

**Glen Mars;** an inmate from Avenal State Prison, January 2008

In order to introduce myself, and let you know that I'm in search of a new family here is a personal note from me. I know of your church through my mother who has attended your church on a few occasions in the past. As you can tell by my envelope I'm here because I was involved in drugs and alcohol and of course women. My life has been a mess for a very long time. Then it all crashed one day and here I am.

Last year 06 of September in the county jail in Rancho Cucamonga I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I'm 44 years old and I can't believe it took so long for me to realize this is the only way. That day in jail was/is the greatest day of my life. I gave all of my burdens to Christ and almost at that very second this huge weight was lifted off my chest. The chains of bondage were cut and still to this very moment I've never felt so free in my whole life. A lot of people here in this prison say they got sent to prison. Well I say I got rescued to prison. Truly if that day I got busted would have never happened I really feel I would be dead now. God is so good! He singled me out of millions of people and gave me a second chance at salvation. I can't even put into words how much that means to me. I figure I can't waste this second chance. So I'm going to take full advantage of it. My release date is in September 2009. It is very important for me to belong to a church family before I get out of here. My first goal when I get out is to get rooted and grounded in a non-denominational church. As a matter of fact the day I get out the church is going to be my first stop before I do anything else. I've heard great things about your church and I hope your church will be my first stop.

Here at Avenal, I'm well involved in the Christian community. I'm at a low security level prison in which I live in a building that contains dorms. It has 24 dorms and a total of 300 people in the building. I'm one of 5 speakers in this building which brings a message or a daily Bible Study that is held in the day-room. There are about 25 Christian brothers in our building and after dinner we get together and sing songs and have a very good time. My favorite song is "Satan had me bound but Jesus set me free." Man I love that song. I have a job here at the prison as a teacher's aide in a class called office services. We teach a lot of office type functions such as computers, filing, and job prep to name a few. I don't get paid anything but it does help the time go by faster. I'm really trying to use my time wisely in here to build up my shield of armor so when I'm released I will be able to withstand the wiles of the devil with Christ's help, Eph. 6:11. It is also very important for me to learn as much as I can and to be fed by the Holy Spirit. The last thing I ever want to do is think I know it all and try to lean on my own understanding.

One last thing I want to add to this is the reason I need to belong to a non-denominational church is because I only want to worship God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and not some religion with all of its traditions that go along with it. The Bible I use is the Tyndale Life Application study Bible, New King James Version. I really enjoy it! Well that's about it for now. I really hope and pray that we can correspond with each other until the day I get out of there. I would love to hear more about you and the church. I thank you for reading this letter and hope it serves as a seed. Please take care, Happy Holidays and God Bless you all. Sincerely in Christ, Glen