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Credentials Of Ministry

This is to certify that the bearer hereof was ordained
this date: July 21, 1998

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Lida G. Hensley
Lida G. Hensley, D.D., President

S.O.U.L.
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2 Interview
Mr. O.A.

WHISPERS
S.O.U.L. Clinic
Interview Questions

Thank you for this interview bro... as I said: The Prison Boom these last few decades is this generation's modern-day holocaust of "criminals". Its time we remind the living out there that we are still alive, all be it in exile. *

Let's begin this interview with: name/age/race/county-year of conviction/Public Defender - plea - appeal comments. Was the sentence fair - why? Is prison what you expected - as the media projects? How do you make it psychologically acceptable to deal with your crimes - and corresponding time? How many years have you been in prison now? What would you like to tell tax payers about some of the things you've seen in prison, which they'd never imagined could happen to their sons/husbands/fathers? What would you like to say about your observations/experience with prison guards/counselors/administration? What is your disciplinary history? What is your experience/observations with the Psych. Dept.? With the Religious Dept.? With any of the "Rehab. Groups"? Are you any different from this prison experience? What do you think has changed the most about you? How'd that change come about? Do you consider yourself a criminal? What do you think makes someone a criminal? What's your greatest strength? your greatest weakness? What would you like to accomplish? Have you maintained relationships outside prison? Visits/letters/phone calls? Do you feel you have been forgiven for your actions? Have you made amends to the people you have harmed? If you have not had the opportunity to make personal amends with your victim or their family, what would you say if given the chance?

* Interviews will be posted on my blog site: BetweentheBars.org

Interview #2
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WHISPERS: Hola, amigo. Thank you for participating in this S.O.U.L. Clinic interview, which I will be posting in cyber-space Between the Bars. Do you have any present time problems which may impede our purpose here now?

MRΘA: No problema, señor Whispers. Thank you for this opportunity to share my point of view for the public to consider. I hope this PROJECT serves the greatest good.

WHISPERS: Very well, let's begin. You've considered the Interview Questions which I'm asking you to confront, and you're able to duplicate these here now?

MRΘA: Si. You may call me Mr. A. I'm 47 years old. A Salvadoreño Hispano from El Salvadore. I was sentenced to serve 15 years-to-Life when I was 23 years old. A jury trial in L.A. County, with a Court appointed public defender. In my case, I was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time of my crime, so I consider my sentence fair, 25 years ago in 1995.

What would I like to tell tax payers? First of all; Prison is not an easy life in here. The more years I have in, old friends and family die off or fade away. Without regular contact with people outside prison, a lot of prisoners lose contact with reality outside prison ~ much the same as I have, I'm sad to say.

My observations/experiences with Guards/Administration? I can only say some of them are good natured - and some of them are not so good. Some Prison Officials abuse their position of authority, while other Prison Officials give you all that you have coming.

My disciplinary history? Let's see: I started this prison term in 1993, and only had a classification score of 56 points at that time. But since I was so close-minded in the beginning, I'd stabbed a few people and picked up a lot of disciplinary reports and my points went way up to 220 points. Now I'm more open-minded and see life differently ~ and so far, I'm doing good. I've been disciplinary-free for twelve years now. I'm a lot more patient with a lot of things in life now. I go to church and attend rehab groups regularly, and these help me to always think positive.

What do I think has changed the most about me? I'm not the person I was 25 years ago. I'm not even the same person I was twelve years ago! I don't associate with negative people now. I have no interest in people who don't want to change their thugish life-style. I don't just look for any old friend here. To be honest, I learned a long time ago that having friends in prison means having corresponding troubles ~ so the only friend I've got is me, myself.

Do I consider myself a 'criminal'? I was once upon a time, but now I've changed my life in a positive way and I don't consider myself a criminal.

What do I think makes someone a criminal? I say loneliness for some, lead them into criminal activities with other criminals. Also, some people become criminals because they are poor and have no money to make ends meet any other way.

(cont. next page)

What is my greatest strength? My mom, and God.

My greatest weakness? Being lonely in life.

Personal amends? If given the chance, I will say that I am truly sorry that I took the life of Manuel from you and your family. I know it was wrong for me to have taken his life. A day does not go by that I do not think of all that I did on Sept. 20, 1992. Since my incarceration I have accepted Jesus Cristo, and have involved myself in several rehab. groups. I've changed my life and don't look back at the old man I was before. In bettering myself - and in how I think, I look forward to bettering myself with each new day ... So I do not make the same mistakes ever! What I do today is important.

B We all live

Just one life,

'twill soon be past;

Only what's done for Crist will last *mf*

WHISPERS: Amen! Thank you Mr. O.A.. Is there anything else you'd like to say here in conclusion?

MR O.A: As I said earlier; I hope this PROJECT serves the greatest good.

WHISPERS: Very well, I'm certain it is doing just that as we speak.

Thank you for participating in this S.O.U.L. Clinic interview. Look, it's such a beautiful day today ... let me shake your hand and we'll be on our way.

- End Session.