

# The Joseph Project

From Substance Abuse to a Wholesome Life

Vacaville, California

Messages from Inmates of the California State Prison-Solano

Volume I

## An Everlasting Change Agent

by Sol Irving

Working for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the past 28 years, I have been blessed to facilitate change agents (programs) to thousands of inmates. The vehicle used in doing so has ranged from Breaking Barriers to Substance Abuse Programs. However, I have never seen an agent of change reach more inmates in such a dramatic and lasting way as "The Purpose Driven Life." Although the vehicle used might have been different, the common denominator remains the same. Simply stated, if one is going to change, it must come from within.

That "within" is defined in many ways. Those of us in the Substance Abuse treatment business understand that "when one is sick and tired of being sick and tired," then one will change. However, as a Christian our understanding is far more comprehensive than that explanation. Our rational and mental being, in other words, our Spirit, must be impacted if one is to change. The agent of change for a Christian is the "Word of God" which has been so eloquently written in the 66 books of the Bible.

My 92-year-old grandmother wrote many years ago in my first Bible, "Sin will keep you from this book, but reading this book will keep you from sin." I did not know at the time how prophetic that was, until years later when its "Words" saved me.

You see, the "Word" as a change agent is more powerful than any academic theory or therapeutic modality. It reaches deep down in our inner man and promotes that desire and a road map to change. God speaks to us at a time when we are looking for an answer. He knows what to say, and when to say it. He gives the formula, which if followed, changes us forever.

I am reminded of the prodigal son who waddled in the mire of pigs. Eating the food of swine, did he then come to his senses! Remembering the "Word" that was taught to him by his father, that promoted a road map to change. The Word by itself draws all that hear.

The inmates at California State Prison-Solano (CSP Solano) are those prodigal sons. We as Christians must prescribe to Matthew 25:36, "*I was naked and you clothed me: I was sick and ye*

*visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*"

A group of Christians on July 12, 2006, visited 323 inmates at CSP Solano. The inmates on that day entered into a commitment to participate fully in a 40 Days of Purpose campaign. They agreed to: 1) participate in all Monday worship services; 2) read each day's chapter from the book, "The Purpose Driven Life"; 3) hear each Wednesday video message provided by Pastor Rick Warren in the series; 4) and participate in all small groups. Each inmate was given "The Purpose Driven Life" book, a daily reading plan and small-group workbook.

One correctional staff stated that, "It was refreshing to see inmates sitting in the dayroom, in their cells or on the yard reading their book and the Bible. I asked one inmate if I could see the book that was causing so much interest."

The overwhelming campaign concluded with 250 inmates honoring their commitment with a celebration. The celebration included singing, praying, donated Bar-B-Q tri-tip dinner, 200-dozen homemade cookies, and door prizes that

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included 100 donated Christian books.

The campaign was sponsored by the following churches and a local nonprofit corporation: The Mission; *ebenezer outreach ministry*; New Hope Christian Fellowship; The Father's House; St. Luke Episcopal of Woodland; Bread of Life Ministry of American Canyon; Praise and Worship C.O.G.I.C. of Sacramento; and Steve Williams/ Ted Beck Ministries of Madera. The campaign was monitored by Cheryl Hughes, Correctional Counselor I; Pastor Tim May, Director of *ebenezer outreach ministry*; and me.

It is unfortunate that there are many Christians who have chosen to have nothing to do with the poor or those in prison. It is more comfortable to worship in the comforts of our local churches. But, I am reminded that as Christians we have a mandate to spread the Good News. Paul stated instead of taking it easy in establishing churches, I labor to start others in prisons. 2 Corinthians 11:23 says, "Are

*they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measures, in prisons more frequent, in death oft."*

Finally, it has been an honor for Cheryl Hughes, Pastor Tim May, Deacon Frank Chacon and I, in bringing the Word in our second campaign, to some 600 inmates at CSP Solano. It is the Word that has changed the life of many. We have been blessed to facilitate this change agent. Will you help us with this ministry?

Sol Irving  
Correctional Counselor III  
Office of Substance Abuse Programs  
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
California State Prison, Solano

## The Joseph Project

by Tim May

**T**he Joseph Project is a new addition to *ebenezer outreach ministry* at California State Prison-Solano which works with the Substance Abuse Program to counsel men on drug and alcohol recovery. This is accomplished under Celebrate Recovery, a twelve-step program, utilizing studies in a small group format with inmate facilitators and volunteer mentors. The study uses the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" written by Rick Warren.

This is the second 40 Day's campaign that has accomplished mentoring some 600 men. It is our desire to continue mentoring these men with the study guide, "Fruit of the Spirit" written by Bill Hybels and "Developing a Faith that Works" written by Purpose Driven Ministries, which is a study on the Book of James. Facilitation of the program consists of Christian volunteer mentors; special guests include singers, pastors and former inmates.

This past July, we celebrated the completion of the 40 Day's of Purpose campaign with inmates who had met the program requirements established by Sol Irving, Correctional Counselor III and Director of Substance Abuse Programs. The inmates led worship; guest singers included Carolyn Sheehan and Joyce Winters, of *One Voice Praise Choir*, and our guest

speaker was Rick Atchley, Field Director of Prison Fellowship.

The celebration included Bar-B-Q tri-tip prepared by David O'Guinn and Edward Winters, Katie May prepared vegetarian lasagna. James Ward, Food Service Manager, provided assistance with the balance of the dinner. Deacon Frank Chacon, of St. Luke Episcopal of Woodland, provided sodas, and the ladies of The Father's House and The Mission donated 200-hundred dozen home-made cookies.

As we concluded our second campaign, I felt it necessary to share the testimonies of those involved. Therefore, this new addition to the website will give some insight as to what is happening behind the walls. Visit our website, [www.ebrock.org](http://www.ebrock.org) and choose the Joseph Project.

The Joseph Project is a publication of *ebenezer outreach ministry*: 3069 Alamo Dr., PMB 145, Vacaville, CA 95687. Web address: [www.ebrock.org](http://www.ebrock.org), Email address: [tmay@ebrock.org](mailto:tmay@ebrock.org). Phone: (707) 359-2130 Editors: Katie May, Thos Vanides. Layout & Design: David O'Guinn. Production Team: Millie Schlegel, Verna Ringler, Nancy Smith, Gert Tormey. Transcriber: Edward Winters

## Inmate Comments

**Comments by Raymond R:** My experience has been a blessing. My time here is better; my marriage is better; and my walk is better. I ask God to forgive me for turning away from Him. I appreciate the Lord for giving me the strength and courage to follow through with 40 Days of Purpose. God is finding my purpose-one day at a time.

**Comments by Charles C:** The Purpose Driven Life book has made a difference in my life because it's made me aware that I'm not the only one seeking His purpose in life. Rick Warren has helped narrow it down and has answered a lot of questions that I thought I was alone in asking. The program has shown me that there are a lot of us men here at Solano searching for the meaning of life and, ultimately, a closer relationship with Christ Jesus. I'd like to thank the staff who brought this program to us here. And it is a pleasant discovery to find that there's staff here that care about us. Thank you again.

**Comments by Rodney B:** The Creator has blessed me to be involved with a program that has shined a bright light onto the path that will help me to better understand my mission in life-a mission that took trials and tribulations to unfold before me. God had to use various examples in my life (good and bad) in order to get my attention so I would realize and then focus on my mission in life. (Sharing and caring for others in the world).

**Comments by Blacknell:** Today my spiritual man is alive and well. I have started reading my Bible daily, meditating on God's Word. Today my life indeed has a purpose thanks to Jesus, the Christ, and what He has done for me. I have started to attend church regularly. Because my life has a purpose, at age 40, I must start living accordingly.

**Comments by Kinyon:** Our Lord is making a big change in my life-opening my eyes to see clear in my walk with Jesus. And thank God for loving me so much He died for my sins. What a wonderful world we live in!

**Comments by Maurice H:** The 40 Days of Purpose has shown me that I need a lot of work to do. It has made me look a lot deeper into myself for some real answers to my purpose in God's way of thinking and not just my own. It has showed something that I

never knew I had in me. I know that I must ask God what is my purpose and do it with no questions asked. I really enjoyed reading "The Purpose Driven Life."

**Comments by Donald L:** Prior to my enrollment with the 40 Days of Purpose workshop and overall program. I can honestly say that my understanding of what my true and clear purpose in this life would be has that main ingredient now-the love, care, and giving spirit-a gift from God.

**Comments by Ron H:** I learned that I, or I should say, my purpose is to give and help people.

**Comments by Terry L:** This program is helping me to find Jesus again. Although I try to be a righteous person, it states that "...only through my Son, Jesus, will you enter heaven." So this program is helping me to realize that Jesus died on the cross for me.

**Comments by Richard T:** God is making a difference in many areas of my life; but, most of all, in my small group. I hear the other men, their outlook on subjects; it really opens up my mind and my heart. God is doing such a good work in my life. Thank you, Lord!

**Comments by James R:** I really enjoyed reading the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" and I am reading it again. Chapter 9, 'What Makes GOD Smile' reading that verse really made me smile more than usual-because people have always asked me what's the matter as I never smile and am always looking mean. But, now I smile more than ever.

**Comments by William B:** This book has taught me how to use all of the knowledge that I've learned from Pastor Rick Warren in my everyday life and has helped me to grow spiritually and for me to make my walk with Christ easier. I will always put God first in everything I do. Save one more for Jesus! Amen in Jesus name!

**Comments by Frank M:** Looking at this program with an open mind, I found the readings on a daily basis to be good to start the day off with a positive message that I could apply to the day. It was real to see different backgrounds come together and fellowship in the small groups. Group 10 was the best.

**Comments by Steve B:** I've learned how valuable fellowship is because it's what Jesus wants to give us, love, and, in turn, give it to others by testifying how wonderful it is through the life He gave us to learn from, to help others grow in Him.

**Comments by Mark H:** This program has profoundly changed my life. It has changed my way of thinking for the better. This book is like a guideline for life. I find myself reading it over and over again. I feel closer to God more than ever.

**Comments by M R:** The Purpose Driven Life book as a whole has clarified the meaning of "Love thy Neighbor." For years, the past 30 years, the words, "Love thy neighbor," have meant a very narrow definition. As of the past few weeks, those two words will never mean the same to me. Love now automatically refers to God. Neighbor now doesn't only mean the person living next to me; but all those around me. The whole world is our neighbor. I now know I need to learn to naturally love my neighbors.

**Comments by Juan D:** What God has done in my life through this 40 Days of Purpose-it has taught me to be wise in the way I act towards others. It also has taught me to make the most of every opportunity. Thank you.

**Comments by James A:** As a Christian, it is always wonderful to fellowship with other believers. I was so impressed with our small group. Listening to the prayers and the sharing from our group members each week was itself a miraculous experience. Human beings, even in prison, can be touched and moved by God. My eyes are not dry right now; but, I will remember this experience forever.

**Comments by Charles K:** The book, as well as the program, has been a tremendous inspiration. I'm a Christian and still I've learned a great deal concerning myself and my purpose. I pray that your ministry be enlarged and your borders increased. God bless!

**Comments by Ron G:** I've been imparted with my purpose that God has given me by being an example to unbelievers a source of light for my Father, Jesus Christ, to share how we can receive salvation through Him by sharing my testimony to them and ending with how He has changed my life. Amen.

**Comments by Kelvin E:** It was very good. The Purpose Driven Life book made a difference in my life. I am saved now!

**Comments by E B:** For a long time, I've been told that I would be a good speaker and that I've been a good listener; but, I never believed it. I have been doing my walk and my learning; but, not much sharing to others except the basics. But, by being in these groups, I was able to listen to others and then was able to speak at the end and deeply challenge every one. It opened my eyes when someone in the group said that they were tired and was not going to show up; but, they did because they wanted to hear what I would have to say.

**Comments by E H:** The 40 Days of Purpose has been a blessing to me and has helped me in my encounters with others. I want to thank the staff and the people responsible for bringing the course to us all at CSP-Solano. I've picked up my Bible more and am coming back to being the positive person I want and know to be. Thank you.

**Comments by Gregory R:** I've been able to recognize God's purpose for me. And with doing so, I've been able to witness to family members and friends about God's precious love for us. 40 Days of Purpose has given me the courage and strength to move forward with my spiritual development. When I wrote my mother about this wonderful program she told me that my letter brought tears of joy to her eyes and she shared the letter with a neighbor.

**Comments by Kenneth R:** Spiritual gifts  
Heart  
Abilities  
Personality  
Experience

This catch phrase caught my interest; and has encouraged and inspired me to become better aware and seek knowledge.

**Comments by Pedro C:** 40 Days of Purpose has helped me open my heart to other people. I now have more compassion for people other than myself or my family.

**Comments by Perry B:** This program has reset my compassion. It reminded me of God's five-fold purpose of my life and that He has equipped me to do them as well as commissioned them. We get off track and this program has helped get me back on track.

**Comments by J S:** This 40 Days of Purpose program has truly been a blessing for me and it has opened my heart as well as my mind to so much that right now it is hard for me to express these wonderful feelings I've experienced through this program. It's hard for me to express my true feelings in a group setting; but, I'm praying to God that He will help me in this area and I'm still a work in progress. I pray that God will continue to work in my life and give me the strength as well as the knowledge to help others as well as my family. The bottom line for me, this 40 Days of Purpose program has really touched me in so many ways and I will continue to read this wonderful book by Rick Warren as well as the Bible to help me become Christ-like.

**Comments by Matt S:** It has helped me to understand the reason I am even here on this earth. I know that I live to prepare for a life of eternity and that is in faith in our Lord, Jesus and belief in His resurrection from the death He suffered for me; to pay for my sins. I know Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light. He is the only way to our Father's Holy Kingdom. I need to share the Gospel with others, so they will be saved, too.

**Comments by Richard K:** I thank God for this program. I have never been comfortable talking with unbelievers about Christ. Being a facilitator in a small group has taught me and given me courage to speak up and out about Christ. I'm never sure what I'm going to say but the Holy Spirit always gives me the words. Praise God!

**Comments by Cornell B:** These group sessions have been a great inspiration within my life. It's given me an opportunity to share my feelings on how I have messed up my life behind my own personal conduct. With the teaching and through my life experience and this 40 Days of Purpose study, there is no reasonable excuse that I can not let go of my old life style and let God.

**Comments by C:** I was never really raised as a Christian. But, as a child, my parents would allow us to go to church on Sundays and weekday nights. They would teach us all about God's love and His mercy. But, I never realized how much I would need any of His love or mercy. Looking back now, on all of my lifetime, I can see the mistakes that I made in the past. Then, I look forward and I see a bright path knowing that I walk with the Lord.

**Comments by Israel F:** The 40 Days of Purpose was a great study for me. It helped me to understand what I am here for. This study is enlightenment to my ways of serving the Lord. The reading of the book is a new guide to help me serve the Lord for my purpose in serving Him as I was created to do.

**Comments by L S:** This program has allowed me to do a deeper study of God's Word. Also, it has caused me to do some soul searching to rid some of the un-Godly habits in my life. Therefore, I'm very thankful for this opportunity to share in my small group my love for the Lord. Giving God all the honor, glory, and praise.

**Comments by Johnson:** The Purpose Driven Life book has had a strong impact on my life, with worshipping God, true worship, fighting temptation, finding a way out of temptation-to love God's family, my family, more.

**Comments by R S:** This workshop has brought me up closer to our loving God by opening my heart and mind. The Purpose Driven Life book gave me a better understanding (along with the word) about my purpose in life!!

**Comments by Aaron M:** This study has helped me to open up to everyone; to open my eyes to all Scripture; and to share with everyone and grow; to help another when needed and to ask God to help us love one another.

**Comments by John P:** It encourages me to fellowship with other Christians in my building. I began to participate in a small group for discussing the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" and how to recognize our way of life as seen from a day-to-day basis. That's what I have been doing and to clarify God's Word into true meaning for me.

**Comments by Ernest R:** During my participation in the 40 Days of Purpose, the Almighty, by His grace, mercy and power, has enhanced my mystical consciousness, which further entrenched my faith and confidence in the God that makes this earth turn and all things possible. It is quite an astonishing experience that as human beings in our society, we've evolved psychologically to reason from a religious prospective in tranquility giving me a priceless opportunity to grow spiritually even in eternal bondage.

**Comments by Ondra G:** This program has given me an added amount of depth to my belief in

God. One of the things which I appreciate and I feel blessed to have acquired is the structure and Scriptures provided within this book titled, "The Purpose Driven Life." Additionally, the concepts within the book, fellowship, and tools within a group setting were found to be growth inspiring.

**Comments by S T:** I lost my wife last November and since then my life has been a bucket of misery. But, there has been times of peace that I can say came from reading this book. I know where my wife is and I know where I'll be going and I thank you for this group.

**Comments by Charles B:** I have really grown and this 40 Days of Purpose has assured me that I am being used to encourage my family members and I can truly say that I am going to attend the next step to 40 Days of Purpose. I always knew that God was using me; but, now I know that God has a purpose for me being here and for me being created and formed in the womb!! Amen.

**Comments by R G:** I have learned a lot from this program. This is the second time I've been through it. The first time I did, it changed my life in that I became comfortable with whom I am in Christ and became aware that I didn't have to compare myself with others. I was created uniquely. This time, I have learned to be much more comfortable with my purpose of sharing my faith with others.

**Comments by D M:** This course/session is helping me to stay focused on something positive in a negative environment. When the course is completed, I will have this knowledge to keep me walking the way I need to walk. Amos 3:33

**Comments by Vincent M:** I truly must admit that my whole attitude towards life and other people have changed for the better. I feel so good about myself and my future. I can't wait to get out and start my new life, church, reading my Bible, doing God's work, etc. I truly like what 40 Days of Purpose has done for the way I think about everything in life.

**Comments by Carlos C:** I've learned a better overall view and format to live my life according to the Bible. 40 Days of Purpose has opened my mind to the fact that it's not about us, it's about God. But that God's pleasure is for us! I'm grateful I've got this Purpose Driven Life format. Thank you & God bless.

**Comments by Earl H:** This has been a true blessing for me and has really given me the reason for my

life as a Christian. I need to step out in faith and share the God news about Jesus. Also, to share with nonbelievers what God has done in my life; and to try to save one more lost soul or bring them to Christ.

**Comments by Unknown:** A new life that God has shared and gave to me, and for all others. A purpose in His 33 years on earth, Jesus suffered with man; on the cross, He suffered for man-for us. "...God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ..." (II Corinthians 5:19). To seek, thou shall find; to find and you will have; and to have is a new life I have chosen and by doing so upon these 40 days has shown me a reason. What on earth am I here for-to have faith, to take one day at a time. What on earth am I here for-to become Christ-like. The Bible says, "As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more." God gave me a new life and a new nature when you, I, accepted Christ Jesus. First, I believe God forgives. Second, to receive, receive Jesus into our life as our, my Lord and Savior, to fulfill my life's purpose! What am I here for-to have life forever, real and eternal. Each day God will share His secrets of His Word, every day just ask and thou shall receive. Amen.

**Comments by Terry A:** I believe that God is tuning me up for great things. I believe and hope that God will use me to reach nonbelievers after leaving prison in November 2008; but He is showing me how to reach nonbelievers while I am here in prison and that's what my story is. Thank you and God bless.

**Comments by M J:** I believe that my purpose in life is to be person, parent, friend, and son to those that loved and those that I love. Being a part of this program has taught me how to be a better person.

**Comments by Exzadrian W:** I am very thankful for the program. Through this program, I am learning my place in Christ and that my gifts are to glorify God and further the Gospel. Additionally, I am learning that I belong to God's family.

**Comments by Daniel B:** This 40 Days of Purpose has really helped me understand why I am here. It has also showed me that fellowship is important and it helps others help you stay focused. I read the book and also had my wife read it. We both enjoyed it and I feel it brought us closer to the Lord and to each other.

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**Comments by Brian F:** I entered this program a bit closed minded. The first couple of weeks, I felt like I was at a Christian recruiting station. I was challenged to open up my heart and stop looking for ways to punch holes in Christianity and the program through my own belief system. I did and made a change. I noticed that after the meetings when I returned to my dorm and sat for my afternoon meditation, I was having deep and clear meditation. My belief...that God touches my soul and fills me with devotion as I am moved by the energy in that room. The desire for God in the community of the room full of men opening up to God touches me. Once I stepped off the Christian way of realizing God, I believe I spent a lot of energy punching holes to make myself feel better about the path I chose to follow as a way to validate my views, putting others down in order to make myself feel better about me. I didn't realize how much I had fallen into that mindset. I saw that about myself during the 40 Days of Purpose, I didn't like it, and I was inspired to change it. I have focused more on the similarities than the differences in our belief systems and I really agree with some major points of Christian principles I apply in my life and aspire to improve on. I believe God uses the world, people, all the time to show me, myself, mirrors. We are all mirrors unto each other. I love to see my shortcomings and make adjustments to my learning experience.

**Comments by Banks:** I have really enjoyed learning God's purpose in my life. I have gained a lot of spiritual insights in participating in this course. I have learned I am here on this earth for God's pleasure and that He created me for a mission which God is preparing me to accomplish.

**Comments by Timothy G:** I really enjoyed the program. What I got out of it, when I give myself to God, my eyes will become open and I will be able to see all of God's greatness. I've learned to look within myself and judge not others; but be not afraid of God's good will. I'm very thankful that you've allowed me to visit your program. I will tell others how kind you were to me. Thanks for sharing that God so loved the world, He gave His own Son.

**Comments by James W:** I finally believe that God has a purpose for every living thing. I truly believe in God and that I can be saved from my sins. I know now that I need to study more and attend

more classes because God has a purpose for me. I just need to find out exactly what that purpose is. Because I honestly believe it's more than just spreading His Word to the people.

**Comments by Howard S:** 40 Days of Purpose has gotten me a lot closer to God; so many different ways to praise Him. I want to thank all the staff and Deacon Frank for their help and time. I would very much like to see 40 Days of Purpose be part of this prison on a regular basis.

**Comments by Kerdell L:** Well, I started coming to the 40 Days of Purpose group because a friend told me to come. I didn't know it was going to open my heart and change the way I think about so many things. It helped me a lot and I know now I am a better person. I hope I can take what I learned and help others. Amen.

**Comments by Eric S:** With the name of God, Merciful Benefactor, and Magnificent Redeemer - God has really been moving in my life during the 40 Days of Purpose because I am reminded by the mere fact that I was created to serve God. Being a practitioner of Orthodox Islam, I'm taught in the Scriptures of God that 'wise is the man that truly understands his purpose in life.' My purpose is to serve the Creator by being obedient to obeying His commands. As I understand it, 'the best obedience to God is that obedience that is perpetual.' See, in order for me to really be obedient to God, I have to truly love serving God. As it says in the Bible, "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30). So, being a part of the 40 Days of Purpose and participating in reading The Purpose Driven Life book, my eyes were opened even wider to what my purpose in life is. I strive to be obedient to God because I know that the day will come for me to return to Him. With serving God as an Orthodox Muslim, I am following my purpose.

**Comments by Jerome W:** I've come to the reality that Christ is first in my life. In the past, I've made so many promises to God. So now, it's time to live for Christ and to share His Word to anyone who will listen. I've come to learn that Christ wants me to serve as many people as possible. Who knows, if they see Christ working in my life, they might want to try him too. Pray for me and my family that God will

continue to work on me and build me up so that I will be a prophet for God. Bless you and this program you're bringing to prison because I truly needed it.

**Comments by Regimen C:** I don't have a story at this time; but, I know that there is a Creator and I truly feel that something is manifesting inside of me and time will tell. This was a new experience for me and I appreciate the time that I spent with everyone. And I have to work on keeping it up.

**Comments by Andre T:** It has opened my mind to be more patient because with faith, God works in his own way. Have faith and believe and your prayers will be answered.

**Comments by Christon:** I enjoyed being a part of this group and I want to accept God as my personal Savior.

**Comments by Michael D:** This program gave me something to really ponder. This was a powerful journey of reflection and introspection. Perhaps, my footsteps will travel the road paved by 40 Days of Purpose someday.

**Comments by Terry U:** I've always believed in the Christian faith and walked in Christ but would let the world and my own desires interrupt my purpose in God's Kingdom. Being incarcerated has challenged my faith and commitment to Christ. This course of 40 Days of Purpose has made me understand that my commitment to Christ and His purpose for my life to fully know I'm made for God's whole purpose in this life and the one to come.

**Comments by Cuba B:** The Lord has strengthened my love for Him and others. 40 Days of Purpose has helped me to continue to focus on my Creator who is Jesus Christ. Also, God has given me the will to be able to help others come to Christ. Also, I've learned through 40 Days of Purpose how to properly pray and ask the Lord for anything. Thank you for allowing me to participate in such a great program. I pray that this program can reach the rest of the world and win all non-believing souls over to Christ Jesus, our Lord! Amen.

**Comments by Deshawn S:** This 40 Days of Purpose has enabled me to reconnect with my childhood recognizing God, making me face my reality of where I'm supposed to be in my life having knowledge of God, the Spirit, the Word, the Son. So, all in all, it centered me back to my original quest simplicity and finding my purpose through Jesus Christ.

**Comments by Remo W:** 40 Days of Purpose has helped me to have a better understanding of what my real purpose in life is really supposed to be and that is to serve God to the fullest! From the last day of the course, my life has been to serve the Lord. I want to thank everyone involved for sharing with me. A lot has come into my heart and soul. Thank you all! God bless you!

**Comments by Billy S:** I have been in and out of prison for 13 years of my life. I am currently doing a 7 year 8 month term. For the first time in my life, about 10 months ago, I accepted Jesus into my life. During this 40 Days of Purpose course, I have come a lot closer to Jesus and my walk with Christ has grown and I want to say God bless you all. Thank you for your knowledge. I only wish I had more room to express how I feel.

**Comments by David B:** What I will always remember the most of this program is how God teaches us to deal with our fears and tribulations. God will not remove you from them; God will actually put you right into the situation you dread the most. You don't learn by someone doing the work for you or by running from it. You have to face it yourself.

**Comments by Ayers:** One thing I learned is that I need to step out in faith and experiment with different ministries/services that can be done in, with, and for the church. I need to try different things so I can find out what I enjoy, am good at, and what God intended me to do. I always sat back and figured someone better than me will do it. But, if I do not do it, it might not get done.

**Comments by Danny B:** It helped me to love God more and friends.