

DEAR BETHEL CHURCH FAMILY, 26 NOV 23

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SEND A CARD. SNAIL-MAIL IS A SCARCITY ANYMORE, SO IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN MY NAME WAS CALLED FOR MAIL CALL. I'M OF THE OPINION THAT IF A LETTER OR CARD IS SENT, THEN A RESPONSE IS ONLY FITTING... SO, HERE I AM.

SECONDLY, I'D LIKE TO EXTEND THANKS TO THE WHOLE CONGREGATION OF YOUR CHURCH FOR SUPPORTING THE KINDWAY-EMBARAK PROGRAM... YOU FOLKS HAVE NO IDEA HOW APPRECIATED YOU ARE... THIS PROGRAM IS TRULY SOMETHING SPECIAL. ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SPEAK FOR ANY OF THE OTHER MEN IN MY CLASS, I CAN SPEAK ON MY EXPERIENCES + PERSPECTIVES... IT'S WITH THIS IN MIND THAT I'M SITTING HERE WRITING NOW.

I FIGURE AN INTRODUCTION IS IN ORDER, THAT A WAY I WON'T BE A COMPLETE STRANGER WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME TO ATTEND THOSE REUNION DINNERS MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER. LET'S SEE... I GO BY WILL, I'M 55 YEARS OLD AND I'VE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS OF A 27 YEAR SENTENCE FOR INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER AND FELONIOUS ASSAULT. IT WAS A PASTOR WHO VOLUNTEERED HIS TIME IN THE COUNTY JAIL THAT BROUGHT ME INTO GOD'S FAMILY. I DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO ANY SPECIFIC DENOMINATION; IN FACT, I PROBABLY COULDN'T EFFECTIVELY DISTINGUISH A METHODIST FROM A BAPTIST. I DO KNOW THAT I BELIEVE WHOLE HEARTEDLY IN THE GOD DESCRIBED IN MY TATTERED, OLD THOMPSON CHAIN REFERENCE KJV BIBLE... GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT. I BELIEVE THAT MY SALVATION IS BASED SOLELY ON JESUS CHRIST'S

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FINISHED WORK ON THE CROSS. IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE OVER THE YEARS THAT VARIOUS PEOPLE & VARIOUS CHURCHES GET HUNG UP ON THEIR DIFFERENCES TOO OFTEN, AND I FIND THAT TO BE A SHAME. I CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT THE DIVISIVENESS IN THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE IS THE HANDIWORK OF SATAN... AND THE MORE EFFORT THAT WE CAN PUT INTO SHARING THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, THE BETTER.

I VOLUNTEER INSIDE AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS ONCE I'M FINALLY RELEASED. THE LORD'S BLESSED ME WITH A FEW SKILLS THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO PUTTING TO USE IN A MINISTRY OF SOME KIND. HE HAS TRULY BLESSED ME EXCEEDINGLY AND ABUNDANTLY OVER THE YEARS, JUST AS HIS WORD SAYS HE WOULD IF WE FIRST STRIVE FOR A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

I THINK I'LL WRAP THIS UP & GET IT INTO THE MAIL BOX. SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO PICK UP A PEN & WRITE, I'D BE HAPPY TO CORRESPOND WITH THEM. THERE WERE 22 SIGNATURES ON THE CARD I RECEIVED... THANK YOU AGAIN... AND MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND YOURS. (EVERY ONE OF YOU)

YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST,

Will