

1162 outburst. I know that they were watching me because I was really listening to their service closely & I think they were or must have been asking themselves what kind of prisoner I was, ha! So, the one who seemed to be the head asked me what I wanted & I, with broken heart & with the Spirit that seemed to shake with anger, replied, "God bless all of you for being disposed to come here & talk to us & give us this beautiful message, but there is something that you forgot to say to the people here, that is the significance of the whole sermon, & that is that we can all be born again with Jesus & be born in the Spirit right now & that Jesus died on the cross to show us how much God loves us." Then I turned around towards the public & I said, "Everyone of you can receive Jesus in your heart right now and have a personal contact with Him. Who of you would like to pray right now with me to receive Jesus in your heart?" At that moment everyone was looking at me in total shock. Johnny was right beside me & for a moment he too was shocked but he was the 1st one to raise his hand & then slowly, slowly everyone raised their hand. Then, the preacher tried to stop me & started to tell me that I could do this after they had gone & that they only had a few minutes to exchange a few words with the people & to give them a few gifts. So, I said that now was the moment to pray when the Spirit was open & the people were ready to receive it. Then, without waiting for their consent I said, "Whoever of you repeats this prayer with me, will receive Jesus & have eternal life." Then, almost without realizing what I was doing I raised one hand towards heaven & put the other one on my heart (& everyone else did the same) & I began, "Jesus, come into my heart...". I don't know how many prayed because many are already saved (our brothers of the catacomb church) but I believe at least 10 to 15 people prayed together with us. It was really heavy. At the end, one of the preachers came up to me & asked me which church I belonged to & I replied that I'm a Christian & he insisted, "But from what denomination?" "I don't need any denomination to preach the Gospel." I replied. And he said, "It is very wonderful what you do here (I had explained to him about the 30 saved souls) but why are you in prison?" "I am persecuted for my religious ideas", I said. He was a little shocked & he asked me, "How can that be possible that you're persecuted for your religious

ideas?" I said, "Well, Jesus was killed for His religious ideas & He said that all that would live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. If you have never been persecuted for your religious ideas I don't believe that you're living to the full what Jesus said." Boom, he left with a smile. Then up came another one, very cute with a little cape & a hat, quite chic, & he said hello saying, "Happy Easter" & "I wish you a good..." and I answered, "I wish you that God blesses you". He said, "Thank you, & that he needed God's blessings because he was about to be leaving to be a missionary" & I answered, "Oh, I'm a missionary too— full-time for Jesus." He said, "Oh, you mean to be here is like being a missionary?" "No," I said, "I am a missionary wherever I find myself to preach the Gospel as Jesus said to do." So, he also asked me why I'm in prison & I answered as I had to the other, & he said, "But how is that possible?" and I said, "If you try to tell the truth to people you'll be persecuted also." "What kind of truth?" he said. "That the church is not doing its work & preaching & living fully the Word of Jesus, & that just with our way of life we have exposed this lack. Today's church is totally prostituted to the power of the government for power and money. They have built cathedrals and churches forgetting about the poor...". And he too said he needed to go. So, I said goodbye to everyone & went out with Johnny behind me (he was following me during all this). When we got back to our cell he was very silent & I know he was still thinking about what I had done. So, I asked him, "It was a good service, no?" And he said, "But, you're not even out of here & you're already starting new problems for yourself. Now, I understand why the church is so against you. How can you say those things to the face of everyone?" I said, "Well, they tell lies in everyone's faces, so why can't I tell the truth in their face & in front of everyone?" Then I showed them similar situations in the Bible & when the bell rang for lunch, before leaving the room he said, "Someday they're gonna kill you. You are dangerous people." But he was profoundly moved & it was almost too much for him to bear.

With the articles from the 1st day, many of them were tempted with doubts & Johnny & my room-mates stayed on my side. Finally, Johnny said to someone, "This man never said to believe in him but to believe in Jesus, &

never said to listen to him but to read the Bible, & never said to do this for his sake but for your good. If you don't believe him, at least leave him in peace. I believe that he is a man of God, even if the papers say that he is a criminal." God bless him. All this was said in reply to someone, because otherwise he never says anything about all this. Then today the good articles started to circulate & he was always around me & watched the people to see what their reaction would be. Then at a certain point he said, "These people are too stupid, the other day when the papers spoke badly of you, everyone looked at you like a terrible criminal, & today the same papers which before talked badly of you, speak well & everyone says hello & smiles at you. You shouldn't even answer them." "But, Johnny, the Lord does all this to bring people to a point of decision. Of course, those who don't doubt have a greater reward, & our glory will be their shame." God bless him, he would like so much to see me free. He said to me, "You know, a lot of people came up to me & asked me why the Lord hasn't set you free. And I answered them by telling them to ask you, but they don't have the courage to come & ask you." So, I said to him that my greatest desire in the flesh, as a human being, is to get out & to return to my family; but as a man of God I must put 1st the work that He has given me to do & I need to do it till it's finished, & now I know that God is bringing this nation to a point of decision. I said, "Look how many articles & how much publicity there has been for a simple case of extradition. There are at least 5 others in this prison who have cases of extradition for accusations much more serious than mine, but there hasn't been a single article about these cases. But, as soon as we begin to preach the name of Jesus, all hell breaks loose to fight us! When I joined this Family I was joining God's army & it's logical to expect to have to fight." All this has been such a testimony for all the brothers here & they're shocked at what is happening & they're really seeing the Living Word. PTL. I pray that the Lord helps me to stand strong, especially in front of them. I feel that for them it's quite a testimony. I am their spiritual leader here & I feel that I must be a sample. In Jesus' Name, help me to be that to the end. I'm waiting for a miracle that will be a fantastic testimony & victory for all those who are waiting for

an answer, & at the same time I am ashamed for all those who have doubted & who are discouraged as soon as there is a little storm.

Well, now I'm going to go to sleep. I pray that I dream of you & the children & that you too will have a wonderful dream in Jesus' Name. Thank you for everything, Lord. Thank you, Honey, for your encouragement & help & love without which I would have given up long ago. I love you so much and need you.

Love Forever, Your Angelo

More Prison Testimonies!

(Excerpt of letter of 5/4/82)

"I promised to tell you what has been happening recently here. Now we have 2 services a week on Wednesday & Saturday from 1:30-3:00 which are the days when we have our doors open earlier. At each meeting one of us in turn leads the service & prepares a subject & what we're going to read beforehand. That person leads everyone in prayer. This is pushing everyone to read the Bible & the Letters with more attention. TYJ. Another thing is the distribution of the publications that you bring me. I assigned that distribution to Andre (who is in my room) as he is very humble & wise. He picks the person that he thinks would be most interested in a particular Letter & then he tries to understand if that person has read the Letter & what they think of it. I've already happened upon him several times as he is talking to someone who is asking him an explanation & he answers simply with what he knows, answers which are simple but sure effective. Then if the discussion gets sceptical (many just want to talk to get in a long conversation) then he gets even more simple & says, "I only know that the only person who can get you out of here & give you a new life & a new start is God, & if you don't believe this you are already in trouble; & if instead you do believe it would be good for you to start having a relationship with Him, because He's all you have." Not bad at all, huh?

Last Saturday Johnny prayed & led the

meeting & it was really good. I had not even realized how much he has grown in the Word & in understanding. He said, "Before our meetings were just chatter, we read the Bible but we didn't understand anything so we just got all confused among ourselves & went crazy. Now we read & we know what it's talking about, so if we understand what we read, we need to have faith that what we read is also for us. And if Jesus said that we will receive what we ask for we need to believe, & it has already happened that He has answered our prayers so we can believe more & more". It was really beautiful & he had chosen some Daily Nights on faith & the chapter on Peter & John when they heal the lame man at the gate of the temple. It was simple & very profound. TYJ."

(Excerpt of letter of 8/4/82--Just before the first trial:)

"I just had one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. PTL. Many of the brothers here came into my cell to have a prayer together for me. Johnny shared with everyone that it's very important to pray seriously because with the same intention with which we pray the Lord responds (sometimes they don't really take prayer very seriously). He said, "If we pray seriously & with all our hearts for Angelo the Lord will hear our prayer, but if we don't pray seriously Jesus will hear all the same because Angelo has faith in this prayer. But we all must go into court one of these days so it is better that we learn to pray. Also tonight before you go to sleep remember to pray for him, & tomorrow morning when he goes to court we will get together to pray for him because this is what many of our brothers around the world will be doing." His voice was unbelievably broken. God bless him.

Then I said that I didn't want to

"Through Angelo I now understand the Word of God!"

From Thomas - One of Angelo's fruit in prison

"Dear Chris,

I acknowledge your letter & thank you very much for sparing your time on me. God bless you. Your letter encouraged and gives me more faith.

Already brother Angelo has led me to receive the Holy Spirit & I believe our Lord Christ will strengthen me so as I can understand the Bible & His Spiritual Truths. Everything is

going on here smoothly as the Lord likes it to be. We meet two times a week for Bible studies & prayers. And I am sure the Lord will let me go out a new born. I want you to know something about myself.

I was born in a Christian home, both my parents are members of Jehovah Witnesses, & throughout my childhood time I devoted myself to serve the Lord. When I was at the age of 12 I started following friends till I gave myself completely to them & began to be a stubborn boy at home. I stopped serving the Lord at the age of 13 & started to lead a wild & dangerous life of my own. I stayed in this bad life with my friends for many years & one day in January, 1980 when one brother from Holland led me to receive the Lord Jesus Christ at Piraeus. I was baptized & started leading a new life. My friends who were then disappointed because of my new life started to scorn me and try me. One of them would ask me to give him money whenever he met me and anytime I failed to satisfy him he would start to scorn me and after tell me that I am not a real Christian but a counterfeit Christian. In fact the temptation was great for me so I failed & later came back to my old life. I stayed in the old life till this calamity befell me.

One thing I have experienced though through all this life is that whenever I give myself to God I start to face many temptations. I believe this time the Lord will strengthen me to overcome all these temptations.

Ending here with much love, from, Tom"

"Hello Inana,

I am more than happy to receive your letter. I hope you are doing well in the Name of our Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ.

I am very pleased to read about your quotation because it reminds me that there is somebody who really loves and cares for me if I put my trust on Him. I am also praying to God to take good care of you and strengthen you to do His work.

I love you also, my best wishes are with you. Thank you very much.

Brother Thomas"

"Dearest Katrina,

I am extremely glad for your beautiful letter you sent to me. May God bless you, for He alone knows how far your Letter touched me. I love children very dearly and I would like them to keep on writing to me.

I am really happy to meet Angelo here in prison because through him I received the Lord. I always pray to the Lord to strengthen me and give me more knowledge and understanding to lead His faithful light for others to follow. Through Angelo I now understand the Word of God and also am very happy with my new life. I thank Jesus for emancipating me from my previous life.

I hope we will get in touch with one another in order to discuss our faith. Please remember me to Andrew. With my best regards to you and the children. I love you.

From Thomas"

16th April, 1982

Corydallos Prison, Athens

Dear Families,

I am really glad to express to you all how prayers changed my life. I am an African from Ghana and I left my parents at the age of 20 years to Europe to lead my own life and right now I am 26 years old. As I could remember most of my past days I was really leading a bad life. In fact, I am really sorry and I pray to God to forgive me my sins. Amen. Prayer changes things, that's 100% true. It was on one Saturday morning in the prison bathroom when I first saw Mr. Angelo. He was smiling at me when he looked at me, and in fact I was angry inside myself because I didn't see why he should be interested in me at that moment in the bathroom. He then saw the locket of Virgin Mary on my neck and he said to me, "Oh, you have a nice locket". Angelo asked me (Joe) if I am a Christian, to which I said "no". Angelo talked to me about the Gospel and I could remember he said maybe God sent him in this jail to save me. In fact I was astonished to hear him because I was thinking how can a prisoner set his own inmate free?

About a few days later he asked me to join him in his room to pray to receive Jesus. So I decided just to go and pass my time to hear what he's gonna say. Well, the first meeting he preached a lot to all of us, but I didn't take it very seriously. Then the 2nd