



# STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

July  
to  
September

2018



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ; he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

A quarterly publication highlighting stories from



## Selman, Prisoner, Burrel

I was part of a violent group during the 1997 civil war in Albania. When the civil war ended, I was put in prison. When I first heard about TPJ, I was unsure if I could join since I was an atheist. So I asked the organizers if I could sign up for TPJ. The organizer said, "Absolutely!"

So I started the Course. I went through the whole Course but was not sure what I believed. **On graduation day, I told my Course Leader, "I am no longer an atheist. I don't believe in any religion, but I believe there is a God."**

**I plan to continue to search for the true God.**

## Prisoner, Wooroloo Prison Farm, WA

When I saw the story of how this father had forgiven the murderer who had killed his son, it encouraged me to make a decision about changing my life.

## Facilitator, Wooroloo Prison Farm, WA

We had a prisoner who completed TPJ then went onto become a facilitator. He took on more responsibility and was able to create a stronger connection with the prisoners in the course than other volunteers did. **He was walking their walk and had an ability to speak plainly to them about the Gospel message and God's plan of redemption.** One of the prisoners in the course he led was nearing the end of a lengthy sentence and during the course expressed doubts about being forgiven for his crime. **As the course went on, I observed this prisoners face growing brighter even to the point where he started smiling and laughing more as he accepted that God had forgiven him for his crime and his sins.**

# BRAZIL

## Everton, Prisoner, Recuperando<sup>1</sup> from APAC Pedra Azul-MG Closed Regime

TPJ has changed my thinking and attitude a lot. **Today I feel free from my past sins. My greatest desire is to become a TPJ volunteer, so that everyone can feel this same relief.** TPJ has shown me that human beings have the capacity to change. Because of this Course, I now have a better sensitivity to seeking good for others.



## Idislaine, Recuperanda<sup>1</sup> from APAC de Rio Piracicaba Closed Regime



When I started the Course, I did not have much interest in doing it because I was disconnected from the Word of God. In truth, I thought that God had forgotten and abandoned me, because I had received a sentence of over 42 years. **However, through TPJ, I understood that God never abandons us. On the contrary, we ignore Him. No matter the size of the mistake we make, nor the size of our sins, God will always be with us, waiting for a cry for help because the word of God says: "Come to me, all of you who are fatigued and burdened, and I will give you rest."**

<sup>1</sup>Recuperando/a is Portuguese term for a person who is in recovery.

# BULGARIA

## Two Inmates Find God Together

A poor, small, and uneducated prisoner who had graduated from TPJ was hired by two rich prisoner as their paid servant. Neither of the rich prisoners were religious and neither had ever responded to the invitation to join TPJ. Beyond serving these men physically, the servant prisoner decided to do something for their souls. He managed to capture their curiosity by telling them about the journey of a Prisoner just like them.

He shared verses from the Bible that he had memorized. He often prayed the Lord would give him an opportunity to open his lips to share the good news. Finally, he shared and the two rich prisoners joined TPJ.

During TPJ they were very impressed by the Gospel. They were intrigued to learn more about who Jesus is, why He came and what it means to be His follower. **The Lord open their hearts to the truth of God's Kingdom and step by step they began to love the Lord more and more.**

Now, they are TPJ volunteers.

## Ouedraogo, Prisoner

*After killing my girlfriend because she was pregnant, I couldn't live with myself. I was only 15 and terrified of going to prison. After going through TPJ, I have been able to deal with my guilt. Now for the first time in my life, I feel free because of God's forgiveness.*

## Lankoandé, Prisoner

*When I first came to prison, I was so confused and frustrated. But now I know that the reason I came to prison was to go through TPJ. I am now thankful that I came to prison. When I am out, I will not do what I was doing. Instead, I will see how I can share the good news of Jesus!*

## Story of a TPJ Coordinator

A prisoner approached a TPJ Coordinator one day and asked her to go find his work supervisor to help him post bail. Although the directions and instructions were vague, the Coordinator agreed to talk with the prison officials to see if she could do this favor.

When she was called to the private meeting with a prison official, the officer asked if she was prepared to assist in this manner and he was stunned when she said she was.

After several days of looking, she found his supervisor. The inmate's boss told the volunteer about how much she had been worrying about what had happened to the prisoner. She told the volunteer that the reason this man was imprisoned was because of a family dispute which left him nearly homeless. Not wanting to create family disharmony, he did not fight but instead allowed himself to be arrested because of false claim by his brother. After hearing this story, the volunteer gave the prisoner's supervisor his contact information and they went their ways.

***When the TPJ volunteer returned the following week for the TPJ session, the prisoner, who had been always tense and worried, met her with a wide smile. His boss had helped him get bail. TPJ not only teaches through the Course but also by the volunteers' demonstration of God's grace.***



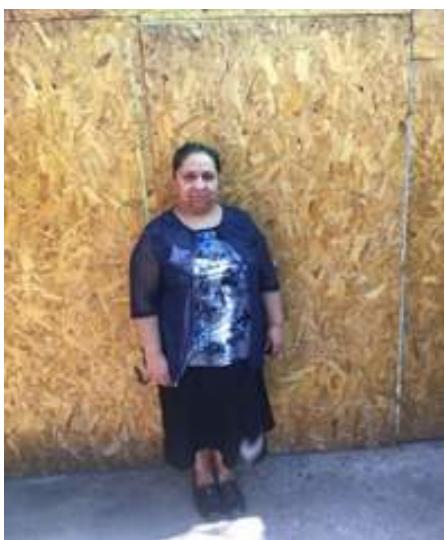
## Rolando, Prisoner, Metropolitana Region



I have gone through TPJ as a student and also as a Course Leader. Both experiences have taught me a lot about how to grow spiritually in my knowledge and faith of my Savior, Jesus Christ. **I have never experienced anything like going through TPJ.** I had

privately experienced this kind of freedom in Christ through the preaching in the prison. But now I had this new experience of knowing Christ externally too. **God is the one who transforms lives. When you experience it, you want to share it with others.**

## Jaqueline, TPJ Facilitator



I love using TPJ as a way to teach a foundational understanding of the Bible. I love how the Course provides information that will help strengthen the faith of current believers, as well as teach non-believers about the cross of Christ. I am so grateful that the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to work in the hearts of all the prisoners, regardless of their religious creed. **I think and believe with all my heart that this program is leading the prisoners in all the prisons to faith in Jesus Christ.**

CHILE

# COLOMBIA

## Carlos, Prisoner, Carmen de Bolivar Prison



My first days in prison were slow and depressing. I did not know how to deal with my fear and pain. So I considered ending my life, since I couldn't tolerate the shame from my family and my community. That's when I heard about TPJ. At first, I only wanted to be a part of this out of curiosity. But over time, I began to truly understand who Jesus is. **During the last week of the Course, I was on my knees, crying before God, asking for forgiveness. I wanted to start a new life.** I know it won't be easy, but I also know He is with me and He has changed my life.

## Walberto, Prisoner, Carme de Bolivar



When I first heard about TPJ, I ignored it and wanted nothing to do with it. But my cell mates kept talking about it which made me interested. **I started TPJ and, without noticing it, I became interested in learning about Jesus. After I prayed to surrender my life to Jesus, something changed in my life.** I realized that my past doesn't matter. What matters is what I will be doing from now on.

**Sameh, El Fayoum Prison, Ward B**

When I entered prison, I felt great loneliness for the first time in my life. I felt very hurt and blamed God for not saving and protecting me outside the prison. I had so many unanswered questions that came to my mind, but had no answers until I started TPJ. That's when I realized I needed my life go in a different direction.

**From TPJ, I learned that God came for my sake so that I could know Jesus Christ as my personal savior. When I put my trust in Christ, I realized that although there is so much trouble, My Lord will carry me safely through and above all my problems.**

**Adel, Prisoner, El Minya Loman Prison**

I was sentenced to five years in prison for selling drugs. I finished serving my time. But the day I was supposed to be released, they could not find my finger prints in the system, so I had to stay. **I became desperate and started to lose all hope until I met God through TPJ. Now I have hope and peace again because Jesus Christ has purified me from my sins.**

**Ricardo, Prisoner**

It is amazing how Jesus calls us and it is often our own blindness that makes us doubt His goodness. I did not want to go through the Course at first, but I decided to do it anyway. **After some time in TPJ, I realized that I did not know Jesus yet. I had heard Him speak but I did not know Him. Now I know who He is because of TPJ!**

# HONDURAS

## Dennis, Prisoner, El Progreso Prison

I thank God for this Course. Thanks to TPJ, I now understand that only Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and he is the only one who can change the human heart. **I learned in the Course that Jesus came to save me and change me. Now, I see everything differently. Thanks be to God that I will no longer be the same as I was before.**

## Alexander, Prisoner, Danli Prison

God bless you! I thank God and Prison Fellowship International because I have received life changing knowledge and now know that Jesus saves me from my sins. **Before I attended TPJ, I had rejected God and I did not want to be a part of His ways. But today, thanks to TPJ, The Lord called me again and now I can say that Jesus rescued me from sin and death.**

## Simon, Prisoner, Nakuru Main

When I came to prison, I had not given my life to Christ. I was living a pathetic life with no direction and it was full of challenges. **As soon as I joined TPJ, my life started changing. Because of the impact of the Course, I decided to follow Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. I began to get motivated by everything we were taught. I started learning about Him from reading Mark's Gospel. Now I am enjoying my freedom through Christ, as I am no longer bound by the pressures of this world.**



# KENYA

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## Edwin, Prisoner, Nakuru main

I thank God Almighty for enabling me to complete TPJ. Since I started the Course, I have grown in my salvation journey. I saw the hand of God working to help me understand the Gospel of Mark. Before I signed up for TPJ, I had no interest of studying God's Word. But now I have learned the great value of reading my Bible. **Through the Course, I have come to know who Jesus is, what He did, and what it means to follow Him.**



## Anthony, Prisoner, Mikuyu Prison

When I came to prison, I hated people who gathered for prayer. I also doubted that Jesus would forgive me for the crimes I had committed. **But now I know that Jesus ate and drank with sinners and forgave them. Now I believe that my sins have been forgiven and I can testify to others about Jesus Christ, the one who forgives.** TPJ has helped me to discover Jesus. The Savior who does not condemn but loves even the worst sinner.

## Afana, Prisoner, Zomba Prison

I never had any interest in Jesus until TPJ introduced me to prayer. **I have signed up for TPJ because I want to follow Jesus.**

## Serifo, Prisoner, Carregueira Prison

I want to thank those in PFI and express my joy to you for leading me on the right path to the truth. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. **You may not believe it, but there have been significant changes in my life because of TPJ.** I have had many difficulties which led me to ask for God to take my life because I faced so much despair. **But once I joined TPJ, I experienced relief from my troubles.**

## Nilyonkuru, Prisoner, Nyarugegegne Prison

I refused the gospel when I was a free man. The devil gave me a bad gift of stealing from people and I used it often. One day, I lied to my wife about a robbery. She knew I was lying, so she called the police. That is when I got put in prison. **After a short time here, I joined TPJ and now I have been transformed. The Gospel has changed my heart. Now instead of stealing, I want to give.** Very soon, I will join the choir to serve the Lord and his people.



## Jeffery, Prisoner

I did TPJ and it changed me. It changed my heart. I enjoyed doing the Course, especially because it forced me to think and express my ideas. It kept me busy and every week I was so excited to go to class. **TPJ gave me hope and showed me that I can change and be a better person.**

## Ray, Prisoner, Modderbee Prison

I have recently completed TPJ and it profoundly changed my life. **While I was going through the Course, I realized that I had a great deal of anger hidden inside so I asked my Course Leader to pray for me. As we prayed and continued with the Course, I came to the realization that, although I grew up without a father in my life, God is my heavenly father and that I am not alone. I am not rejected. This realization softened my heart and the anger left me.** I now know that: Jesus is the Son of God, God is my Father, and that the Holy Spirit is with me every day. I am never alone on this earth. Now I want to tell others that Jesus loves them!

## Gavi, Prisoner, Lome Prison

When I came to prison, I met TPJ Course Leaders and I followed them. By going through the Course, I discovered who Jesus Christ is. **I now have faith in Him and have accepted Him as my Savior and Lord. He set me free today and now I am born again in the Lord. Now, all my life belongs to Him forever.**



## Tchalim, Prisoner

*Before I came to prison, I was an adulterer and a thief. I lived a broken life, which led me to prison. When I arrived in prison, I heard about TPJ and it seemed interesting so I decided to take part in it.*

***After a few classes, I discovered that I am a lost sinner. I understood that Jesus died for sinners like me.*** Now I have accepted Him as my



accepted him as my Savior and Lord. I trusted Him, and He saved me. He carried and washed my sins away. I have a new life in Jesus Christ. Now I belong to Him forever and He walks with me.

## Brahian, Prisoner of PPP Prison

*TPJ is amazing! I have to serve 4 more years in prison, so I want to make the most of my time here. Once I finish TPJ, I am looking forward to finishing the Course and then I hope to become one of the volunteers who teaches it. **Right now, I have a fervent yearning to begin discipleship.***



## Enrique, Prisoner, Florida Prison



*I participated in the TPJ course and it had a profound effect on me. I learned who Jesus is and everything He did for me. I am now going through discipleship so that I can be a biblical leader of my home.*

***I am so thankful that Jesus has restored my life. Now, I want to become a TPJ Course Leader so that others' lives can be restored too!***