

## Billy Anderson's Testimony

I was born in 1978 on the Yakima Nation Indian Reservation. My earliest memory is when I was living out in the country around orchards and corn or wheat fields. My Dad was in prison and my mother was remarried. This is the only dad I knew at this time. I was around six or so. During this time my childhood was very happy. We were even going to church and I loved it. Then my mom divorced and moved in with a guy that lived in the city over a hour away leaving my two little brothers and me behind. A month or so later she came back and got my one brother and me. I was about 11 at the time. Soon I was introduced to crime and I was breaking into homes with my older stepbrother. We did get caught, but I didn't get locked up because I was too young to go to juvenile.

At the age of 12 all my friends started joining gangs and I followed suit. I started drinking, stealing cars and drive by shootings. In & out of juvenile until I was so bad my mother sent me off to a aunts were I lived for 4 months I was doing good. So my mom came and got me and I returned to my old ways. This time my mom sent me to foster parents. I lived there for a year and did well was involved in sports and fit in with the other foster kids. My mom came and got me again but I returned to my old ways but increased in my drinking adding drugs as well. I Ended up in a juvenile prison but once out I went to my dad's and was selling cocaine

returned to my mom's and was selling meth this time I got 18 months for burglary in the Washington state Department, of corrections. I got out and later joined the carnival but my drinking and drugs caused me to be canned. But I kept right on doing drugs and drinking heavy which led me to 2 jail terms in 1998 of Nov. I picked up a 12-year sentence I decided it was time for a change. I got me G.E.D. and some college credits. I was released in May 2006 to my grandfathers in the country now 28 years old. My father was murdered. Putting my dad to rest was the hardest thing I ever did. I kept every thing inside, had to be strong for my family but in time it finally hit me. I lost my father, returned to heavy drinking and drugs, which caused me to lose my job, my fiancé and my little girls.

On September 20, 2008 I went to California where my sister lived. Things didn't work out there either, I kept drinking and doing drugs and after a fight with my sister I had her take me to the train station. My oldest daughter's mother was trying to get me a ticket home. I was stuck at the train station with no money and a dead cell phone. After three days of not getting anywhere I took matters into my own hands looking in cars for anything to steal to sell to buy a ticket. Finally I came upon this house with an open window. That turned out to be a bad situation and I ended up in jail, which was October 14, 2008.

While sitting in jail I was crying myself to sleep and even waking up in the middle of the night crying. I had taken myself away from my daughters by poor mistakes and decisions and I was miserable,

lonely, depressed, angry and scared. I even thought about suicide. Then I got into a fight with the tank bully because he was taking advantage of two youngsters in the tank. I ended up going in the hole. I was lucky that I didn't receive new charges because I hurt the guy pretty bad.

The night of November 25, 2008, I was in my cell in the hole and I broke down. I knew I couldn't do it by myself anymore. Right then and there I asked Jesus to forgive me for my sins and to be in control of my life. Instantly I felt better and felt comfort. I haven't looked back since then. Don't get me wrong it's not been always smooth. There have been a few potholes in the road. The Good Lord has gotten me through some tough times, like; my trial and when they found me guilty on all charges, during my sentencing when they gave me 137 years to life, the passing of my grandfather to just name a few. No matter what I have gone through he is right there every step of the way to see me through. I know the Good Lord is there to guide me on this journey. I'm happy and I know where I'm going.

Since I gave my life to the Lord November 25, 2008, it has been a blessing. First and foremost I owe the Lord everything and all the praise. Before I use to think that there was no way I could be saved. Now I know I can because **(John 3:16)** "For God so Loved the world that he gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." God tells me that I can. The Lord sent his son into this world to pay for my every sin when he died on the cross.

Now that I'm a Christian and a believer in Christ does that mean I'm not a sinner no more or will every sin? Of course it doesn't. I'll always be a sinner and still sin. Now I daily repent and ask for forgiveness for my sins. I'm far from perfect and I have my flaws. We are all born with flaws. I know with God's help (**2 Corinthians 12:9** ".....For my strength is made perfect in weakness....."). I can overcome my short comings. Sometimes I feel inadequate to deal with that which has been put in my path and I need help outside of myself. Now when I find myself in this situation I go to the Lord in Prayer (**Hebrews 4:16** "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy and find Grace to help in time of need"). First, at times it feels that he isn't there and he doesn't answer my prayers. That's not true and I have come to learn that God is always there. He cares and He answers our prayers always. Our prayers may not be answered right away like we want them to, but they will get known. I know firsthand because mine have been answered. I'm God's child and he is never too busy for me. I also found out that true worship isn't being concerned with what others think, but being in right standing with God and our brothers. It's also being open and honest with God. In the last three and half years the Lord has taught me how to live life, how to love and how to make His word part of my life daily. His word (The Holy bible) is my instruction manual as how to live my life in every aspect. I still struggle at times but the Lord always picks me up, knocks the dust of me, and sets me back on my feet. I'm glad that

I'm walking in the light instead of the darkness I was walking in. Our God is amazing and is very loving. There is no other love like God's love. It's true and genuine. I'm very thankful and grateful for what the Lord has given me. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways. I'm a servant of the Lord's and it's my job to spread the word to others. I'm one of his many tools to reach the lost. I'm very active in Bible studies, worship, church, prayer and witnessing. I now have love and peace and I owe it all to the Good Lord. I'm proud to say that the Lord has saved me.

I hope this testimony has been a blessing to you. If you would like to read how others in similar situations have experienced the life transforming power of God please write to me at the address below. We now have over 55 testimonies of those whose lives have been transformed by God's amazing Grace. Please send us your testimony as well.

Bro. Otto Ball C/o  
**Crossroads Ministry**  
**P.O. Box 363**  
**Hyde, PA 16843**

**Bethel Prison Ministry**  
**PO Box 1286**  
**Hixson, TN 37343**

The courses are divided into 7 lessons,  
 Lesson 1. A country called Heaven;  
 Lesson 2. What is God like?;  
 Lesson 3. The way of Victory;  
 Lesson 4. The Word of God;  
 Lesson 5. When Jesus comes;  
 Lesson 6. Salvation and Rewards;  
 Lesson 7. 4 (four) things God wants you to know.

(Certificate available after each set of lessons. The second set of courses contain 10 lessons on the Life of Christ, and Certificate available upon completion.)

## In and Out of Trouble In and Out of Jail What a mess I made of my Life



## Billy Anderson's Testimony

The last three and half  
 years the Lord has taught  
 me how to live life!