LOVE with GOD!

## PEN PAL MINISTRY

Being a Pen Pal Writer is a very important ministry. Inmates feel lonely as they are separated from society, friends, and family. A month without a letter can seem like a year. One prisoner is reported to have called mail: "*Paper Sunshine*".

As a Pen Pal, it is much like other relationships. We must stay committed to this individual and not give up on them. We never know what is going on in their lives. They spend time inside while missing life happening on the outside. They cannot be a part of: births; deaths; marriages; graduations, birthdays, Holidays. There is a lot of grieving that goes on with inmates...loneliness and tears.

A Pen Pal relationship is very special because once they trust you, they will allow you a little way into their life and their feelings, and confide in you sometimes as none other. We encourage, uplift, and come alongside inmates with '*Paper Sunshine*'.

*Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.*

*Hebrews 13:3*

\*All HoH Pen Pal Volunteers must go through simple House of Hope training as you will be writing directly with an inmate inside jail/prison giving them Hope "that someone cares".

Interested? Please contact Denise @ (360) 865-0212.

## Would you Please Pray for us?



Have a special Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas Time 2014. We love every one of you.  
**Michael & Margie**

*Michael and Margie Sgobba (founders)  
House of Hope Ministries is a Non Profit Charitable 501c3  
Corporation serving inmates in jail, prison, and aftercare  
in Kitsap County and Washington State*

## We ALWAYS need:

- Study Bibles / Bibles / (Large Print as well) (soft cover only)
  - Christian Recovery Books (paperback)
  - Christian books/Magazines (paperback)
  - True Christian Success Stories Biographies
  - Daily Devotionals (paperback)
  - Bookmarks – (paper only)
  - Bible tracks
  - Volunteers – mentors
  - Eye Glasses – no metal (i.e.: Dollar Store)
- Donations: Cash; Check; Paypal

HOH serves over 9,000 inmates yearly!!