

# GAMBOA UNION CHURCH

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APRIL 2011 TWO AMAZING PRISON STORIES.... I had to enter a bank recently and the guard stopped me at the door and told me to take my hat off (not sure what he expected to see under it, but...) and as I looked at him, we both had a moment of recognition.

“Pastor Wilbur, remember me? I’m Jose from Renacer.”

There he was in his uniform with a bullet proof vest and weapons giving me a big hug. I am not sure what the bystanders thought. He told me that he had been released from the Renacer prison seven years ago and he was still going strong for the Lord. He had been one of the more outspoken prisoners for the Lord while there. When the son of the captain came to visit, he ended up leading him to the Lord and then the son led the captain to the Lord.

I love it.... a released prisoner is given a gun and then told to guard a bank!!!

This second story also shows the working of God. Recently a new security director was assigned to Renacer. I have been going into that prison for over 33 years and every time there is a change in leadership I have to go to the office and get my entrance papers updated. Sometimes this is a problem. As I entered the prison that day, someone in uniform called out words of greetings to me from the upstairs office window.

“Pastor Wilbur. It is nice to see you. Do you remember me? I was the assistant to Lt. Gordon many years ago ( it was about 23 to be exact). Let me come down to see you, I can sign your entrance permission papers for you.”

He was now a Lt. Colonel and the new director of security for the prison. He offered to help in anyway he could. After giving me a big hug right in front of the major, the other officers and prisoners he told me his story and gave me permission to use it.

When he was ten years old he was in a church service with ten brothers and sisters. The Holy Spirit fell on all of them in a powerful way that evening. But as he entered his teen years he began to drift away from the Lord. At age twenty-three he was a Lt. in General Noriega’s Panama Defense Force and it was the time of the invasion by the United States military in Dec. 1989. During the conflict he was wounded in the back and leg and his Lt. friend next to him was killed.

As he lay there bleeding, he remembered his experience with Jesus Christ as a young boy. He cried out to the Lord surrendering his life to him. He was taken to the U.S. Army hospital to recover. The U.S. invasion that was over twenty-one years ago changed that officer’s life and he is still living for Christ serving as director of the prison. What a blessing to see him as I enter that institution..

Thank you for your love, prayers and support. Gifts for the mission here can be sent to: Mrs. Sydney Corbett; 231 se 45<sup>th</sup> Terrace; Ocala, Fl. 34471.

Rejoicing in the resurrection all year long..... Bill Wilbur