



# St. Dismas Guild

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

[www.stdismas.org](http://www.stdismas.org) May 2009

## TESTIMONY

BY  
R.P.

I was always around gangs. I've seen weapons fired and people getting jumped and get beaten up badly. I then came to realize there's a war between Asians and Mexican gangs. So I joined the most known gang in my neighborhood. In order to get my, get backs, now that I'm in a gang I have homeys. To go out with looking for trouble, fight, stealing, and do drugs like crystal and smoking weed, drinking. I liked to get high all the time. I hated my enemy and neighbors. I was not a nice guy at all. I always got into fights with other gangs. I hated doing righteous things. In 1995 I met a girl. She was a Christian. She goes to a church. I had went there with her a few times. Even after we had broken up I had went there. The reason why I went to church was to hang out with some girls I knew there, the Cambodian brothers and sisters of the church. They always preached to me and so then I knew of God. But I never believed in him.

So now the years passed. I was in a car accident which took a man's life away, it wasn't my fault. But still I got locked up for it. For some reason it seemed like I ended up talking to God only when I got into trouble with the law. I called on Him because I was lost and sad and mad at the same time. I heard Christ is always a good listener. So I asked Him, why do I go through so much suffering, why can't I just be okay for once? I was then able to fight my case in the streets. Then in January I had committed a robbery with four other guys. So now I got two case. I was facing 24 years half time, with work credit, good times. I would only do 12 years. While in prison I was still smoking, drinking, and fighting. So one day I had bad news that my Dad had passed. I'd had to ask God why did He let this happen to me if he is Lord. Why did He put me through this suffering. I didn't understand why. A year had passed again. Then I had a celly who was a Christian. I ended up going to Church just to try to feel good. Then I ended up with tears and got saved. I went to the church in prison for two months, then later I fell off of that idea. Because it was hard to follow and be righteous in God's way. I turned back to the old fleshy ways of living. Me and Christ only communicated when I'm lost and in trouble.

In the 2000's I left and went to another prison. Here I was still doing what I had to do, I was hustling and smoking and fighting with other inmates. Then in 2009 of March, I was so stressed out. I asked myself why was I always mad, sad and always going through so much suffering. Then I realized because God wants to talk, that's the only time we talk, so things was happening so that I would call out to Him. My coworker saw that I was depressed. We talked and talked, I knew he was a Christian already. He prayed for me, and this time God said to me, "Let out all of your sadness and I will comfort you and give you our peace." I had tears drop and my cry to God was, Can you fix me, I'm hurt and lost in the darkness. That day God said to me through my co-worker, I'm God who has been following you all these years. I said to Christ, I'm so tired of this life of mine, I need to feel happy for once, so then my joy came. I was told that a new life can be given to me if I believe that Christ is Lord and that he died for my sins. So I said to Christ, I give you my life because it's yours in the beginning to give and I accept Christ as my Lord and Savior. So I'm a born again Christian. So God was pleased that I came to Him with true feelings and a humble heart. I said to God I don't want to live like this anymore. My ways was not doing me any good. So I surrender my life to you Lord. I cried and tears kept falling. I told myself that this

is a calling for a change. That day was the best day I ever had. I got Baptized. I was the last one. All the people gave me the most standing ovation of clapping.

I was saved by the grace of God. My story is about God following me around. I never can shake Him off, He's always getting my attention every where I go. I was a sinner who didn't believe in God. I used to be a Buddhist, who now is a born again Christian. I never knew how to love, now I'm being loved by God and my family and God gave me many brothers and sisters. I use to be a person who hates others, now I love people. I used to be a gangbanger, steal, smoke and do drugs. Now I learn to follow God's word and not do such things. God was there for me when I didn't want to believe in him. Now I'm a happy person who loves God, and is constantly talking to God, and my brothers and sisters. Please pray for me, so that the flesh does not disobey the Lord's law and that I can receive God's blessing to be strong and humble, for it is written in 2 Timothy 3:12 Christians will suffer persecution, and people will get worse and worse. The Lord God wants me to be happy and to be saved and to receive His understanding and wisdom. That's why He follows me around. The end of my sadness comes joy. I give my life to Christ! Because He says all things are past. I am a new child again.

Please pray for my mother who has kidney stones and has a cancer mass ball growing inside of her. Pray for her that she will be healed. The Lord says trust on Him and believe. I believe. Thank you so much friends and brothers and sisters. I hope my story will encourage others to change their life and give it to Jesus Christ. Also, please pray for my nephew who is fighting in Iraq for God's protection and blessing to be coming home to his family. I have been incarcerated 10 years already, I will be strong. So you all who wants rest to your life, give it to Jesus Christ and He will let you rest. God bless you all. Much love brothers, God never gives up on us, he's always with us.

*What a powerful testimony R.P. It tells us in 1 Peter 5:5-14 that the God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ Jesus will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little. That is what He has done with you. We couldn't help but think of our Life in the Spirit Seminars as we were reading your testimony. The talks consist of God's love, Salvation, New Life, Receiving God's Gift, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Growth and Transformation. You have gone through this process of learning by the hand of God. You repented which means turned from sin to God and His grace changed you forever. When you experience His grace, His unconditional love, your life does change. There is no more racial hatred. We are all one in Christ Jesus.*

## DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Deacon Ken, Just received the info/statistics on abortion. Thank you! And may God bless you Sister Marie and St. Dismas Guild. These abortion statistics show what percentage are occurring, but for example in the Guttmacher Inst. States: 37% of abortions occur to black women of childbearing age, 34% occur to non-Hispanic white, 22% to Hispanic. For example – OK, what is the percentage of black women of childbearing age is in America (total)? What percentage of the population do they make up? I believe if you compare that percentage to the percentage of the abortion's percentages that occurs to black women, you'll see the alarming rate. And do this for each ethnic group. That's the statistics I'd like to see. To compare the two

**St. Dismas Guild:** Catholic Evangelization through Scripture and ministry to the prisons.

Board of Directors: Deacon Ken Finn, President; Marie Finn, Vice-President; Jean Michaels, Secretary; Robert Dibos, Accountant  
Steve Psomus, - Attorney - L. Fred Williams Advisor - Greg Witz; Advisor - Rita McGranahan PO Box 2129 Escondido CA 92033

together. Can you get the percentages of the population so I can show in the article that, for example, black women have abortions at 37% but they only make up 35% of the population. Also, what do you have on Margaret Sanger? I've read quotes by Ms. Sanger that are greatly shocking.

I just really believe Deacon Ken that if we can start hitting the message on comparing the two percentages together: +The percentage of abortion occurring based on race –vs- +The percentage of the population each group makes-up. You'll see the alarm rate! Please see if you can get me statistics of the % of the population each group makes-up so I can compare them to these abortion statistics here you just shot me. I just don't understand, Deacon Ken, why Christians of all denominations; Catholics, Baptist, Protestants, don't come together and walk on this issue on a collective focus? To begin a revival? I really believe that Christians focus too much of their attention on denominational differences, instead of being focus on what really matters and on what unites us: Jesus Christ!

*We'll begin by stating that Margaret Sanger is the founder of Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the world. A few quotes follow: "The most merciful thing that a large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it." Margaret Sanger, women and the new race (Eugenics Publ. Co., 1920, 1923). **On blacks, immigrants and indigents:** "...human weeds,' 'reckless breeders,' 'spawning...human beings who never should have been born.'" Margaret Sanger, Pivot of Civilization, referring to immigrants and poor people. **On the rights of the handicapped and mentally ill, and racial minorities:** "More children from the fit, less from the unfit – that is the chief aim of birth control." Birth Control Review, May 1919, p.12. Your question on the percentage of abortions occurring based on race is that in 2004 there were 10.5 abortions per 1,000 Caucasian Women – 28 per 1,000 Hispanic Women – 50 per 1,000 Negro Women. The population is 67% Caucasian, 13% black, 14% Hispanic, and 6% other. Planned Parenthood preys on the minority neighborhoods. And, yes, we agree that we need to come together with other denominations and be united in stopping abortions and sexual promiscuity.*

Dear Ken & Marie, I would like to start this letter by sending you my love and respect in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior! Now without any further delay allow me to proceed with this brief letter. I have been receiving your newsletter for about a year now; and it is a true blessing to hear of the good things that God has done in the lives of so many others. I suppose this is where I step in with my own testimony. My name is D.A. and I am currently an inmate. I lived a life of crime, for many years of my youth which started out with C.Y.A. many years ago. I continued that way for a while until the age of 26 when I was sent to prison for 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder with a seven year life sentence.

Well 30 years later I am still in prison waiting to be approved for parol. I have been in more prisons than I care to remember. I am now 56 years old and I don't know if I will ever get out. I am now starting to realize that the freedom that I long for is the freedom that Jesus gives! I am feeding my ever growing faith by reading the word and finding strength through prayer. God is great and my life has never been better! Amen! I thank you for hearing my testimony, however it was a little short but maybe next time I will tell it in more detail. As this letter comes to an end I ask that you please continue your good works and please do pray for me as I will for you. May God continue to bless your ministry in its outreach in the lives and souls of those who need it! Love, your brother in Christ, D.A.

*Thank you for sharing your testimony. We praise God you have found the freedom you were looking for. Don't ever underestimate or think your testimony is too short. Someone just shared her testimony with us and said it was through another person's testimony that she had her conversion. 1 John 5:9-12 says, "If we accept human testimony, the*

*testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar by not believing the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life."*



## UPDATE

**BENEDICTUS** of the Desert – Inaugural Prayer Meal – Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Woodhaven Country Club, 41-555 Woodhaven Drive East, Palm Desert, CA (Off Washington St) – 8:00AM to 11:30AM – Guest Speaker – Bishop Rutilio del Riego. The Bishop will give his personal testimony of how God has worked in his life and brought him to where he is today. Whether Bishop Rutilio is ordaining Deacons or lacing up his Nikes to Walk for Life in San Francisco, he serves God's people with love, compassion and humility. Make check payable of \$25.00 to Benedictus of the Desert, and mail to PO Box 2553, Indio CA 92202

**BENEDICTUS** of San Diego - Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Lawrence Welk Resort, Escondido CA 7AM-10:30AM. Guest Speaker – Fr. Bob Clark, Retired Marine Chaplain. He will give his personal testimony of how Christ has impacted his life and how Christ has been with him all through his military career.

The **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS**, both at St. Timothy's in Escondido and St. Francis in LaQuinta were a tremendous success. Many men and women came to know more about the third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at St. Francis of Assisi there will be a follow up called **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT – A NEW PENTECOST**. We will be giving talks on the Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit and Operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This will be right after **PENTECOST**.

**COLFS** Fundraiser, Come join us on May 29, 2009 at 6PM at the Church of the Resurrection in Escondido for a Spaghetti Feast with Raffles and Silent Auction and physicians Drs. Delgado and Saroki in a "celebration of life."

## TEACHING

**PENTECOST** is the counterpart of the tower of Babel. At Babel the people were scattered into differing Nations and confusing their languages. On **PENTECOST** God is showing us how to bring all the different nations and languages together through His Holy Spirit. We are one people who believe in one God who came to us in the flesh and He was called Jesus. He lived and died on the cross for us and He left us with His Holy Spirit. We celebrate Pentecost on what continues after the Life of Christ, and that is the Life of the Church. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to be the people of the Church of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us power to defend, to protect, to teach, to guide, to forgive and even to die so that others may live and be free. It is the birthday of the Church and it is to be celebrated and practiced in church, school, in work and yes even in prison. We have one Spirit and He is the one who leads us to the Truth who is Jesus and He shows us how to obey the One who sent Him, God the Father. Happy Birthday on this glorious day of Pentecost, May 31, 2009.

We want to thank you for all your support physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially.

In Jesus' love,

Deacon Ken & Marie