



Rick

I got your letter today and was happy because you sent a new calendar. It's the small things that amaze me and I appreciate you writing. I have been staying busy trying to provide for myself in here and trying to figure out what I want from this life. Please pray that I can fix my time because my release date has been moved later than what the judge said. I cry at night asking the Lord to send me someone that will love me and give me a chance to show them love back. I am ready to settle down and provide a shelter for all my nieces and nephews because that is what my grandma did for me.

AC

Chaplain Rick

I am writing you because you were my chaplain from 1998 to 2003 when I was a troublemaker. I am in Theo Lacy Jail on my way back to prison for the second time but should be released by Thanksgiving. I think the reason I am here is because I am finally ready to live for God. Thank you for everything you do for those youth in Juvenile Hall. I just got diagnoses with cancer (leukemia) and started my first dose of chemo that got me sick for three days. Please pray for me and hopefully one day I can see you.

HR

Dear Chaplain Rick

I hope the check I sent gets to you and that it helps your ministry because I am someone who has benefited from it. Thank you for all your support over the past thirty years and for everything you've taught me about Jesus. I am doing my best to share it correctly to the prisoner with me.

JO

Chaplain Rick

Our birthdays are coming up and I want you to know that I will be thinking about you and praying for the day to be full of blessings. If I hadn't met you back in Juvenile Hall, my relationship with Jesus wouldn't be what it is. You taught me to believe in Jesus with all my heart and he will do the rest. Thank you for always remembering me. It means a lot considering how many youth you've encountered over the years.

CL

Chaplain Rick Johnson

Thank you for the Easter card that you sent me. I started college classes finally and am taking a health class. My hearing was moved to May 11th as you know and I am a little nervous about speaking in public. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides me, grants me peace, and keeps me calm. I am grateful for the people the Lord has placed in my life to learn from and for all the self-help groups that I learned from too.

RF

Hey Rick

Thank you for the literature you sent me because it is a reminder that the Lord is with me every step of the way. A lot of my property is still missing from my last prison. I was assaulted by staff in Solano after being stabbed and was written up for fighting even though I was the victim. My bible is also missing so I am trying to get one from the chaplain. There is a peaceful mentality here. I can do what I need to do without all the prison politics to worry about. I hope you can visit soon and we can get caught up. I will be waiting for your letter.

CM

Chaplain Rick

Thank you for the phone call to my mother. I have been listening to 88.5 FM and my favorite teacher is Pastor Pancho Juarez. I am glad to have a cell to myself so I can cry my heart out to God and sing to him. I realized the Lord wants my feet to be planted even though I feel like running by changing cells all the time. I have come to understand that I am on borrowed time and every heart beat is a gift from God. If God cares for me, he can care for anyone.

JP

Letters used by permission

Staff at Rescue Mission

"Jesse shared that you were a great spiritual influence in his life, and he is so thankful for you!"

Fellow Chaplain

"I'm thankful for your faithfulness and the inspiration I receive as I read how God is using you."

Former Volunteer

"Your patience is divine as you meet with one or several, you still see the value of trying to save these youth."

Ministry Friend

"Your workbook is a gift from our Father for such a time as this."

Mother of Youth

"My son came home with a spiritual hunger that your ministry gave him."

Incarcerated Youth

"I have been put down for so long. It feels good to hear you say positive things about me."

My Boss

"The communication within our ministry is the best it's ever been under your leadership."

Workshop Attender

"Your workshop has been valuable to our ministry and we have implemented some of what you taught."

Potential Volunteer

"You seem like a very inspiring leader and I'm sure your ministry is on fire."