

# *On Wings of Hope*

Project Hope



Vol. 19 Issue 1  
Jan. - Mar. 2015

## WHY WE WRITE

There are many reasons why one might write. Some of them might be to communicate, to stay in touch, to amuse, to make ourselves feel good or to teach. All of them are good reasons and the trick is to decide why we write and then to do that the best way we know how.

I think that if you were to ask any member of our organization why they write, a task that is not always easy for many of us who have not completed high school, I think the answer would be that they write to educate and to change minds and hearts.

And as for Esther there is always a question behind the question, the next question would be who might be their target audience? When she mildly suggests that they write for the choir, the indignant answer is why would they do that when the choir is already converted and is singing quite beautifully.

So would it perhaps be for the fence sitter, the one who hasn't made up his/her mind about capital punishment? This too is regarded as a painfully obvious question and the answer comes quickly: of course!

Esther does love her questions and so she enquires next how reaching the fence straddler might best be accomplished; by yelling at him, preaching at him, being an expert on all kinds of social issues, donning the mantle of self-righteousness?

And now I hear voices which are really starting to feel sorry for Esther that she can be quite so naïve as to think that would work. Don't you understand, they ask, that there is such a thing as "consider the source"? Yes, the choir loves it when we are angry, and we have to admit that it does feel pretty good to tell others what to do, especially as we feel so powerless, but please, Esther, we are not stupid! We know from our own life experiences that in order to be heard one has to go where the other is and hear him too before he can hear us. We know that to scream at someone does not make it possible for the other to hear us. We know that when we pontificate that the fence straddler is more likely to discount what we say than be converted. However, we do know the importance of changing minds and hearts of those who see us as monsters so that they might see our humanity. When they do, it can be the beginning of their rethinking capital punishment. And you know what Esther? We are the only ones who can do that and we do it admirably.

Esther Brown

**PROJECT HOPE TO ABOLISH  
THE DEATH PENALTY (phadp)**  
501 (C) (3) non- profit.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
Working together with  
friends, supporters and  
other advocates to educate  
the public and bring about  
the abolition of Capital  
Punishment in Alabama.

**NATIONAL OFFICE:**  
P.O. Box 1362 Lanett, AL 36863  
Phone: 334 499 0003  
Email: [beesther@earthlink.net](mailto:beesther@earthlink.net)  
Web: [www.phadp.org](http://www.phadp.org).  
Email group: [phadp-mail-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:phadp-mail-subscribe@yahoo.com), also on Face Book:  
Project Hope to Abolish the Death  
Penalty in Alabama

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Jeff Rieber, Chairman  
Ronald Smith Jr. Vice Chairman  
Nicholas Acklin, Sec. /Treas.  
Carey Grayson, Coordinator.  
Anthony Tyson, Asst. Coordinator  
Anthony Boyd, Sgt At Arms  
Bart Johnson, Info Dir.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Jeff Rieber, Pres. /CEO  
Ronald Smith Jr. Vice Pres.  
Esther Brown, Executive Director

**DEVELOPMENT:** Brandon Fountain  
**IN MEMORIUM:** Jesse Morrison  
**STUDENT REP:** Petra Jackson

**BOARD OF ADVISORS**  
Atty. Bryan Stevenson, Antoinette Bosco,  
Atty. Christine Lichtenfels, Callie Greer  
Robin DeMonia, Dale Wisely, Ph.D.  
Robert M Wilson, Judy Collins,  
Claudia Whitman, Ed Hart,  
Ann Williams, Ursula Malchau,  
Gary Drinkard, Louis Richard,  
Bill Pelke, Diane McNaron,  
Shelley Douglass, Sam L. Sullins,

**THIS NEWSLETTER WAS WRITTEN,  
TYPED AND FORMATTED ON DEATH  
ROW AT HOLMAN PRISON**

**Greetings From the Editor's Desk:**

Here we are in the first part of 2015,  
and some of the smart people we have elected  
to represent and govern us, in the State  
of Alabama, are trying to bring the electric  
chair back. Imagine that! I just can't see  
how they have convinced themselves that  
this is a step forward. Yet another question-  
able move by our legislature, has Alabama  
about to shroud the entire death penalty  
machine in secrecy. Keep in mind that capital  
punishment is a government program just  
like health care and taxes. When you take  
away transparency, so too goes account-  
ability. Do we really trust the government  
to kill it's citizens in a fair and equitable  
manner, while not trusting the very same  
government to see to our health care or  
take money from our paychecks without over-  
sight? Really?

This is the same governmental agency  
(A.D.O.C.) that was recently raided by the  
D.E.A., where illegal drugs were confiscated.  
Illegal drugs that the A.D.O.C. intended  
to kill people with. I ask again, do we  
really trust the government to kill it's  
citizens in a fair manner? Or, as is much  
more likely, do we feel that no one we know  
and love will ever be in any danger from  
this particular governmental program, so  
we allow it to slip through the cracks while  
we focus on matters we feel have a higher  
chance of impacting our own and our loved  
ones' lives? Are we going to allow the State  
to gut the very first Amendment and kill  
with impunity, based on a triage principle?  
Unfortunately, I fear we will.

In trying to end on a good note, with  
some good news, both of the men who had  
scheduled execution dates received stays  
and are safe for now. The U.S.S.C. will  
hear a case in April, concerning the  
midazolam drug protocol, with a ruling to  
come in June. Florida, who Alabama based  
their own protocol on, has suspended any  
executions until the outcome of the U.S.S.C.  
(Oklahoma) case. Let us hope that Alabama  
has the same good sense! Until next time.  
Please help keep Hope alive.

**Peace,  
Jeff Rieber  
Z-540/P-21**

Alabama News  
1st qtr. 2015

\* Esther attended an S.O.S. movement retreat in Selma. While in Selma she also joined the protest on the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge. Esther spoke to Senator Hank Sanders who will file the death penalty bills in the Alabama Senate.

\* Advisory Board Member Ursula Malchau reached out to, and received support from film director Michael Verhoeven.

\* Esther did an on-line interview with Kaveh Taharl, an Iranian Human Rights Journalist.

\* Executions are on hold for Tommy Arthur and Billy Kuenzel. We will continue following developments for both men very closely. Congratulations and many thanks to their attorneys and our dedicated supporters for actions taken in the past and currently.

\* Longtime supporter Joe Morton, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Goucher College, wrote a letter asking Dr. Dieter Zetsche of Daimler A.G. to join the opposition of the death penalty in Alabama.

\* Advisory Board Member Louis Richard organized a Christmas card program from our overseas supporters to Board members. Thank you to Louis and all who wrote. Your love was felt and greatly appreciated.

\* The Alabama Gazette did a profile on Esther.

\* Esther met with the Interim Director of Witness to Innocence and Gary Drinkard.

\* The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a case on the new drug combinations being used to execute prisoners. Oklahoma has put executions on hold pending a ruling from SCOTUS, which could come as early as April.

\* Esther attended the quarterly meeting of Alabama NAACP and delivered the report for the Death Penalty Moratorium Committee of which she is the Chair.

\* Our sister organization Justice and Mercy (JAM) met in Birmingham at Mary's House in January, planning for this coming year.

\* Ohio pushes back executions until at least next year. Pennsylvania Governor announces a moratorium on executions.

\* Claudia Tramer of Lifespark urges Roche, the innovator of the drug midazolam, to join us in opposing its use in executions.

\* The Decatur Daily publishes article "States Execution Process Reviewed.@"

\*\*\*\* Alabama News Continued \*\*\*\*

- \* The Anniston Star published an article titled "Activist Groups Target Drug Company over Alabama's Death Penalty Links" containing a mention of Project Hope and a quote from Esther.
- \* Senator Cam Ward (Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee) will try to pass a bill that would bring back the electric chair in the upcoming legislative session.
- \* The Dothan Eagle came out against the death penalty in response to electric chair bill.
- \* A Global Fellow of NYU interviewed Esther and legislators in a process of elite interviews on the "Origins of Life Without Parole; Alternatives to the Death Penalty".
- \* One of our dedicated supporters presented materials and information about the death penalty to the Episcopal Diocese in Alabama in a meeting with Assistant Bishop Santosh Murray.
- \* Esther did an interview with NPR.
- \* Esther did an interview with Huntsville radio station WEUP.
- \* Reminder: "AMAZONSMILE" allows you to select Project Hope to receive 5% of Amazon.com purchases at no cost to you.
- \* Former Spiritual Adviser to PHADP and longtime friend of Esther Father Muccilli has passed away after a battle with Parkinson's. He will be both fondly remembered and dearly missed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Prison, Politics and Policy

There has always been divide between the way things are said to be governed and the way the laws, i.e. rules are ultimately executed by the authorities. This is known, but only now has it driven me to the point that I feel I must explain (in detail) this truth and how it pertains to my current predicament. Though I have seen it many times, in my life thus far, it seems only now do I feel forced to write about it. Plato wrote in "The Republic" about a theoretical class of overseers he termed "The Watchers" whose job it was to "watch" over "guardians" who protected the people. I believe it may have been Aristotle who was the first to pose the question to his teachers' Magnum Opus, "But who will watch the watchers?"

To my knowledge, this question has not been answered by anyone to any degree of satisfaction. I do not intend to answer the unanswered question either. Only to show that the question should still be asked.

Dantes

America The Beautiful

Recently, someone asked me if I think the police in authority should face the same consequences as a common citizen, for the killing of an innocent person. By now, it would be hard to find somebody who hasn't heard about any of the recent police killings and police killers, so the fact that someone brought it to my attention shouldn't have caught me off guard...but, it did. I had to pause and weigh the facts.

Police and governing authorities are given the power, by the people, to keep the peace and set an example for us. That being said, it is only logical that they should be held to the same, or even higher standards. When these authorities break laws, the same laws that we live by, and they face little to no consequences for their poor judgements, bad decisions and in some cases blatant disregard of the law and the citizens they serve, what does that say? It says that our governments are biased, prejudiced and even racist. We never gave them carte blanche.

But, we also need to look at the standards that citizens who are not in authority, us, are held to. We are held to the same standards as animals. If a dog kills another dog, we kill them or put them down. If a person, a living, breathing human being with a soul kills someone, they kill them and call it "justice." That is not justice. That is called getting even, or revenge. No matter what mask you use to cover it up; murder, "putting them down" or execution, it is all the same, and it is all wrong. Are we, as human beings, worth no more than a dog to America the Beautiful?

After looking at both sides of the coin, I told him that I don't think the police and people in authority should face the same consequences as we do. Let me explain. I don't think anyone should have to face the consequence of losing their life. Life is a gift given from God. So no man should have the right to take that gift away. No one should have to fear being murdered by someone else or by our government. But, those in authority should be held to an equal or higher standard. At least that is how I feel. But who am I...

Castro

\*\*\*\*\*

Just a thought!

Struggles to overcome obstacles in a society that puts an invisible hand out to help one up from the bottom. The system that punishes doesn't consider the fact that kids growing up in these neighborhoods are left to fend for themselves. Blind Justice. What about the seeing leading the blind into a room with no exit. This may sound a bit strange to the people that don't care to know the true meaning of helplessness. The only thoughts on a poor kids mind is eating for the day, keeping warm clothes on the body, having a roof over their heads by any means necessary. Not that most don't know the difference between right and wrong. The fact is doing right is not feeding the hungry or the cold or the homeless kids. The fact is a kid starts stealing food to feed himself and family, and that in turn leads to bigger thefts. And when the idea to get a big

get, no thoughts of the potential of what could go wrong, but rather how to get away without being caught. That leads us to this point, death row. A judge, jury, prosecuter and detectives that don't care what led to this point. They care about numbers, arrest records, conviction numbers and making sure the Defense Attorney is doing the minimum amount of work required. Where is the fairness in that? I just want you to think about what you see and don't see in your daily life. Then consider what you could do to better the life of someone you may never meet. The next generation of poor kids need that light at the end of the tunnel, right now it is just darkness. Get them before that hunger drives them to steal that first piece of candy.

Marcus Williams  
G-9

\*\*\*\*\*

Of All the Causes

Ever since prisons have existed, men have been writing about them and in them. They have written books, essays, poems, letters, screenplays and articles. That being said, what can I write that has not already been written? Then there is the chance of writing something that is trite or pretentious, or at least comes off sounding that way. I think the reason a lot of prisoners seem to write this way isn't arrogance, but an eagerness to share with the world what they have learned or overcome. That usually results in the writing sounding "Preachy" or even condescending. I only hope anything I write for this newsletter in the future doesn't come off this way, because it certainly isn't my objective.

My only intention is to provide, in my articles, fuel for thought and most importantly action concerning the death penalty. That being said, of all the causes you could contribute to, why the death penalty? I would tell you, because of all of society's problems where death is involved, such as cancer, this is the only one I can think of that is both caused by humans and can be prevented by humans. In theory, all it would take is a vote in our legislature and a signature from the President (or the Governor at the State level) but in practice it is so much more difficult. Those who are against the death penalty aren't as loud as those for it. (Or at least in this writer's opinion) I feel like those who are anti-death penalty are the silent majority.

The up-side is that, if my theory is correct, all it would take is increasing awareness so we can unsilence our supporters. That is where you, the reader, comes in; If you are reading this article chances are if you aren't already involved with the abolition of the death penalty, you are interested in it. This is a cause that only needs to gather support, but it doesn't take a genius to see why saving the lives of men and women convicted of murder isn't as popular as curing cancer. The subject isn't even up for discussion in Republican politics.

Saying you are against the death penalty in public can be as damaging to a Republican politician's career as saying he or she is for gay-rights or amnesty for illegal immigrants. This is amplified the farther South you go, or the more conservative the State. The only way of preventing this is letting these politicians know that you, your family and friends are against the death penalty and you will not vote for someone who believes the way to solve the problem of the taking of lives is by taking more lives.

Society has more options now, than ever before. We don't have to kill people to administer justice. We have the resources and capabilities to keep them incarcerated for the rest of their lives (at much less the cost, I might add.)

Democracy, I am told, comes from the Greek for "mob rule" or control by the masses, so once again in theory, what the people want the people get. Why don't we let or leaders know that we want to stop killing people to solve our problems? That's all I've got. Write to Project Hope to give us feedback, and thanks for being interested enough to read this newsletter.

Derek Horton  
N-5

\*\*\*\*\*

Emotional Whirlwind

The DOC, spending time hassling, and harassing death row over card board and paper bags, as drugs and knives run rampant and fly freely in population. While the State seeks to run a blood bath through the building. Priorities!

The State, \$700 mil in debt... but, I watch a comrade, friend, a family member attacked in the name of revenge. Seeking to bloody his name, poison his frame, through the toxins they want to put in his veins. The elderly going without heat. Social security barely there to reap. Priorities!

Angry, frustrated, mentally and emotionally confused... how should a pawn feel, in a political game, when being used and illegally abused. They call it justice, when they murder someone else accused of killing. The innocent be damned. Priorities!

Fearful, stressed, mind boggling this mess. Police departments understaffed and underpaid. Ill equipped, poorly trained, becoming assassins with badges, put on paid leave, with blood on their hands. Accused of killing a police, capital crime... Police kills innocent, just off for a little time. Priorities!

I'm lost and seeking mental refuge from this deluge of insane and controversial nonsense. Torture, kill, injustice... what is this? The village feels the uncertainty. Tensions running high, nerves on edge, yet bags and cardboard drives them. We Want Blood!! screams the forgiving Christians. What is this? Read the Bible and take the parts which fits their agenda. Political piracy, watch us kill them, justice. Revenge and injustice, it is Just-Us... stigmatized, wrapped in an enigma... Hold on tight, its an emotional whirlwind!

Be Strong, Be Blessed, and Fight...

Anthony Boyd  
Z-578/N-9

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

P.O. Box 1362 Lanett, AL 36863

Tel: (334) 499-0003

[beeather@earthlink.net](mailto:beeather@earthlink.net)

[www.phado.org](http://www.phado.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Lanett, AL  
PERMIT NO. 67

### Snow Day

Dear Reader, when you get this I hope you are enjoying some warmer weather, but as I'm writing, I'm hoping for snow back at home. They might get 5"-7", which sounds just about right for snow angels, snowmen, snow forts, snow ball fights and snow cream. As a kid I loved playing in the snow and I know my young-'uns have the same fascination. Maybe the fact that snow was so rare in Birmingham made it seem special or maybe it was just the day off from school. Either way I hope they get to slide down the hill tomorrow. Wish I could be there to lug the sled back up for'em so they can go again! Might even make some snow cream if anyone has a recipe?

Something else that my kids are enjoying now that I liked too many years ago to count: The Fresh Prince. They have recently started watching it and can't get enough. Who can hear the theme song and not want to watch the show right? So, on the one hand it is great to have something in common with your kids. On the other hand it is almost like validation. I mean they think they know everything and I'm old and out of touch (which is true) but it feels good to have little things like music, T.V. or movies to bring it all together. So even though I'm not out there, I can still share an experience with them.

Bart Johnson  
Z-778/F-18



# A Christian Perspective

Produced By  
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

Vol. 19 Issue 1  
Jan.-Mar. 2015



Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings and Salutations! Well, the New Year came in with some surprises and a warning to those of us on Alabama's death row. The surprises, some good and some bad gave both hope and hardened the resolve of those of us fighting this cause. Execution dates were set for the first time in a while. Some of the guys here on the row haven't been here for an execution and weren't quite sure how to feel except scared. Thankfully, the support structures were in place and the attorneys for the two men were on their toes. A lot of heretofore uninterested parties here on the row turned their bright shiny eyes on the men of Project Hope and were welcomed back into the fold. And the core (Board) rededicated itself as though it were a new day. An indeed it was.

The warning was given by the State itself. It was given in both subtle and in overt statements made by various governmental representatives. The State is reenergizing itself to continue the battle. The lull we have been experiencing is over. The State wishes to make its protocol in secret and keep it a secret. Mainly because people in the U.S. are against torture and some of the executions nationwide have amounted to nothing less.

Some good surprises have occurred with three guys on the row going back for new trials including Anthony Ray Hinton who has been on death row for over 25 years. Thomas Crowe and Kevin Towles were both relative newcomers but there is never a bad time to get off the row. Good luck Gentlemen.

The Good Lord never gives us more than we can handle. Sometimes, we have to be tested. Sometimes we need to prove to ourselves what we are made of. Sometimes a family needs to struggle to strengthen itself for what is to come. Things are not going to get any easier until this fight is over. And it is not over. We are not done yet. Just trying to keep it positively real. Thank you all for helping us to "Keep Hope Alive!"

In Christ,  
Ronald B. Smith Jr.  
Editor, "A Christian Perspective"

## Organizational Information

A Christian Perspective is  
Published by Project Hope  
To Abolish the Death  
Penalty. Address  
correspondence to Ronald  
B. Smith Jr. Editor  
(Z-586/D6), Holman 3700,  
Atmore, AL 36503

## Editorial Staff

Ronald B. Smith Jr.  
Editor  
Anthony Tyson  
Assistant Editor  
Nicholas Acklin & Craig Newton  
Contributing writers

## Executive Committee

Jeff Rieber  
President/CEO  
Ronald Smith Jr. Vice  
President  
Esther Brown  
Executive Director

For more information  
about Project Hope to  
Abolish the Death Penalty,  
write to:  
PHADP, P.O. Box 1362  
Lanett, AL 36863

All articles in this  
newsletter may be  
reprinted without  
permission unless  
otherwise stated. We ask  
only that you put  
*Reprinted by permission  
of Project Hope to  
Abolish the Death  
Penalty, P.O. Box 1362  
Lanett, AL 36863*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The State of Alabama has decided to expand it's reach to all over the United States of America to come up with the perfect execution protocol. Is there even such a thing as a perfect execution protocol? The State has decided to modify their protocol and remodel it after the State of Florida's protocol. So can perfection be achieved by copying someone else?

Midazolam has been added to Alabama's execution protocol. Midazolam has an extensive history of causing malfunctions in executions, from Oklahoma and Ohio. Recently in Oklahoma, the guy strapped to the gurney was heard yelling that his veins felt like they were on fire. So Midazolam has been just a mask over the face of the potential failures of the recent put together execution protocols. The new combinations of drugs has a deadly result but at the risk of excruciating pain of those condemned. The appetite for revenge has started to outweigh the hope of justice in most death penalty cases.

Alabama has come to a point where they have decided to try and go around Federal law and still execute two guys that have been issued stays. Tommy Arthur and William Kuenzel have been issued stays yet the State of Alabama has decided to continue to run their execution protocol as if the guys haven't been given stays at all. The State (also in most counties) has decided to override the Federal Court ruling to allow gays the right to marry in the State. Alabama has decided to take the stance of us against everyone else and allowing County Probate Judges the right to override Federal law and close their offices and not issue marriage licenses. Alabama has been reaching to its core Christian principles of marriage between a man and a woman, and have decided to overlook that those principles also include forgiveness and love.

Our State's decision to reach out to other States around them to fashion an execution protocol to create a more perfect way of executing an individual is already imperfect. Our State has allowed for the risk of something to go wrong in executions by adding a lethal combination of drugs with the history of mistakes occurring during executions. "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1:20 Any time the States decide to step in the place of God we allow the room for mistakes and disasters to be made. So Alabama, instead of trying to reach and come up with a more perfect execution protocol, just reach back to when the death penalty was non-existent because the more perfect execution protocol is to have no death penalty at all.

Jeffery Lee

G-9

The Caring Christian

\*\*\*

## Room for Improvement

I was watching one of those shows that traces a family's history. It was amazing how they could use an old passenger manifest from a ship, census rolls and newspaper archives to put together a fairly accurate family tree. But even more interesting to me was the way they could take a few facts or even anecdotes, and rebuild not only individuals, but their lives as well. They would do this by placing a person in the correct historical time period and using what we know about people and society in that era to construct the person. They can then fill in the blanks with whatever they can find in the documents or from family lore.

Of course in the future it will be much easier to fill in the blanks since our paper trails are much more detailed now than 100 or even 20 years ago. School records, medical records, much more specific census records, not to mention social media and digital photos would allow for very in depth and accurate family trees. Its making me laugh thinking of someone hundreds of years from now reading a tweet from a 10X great-grandparent.

I just hope they remember to add in the historical context, because we are from an era that, let's face it, needs some improvement.

Bart Johnson  
Z-778/F-18

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Year's Resolution

2015... ON your mark... Get set... Go! I decided to attack 2015 like a track meet and there were many scriptures in the Word to assist me. I have shared this story before with family and friends about when I got on the track team in high school, I was totally dumb founded to the work and skill-level that went into running track. I was on the Varsity football team. So, I figured track would be a breeze. Wow! Was I wrong. There is alot that goes into running with a goal to win! You don't just think you can win because you're fast, which I was not. But back in my day... you didn't understand the seriousness of your opponent running a 4.2 40 yard dash. As many dogs, bulls and chickens (really mean roosters that is) I had outran. I was like, bring it and wow, did they ever bring it.

My coach put me on the 4X400 relay team. Do you understand that is one full lap around a track? OMG! After weeks of practicing this race, I spoke to my cousin who had been running track awhile and asked for some advice. He ran the faster races. He looked at me, shook his head and said, "Just run!" Before he walked away, he turned and gave me one more piece of advice. BTW he said, "Don't look back." I replied, "why?" He said, "Because there is a bear chasing you. And once you make that last turn, he is gonna jump on you if you look back." Well guys, I looked back, and for that home stretch my legs felt like they weighed a thousand pounds. I was looking at that finish line like a refuge. But I finished my race. I ran my leg. (And fell out of course) But again, I finished.

The Word of God tells us in Hebrews 12:1, that we are to "lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." And one other key scripture I took with me as I began this race in 2015 is Proverbs 4:25-26. It says, "let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you (Don't forget the bear.) Give careful thought to the paths of your feet and be steadfast in all your ways." We can't lose sight of the finish PHADP brothers. There have been times during the close of 2014, that I wanted to quit. I lost sight and focus of the bigger picture. I was tempted. But, I realized that I am in this race to finish helped get me back on track. So, as a team PHADP, lets determine to be men and women who never become so consumed with our present circumstances that we wnd up losing sight of the finish line.

On your mark, get set, Go!

Anthony Tyson

Z-641/N-17

Holman 3700

Atmore, Al. 36503

\*\*\*\*\*

#### The Storm Is Over Now

As I look back over my life, seeing how far I have come. Now realizing that I was trapped in a tunnel for years. And couldn't see the light. And whenever I'd look up I couldn't see the sky. Sometimes when I'm standing it seems I done walked for miles. And my heart could be cryin on the inside, while in the middle of a smile because pain don't show on the inside unless you let it. But knowing the Almighty will not put no more than we can bare because God helped me climb the hilss and saw the mountains. I hollered help! Because I was lost to the streets and the World as a whole. Then I felt the strong wind with a small voice saying to me...

The storm is over and I can see the sunshine now. Somewhere beyond the clouds, realizing that once dark cloud was no longer over me. I feel heaven, yeah heaven is over me always. Come on and set me free from it all...(Still a work in progress) Now in the midst of my battle, I felt like I was losing my mind and all hope was gone because I've been racing for years and still no finish line.

Somehow my beginning stepped right in. Then my faith became my friend. And now I can and could depend on my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through all we go through in life, God will help you climb the hills and mountains, if you trust, believe and have faith that trouble don't last forever.

Psalms 30:5 "For His anger is but for a moment. His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In closing, no matter where life takes you or no matter what you go through or might be going through as I write this, you will get through it. You just must remain humble, patient and optimistic. And keep your faith through it all. I promise the storm won't last forever! Nothing we go through will last, but God is forever. I am eternally striving to make it. Humble to overcome. Focused to succeed.

**Eagle Eye**

\*\*\*\*\*

Untitled

My conviction was for death of girlfriend. The State's evidence was that I had taken a variety of intoxicants, saw my girlfriend out with another man, and killed her. I was charged with murder for over a year but after turning down a plea, the State indicted me for capital murder adding a charge of sex abuse. Due to ineffective assistance of trial counsel, a "heat of passion" manslaughter offense became a conviction for capital murder, and the State's fabrication of sex abuse evidence went undiscovered, and thus undisputed. After this unjust conviction, the jury members, the judge, the prosecutor and yes, even the defense attorney all went to Church on Sunday shouting; "Hallelujah, he got what he deserved, bless us Lord!"

After arriving on death row, execution was then by electric chair. High voltage electricity frying the body. You could smell the smoke of burning flesh, and then see the corpse driven off by the coroner. That Sunday, all involved in the execution went to Church shouting; "Hallelujah Jesus, he got what he deserved, Bless us Lord!"

Today, the government wants to execute using a death cocktail, which is lethal injection of midazolam hydrochloride, rocuronium bromide and potassium chloride. This potassium chloride fries every living cell in the body, resulting in a person having a heart attack. For that reason, the U.S.S.C. has said, "If the first drug does not adequately sedate, then the effect of potassium chloride would violate U.S. Constitutional Amendment Eight, as being cruel and unusual punishment.

All administrators of the death penalty must have a psychosis. A seared conscience and a cold, hardened heart. The mega majority of people who kill, and are on death row, had no calculated, premeditated intent to kill, but these administrators of death do.

I recall while reading history in school, they use to set the condemned on fire. Also in the 6th Century B.C., there was the "Brazen Bull". A huge bull made of brass in which the executed was put inside, and the fire was lit underneath. The cry of, the scream of, the yelling of one being burnt alive

made a noise coming out of the bull's nose and mouth. It made it sound as though the bull had come alive. In revelry, they all shouted to their god; "Hallelujah, he got what he deserved, bless us Lord!"

Almost all "professing" Christians, whether they realize it or not, go to Church on Sunday, raise up there hands and shout; "Glory Hallelujah Jesus, we are sending another to hell, not only are we going to kill his body, but we are going to burn every living cell in his body, bless us Lord! Hallelujah!" Then they wonder why the world is not changing for the better.

Greg Hunt

\*\*\*\*\*

### Age of Wonder

Greetings o'hopeful ones! It is a beautiful day and I'm feeling a lil reflective today. Hee Hee! See I was sittin here thinking about all the things I've witnessed in my lifetime and came to the realization that I've seen quite alot in my forty and some odd years. Mainly, I was surprised I'd seen forty years. lol But, that is another story altogether.

What got me thinking about it was a conversation I had with my homies the other night about our childhoods. As we reminisced about our childhoods we began to talk about the things we had seen change in our world. Things like the birth of the Fox Network. I remember watching the USA Cartoon Express when the announcement flashed across the screen that a new network was taking over. I watched the greatest champion of communism collapse and become a capitalist nation. And I got to see Dick Tracy's watch hit the stores in real life! How many of us wanted that watch as a kid? Know I did. I got to the first edition of the tool everyone under thirty thinks of as always being here. Do you remember the first cell phone? The first remote control T.V.? The first computer? I remember'em all. So much history and advancement I've seen in my very short forty years. I've seen a man turn waste into water for heaven's sake!

As I think of this I can't help but think of a conversation I had with my great aunt Tumpsie about the first time she saw a car as a child. She dropped her books and ran home crying because she thought it was a ghost buggy coming to snatch her away. lol.

Anyway, I'm just trying to say how blessed I feel to have seen the world change, not once but many times in my short life. If you get a free minute, take a sec and think about the world changing things you've witnessed in your life. And maybe give a thought to what you may see come to pass before you go. There are some wonderous things in this world of ours if we only take a minute to look.

Despite all the bad in our world there really is an age of wonder going on out there. I for one intend to see as much of it as I can. It is just too cool to ignore, ya know.

Ya'll have a great day.

Carey Grayson

Executive Coordinator/PHADP

Z-598/P-20