

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH
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OCTOBER 2014 IS THERE LIFE AFTER FIVE YEARS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT? Let me tell you about a 32 year old Panamanian prisoner named Arturo.

He was born in Panama City and lived with his close family until he was nine years old when his father moved to the United States to look for work. After that everything seemed to go wrong. His brother began to steal and to be part of a gang. Arturo followed his brother, but became much worse.

Soon he was not just stealing, but was involved with drugs and fighting in gangs. He was known as a dangerous person. By the time he was 18 years old he had injured many people and killed two men. Then he was sent to prison and because he was dangerous, the authorities put him into solitary confinement. He spent five years at a prison on the outside of Panama City.

A few years later, he was moved to the Renacer prison near Gamboa where I have ministered for over 36 years. The Christian guys in our group reached out to him and invited him to hear a special speaker about a year ago. It was that day that he understood the love of Christ and surrendered his life to Christ.

The Christian prisoners involved Arturo into a discipleship group. One day he realized that there is no way to stop time and that he must not waste his time anymore on anything meaningless. He has been in prison for the 14 years of his life from age 18 to 32 and it was meaningless until the last year when he came to know the Lord.

He has been coming each week to my meeting but it was just a couple days ago that he shared his testimony with me. He told me how important it is to be part of this fellowship. His mind had really been damaged by the years in solitary confinement. But based on Romans 12:1,2 he has experienced a renewed mind in many ways. The leader of the Christian prisoners told me that Arturo still gets confused at times, but God has also given him spiritual insights in God's Word. He shares things in their discipleship groups that only God could reveal to him which has ministered to the other men.

Recently I brought a Youth With A Mission team to ministered to the prison. As we were getting to leave, I asked if one of the prisoners would share his testimony with this YWAM team. So Arturo stood to speak and everyone was amazed to see what the Lord has done in his life. We had all come to minister to the men, but we are the ones who were blessed to hear what the Lord had done.

On a different note... you can go to our web site listed above and click on "radio" to hear some very challenging programs on the archives. The program for October 13 is the testimony of Mariya, a former Muslim from Afghanistan who came to Christ.

Thank you for all your prayer and support. Income deductible gifts written to GAMBOA UNION MINISTRIES can be sent to: Sydney Corbett; 231 SE 45th Terrace; Ocala, Fl 34471-3224

It is exciting to live for Jesus... actually, that is the only thing that really matters! Bill