

# INSIDE PRISON WALLS

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A great deal of the terrorism that goes on in the world happens sight-unseen in the prisons. Well, “nobody cares about criminals”, you might say, and in America today, and the incarceration rate is **6 to 19 times that of any other Western country**<sup>1</sup>. Fully 90% of prisoners don’t belong in jail, and with the USA Patriot Act signed into law in October 2001, anyone in the US can be arrested without probable cause at the whim of local police, and held without bail and incommunicado, indefinitely. “*There, but for the grace of God, go I*”, would be an appropriate thought, next time you drive by your local hoosegow.

Being “behind the wall”... especially on trumped-up charges will change your perspective about “justice” very quickly. You see, the politicians need to make the world “dangerous”, so that the public will come to them for a solution to “all this crime”. Now, I’m not trying to tell you that there is no crime, because there certainly is, and jails and prisons are for those who are an incorrigible menace to society... and those, in reality, are few and far-between.

The politicians, judges, cops, jails, and Hick-Farmer Sigmund Freud Wannabes of all stripes, would not be in business if it were not for “criminals”... and if there is a shortage of criminals, it sure-enough is easy to create them. That is the specialty of The Merchants of Chaos; many of these people have committed far more serious crimes than the worst of the truly guilty that are in prison, and some of them are “out there” kissing your babies, shaking your hands and saying, “*Vote for me.*” You, not knowing what goes on behind-the-scenes, go ahead and vote for them. Does it ever change anything? No. That is the unbridled truth, and you can check it out for yourself - you don’t have to believe a single word I say.

It has been known for a very long time, that prisons do not solve the crime problem; prisons create “better” criminals, and lead the children of those incarcerated down the path of destruction. Our courts are a JOKE, and you don’t have to do much research to know that!

*“Know, O King, it is a law... no interdict or ordinance which the King establishes can be changed.”*<sup>2</sup>

*“I must uphold my oath of office, The King’s charge echoes on the tongues of judges, time and again, It is a plea (truth told, a kind of guilty plea)... and the recalling is not sweet; it is of Hitlerian judge doing his job. The law slowly (or not so slowly) throttles the keeper of the law... There is no Imperial crime, no war, no larceny, no cover-up so outrageous that a judge cannot cleanse it of filth, make it presentable, shrug its malice away, deflect its consequence... Moreover, the obverse is true: no crime is so small as to evade the sternest, gimlet-eyed scrutiny. Indeed, small-bore crime is the specialty, ferociously perused, of the urban courts of America. Welfare cheats! Boom-Box players! Spitters in subways! Pissers in public! Let these tremble in their boots!... a judge must be willing to declare black white, and white black; must render the ungodly Godly, and vice-versa... one recalls the blood-purity laws of Hitler... you would quote the Bible in your defense? Out of order! Irrelevant!”*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> US Department of Justice statistics as of year 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Holy Bible - Daniel 6:8, 15

<sup>3</sup> “Daniel - Under Siege of The Divine” - Daniel Berrigan - Plough Pub. ISBN 0-87486-952-8 - Id at 98, 99, 101 ( used with permission )

Our “justice” system is no less corrupt than the courts of Pontius Pilate. America has been brainwashed into believing that our courts are practically foolproof. Not so:

*“The final climactic act in the plea-bargaining procedure is a charade which itself has aspects of dishonesty which rival the original crime in many instances. The accused is made to assert publicly, his guilt on a specific crime, which in many cases, he has not committed; in some cases he pleads guilty to a non-existing crime. He must further indicate that he is entering his plea freely... and that he is not doing so because of any promises... made to him. In plea-bargaining, the accused pleads guilty, whether he is guilty or not, and saves the State the trouble of a trial in return for the promise of a less severe punishment.”*<sup>4</sup>

False convictions which are much more numerous than one might imagine, and plea bargains which are nothing more than RISK MANAGEMENT by an innocent defendant in order to avoid the real possibility of conviction at trial with the attendant lengthy prison term, amount to gross injustice any way you cut it.

A Buffalo, NY man (Vincent Jenkins) was convicted of rape - a crime he didn't commit. He spent 17 years in prison, going through “therapy” sessions, no doubt, before DNA technology, which was invented during the course of his incarceration exonerated him. What's worse is that the REAL culprit, even if he were to walk into a police station and confess, cannot be prosecuted because of the 5-year statute of limitations. Vincent Jenkins, last I heard, had foregone a multi-million dollar lawsuit that he could have won easily, and forgave his accusers. How can you compensate a man for destroying his life?

The mentality of jurors today, is such that in Louisville, in April of 2000, [a jury convicted a \(black\) man of murder by flipping a coin](#) (a Kennedy half-dollar). Nobody cares, and none of the jurors who went along with the "heads, you win, tails, you lose" decision-making process, were sanctioned for the dereliction of their sworn civic duty. The defendant was remanded for a new trial, and must endure the same risk of jury corruption all over again.

People who find themselves in prison - whether they are guilty or not - have a very good chance of returning. This is because people are not helped or rehabilitated by being locked-up like animals. “Correctional” facilities are a hotbed of corruption and staggering abuse, and it's nothing new under the sun:

*“... This is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.”* - Isaiah 42:22 (KJV)

We in America, have added insult to injury in our prison system by forcing prisoners to endure psychology-based “therapeutic” programs, which, because they are not based on the scriptures, serve only to further aberrate a person's ethics and morality, by teaching that there are no moral absolutes (Dr. Kohlberg's moral development), and that “each man becomes his own moral philosopher.” Not surprisingly, their moral “guru” then becomes “50-cent”, or some other degenerate Neanderthal with a record label.

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<sup>4</sup> Report of Joint Legislative Committee on Crime, New York - from “People's History of the United States” - Howard Zinn ISBN # 0-06-090792-4

*“And what does punishment that aims at rehabilitation entail? It does not aim at winning men over by reason - it is presumed a prisoner cannot be won over by reason. It is the application of force... a system of justice that does not instruct by reason; that does not rationally demonstrate to a man the error of his ways, accomplishes the opposite ends of justice: oppression.”*<sup>5</sup>

Jack Abbott, who was raised by State institutions since his childhood, wrote a best seller “In The Belly of The Beast”, narrated by Norman Mailer, and published in 1981 by Random House. Even after his success and notoriety upon his release, the years of abuse by staff, the psychotropic drugs he was injected with on a regular basis, caused him to (allegedly) kill someone after he was released. The cumulative effect of an entire young life spent in prison, along with another series of “hits” by the parole board, drove him to commit suicide. Without warning or prior indicia of any such tendency, on Feb 10, 2002, sometime before the morning count; Jack hung himself in his cell on “D”-block, Wende prison, in Alden, New York.

Now I’m not in a position to judge; Jack was “in” for murder, and some might say that “*he deserved to die*”; they said as much about [Stan “Tookie” Williams](#). However, Jack Abbott was a fine man by all accounts, and if you read his book (which I highly recommend you do), you will know that he was driven to madness by decades of abuse, in a cold-hearted and cold-blooded system that strips a man of his dignity and his humanity. Jack Abbott was “programmed” to self-destruct, just as surely and efficiently as one can program a computer to add 2 plus 2.

*“This monster - the monster they’ve engendered in me will return to torment its maker, from the grave, the pit, the profoundest pit. Hurl me into the next existence; the descent into hell won’t turn me... I’m going to charge them like a maddened, wounded, rogue male elephant, ears flared, trunk raised, trumpet blaring... war without terms.”*<sup>6</sup>

Prisons in many countries - particularly the US, have become a vehicle by which small prison towns prosper at the expense of taxpayers. The “head-count” of a prison is added into the census for the town, and thus the town gets a (bigger) disproportionate share of Federal subsidies. Of course, the residents benefit from the windfall, since the prisoners see neither revenue nor services. Phone calls from prisoners to their families and loved ones (made from the prison collect), cost as much as \$3.85 to connect, and .85 per minute (as of 2003 in New York). Prisoner’s families are indeed “... *a people robbed and spoiled*”.

*“... Prisons are big business in the United States, and the building, running, and supplying of prisons has become the fastest-growing industry in the country... This super-exploitation of human beings has meant the institutionalization of a new form of slavery. Those who cannot find work on the streets, are forced to work in prison. Not only are prisoners used as instruments of economic exploitation, they also serve as instruments of political repression... police brutality is a daily occurrence in our cities. The police have a virtual license to kill children, grandmothers, anyone they perceive to be the enemy. There is at least as much brutality inside the jails and prisons as there was on the slave plantations. An ever-increasing number of prisoners are found hanging in their cells”.*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> “In The Belly of The Beast” - Jack Henry Abbott - ISBN# 0-394-70822-9 - Id at 141 (1981) - Random House

<sup>6</sup> George Jackson “Soledad Brother”.

<sup>7</sup> An “open letter” - Assata Shakur - (1998) - member of the Black Panthers who escaped from a NJ prison in 1979, and fled to Havana, Cuba

The literary (written) testimonies are endless, and it is doubtful that any change will come of it. In a nation that prides itself on its “human rights” policy, one can only conclude from what is happening, that certain individuals such as prisoners and unborn babies; those who are “out of sight, out of mind”, must be less human than the rest of the population. This philosophy augers well with psychiatry and psychology, whose basic tenet of faith is that the ancestors of “modern man” crawled out of a primordial ocean 3.5 million years ago... of course, they (have to) consider themselves to be higher on the “evolutionary tree” in order to be able and qualified to “evaluate” the rest of us!

However, there is a ray of hope, because of the increasing number of Christian prison ministries - most notably Kairos Prison Ministry<sup>8</sup> and Prison Fellowship Ministries<sup>9</sup> (started by Chuck Colson of Watergate Plumbers fame), among others.

These people give of their time and personal resources to come into the prisons and fellowship in Christian love with convicts; some of whom are “in” for very serious offenses. One Sunday night at the weekly Kairos meeting, the prisoners learned that one husband/wife couple was sharing their second wedding anniversary with the men at Wende prison (Alden, NY).

*“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”* - Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)

*“A bruised reed shall he (God) not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.”* - Isaiah 42:3, Matthew 12:20 (KJV).

When one of the Kairos members (inmates) asked one of the “outside” volunteers a personal question: *“...aren’t you afraid to be in this room with a bunch of criminals?”*, the woman responded, *“Oh, no!, are you kidding? I’m safer right here with you guys, than I am in my own house on the south side of Buffalo [NY].”* You know, she was absolutely right! The Christian fellowship in the prisons is intense; it is highly charged with love so thick and genuine, you could cut it with a knife! Many of these men have been abandoned to their fate by both family and friends - some haven’t received a birthday card or Christmas greeting in years, let alone a hug expressing genuine affection; they are left utterly alone, and completely cut off from any human love, affection, or communication - many from their early teens, such as Jack Henry Abbott. What awaits them at Kairos, REC,<sup>10</sup> Prison Fellowship, and AVP<sup>11</sup> is beyond their ability to comprehend, at first... it is not, for many of them, within the realm of their life-experience to be genuinely loved with the passion of Jesus Christ.

There is an excellent article: *“Jesus Goes To Jail”* in the December 2003 edition of [Mother Jones magazine](#)<sup>12</sup> that you should read. It explains why ONE volunteer bringing the love of Jesus Christ to prisoners, does more good than teams of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and various and sundry Hick-Farmer Sigmund Freud Wannabes could ever accomplish. In fact, Prison Fellowship has started to replace some of the psychology-based “therapy” programs, with unprecedented success!

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<sup>8</sup> Kairos is a Greek word that means “The Lord’s good time” - see: <http://www.KairosPrisonMinistry.org/> - a non-denominational Christian ministry.

<sup>9</sup> Prison Fellowship Ministries - [www.PrisonFellowshipMinistries.org](http://www.PrisonFellowshipMinistries.org).

<sup>10</sup> REC - Residents Encounter Christ - a prison ministry for Catholic participants.

<sup>11</sup> AVP - Alternative to Violence Project - an encounter group (non-denominational) started by The Society of Friends (Quakers).

<sup>12</sup> See: [www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com)

*“An offender can be punished, but to punish and not restore is the greatest of all offenses... if a man takes unto himself God’s right to punish, then he must also take upon himself, God’s promise to restore.”*<sup>13</sup>

It is true that God is raising up out of the prisons, fearless soldiers armed with the Word, and with the love of Jesus Christ in their hearts. People are beginning, albeit slowly, to get wise to Satan’s tactics:

*“... It is a maxim that the morally strongest, and the most intelligent among an oppressed people are to be found on the scaffolds and in the prisons of the oppressors... morons... men with low intelligence do not become enraged over injustice; they question nothing, and accept everything said and done to them.”*<sup>14</sup>

Now, we’re not talking the Attica [prison] riots, here. What I am saying is that Christian prison ministries are proving to the skeptical world that has been deceived by the politicians who equate vengeance with justice, and abuse with rehabilitation, that genuine Christian love can reach the most “hardened” of criminals. The “justice” system in the United States is spiritually bankrupt; we even send 8 year-old, and 12 year-old children to prison! Allow me to enlighten all of you judges who condone sending a child to jail - I don’t care WHAT they’ve done - at THAT age, his behavior is the result of what this sick society has exposed him to; a situation which is beyond a child’s control, and therefore, not his fault. One day, you judges will stand before Almighty God, and answer why you allowed your politically correct agenda, and your spineless capitulation to the cry for vengeance to stand in the way of compassion and understanding: The fires cannot be quenched, and your “worm” (consciousness)<sup>15</sup> will not die - you will answer! And those in the crowd screaming *“Crucify him! Crucify him! His blood be upon us, and upon our children”* - your request will be granted.

A crime does not a criminal make. At any moment, any one of us can choose to create a crime or a miracle. All of us would love to be able to heal the sick as Jesus did:

*“... Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Arise and walk?”* - Matthew 9:46 (KJV)

The power to heal is in our hands; all we have to do is claim it in faith, and act upon it. Truly, it is said: *“All it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing.”* But praise God! There are an increasing number of true Christians who are not content to tolerate the inhumanity of the “justice” system any longer. The effects of their loving ministry to men and women “behind the wall”, is a growing embarrassment to the criminologists, penologists, psychiatrists and psychologists with PhDs upon whom is squandered many billions of dollars annually, with worse than dismal results.

Human beings are ALL created in God’s image; without Him we can do nothing. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Even the most despicable of criminals, and the vilest of sinners can be restored. God’s arm is not so short it can’t save, and His ear is not dull that it cannot hear.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

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<sup>13</sup> Alan Paton - *“Too Late The Phalarope”*.

<sup>14</sup> *“In The Belly of The Beast”* - Jack Henry Abbott - ISBN# 0-394-70822-9 Id at 164, 165

<sup>15</sup> The word “worm” in the KJV translation means “consciousness”; mistranslated from the original texts.

I want to challenge all of you who are reading this, to prove those scriptures are literally true - to prove it to yourselves, that the Word of God applied to your life will bring more blessings than you are able to fathom. I challenge you to undertake an adventure that is more exciting than kayaking the rapids of the Colorado river; something that once you overcome your skepticism and the discouraging remarks of family and friends whom the Devil will trick into persuading you NOT to do as I suggest; once you overcome the temptation NOT to... I assure you that you'll be richly, richly blessed. The promise comes not from me, but from God Himself, who says that whatever you do to the least of His people, you do also to Him. God says that in no wise, shall you lose your reward.

My challenge is simple. At the end of this article, are addresses and Internet URL's for several prison ministries. I ask that you contact one or two of them, and get involved. Come fellowship, worship, and share the love of Jesus Christ with society's forgotten men and women. Get involved with "**Kairos Outside**", and help minister love and kindness to the families of those who are incarcerated. Come and get to know the prisoners; those whom the Prophet Isaiah called "*... a people robbed and spoiled...*" See for yourself that the worst of them is not beyond the love of Jesus Christ - come behind the walls of the prison, and see miracles of spiritual healing happen before your very eyes! Come and let the Lord use you as His anointed vessel, to pour out His blessings through you. Come "behind the wall"; a scary place, at first, to be sure, and worship and praise God with intensity you've never dreamed possible. You will not regret your decision; you'll never be the same!

*"I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. Attend to my cry; for I am brought very low: Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: The righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me."* - Psalms 142:4-7 (KJV)

*"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God,"* - 2 Timothy 1:8 (KJV)

God bless, and Godspeed,

WebPastor David Todeschini



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