

February 09

From Justin in Folsom California State Prison

Throughout the early to mid 1980ies I had an up and down life. At times I was doing very well, and at other times I was struggling. I was married and we had a child Named Michael and one step daughter, Marlayna. I was trying to give them the best life I could. I had skills that gave me an Aerospace machinist job doing work for the Department of Defense.

Days after Michael's third birthday he came down with a rare form of meningitis. In the first 5 days, he coded 3 times. After about a week he somewhat stabilized enough for him to be transferred to Kaiser's Trauma Care Center in Hollywood. This was a start to the rollercoaster ride that ended with Michael's start of rehab that took one and a half years. I went to drugs, heavily abusing cocaine and prescription pain killers. My wife and I separated and I started spiraling downward and out of control. I was arrested in Ontario, CA for possession and was booked in the San Bernardino County Jail. While I was waiting for housing the chaplain was walking by and I asked if I could speak with him. He took me to his office and asked how he could help me. I told him my life was a mess and that I needed help. He asked if I was ready to turn my life over to the Lord and I said yes. We prayed and I turned from my sin before the Lord and received Jesus Christ into my life. Right then Christ lifted the bondage of sin off my shoulders and I was filled with his forgiveness. It was a great experience for me, Christ entering my life. I now realize that this was the Spirit filling my heart and soul. I know God was very real and I was now His servant. I now realize that He is with me even though I have not always walked with Him. What grace He has for sinners like me.

The poem "Footprints" is a very real depiction of the Lord's existence in my life and He will be with us even when we don't know He is there. Your brother in Christ Justin....