

Letters from Prison

6-30-08

Dear Marie,

Thank you for Book Seven, it goes well with Book Six and thank you and those of you at Piecemakers for the words of encouragement as I start down this 13 year path of loneliness. Although after reading Book #7 and the writing within, one will never really be lonely with God. I try to carve out time in the mornings, when my cellie is gone, to spend with GOD. But after a wonderful time of reading His Word, praying and meditating on HIM, I have to throw myself headlong into my day. However that might be. GOD is still there to help and encourage me, but my day with its routines and challenges clouds the specialness of those quiet moments at the beginning of my day.

Yet we were all put on earth to do more than experience His presence in quiet corners. Now is not the stage in life to spend all our time in contemplative solitude. The world around us needs to hear about HIM. Hurting people need help. Despairing neighbors need the encouragement that only God can provide through us. Not being able to sense deep intimacy with God all the time should motivate us to live for the day when we will see Him face to face. The baggage of our fallenness will be lifted from our backs and the sins in this life will evaporate forever, to sin nevermore. In the twinkling of an eye, we will find ourselves in an eternity where the prime preoccupation will be to enjoy unhindered intimacy with HIM.

AND WE CANNOT EXPECT INTIMACY IF WE LIVE LIKE PEOPLE WHO SAY: "I'D LIKE TO BUY THREE DOLLARS WORTH OF GOD. PLEASE, NOT ENOUGH TO EXPLODE MY SOUL OR DISTURB MY SLEEP, BUT JUST ENOUGH TO EQUAL A CUP OF WARM MILK OR A NAP IN THE SUNSHINE. I DON'T WANT ENOUGH OF HIM TO MAKE ME LOVE A BLACK MAN OR PICK BEETS WITH A MIGRANT. I WANT ECSTASY, NOT TRANSFORMATION. I WANT THE WARMTH OF THE WOMB, NOT A NEW BIRTH. I WANT ABOUT A POUND OF THE ETERNAL IN A PAPER SACK. I'D LIKE TO BUY ABOUT THREE DOLLARS WORTH OF GOD, PLEASE."

When we live our lives like that, we will never see the glory of His kingdom. I

have to fight my inner self daily to be able to stand before our Lord and have Him welcome me with open arms. And in a place like this, it is a struggle.

Marie, you and the folks at Piecemakers are in my prayers daily. May the Lord bestow upon all of you His rich and glorious blessings. We will all be gathered in eternal heaven forever and a day. I will see you there.

On a post note, if you have any other books (other than #6 and #7) or writings available, I would love to receive them.

Thank you

God bless

Sincerely,

Patrick

Marie's Answer

July 4, 2008

Hello Patrick,

Your buying God at the grocery store is better than reading the Bible. We will print it and put it on internet... living in prison is much like living at Piecemakers. We are new each day as we give up our lives daily. Therefore we are strangers to one another daily. And as we change, it takes patience and forbearance on all of us to make a society such as the kingdom of God work in harmony with the sweet music of His creation.

But we are getting there. I see the fire of God on each soul, refining and changing us into that new creation called the glorified Christ. We are beholding Him face to face and He is demanding change, change, change. Heaven is here and it is up to us to change and enter in. He is a consuming fire and His fire cannot be bought in a paper bag for three dollars at the grocery store. It is bought with your life and although His ways are perfect and mysterious, the greatest mystery of all is out of the ashes of our old life, lo and behold, a new day dawns with a new Patrick beholding the dawn. Hold not back the dawn is a good word for the hour.

Marie

