

*You have received a **JPAY** letter, the fastest way to get mail*

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
To : ~~Yiana Vaz~~, CustomerID: 21475906
Date : 6/1/2021 2:08:25 PM EST, Letter ID: 1175373019
Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

Hello friends,

It's been a long journey, and being able to share my thoughts, experiences and writing with my friends at Between the Bars has made a difficult chapter of my life so much easier to endure. In an essay I shared many years ago, entitled "How to deal with the pain and loneliness of Prison," I mentioned that "Loneliness was not simply a matter of feeling alone, but rather feeling as though no one cared what you were going through." Well, over the years I've received comments from all around the world, and many times they came as a bright torch that chased away the darkness. Thank you for caring, and thank you for making a difference in my life.

When my request to take part in the Prison Writing Platform was accepted by the M.I.T.'s Center for Civic Media, I wrote, in one of my first post's, that "I look forward to when this 'sentence' ends and a new chapter begins. And I still believe in happy endings!" Well, by the grace of God, this journey will be over in just a few months (TRD 7/25/2021), and a new chapter is about to begin.

There came a time in the lives of every one of us who found ourselves "behind the razor wire," when the gavel fell, and we were "given time."

Although sentences varied, what we all had in common was the fact that we were "given" time. What we did with that time would determine not only the quality of our lives, but that of everyone we came into contact with. Although far from complete, below is a list of the kinds of things I've been doing while trying to "redeem the time" while behind the razor wire. (Along with the awards, certificates and diplomas)

However, far more rewarding for me, when I look back upon my time spent at the University of Adversity, are not the certificates or diplomas, but the opportunities I've had to have a positive impact on some of the men I've come into contact with. No words can describe the feeling of watching men walk across a stage clutching a GED as if it were a lifetime pass to Disneyland. Or forming a Gavel Club (Toastmasters international), and helping men achieve their goals as competent leaders and communicators.

I was already 46 years old when I began my journey behind the razor wire, so I had countless opportunities to reach out, as a mentor, to men who might have just needed a nudge in the right direction, or a different perspective to set them on a positive path. I call it GPS, God's Positioning System, and I can look back with satisfaction at those occasions in which lives were changed when our paths had crossed.

Like pebbles in a pond whose ripples reach to distant shores, they remind me that my journey has not been in vain.

Mentors 2 Men
Mentorship Program
12/12/16

Faith and CHARACTER BASED PROGRAM

Okeechobee C.I., Dec 22, 2017

1,220 hours and a total of 4 quarters of class studies, projects, and activities in the Faith and Character Based Program. The Completion represents a focused effort by the participant over one year to prepare for a successful re-entry into free society.

Courses completed:

- 21 Irrefutable Laws of leadership
- Houses of Healing
- 7 Habits of Highly Successful People
- Developing Business Concepts
- Credit and Debt
- Personal Finance
- Employability
- Journaling
- Quest
- Life Mapping
- Beyond Anger
- Victims Impact

JPAY Tell your friends and family to visit www.jpay.com to write letters and send money!

2-52

GARY FIELDS M05398 430 B1201U ID:1175373019 [P 2/4]

*You have received a **JPAY** letter, the fastest way to get mail*

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
To : ~~diana-walz~~, CustomerID: 21475906
Date : 6/1/2021 2:08:25 PM EST, Letter ID: 1175373019
Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

-From the Inside Out
-Inside Out Dad

FLORIDA READY TO WORK PROGRAM
Gold Credential
www.Floridareadytowork.com

STATE OF FLORIDA
Diversified Career Technology
3/11/16

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Substance Abuse and Treatment Services
Therapeutic Community (T.C. Program)
South Bay C.F.
5/25/16

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE
A+ Certification Prep
Windows-Linux-Troubleshooting Theory-
Systems Administration-Hardware-Software
4/20/18

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE
Ice House Entrepreneurship Program
The Power to Choose-Recognizing Opportunities-Ideas into Action
Pursuit of Knowledge-Creating Wealth-Building Your Brand
Creating Community-The Power of Persistence
Personal Vision Statement
6/28/18

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Civics Education Enhancement Program
Dr. Marshall DeRosa
Spring 2016

GAVEL CLUB
(Toastmaster's International)
Competent Communicator 4/11/2018
Competent Leadership 4/11/2018
Positions held:
President
V.P. Education
Parliamentarian

EXCHANGE 4 CHANGE PROGRAM
www.exchange-for-change.org

Creative Writing
Andrew Boryga
Fall 2018

Best of Commencement Speeches
Kathy Klarreich
Fall 2019

JPAY Tell your friends and family to visit www.jpay.com to write letters and send money!

3-52

GARY FIELDS M05398 430 B1201U ID:1175373019 [P 3/4]

*You have received a **JPAY** letter, the fastest way to get mail*

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
To : ~~offered~~ CustomerID: 21475906
Date : 6/1/2021 2:08:25 PM EST, Letter ID: 1175373019
Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

Poetry Exchange
George Franklin (so?)
date

Song Writing
Justina Shandler
Spring 2019

Journalism
Henry Younger
Summer 2019

COLLEGE GUILD
Creative Writing Courses
P.O. Box 6448
Brunswick, Me. 64011

GULF COAST BIBLE COLLEGE
Ft. Walton Beach, Fl

GRADUATE OF THEOLOGY
Diploma and Transcripts

BACHELORS OF BIBLICAL STUDIES
Diploma and Transcripts

MASTERS IN BIBLICAL STUDY
Transcripts for coursework
Thesis pending

CROSS ROADS BIBLE INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 900
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49509
Advanced Studies

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
Prison Ministries Program
1211 So. Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 065804
www.global university.edu
11/3/2020

Rock of Ages Prison Ministry
Cleveland, Ohio
Transcripts
3/9/11

Salvation Army Bible Correspondence Course
(also advanced courses)
1424 NE Expressway
Atlanta, Ga. 36329

AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY
P.O.Box 1490
Joplin, Mo. 64802

JPAY Tell your friends and family to visit www.jpay.com to write letters and send money!

4-52

GARY FIELDS M05398 430 B1201U ID:1175373019 [P 4/4]

*You have received a **Jpay** letter, the fastest way to get mail*

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
To : ~~diana-vaz~~, CustomerID: 21475906
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Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

EXODUS BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL
4243 34th St.
Lubbock, Texas 79410
Transcripts
2/21/18

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE
Liberty Theological SeSurvey of Bible of Doctrines
Spring 2013

I'm including a copy of a speech that was scheduled for a TEDx Talk while I was at Everglades C.I.'s Incentivized Camp. Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. Also, an overview of The New Genesis Transition Project, a 501(c)3 that I have been fine tuning since 2008, and pray may be able to have a positive impact the lives of "returning citizens" and society itself.

Until next time, keep loving life and laughing often... The best is yet to come?

Gary S. Field
DC #M05398
Martin C.I.
Indiantown, FL 34956
5/19/2021

Jpay Tell your friends and family to visit www.jpay.com to write letters and send money!

You have received a **JPAY** letter, the fastest way to get mail

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
To : ~~Laura Field~~, CustomerID: 19596870
Date : 6/1/2021 3:12:46 PM EST, Letter ID: 1175410519
Location : 430
Housing : B1201U



MENTOR'S 2 MEN

6-59

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



G. Fields

IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED AND REWARDED THIS CERTIFICATE
FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETION OF
THIS PROGRAM

[Signature]

Aundra Atkins
Kevin Stafford

Okeechobee

INSTITUTION

12-12-16

DATE

"WE AS MEN,
TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO SAVE THE MAN IN THAT CHILD.
AFFORDING ONE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO DEVELOP ONE'S TRUE PURPOSE
AND THE POWER TO ACT UPON IT.
BEING A LEADER AND CREATING OTHERS,
TO HELP SUPPLY WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE
TO OUR FUTURE."

ART DESIGNED BY

Doreen Miller

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Presented to

Gary Field

On this Day, December 22, 2017

*For completion of 1,220 hours and a total of 4 quarters of class studies, projects,
and activities in the Faith and Character Based Program.*

*This Completion represents a focused effort by the participant over one year to
prepare for a successful re-entry into free society.*



Mr. R Conner, Assistant Warden of Programs



Ms. Murray F.C.B. Program Supervisor

7-52

Has successfully mastered the following mandatory precepts of the Faith and Character
Based Program offered at Okeechobee Correctional Institution.

✓ Journaling

✓ Victim Impact

✓ Life Mapping

✓ From the Inside Out

✓ 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

✓ Beyond Anger

✓ Inside Out Dads

✓ Credit and Debt

✓ Personal Finance

✓ Quest

✓ Houses of Healing

✓ Employability

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

June 28, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certification of Completion

Okeechobee Correctional Institution

Faith and Character Based

Certificate of Completion

Committed to Change

Okeechobee

Use Program

Committed to Change

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

March 12, 2017

Committed to Change



Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor



Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Cory Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

Developing Business Concepts

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

August 28, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

Credit and Debt Management

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

August 14, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

12-52

Certificate of Completion



Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

Employability

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

September 18, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

14-851

Certificate Of Completion

Presented To

Gary Fields

For successfully completing the required learning outcomes of

Quest

December 05, 2016

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character-Based Program



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Murray'.

Ms. K. Murray, C.S.O.P./F.C.B. Program Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Bevis'.

Mr. T. Bevis, Assistant Chaplain

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

Life Mapping

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

May 22, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

Beyond Anger

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

April 24, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate of Completion

Presented to

Gary Field

For successfully completing the requirements of

Victim Impact

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character Based Program

May 23, 2017

Committed to Change

K. Murray

Ms. K. Murray, FCB Program Supervisor

T. Bevis

Chaplain T. Bevis Asst. FCB Program Supervisor

Certificate Of Completion

Presented To

Gary Fields

For successfully completing the required learning outcomes of

From The Inside Out

December 13, 2016

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character-Based Program



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KM', located above the name of Ms. K. Murray.

Ms. K. Murray, C.S.O.P./F.C.B. Program Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Bevis', located above the name of Mr. T. Bevis.

Mr. T. Bevis, Assistant Chaplain

19-53

Certificate Of Completion

Presented To

Gary Fields

For successfully completing the required learning outcomes of

Inside Out Dads

December 07, 2016

Okeechobee Correctional Institution Faith and Character-Based Program



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Murray'.

Ms. K. Murray, C.S.O.P./F.C.B. Program Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bevis'.

Mr. T. Bevis, Assistant Chaplain

20-53

Electronic Credential



GOLD CREDENTIAL

The State of Florida recognizes

FIELD ☐ GARY

for having demonstrated career readiness in
Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information.

July 29, 2010



Florida Department of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charlie Crist'.

Charlie Crist, Governor
State of Florida

Gold Florida Ready to Work Credential

Florida Ready to Work is based on WorkKeys®, a national workforce development system that provides a direct comparison of the skills an individual possesses with the skills needed to perform a job. The holder of this credential has a **Gold** Credential which indicates the achievement of career readiness skills at a level required by **90%** of all jobs profiled nationally through the WorkKeys® system. The holder of this credential has mastered all the related skills leading up to and including:

Applied Mathematics

Skills for Level 6

- Use fractions, negative numbers, ratios, percentages, or mixed numbers
- Rearrange a formula before solving a problem
- Use two formulas to change from one unit in one system of measurement to a unit in another system measurement
- Find mistakes in items that belong at Levels 3, 4, and 5
- Find the best deal and use the result for another calculation
- Find areas of basic shapes when it may be necessary to rearrange the formula, convert units of measurement in the calculations, or use the result in further calculations
- Find the volume of rectangular solids
- Calculate multiple rates

Locating Information

Skills for Level 5

- Sort through distracting information
- Summarize information from one or more detailed graphics
- Identify trends shown in one or more detailed or complicated graphics
- Compare information and trends from one or more complicated graphics

Reading for Information

Skills for Level 5

- Figure out the correct meaning of a word based on how the word is used
- Identify the correct meaning of an acronym that is defined in the document
- Identify the paraphrased definition of a technical term or jargon that is defined in the document
- Apply technical terms and jargon and relate them to stated situations
- Apply straightforward instructions to a new situation that is similar to the one described in the material
- Apply complex instructions that include conditions to situations described in the materials

22.52

State of Florida

Vocational Education

Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that

Gary S. Fields

has satisfactorily completed occupational competencies in

Diversified Career Technology

an approved vocational program

John L. Lewis
Chief of Education & Re-Entry Programs

*Competencies on reverse side
State of Florida
Tallahassee, Florida*

[Signature]
Vocational Programs Administrator

TRAINEE COMPETENCIES

Gary S. Fields has successfully completed **Diversified Career Technology** and is able to perform the following:

- 01.0 Discuss role of the entrepreneur.
- 02.0 Discuss entrepreneurship as a career choice.
- 03.0 Identify basic economic principles of entrepreneurship.
- 04.0 Discuss importance of ethics in business.
- 05.0 Identify strategies and methods for generating a business idea.
- 06.0 Outline steps in planning a new business.
- 07.0 Identify principles of marketing.
- 08.0 Identify principles of selling.
- 09.0 Identify principles of financing.
- 10.0 Identify principles of pricing.
- 11.0 Identify types and sources of government regulations and taxation that may affect a business.
- 12.0 Identify communication and technology skills used in entrepreneurship.
- 13.0 Identify and demonstrate employability and human relations skills.
- 14.0 Identify and demonstrate personal financial skills.
- 15.0 Identify principles of management.
- 16.0 Demonstrate an understanding of entrepreneurship and the free enterprise system.
- 17.0 Demonstrate knowledge of the global economy.
- 18.0 Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of the business plan.
- 19.0 Investigate and analyze components of financial management.
- 20.0 Demonstrate the knowledge of merchandising and inventory.
- 21.0 Identify the elements of manufacturing and production.
- 22.0 Demonstrate knowledge of management of customer credit and collection.
- 23.0 Describe risk/shrinkage management.
- 24.0 Demonstrate knowledge of government regulation of business.
- 25.0 Demonstrate knowledge of business law.
- 26.0 Investigate and analyze components of human resources management.

Trainee has participated in instruction related to the following job title(s) and DOT number(s)

Diversified Career Technology

OCP-A

CIP# 0252070102

TRAINEE'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION BY INSTRUCTOR

RATING CODE: **E** - EXCELLENT **VG** - VERY GOOD **S** - SATISFACTORY **N** - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

QUALITY OF WORK	E	QUANTITY OF WORK	E	INTEREST	E
DEPENDABILITY	E	INITIATIVE	E		
RESPONSE TO SUPERVISION	E	ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS	E		

462 HRS. OF CLASS / LAB INSTRUCTION

10/19/2015 DATE ENTERED TRAINING

 HRS. OF PLANNED COOPERATIVE EXPERIENCES

3/11/2016 DATE COMPLETED TRAINING

5301
CERTIFICATE NUMBER

3/11/2016
DATE



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND TREATMENT SERVICES

DOCNO: M05398 NAME: FIELDS, GARY
IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

OF THE

T.C OUT PATIENT
PROGRAM COMPONENT
A STEP IN RECOVERY

Heben Perce
COUNSELOR

South Bay Correctional Facility
INSTITUTION/FACILITY

[Signature]
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

5/25/16
DATE

This Program is licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families

DC5-702 (Revised 11/1/12)

23-52



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Serving St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties

Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

Gary Field

Has completed the 40 Day Training Program

A+ Certification Preparatory

This 20th day of April, 2018

Topics Include:

Windows

Troubleshooting Theory

Hardware

Linux

Systems Administration

Software



Kevin Cooper

Kevin Cooper
Dean of Advanced Technology
Indian River State College



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Serving St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties

Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

Gary Fields

Has completed the 40 Day Training Program

Ice House Entrepreneurship Program

This 26th day of June, 2018

Topics Include:

The Power to Choose

Recognizing Opportunities

Ideas into Action

Pursuit of Knowledge

Creating Wealth

Building Your Brand

Creating Community

The Power of Persistence

Personal Vision Statement



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Cooper".

Kevin Cooper
Dean of Advanced Technology
Indian River State College

THE INMATE CIVICS EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

in affiliation with FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Acknowledges that

Gary Fields

Has Successfully Completed with Honors

THE RETURNING CITIZEN CIVICS EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT COURSE



Dr. Marshall DeRosa

Professor of Political Science
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Richard R. Glau

Manager, Faith Based Services
The GEO Group, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Charles Lawrence

Assistant Warden of Programs
GEO South Bay Correctional Facility

A handwritten signature in black ink.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

CHARLES KOCH FOUNDATION
funded by the Charles Koch Foundation



Competent Gavelier Communicator

recognition is given to

Gary Field

for exceptional achievements in the

Toastmasters International Communication Program

April 10, 2018

Balraj Arunasalam
International President

Daniel Rex
Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATE *of* COMPLETION

ACKNOWLEDGING

GARY FIELD

FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING 24 HOURS OF

CREATIVE WRITING I

AT EVERGLADES CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

WITH ANDREW BORYGA

FALL SEMESTER
2018


KAVELL SCOTT, ASSISTANT WARDEN OF PROGRAMS


KATHIE KLARREICH, EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE



20-5-22

84-52



Certificate of Completion

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Gary Field

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Best of Commencement Speeches

AT EVERGLADES CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaveell Scott".

KAVELL SCOTT, ASSISTANT WARDEN OF PROGRAMS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathie Klarreich".

KATHIE KLARREICH, EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE



CERTIFICATE *of* COMPLETION

ACKNOWLEDGING

GARY FIELD


FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING 26 HOURS OF

POETRY EXCHANGE

AT EVERGLADES CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
WITH GEORGE FRANKLIN

SPRING
SEMESTER
2019


KAVELL SCOTT, ASSISTANT WARDEN OF PROGRAMS


KATHIE KLARREICH, EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE


JOSHUA STONE, RANSOM EVERGLADES



Writing that
Transforms

CERTIFICATE *of* COMPLETION

ACKNOWLEDGING

GARY FIELD

FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING 24 HOURS OF

SONG WRITING

AT EVERGLADES CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
WITH JUSTINA SHANDLER

SPRING
SEMESTER
2019


KAVELL SCOTT, ASSISTANT WARDEN OF PROGRAMS


KATHIE KLARREICH, EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE



Writing that
Transforms

39-59



Certificate of Completion

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Gary Fields

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Journalism

AT EVERGLADES CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kavel Scott".

KAVEL SCOTT, ASSISTANT WARDEN OF PROGRAMS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathie Klarreich".

KATHIE KLARREICH, EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE



Gulf Coast Bible Institute

Be it known that

Gary Field

*having satisfactorily completed the course of study prescribed by the
Administration of this institution, is hereby granted and conferred
upon the Degree of*

Graduate of Theology

with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

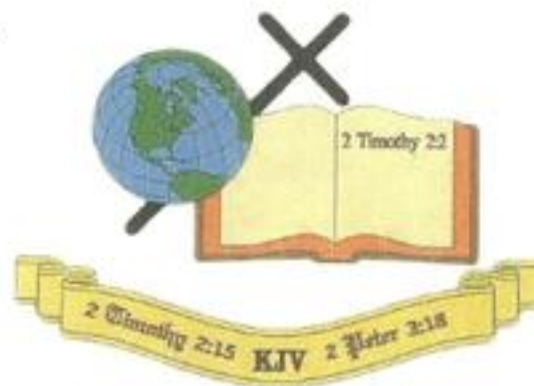
*In Witness Whereof, the signatures of the proper officers have been
duly affixed this seventh day of April in the year of our Lord
two thousand twenty*

James A. Powell

Dean

Dr. M. H. Talt

President



The Foundation Institute for Biblical Studies

Student Tracking Record

STUDENT NAME: Fidel, Tony DOC# M05398

FACILITY: Pentecost C.C. Program Start Date: 8-24-06

Lesson	Course	Start	Completed	Grade
ORIENTATION UNIT				
1	Basic Training For Christian Soldiers	8/29/06	8/29/06	100
2	The Turn	8/29/06	8/29/06	100
3	The Narrow Place	8/29/06	8/29/06	97
4	By Faith Through Faith	8/29/06	8/29/06	95
5	Iniquity, Sin, And Transgression	8/29/06	8/29/06	96
6	Prescription Drugs & The Spirit	8/30/06	8/31/06	96
UNIT 1				
1	Romans	8/31/06	9/15/06	99
2	Overcoming Sinful Habits	9/20/06	10/11/06	99
3	Complete Salvation	9/15/06	9/18/06	97
4	Security Guaranteed	10/9/06	10/11/06	100
5	Conquer Discouragement	9/20/06	9/20/06	98
6	When Christians Sin	10/11/06	10/13/06	98
UNIT 2				
1	Bible Doctrine 19 TAPES	10/19	12/15	94
2	Christ's Impeccability	10/13/06	10/19/06	99
UNIT 3				
1	Ephesians 14 TAPES	12/05/06		92
2	Seven Baptisms			86
3	Seven Judgments			90
4	The Second Coming			88
5	Temptation			91
6	Purpose In Trial			91
7	Holy Living			90
8	The Mysteries of God			98
UNIT 4				
1	Hebrews	1/18/07	1/31/07	97
2	Scriptural Meditation		3/3/07	88
3	The Spirit World	2/6/07	3/1/07	95
4	Conquer Impure Thoughts	3/3/07	3/3/07	87
5	Knowing God's Will	1/31/07	2/6/07	90
UNIT 5				
1	Philippians	3/16/07	3/26/07	97
2	Dispensational Salvation	3/27/07	4/5/07	97
3	Backsliding	3/26/07	3/27/07	96
4	Separation			94
5	Soul Sleep			100
6	Preaching Techniques 1			97

38-52

Lesson	Course	Start	Completed	Grade
UNIT 6				
1	Galatians <i>TAPES</i>			92
2	Sins unto Death			68 97
3	The Fear of the Lord			86
4	Time of the Crucifixion			81
5	✓ Doubtful Disputations			98
6	Hindrances to Prayer			92
7	The Home			96
UNIT 7				
1	1 Peter		6/16/08	99%
2	Genuine Love		5/17/08	96%
3	Christian Principles of Finance		6/27/08	96%
4	Preaching Techniques 2		6/27/08	94%
UNIT 8				
1	✓ First Fruits		5/1/08	95.45
2	✓ Holiness		5/1/08	96.07
3	✓ The Controlled Life		5/1/08	89.65
4	✓ Personal Devotion		5/1/08	100%
5	Sources of Tension		6/27/08	96%
6	James		6/16/08	96%
UNIT 9				
1	✓ Bible & Science		5/1/08	100
2	Place of the Dead		5/1/08	95.58
3	Christian Relationship to the Law		6/6/2009	84%
4	Confession			
5	Church Conflicts		6/27/08	93%
6	Christian Principles of Health		6/6/2009	95%
UNIT 10				
1	Mark		6/27/08	96%
2	2 Peter		6/26/08	96%
UNIT 11				
1	Creation Week		6/27/08	94%
2	The Five Offerings		7/6/08	96%
3	The Feasts		7/6/08	98%
4	Divorce & Remarriage		7/6/08	100%
5	Balanced Christian Growth		7/27/08	98%
UNIT 12				
1	1 Corinthians 1			96%
2	Failure in the Christian Life		7/6/08	97%

I certify the above to be an honest and accurate record of this students work:

[Signature]
Signature

Dean, Beacon Baptist PM
Title, Rank or Position

8/12/08
Date

Once all work is completed, mail to: The Foundation Institute for Biblical Studies

Please remember, in all cases, grades must be received by The Foundation Institute before any degrees can be granted.

Gulf Coast Bible Institute

Be it known that

Gary Field

*having satisfactorily completed the course of study prescribed by the
Administration of this institution, is hereby granted and conferred
upon the Degree of*

Bachelor of Biblical Studies

with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

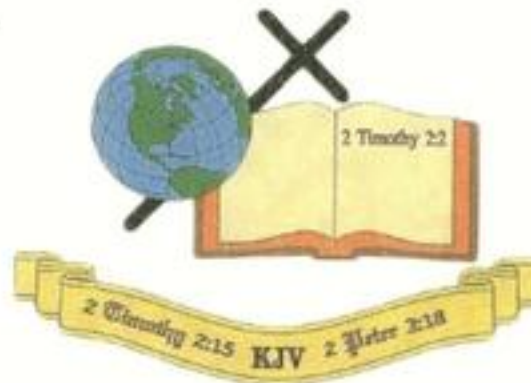
*In Witness Whereof, the signatures of the proper officers have been
duly affixed this seventh day of April in the year of our Lord
two thousand twenty*

James A. Powell

Dean

Dr. M. H. Tabb

President



37-59

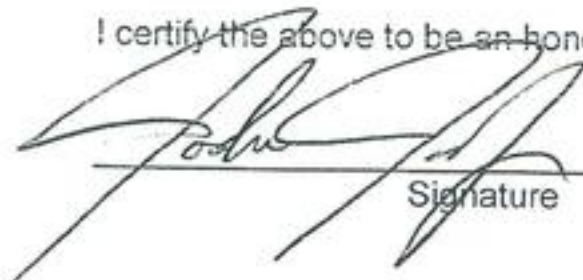
The Foundation Institute for Biblical Studies

Advanced Student Tracking Record (Bachelor)

STUDENT NAME: Field, Gary DOC# M05398FACILITY: Century, CI Program Start Date: 10/21/08

Lesson	Course	Start	Completed	Grade
UNIT 13				
1	First, Second and Third John			94%
2	Music Evaluation			100%
3	The Psalms			99%
4	Biblical Separation			99%
UNIT 14				
1	Jack Hyles on Justice			98%
2	Understanding Adversity			94%
3	The Holy Spirit			98%
4	God's Fast			97%
5	The Ten Commandments			97%
UNIT 15				
1	Teaching on Preaching			100%
2	Standing in the Gap			100%
UNIT 16				
1	Systematic Theology			98%

I certify the above to be an honest and accurate record of this students work:



Signature

Dean of Students, BBPM

Title, Rank or Position

3/16/09

Date

Mail to:

The Foundation Institute
For Biblical Studies
7873 Meadow Ridge Lane
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Please remember, in all cases, grades must be received by The Foundation Institute
before any degrees can be granted.

The Beatitudes

Staying on track

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

Gary Field

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED
SERMON ON THE MOUNT



CROSSROADS

Lisa Blystra
Executive Director, Crossroads

May 30, 2017

Date

Our acts of worship

Committing to the Kingdom

The Christian's relationship
to the Old Testament

Old Testament



Then you
will know
the truth,
and
the truth
will set
you free.

John 8:32
(NIV)

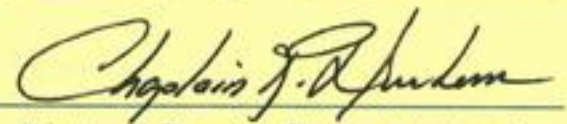
PRISON MINISTRIES PROGRAM

THIS DIPLOMA IS PRESENTED TO

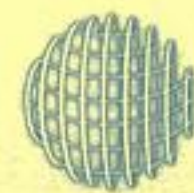
Gary Field

in recognition of meeting the requirements of the
Global University Prison Ministries Program
and granting all the rights and privileges thereof.

Presented this 3rd day of November, 2020



(National Director, Prison Ministries)



**GLOBAL
UNIVERSITY**

Rock of Ages Prison Ministry
Cleveland Tn

Student Transcript

Gary Field M05398
 Century CI E-1103
 400 Tedder Rd
 Century Fl 32535

Course	Date Comp	Date Sent	Grade
That Ye May Know	5/2/2006	4/25/2006	100
Matthew	5/23/2006	5/2/2006	97
Mark	6/12/2006	6/1/2006	99
Luke	8/2/2006	6/28/2006	99
John	10/23/2006	9/12/2006	98
Acts	1/18/2007	11/27/2006	96
Romans	4/2/2007	1/29/2007	94
I Corinthians	6/4/2007	4/20/2007	98
II Corinthians	6/4/2007	4/20/2007	97
Galatians	7/13/2007	6/14/2007	97
Ephesians	7/13/2007	6/14/2007	97
Philippians	2/25/2008	7/31/2007	94
Colossians	2/25/2008	7/31/2007	95
I II Thessalonians	2/25/2008	7/31/2007	96
I II Timothy	7/3/2008	3/19/2008	98
Titus Philemon	7/3/2008	3/19/2008	97
Hebrews	10/3/2008	7/3/2008	95
James	10/3/2008	7/3/2008	97
I II Peter	3/12/2009	10/3/2008	93
I, II, III John	3/12/2009	10/3/2008	93
Jude Revelation	3/12/2009	10/3/2008	92
Born A Slave to Sin	10/7/2010	8/25/2010	99
Beauty for Ashes	10/23/2006	9/12/2006	101
Life of Christ			
Mature Man	3/9/2011	2/2/2011	104
Godly Woman			
Godly Single Woman			
Devotional Book II	3/9/2011	2/2/2011	104
Devotional Book III	6/16/2011	5/6/2011	99
Devotional Book IV	6/16/2011	5/6/2011	98
Loneliness	3/1/2011	1/18/2011	105
Job	9/18/2009	3/12/2009	97
Psalms 1-50	9/18/2009	3/12/2009	98
Psalms 51-100	1/28/2010	9/18/2009	98
Psalms 101-150	1/28/2010	9/18/2009	95
Proverbs	3/24/2010	1/28/2010	98
Ecclesiastes	3/24/2010	1/28/2010	98
Song of Solomon	6/25/2010	3/24/2010	91
Breaking the Bondage	10/15/2010	8/12/2010	92
Dealing With Guilt	1/18/2007	11/27/2006	105
Temptation	1/18/2007	11/27/2006	105
That Others May Know	3/1/2011	1/18/2011	103
Assurance	6/1/2006	5/2/2006	105
Baptism	6/1/2006	5/2/2006	97
Bible	6/1/2006	5/2/2006	105
Prayer	6/12/2006	6/1/2006	105

Course	Date Comp	Date Sent	Grade
How to be an Overcomer	1/18/2007	11/27/2006	105
Faith	4/2/2007	1/29/2007	105
Regeneration	4/2/2007	1/29/2007	101
Repentance	4/2/2007	1/29/2007	105
Victorious Living	8/2/2006	6/28/2006	105
Ruth	6/25/2010	3/24/2010	96
Esther	6/25/2010	3/24/2010	98
Daniel	6/25/2010	3/24/2010	97
Hosea	6/25/2010	3/24/2010	99
Anyone Can Do It	9/18/2009	3/12/2009	103
Winning The Sincere	1/28/2010	9/18/2009	103
Power For Soul Winning	1/28/2010	9/18/2009	103
New Beginnings Part I	8/12/2010	6/25/2010	105
New Beginnings Part II	8/12/2010	6/25/2010	103
Praying effectively for the lost	3/9/2011	2/2/2011	105

40-52

Exodus

Bible Correspondence School

Lubbock, Texas

Certifies that

GARY FIELD

has successfully completed our

Bible Correspondence Course and is hereby awarded this

Certificate of Completion

on the 21st Day of February 2018

Carol Jean Blakely

Director



EXODUS PRISON MINISTRY

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES

P.O. BOX 6363 • LUBBOCK • TX • 79493-6363

RECORD OF STUDIES		Date Enrolled at Exodus 10-16-2016	
Name: GARY FIELD		ID NUMBER: M-05398	
Address: OKEECHOBEE CI D2-111L		3420 NE 168 TH STREET	
City: OKEECHOBEE	State: FL	Zip: 34972	
STUDY BOOKS		AUTHORS	GRADE
A LIFE THAT'S REAL		G. CHRISTIAN WEISS	98
HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE		GORDON TALBOT	99
WINNING YOUR WAR AGAINST SATAN		THEODORE EPP	97
JOHN: AN EYEWITNESS REPORT		HAROLD J. BERRY	98
CHRISTIANS ON THE MOVE		MELVIN A. JONES	100
THE ART OF PERSONAL WITNESSING		LORNE C. SANNY	99
MAJOR BIBLE DOCTRINES		A.H. YETTER	99
CHECKPOINTS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (John 1)		THEODORE EPP	97
NECESSITY OF PRAYER		E.M. BOUNDS	99
GENESIS I		GORDON TALBOT	100
GENESIS II		GORDON TALBOT	99
GENESIS III		GORDON TALBOT	100
PORTRAITS OF CHRIST IN TABERNACLE, VOL I		THEODORE EPP	100
PORTRAITS OF CHRIST IN TABERNACLE, VOL II		THEODORE EPP	100
DISCOVERING THE WILL OF GOD		G. CHRISTIAN WEISS	98
ROMANS I		THEODORE EPP	99
ROMANS II		THEODORE EPP	98
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER		THEODORE EPP	98
GALATIANS		THEODORE EPP	98
OUR NEAREST KINSMAN		ROY HESSION	99
ELISHA		DON HILLIS	100
GOD UNVEILS THE FUTURE		MELVIN A. JONES	99
THE ALL-SUFFICIENT CHRIST: COLOSSIANS		THEODORE EPP	98
ESTHER		J. VERNON MCGEE	99
PHILIPPIANS		J. VERNON MCGEE	100
EPHESIANS (2 books)		THEODORE EPP	100
JONAH SPEAKS TODAY		DON HILLIS	100
WHY DO CHRISTIANS SUFFER?		THEODORE EPP	100
JOSEPH		THEODORE EPP	99
JOB (2 books)		THEODORE EPP	99
ELIJAH (2 books)		THEODORE EPP	97
PROVERBS (2 books)		DAVID L. CARVER	97
PRESENT LABOR, FUTURE REWARDS		THEODORE EPP	97
REVELATION I		J. VERNON MCGEE	98
REVELATION II		J. VERNON MCGEE	96
OFFICIAL RECORD (NOT VALID WITHOUT SEAL)		Grade Average: 99	

Carol Jean Blakely

CAROL JEAN BLAKELY, DIRECTOR

Date of Completion: 2-21-2018

Certificate of Completion

Spring, 2013

Awarded To:

Gary Field

after successfully fulfilling course requirements for:

Survey of Bible Doctrines

Liberty Theological Seminary Course TH 0310

Fountain of Life Bible College

Century, FL

SPONSOR:



[Signature]

Chaplain

[Signature]

Academic Dean

43452

44-52

Discipleship Institute
Dr. Charles W. Long, Director

Dear Gary Field

You have received all the lessons that we have available at this time. As we get more of our lessons completed, we will send them to you. We have enclosed a transcript of the lessons that you have done and the grades. We are thrilled that you were faithful to God and His Word. Keep up with your devotions and your walk with the Lord.

Hebrews 6:10 12 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Sincerely,

Discipleship Institute Staff

48-52

Impact Church of South Florida

Layman's Bible School

This certifies that

Gary Field

IMPACT CHURCH

*has satisfactorily completed Layman's Bible School courses
and has complied with all requirements necessary for this*

Certificate of Achievement

We affix our signature

This eighth day of June 2019



Anthony D. Crawford
Senior Pastor



Rhonda D. Crawford
Co-Pastor

46-52



**Impact Church Of South Florida
2018-2019 Layman's GRADE REPORT-MOV**

STUDENT: Gary Fields **DC#** M05398

1st TERM – September 11, 2018 – October 23, 2018

INSTRUCTOR	CLASS	FINAL GRADE%	FINAL GRADE
Deacon Maurice Barry	The Faith of God	80.00	C
Minister Diron Bostic	Supplication and Prayer	100.00	A

1ST TERM CUMULATIVE GRADE 90.00

2nd TERM – October 30, 2018 – December 18, 2018

INSTRUCTOR	CLASS	FINAL GRADE%	FINAL GRADE
Jean Caymtte	Authority of the Believer	98.00	A
Joseph McIntosh	The Spirit Controlled Life	105.00	A

2ND TERM CUMULATIVE GRADE 101.50

3rd TERM – January 8, 2019 – February 19, 2019

INSTRUCTOR	CLASS	FINAL GRADE%	FINAL GRADE
Richard Lechler	The Nature of Man	105.00	A
Joseph Ciambro	How to Relate to Authority	82.00	B

3RD TERM CUMULATIVE GRADE 93.50

4th TERM - February 26, 2019 - April 9, 2019

INSTRUCTOR	CLASS	FINAL GRADE%	FINAL GRADE
Elijah Vargas	Benefits of the Cross	91.00	A
Travis Booker	The Last Days of Jesus	100.00	A

4TH TERM CUMULATIVE GRADE 95.50

5th TERM - April 23, 2019 - June 4, 2019

INSTRUCTOR	CLASS	FINAL GRADE%	FINAL GRADE
Richard Lechler	Living Letters	98.00	A
Joseph McIntosh	Gifts of the Spirit	100.00	A

5TH TERM CUMULATIVE GRADE 99.00

2018-2019 CUMULATIVE GRADE 479.50

G.P.A.
3.80

You have received a **JPAY** letter, the fastest way to get mail

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
 To : ~~giano-vez~~, CustomerID: 21475906
 Date : 4/26/2021 10:25:12 PM EST, Letter ID: 1141703498
 Location : 430
 Housing : B1201U

My Journey of Personal Growth
 (TEDx Talk/ Cancelled due to pandemic)

The tallest oak in the forest is not tallest because it came from the hardest acorn. It's tallest because no other trees blocked its sunlight, it's soil was rich and deep, no rabbits chewed its bark as a sapling, and no lumberjack cut it down. Likewise, the trajectory of a man's life depends upon many social, cultural and economic forces.

My Journey of Personal Growth began in a place where some pockets of poverty were so deep that change was hard to find. No trees blocked my sunlight, but I grew up during a time when I was blocked from enough places because of the color of my skin to be able to tell you that "separate" was definitely not "equal." There were no rabbits, but I was almost bitten by rats a few times as a kid..

I was one of 18 brothers and sisters, and while there were no lumberjacks too worry about in the hood, but 6 off my siblings were cut down much too soon by drugs and alcohol, poor choices, and gang related violence.

However, mine is not a tale of woe. This is not a sob story! My journey has been about finding light in the midst of the darkness, and hope in the midst of despair. The conditions that produced darkness in my life, or the situations. which may have caused me to despair may have been different for others. Our shared humanity Has been shaped by different experiences, and so I know that my coming from. the hood did not give me a monopoly on tough times and challenges.

In my situation, where many others saw only the obstacles, I looked for opportunities to overcome. I learned that it is the tree which has to withstand the fiercest winds that has roots which grow the deepest. When the winds of adversity blew into my life, I didn't make excuses, I was too busy adjusting my sails. I refused to bow down, and instead, charted a course for distant shores, and I escaped. I escaped, not into drugs and alcohol, but books! On each page was a new adventure, and I caught a glimpse of a world that could exist beyond the narrow limitations of the hood- I discovered a world where poverty couldn't cast its ugly shadow, and my dreams had room to grow.

As stories were being added to my life, floors were being added to the World Trade Center Towers that were beginning to dominate the skyline across the Hudson River from my hometown of Jersey City. As I grew, it reached for the sky, and no other tree would block its sunlight. Likewise, I refused to be limited by the narrow expectations of others. I was determined too keep on pushing until I too could find my corner of the sky.

The more I read the more I learned, and the more I learned, the luckier I got. Soon I was lucky enough to earn a scholarship to a New England Prep School. Of course, going from the hood to a country club environment carried its own set of challenges. Gone were the rats, gunfire and sirens, but academically? Phew! It was like going from middle school straight to college, and I had a lot of catching up to do.

I also experienced quite a bit of culture shock. There I was with my big ol' puffy afro, and platform shoes-yellow with purple lightning bolts- trying to fit into a world of to sidlers, tweed jackets, and Brooks Brothers ties. Before that, I would have thought that the Brooks Brothers were a singing group. And I'd never heard the "N" word pronounced with an "R." I sometimes thought that being bitten by a rat would have hurt less. But as painful as that may have been, it too was a learning experience, and it helped o prepare me for a world that would not always be kind.

I learned that between stimulus and response, there's a space- and in that space is our power to choose. We can react, which is often negative, or we can make a reasoned response. We can react by cursing the darkness, or we can respond by lighting a candle. Its the choices we make in that space that provides us with the opportunity for positive growth and freedom.

Fortunately, I made the right decisions more often than not, and so my journey continued on a good path, and my trajectory continued to rise. Eventually, that journey lead t an Ivy League College, adventures in. Europe and North Africa- then later, business and professional successes.

Not long after the towers felon 9/11, I went from a 2 1/2 acre ranch with horses, to a 2 man cell in a "Gated Community" of another kind. My fall from grace was not as sudden, but n a personal level, it felt almost as devastating

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Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

as the fall of those towers. Of course, nothing can compare to the national tragedy and loss of life that took place on 9/11, but the ground zero of my life was a holding cell, and it seemed as if all of my hopes and dreams were like the smoke which rose from the rubble.

(To be sung)
Jagged, jigsaw pieces
Tossed across the room-
Shattered. illusions, broken,
Swept up with a broom.

But they don't know
What they're doing-
And. they refuse
To understand...

That those jagged,
Jigsaw pieces-
Are the pieces
Of a man.

In the epic poem, Dante's "Inferno," there's a line that says, "Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter Here." As I've walked within the confines of thee razor wire, I've looked into the eyes of far too many men for whom, it seemed, that "Hope" was a candle that burned out long ago.

It's been said that when you remove hope from the hearts of men, what you have left are beasts of prey. Webster's defines the word "prey" as a victim, when used as a noun, and "predator" when used as a verb. But whether they live their lives as nouns or verbs, both share the hell of those who have given up hope. The more I watched men die inside, the more in guarded that which was most precious within me, HOPE!

(end part 1)

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From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
 To : ~~diana-vas~~, CustomerID: 21475906
 Date : 4/27/2021 10:27:40 AM EST, Letter ID: 1142198585
 Location : 430
 Housing : B1201U

TEDx Talk (cont.)

Now I don't know if I have hope because I pray, or I pray because I have hope, but I thank God for both. As it turns out, I even thank God for the many obstacles I'd faced, and the challenges I've had to overcome on my journey. When the winds of adversity blew over my life, my roots went deep. Not as a weeping willow, but a sturdy oak. And just as a tree whose roots remain intact will continue to grow, I remain rooted in faith, and anchored in the hope that prison will only be pitstop in my continuing journey of personal growth, and not the way that my story ends.

Although I once attended Columbia University, since I've been incarcerated, I've earned a Graduate of Theology and a Bachelor's of Biblical Studies. I've completed the course work and hope to complete the thesis for a Masters degree soon. If it may be God's will, I hope to start work on a Ph.D before the year ends. I may have come into the system as inmate M05398, but I hope to leave as Dr. Field.

I know that without the strength and guidance that have been able to find within the Word of God, trying to deal with the pain and loneliness that prison can produce would have been almost unbearable. It would have been like trying to fight the lightning with a slingshot. Every flash would have only shown how hopeless the battle, and in the darkness between the flashes, doubts would have echoed like rolling thunder, and the tears fallen down like rain.

After over 16 years behind the razor wire, the same way that I once believed that no pocket of poverty could hold me back, I know that a D.C. # will not define me. It's not what I've done, but what I've managed to overcome that keeps me pressing on.

As I look back, I can say, with certainty, that it has been the light of God's love that has guided me through. To paraphrase one of my favorite christian writers, A.W. Tozer, "...my fire may not be large, but it is at least real, and many there may be who can light their candles at its flame."

Once, while a student at Columbia University, I had dinner at Windows on the World. It was a beautiful restaurant atop One World Trade Center. The future that stretched out before me seemed as spectacular as the view. The end of this sentence begins a new chapter in my life, and I still believe in Happy Endings. The journey continues, and thank God, I continue to grow.

Today, the Freedom Tower has risen from the rubble of what had once been Ground Zero, and like a Phoenix, I too will rise, having rebuilt my life on the much surer foundation of God's Word. Perhaps in just a few more months, I'll dine at the new restaurant atop the Freedom Tower. And when I do, I pray that I am able to look back and find that there was more light, and hope, then there was when I first passed through.

I PRAY

I pray that through my writing
 I might touch the hearts of men-
 To plant a seed that may lead,
 Perhaps, to being Born Again.

I pray the Spirit leads me,
 Not just to amuse, or entertain-
 But to open eyes to the prize
 For which the Lamb of God was slain.

I pray my words will comfort
 Those who are feeling pain-
 And helps them to know. the joys
 Of counting loss as gain.

And then when my pen falls silent,
 If any man should tell my story-
 Let this stand out, without a doubt,

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To : ~~diene-123~~, CustomerID: 21475906
Date : 4/27/2021 10:27:40 AM EST, Letter ID: 1142198585
Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

He wrote to bring God Glory!

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*You have received a **jp**ay letter, the fastest way to get mail*

From : GARY FIELDS, ID: M05398
To : ~~china-veg~~ CustomerID: 21475906
Date : 5/20/2021 6:12:35 PM EST, Letter ID: 1164855267
Location : 430
Housing : B1201U

"A reveder me Stella."
To see the stars again.

In a speech written for what I had hoped would be a TEDx Talk, I included a line from Dante's Inferno, "A abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter Here." In many ways it captured my impression as I began my journey through what many call, "The Belly of the Beast."

As this journey comes to a close, I realize that "hope" was what I managed to cling to, and over time, it became the light which guided me through the darkest days- Days that had nothing to do with the sun, or even the passage of time. That hope sustained me! It was that hope which will enable me to emerge from prison as a better man, and not a bitter person.

One of the things I want to do once released, is find a way to share that "hope" in concrete ways. It's been said that there are thousands hacking at the branches of a problem, for every "one" who hacks at the root! I was blessed to discover from this experience, that the light which guided me through- The light which was ignited by the hope that I clung to, burned brightest when it was shared with others.

Prison Reform is one of the few issues in this country that can garner bipartisan support. But prison reform is one of those "branches." Prison is a symptom, and prison reform is like an aspirin. The prison population in this country grew from about 400,000 in the late 70's to over 2.5 million by 2012. What caused a 600% increase in 40 years? Prison reform is an attempt to tame the beast, when we should be looking for ways to euthanize it!

The Prison Industrial Complex in the Age of Mass Incarceration is every bit as destructive as the pandemic that's grabbing most of today's headlines. Of course, the trillions of dollars being budgeted to eradicate the virus is money well spent. Confront the virus and restore Hope. This new administration is restoring hope to the Nation by declaring war on Covid 19.

We need to realize that where once, LBJ launched a "War on Poverty," for the past 40 years our prison population has been growing like a Chia Pet on steroids because of "poverty driven" crimes of opportunity! Reagan's "War on Drugs" has become a war on small time drug dealers and users, so we've criminalized addiction. We shut down State Psychiatric Hospitals after Geraldo Rivera's "Expose" at Willow Brook in the late 70's, and so now our jails and prisons house the mentally ill. That's right, we've criminalized mental illness!

I've spent years thinking and reading about, as well as experiencing the consequences of those actions from the inside, and now it is my hope that I can bring a unique perspective to the problem that may help others begin to "hack at the roots" once I'm released.

For over 13 years I've been fine tuning a concept that has evolved into the New Genesis Transition Project. That 501(C)3 will try to address the problem of recidivism. Most people are familiar with the numbers. Basically, 41% of released inmates are rearrested within the first year. That number rises to over 70% by the 3rd year, and in some communities, it's an abysmal 85%!

I've had an opportunity to talk to many of those who have returned over the years and have noticed a pattern. Research, and studies have, for the most part, confirmed that pattern, and so it's fairly easy to identify those things that simply do NOT work! States have been pouring billions of dollars into programs that wind up funneling those "returning citizens" back into a system that feeds upon them. Studies have shown that many so-called "halfway houses" in the hood, and facilities that, in effect, warehouse ex-felons, wind up with higher recidivism rates than those who are released directly into the street!

After considering those things that do NOT work, I've come up with a concept that could/should/would work (I hope! :-). It's a relatively simple concept that's based, in part, on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. (I'm closing in on the 6,000 character cap on this email, so I'll explain the concept in another letter.) Suffice it to say, the New Genesis Transition Project will be structured in such a way that, God willing, it can be passed along to community leaders in every major urban area, or community, where the recidivism rates are highest.

One of the major failures of what is euphemistically referred to as "Rehabilitation" in this country is this: To

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rehabilitate, by definition, is to restore someone to their original condition! Well, if they were judged to be guilty of criminal behavior when they were arrested, and you restore them to their original condition, what has really been accomplished?

Here's where things can get really interesting :-) Another huge problem in this country is our crumbling infrastructure. Our roads, rails, and bridges are on the verge of crumbling. Entire city blocks explode into fireballs because the network of gas pipes are decrepit. Pipes that carry drinking water in, and waste water out, are in terrible condition, and in dire need of replacement. One of the only other issues that should be able to gather bipartisan support is the need to overhaul our nation's crumbling infrastructure. To do so will cost well over a trillion dollars.

We need to dust off Roosevelt's New Deal, reconstitute projects like the WPA and the CCC! We can bring back our manufacturing jobs by churning out the materials needed to rebuild our nation's infrastructure! We can restore Hope by putting people to work! Those "returning citizens" who complete the New Genesis Transition Project can be provided with the basic skills needed to join work crews and take part in helping to Build Back Better! They need a hand up, not a handout! We need to take another look at LBJ's Great Society, and find the things that worked, while refining those ideas which missed the mark.

After emerging from Hell, Dante's inferno ends with the line, "A reveder me Stella." (To see the stars again.) Well, we all want to see those stars again!

Gary