



**August 3, 2015**

Dear praying friends,

Five years ago, when I first started the Bible Study at ACTC, a halfway house for men being released from prison, I met a resident, who I will call Jim. He had been convicted of sexually abusing his two step sons.

He was a strong believer, well versed in the Bible, and professed his innocence. He had a calm, a peace about him, that only comes from the gift of the Holy Spirit. It seemed incongruous with his crime. Jim would participate in the Bible studies. Some of the men objected to having a sex-offender in the Bible study, but GOD forgives our sins, and we need to do the same. He had spent significant time in prison. To be paroled, you have to admit your crimes. Jim refused, always asserting his innocence. Eventually, he was paroled to ACTC and after a year, was paroled back into society. After he left ACTC, we had only occasional contact.

Last week, I stopped in the Catholic Book Store, where he works. He told me that his conviction had been overturned and his criminal record wiped clean. He humbly gave all the credit to GOD. A friend, who believed Jim was innocent, made contact with Jim's two step sons, who were now young adults. After several conversations, they admitted that they had lied, because they wanted to break up Jim's relationship with their mother, in hopes of getting her back together with their father. That didn't happen, but Jim was convicted of numerous counts of Child Abuse. Eventually, they agreed to recant their accusations, and the Judge overturned Jim's convictions. Jim has forgiven his step sons and is in the process of reestablishing a relationship with them. Jim is now going to help lead the Bible studies at ACTC.

God forgives our sins, and we need to do the same. Having experienced prison life and the difficult transition when paroled, I ask that you pray for all the men, women and children in prison.

Tell me what you think!!

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